

JETWING YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Bringing Smiles To Rural Youth

(Jetwing Vil Uyana)

Like most other rural villages in Sri Lanka the hamlet of Rangirigama and the surrounding Rotawewa and Kimbissa also are burdened with youth unemployment. From a society predominantly involved in cultivation, either due to a surplus of manpower or unwilling to take up agriculture as a livelihood, the youth await in hope ending a school career, unable to pursue higher education or being under-skilled to fit into the available employment the country offers. The wait could be long and frustrating or end up with taking up whatever that may come their way, simply for existence. Prime of their youth can be marred with unavailability of work, meager incomes and an abundance of financial & social problems that may follow.

Jetwing Youth Development Project is an initiative designed to develop rural youth for suitable employment within Jetwing Hotels or create the opportunity to find employment with other hotels in the country or overseas. Their strengths; especially the positive attitudes, natural talents, keenness to learn and good discipline are overshadowed by their poor knowledge of English, the biggest hindrance to fit themselves into the jobs available in the country, especially with the private sector.

The first of this program was initiated at Jetwing Vil Uyana in Sigiriya which opened its doors to Tourism in October 2006.





MEDIA RELEASE

A program of training to fill the 'skills gap' was commenced with an English training program that continued for six months. The youth were invited to the program with the assistance of the incumbent monks of the two village Buddhist temples where classes also were held in the Dharmasalawas. In the second month of the program, from a process of selection, the youth were categorized into areas as per their personality profiles and entry level industry training was conducted at the hotel site in Housekeeping, Front Office, Restaurant & Bar Service and Cookery, parallel to English. Nature and wild life, Customer care, Japanese 5S, Personality Development, Life Skills and many other helpful topics were added to the program for the benefit of the youth. Hotel visits were arranged for exposure and to build confidence. The punctuality, attention and the enthusiasm of the youth were of great inspiration to the trainers throughout the program. On successful completion 60 youth passed out at a ceremony held at Jetwing Vil Uyana under the distinguished patronage of Secretary to the Ministry of Tourism, the AGA-Dambulla, representatives of the media and other dignitaries. Invitees were pleasantly surprised by the display of their natural talents by way of speech, drama and song that touched the hearts of all.

Some of the trainees are now employed at Jetwing Vil Uyana furthering their skills to become professionals of tomorrow to dish out an abundance of warmth & hospitality with their charming Sri Lankan smiles!

NOTE

For any queries regarding this press release and if you wish to receive this press release in Microsoft Word file format please contact;

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