

Name	Anandhi P Inba Seva Sangam Girls Town		Sponsor	
Institution	Christian Mission Nursing College			
Location	Ambilikai		Accommodation Hostel	
Course	BSc. Nursing	4 years		
Start	01 July 2012	End 30 June 2016	Year	4



Our Apprentices continue to study their syllabus of theoretical and practical subjects into their third year, living in campus hostels, local digs or for some travelling daily from their or a relative's home. Their Vocational Guidance Officer's role is maintaining regular contact, monitoring progress, welfare and attendance and liaising with faculty members. In final year many courses set projects for students to undertake in small groups. For our Apprentices, project expenses are covered by additional sponsorship payments. Lastly come final exams and campus interviews, leading to work experience and substantive employment. Formal sponsorship ends with this course, although some elect to continue their studies while working, by correspondence or part time courses and, generally gaining exemption from the first year. This subsequent study will be self or family funded.

Anandhi's third year subjects for the first three months, with her exam results, were:

Paediatric Nursing	69%
Medical & Surgical Nursing	79%
Mental Health	70%

Then followed nine months of hospital placement in specialities including cancer, tuberculosis, psychiatric and paediatric (two placements). Now in final year she's studying:

Community Health Nursing
Research & Biostatistics.
Midwifery

The last is definitely the firm favourite and now in practical placements she's had a one month refresher which she enjoyed (after three months in the classroom) and currently she's in Midwifery. She's observed at a Caesarean section and helped hands-on with normal deliveries – unusually she was the delivering midwife for one straightforward birth (under supervision). Later the students will pair up to work on a one month research project; it hasn't been assigned yet but will be disease-related and topical. The course finishes in June but they return to sit their finals in August.

The new nurses then find their own placements for up to 6 months probation, earning at least Rs6,000. When taken on substantively, their rate will jump to Rs 10,000 or more. Those who prepare for and sit the exam admitting them to Government service can earn significantly more than in the private sector. Anandhi will sit the Government exam, meanwhile hoping to work at the Velammal Multi-Speciality Hospital in Madurai. She has friends already there and it has a Maternity wing. Her family in Dindigul are happy with her plan. Possibly after at least two years experience she'll study further for a diploma in a clinical specialization – previous students of her college have advised that this is the way to go.

Anandhi stays in the college hostel during theoretical classes but moves to the hospital's hostel when on placement. Her family situation remains unchanged. As she nears the end of her course she's even more aware of how far she's come and her Sponsor's role in helping her to get there. Almost unbelievably she admits "I never thought I would come so far....." and sends her heartfelt thanks to Aunty. Although time is running out she's still confident that one day they will meet, here or when she works abroad (that's her Plan B). She's so desperate to share her feelings of gratitude and to be able to hug and kiss Aunty. Meanwhile Aunty's longed-for photo would help her to focus her thoughts and prayers on the one person who has made all this possible.

Interviewed and Written by: Terry Quadling, Volunteer

17th February 2016