

Women's Empowerment in villages adjoining Battilicoa Sri-Lanka

This has been a long journey of my service efforts starting with a Tri-time project in 8th grade and has evolved as the Covid pandemic rendered infeasible my original plan of providing employment through baking kits to make baked products. In contrast, the fast growing SSKNF hospital as it grew saw an enormous need for janitorial services and I pivoted the plan to provide janitorial training, This has taken off and changed many lives



Testimonial

From: Penny Jayewardene <pj2448@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, 14 Aug 2024, 14:58

Subject: THANK YOU

To: Sriram Vasudevan <archanavas@icloud.com>, Archanar Vasudevan <archanarvas@gmail.com>

Dear Vyjayanthi

Your beautiful intention to help the Janitorial Project at the Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital has resulted in a group of unsung heroes who tirelessly work in our hospital. From cleaning every nook and corner of our hospital to laundry, ironing, folding linen as well as preparing angio packs of twenty pieces of essential items for each patient who is taken into Cathlab for surgery, they really are the backbone of our hospital. Most of them are single mothers bringing up their children on their wage as well as assisting aged parents who live with them.

Vyjayanthi and Vasundara I am longing to meet you both one day and give you a hug for bringing joy into these lives.

One of our ladies had a leg amputated and is now recovering at home. She will rejoin her sisters at the hospital God willing in a month. She will work 3 days a week to start off. When she is ready she will work full time. I will write about her in more detail with the report I am preparing.

Sadguru is coming to Lanka on 15th October. Please try to come to Batticaloa with your parents.

I am sending a report with photographs by the end of this week.

God bless you both and your parents

Sai Ram

Aunty penny

Sent from my iPhone

The Stories of Those Impacted..



JANITORIAL STAFF - SRI SATHYA SAI SANJEEVANI HOSPITAL, BATTICALOA

In any healthcare facility, maintaining a clean, safe and welcoming environment is crucial for the well-being of patients, staff and visitors alike. At our hospital, this essential responsibility rests in the capable hands of our dedicated janitorial staff - an extraordinary team who work tirelessly behind the scenes.

Every day, our janitorial staff ensures that every corner of the Hospital is spotless. From scrubbing floors to sanitising surfaces, their meticulous attention to detail helps create a hygienic environment that is a key factor in keeping our patients safe and healthy.

In addition to cleaning, they take on the tasks of folding and ironing clothing and linen with precision and care.

Our janitorial staff are the unsung heroes who make it possible for healthcare providers to do their jobs in a clean, organised and safe environment.

As of August 2024, we have 15 janitorial staff - 13 women and 2 men. They are all from the surrounding villages. The Hospital provides the staff breakfast, lunch and tea. This opportunity to work in our Hospital has boosted their self confidence and helped them in providing for their families.

Here are some of their stories:

1. Saravanamuthu Nitharsini (Sadhana) - 32 years old



Sadhana was abandoned by her husband eight years ago. She has an eight-year old daughter. She lives with her parents who are old. Her father works as a gardener. This job has enabled Sadhana to provide for herself and her daughter and also help out her parents. She is able to feed her family and ensure her daughter gets good education. She is grateful to have this job which enables her to live with dignity.

2. Theiventhiran Kavitha - 44 years old



Kavitha lives with her husband and 4 children who range from 24 to 16 years of age. Her husband has an incurable heart problem and so stays at home. She is the sole breadwinner. She is very grateful for this job which helps her to provide for her children and also take care of her husband. She says that before she started working here she used to borrow money from friends and relatives and was having a very hard time. Now she has no need to borrow and is able to put food on the table for her family.

3. Thayakaran Inthirani - 39 years old



Inthirani lost her husband 8 years ago. She lives with her two sons aged 19 and 11. Both go to school. She is the sole breadwinner of her household.

She is very grateful for this job which helps her provide food and shelter for herself and her sons. She is keen to give a good education for her boys.

4. Selvakumar Menaka - 37 years old



Menaka lives with her husband and 4 children aged between 19 and 6. Her husband works as a coolie. She is very grateful to have this job as now her children get food to eat everyday and are able to go to school.

Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Super Speciality Hospital has been a boon for many of the local women with school going children.

Rehiring a disabled janitorial staff



Nagalingam Valarmathi, 47 years old, was part of our janitorial team from February 2023 to October 2023. Her husband is a cook's assistant. She has two sons - a 16 year old and a 13 year old. The older son has a condition called 'Carditis' which requires penicillin injection once every 3 weeks until he turns 21.

In October 2023, Valarmathi's left leg had to be amputated just below the knee. She is on the waiting list to get an artificial limb which will enable her to walk. She has courageously faced significant challenges - physical, emotional and financial - over the past several months, including adapting to life in a wheelchair.

In recognition of her dedication and contribution she had made during her time with us, we are happy to offer her the opportunity to rejoin our team on compassionate grounds. Valarmathi will be working three days a week and will be assisting in folding and ironing linen.

Re-hiring Valarmathi is more than just an act of compassion; it's a reaffirmation of our belief in inclusivity and the importance of standing by our employees in times of need. By bringing her back into our workplace we aim to create a supportive environment that values every individual's contribution, regardless of their physical challenges.

... And The Training they Get

Our Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Super Speciality Hospital is committed to supporting our employees not only as professionals but as individuals with unique lives and circumstances.

Our Janitorial Staff



Ironing and folding linen



Cleaning catheters and consumables for use in Cathlab



Preparing vegetables in the kitchen



Ladies ward where patients wait for their turn in the cathlab



Mopping and cleaning floors