

Project Title: Sewa Projects for Bhutanese Refugees

Project Number: US01-10

Location: Atlanta, GA, Houston, TX, and Cleveland, OH

Partner NGO: Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh

Number of Volunteers: 3

Language: English

Background:

The population in Bhutan mainly consists of two communities: the Drukpas and the Lhotshampas. In 1985, conflict between these two communities resulted in a mass exodus of Lhotshampas to Nepal. Starting from then until 1994, more than 110,000 Lhotshampas took refuge in seven UN-administered camps in Nepal living in very poor conditions.

The United States eventually volunteered to resettle 60,000 of these refugees, with the remainder destined to go to other developed nations. In 2008, they began arriving in the United States in what the UN has described as one of the world's largest resettlement efforts ever. These refugees are given only a few months of support from the government and the resettlement agencies. After that, they are required to become self-sufficient. The most pressing needs are for financial assistance, employment, and basic material needs. They also require support to help them make the transition to this new land.

Objective:

1. Survey local economic situation and plan best course of action.
2. Research local government and corporate resources.
3. Train and motivate Bhutanese families for employment
4. Facilitate vocational training programs.
5. Develop proposal for micro-business

Description:

Though many of the refugees are educated and can speak English, many of them have remained unemployed. And because agency support and government aid is not available to them for an extended period of time, the assistance of Sewa International is quickly becoming a lifeline for many of these families.

These Bhutanese people have varying backgrounds in terms of employment. Some have long professional experience and some can't even write their name. But, most have a common employment problem. They have forgotten how to work. They have lived in refugee camps where they did not have permit to work for a very long time. Now, they are in the land where work is something everyone will have to do. They are having a tough time adjusting to the work culture. Many are even shy of doing, what they consider miniature jobs. These issues are on top of a global recession, where getting a new job is tremendously difficult. The Intern is expected to understand these problems better and hopefully set some guidelines that will help the employment program during the years to come.

In order to provide sustainable livelihood, Yuva for Sewa fellow will understand the background of the Bhutanese families and research local economic situation to plan comprehensive plan for the community. Work with local corporations and government agency and organize job fair and database of potential

employers. Train Bhutanese families for job interview and setting expectation. Consider local available resources to provide vocational trainings and provide proposal for starting micro-business.

Skills expected of Volunteers:

Volunteer should have good communication skills and basic computer skills. Should be innovative and take initiative.

Miscellaneous:

The following details should be noted.

1. Any documentation and discovery will be property of Sewa International USA.
2. The volunteer shall be solely responsible for his/her physical, mental and emotional health.
3. Any legal issues will be dealt under US laws and local jurisdiction

To apply for this project answer the following questions:

1. Have you studied background of Bhutanese Refugees? Please give details in 100 words.
2. Have you taken any initiative where you had to deal with government or corporate office? Please explain.
3. Do you have experience in writing? Please provide short essay of 150 words on any subject.