



Employment Enhancement Program – Handmade Hope

Gao Yu-Ting

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I. Background

1. Due to emotional factors, economic downturn, the lack of professional skills and therefore the lack of competitiveness, it is difficult for victims and the deceased victims' families (the survivors) to seek employment. Their lack of

skills further aggravates the situation. In the past decade, employment figures have been on the rise. Job skills and people's willingness to work are advancing, the automation of workforce is progressing and emerging service industries are providing diverse jobs.

1. Authored by the Administrative Officer of Association for Victims Support Taipei Branch.

In light of this, more encouragement should be given to the victims and survivors to join the workforce in order to maintain stable family finance.

2. During counseling sessions, the Association for Victims Support Taipei Branch (AVS Taipei Branch) finds that victims or survivors often lose financial freedom as the aftermath of a crime. They are forced to become the breadwinner of the family, but financial hardship and the need to pay for children's education put them in further predicament. To avoid more serious social problems such as unemployment and school drop out, it is necessary to support them with employment skills or opportunities to increase their income and solve financial problems.

II.Objective

1. Eliminate obstacles that prevent participants from finding employment, improve employability and increase labor force participation rate among the victims.

2. Collaborate with the media and press to report on the conditions of the victims, and to raise awareness in the public and businesses toward the dis-

advantaged population toward encouraging them to provide internship and employment opportunities.

3. Effectively develop labor skills for the victims. Provide skill training and career counseling, which will help improve family productivity and finance.

III.Feature

1. Computer Camp

Computer skills are essential in the modern society and have become basic employment skills. To help participants keep up with technology and improve their computer and word-processing skills, AVS Taipei Branch offers computer lessons, which allow victims, survivors, support volunteers and legal volunteers to learn the basics of computer programs, enhance their skills, develop additional talents and increase employment opportunities.

2. English Lessons

English is widely adopted as the second language and used around the world today. It has become part of the core curriculum in every school. Victims' families are mostly disadvantaged and may not have a chance to study



English. Therefore, AVS Taipei Branch offers English lessons to help victims and survivors improve their English skills and study the basic theories so that they can learn a second language and increase employability.

3. Handmade Soap Lessons

Handmade soap is gaining popularity. It is easy to make, the process is short, and the end product is eco-friendly, fragrant and functional. While making the soap, participants may observe, learn from, and interact with each other, which will enhance their social support and connection while gradually opening their hearts so that they can readapt to and rebuild their family, acquire new es-

sential skills, develop additional talents and increase employment opportunities.

Previously, the Branch offered MP soap² lessons. Starting from the second half of 2016, participants from AVS Hsinchu Branch came to Taipei to teach the making of CP soap³. Participants from Hsinchu Branch also shared their personal experience. They taught how to make soap, hand lotion and lip balm while also promoting environmental protection concept. The group lessons allow victims and survivors to share their journeys in overcoming pain and support each other, helping each other recover and get adjusted in their new lives.

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2. Melt and Pour Soap (MP soap): Melt the soap base, add coloring or fragrance, pour into the mold and remove after the soap cools down.
 3. Cold Process Soap (CP soap): Mix and stir glycerin and fragrance and pour the mix into the mold. Saponification will continue under room temperature. After 4 to 8 weeks, when the alkalinity is reduced, remove the soap from the mold.

4. Baking Lessons

In recent years, baking has become popular in Taiwan due to health and safety concerns. Handmade desserts have also become highly sought after. Keeping up with the latest trend, AVS Taipei Branch started conducting baking lessons. The 8-week lessons are taught by instructors from the Lifelong Learning Center of China Youth Corps and delivered inside the Center. The baking lessons tap into the popularity of DIY activities. The goal is to give

participants employability skills. In addition to rebuilding their lives, participants may interact with others during the group lessons, which will help them recover from pain more quickly.

The planning and implementation of the Employment Enhancement Program is not merely about skill training. It is also about helping victims and survivors regain confidence and reestablish emotional connections with others so they can walk out from darkness and rebuild their lives.

IV.Snapshots from training courses



V.Feedback

三、【溫馨回饋】

出來這裡可認識朋友，很開心。

老師，志工，朋友都很關心我。

謝大家照顧我，不謙氣。

希望有機會進入志工行列。

三、【溫馨回饋】

我來這裡很高興，認識蘇老師靜宜學

給我開心快樂，並且認識很多一起上課學習

的同伴，照顧。

希望有機會再來這裡上課

三、【溫馨回饋】

感謝協會對我們的協助，透過手作活動讓我們重新找回
生命的神聖生活的意義。

感謝老師樂觀歡喜的笑容及真心的帶領我們做出預期的
成品。

雖然學員們每個都有很難走的心路歷程，但在課堂中個個
聚精會神的完成自己的成品的喜悅及笑容，讓人忘了陰霾，感謝協會
的巧妙安排及用心規劃，感謝再感謝。

三、【溫馨回饋】

此次協會舉辦手作課程，授課老師細心指導
讓學員認識了許多對皮膚有益的清潔用品，透過手作，頗
有療癒效果，而學員彼此互相協助更讓課程進行順利
期待明年協會舉辦相關課程。