

Information Technology Training for People with Disabilities

Chengguang Zhao, M.S. Ed., M.A.

Chief of Party, Inclusion of Vietnamese with Disabilities Project
CRS Vietnam

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Vietnam Background

- ▶ Population: 86 million
- ▶ Per capita GDP: \$3,400
- ▶ People with Disabilities: 6–15%
- ▶ Primary school participation: 95%
- ▶ Disabled children enrollment: 30–35%
- ▶ Disabled youth access to vocational training: 2.5%



Project Objective

People with disabilities in Vietnam have equal access to education and employment.

- Provide PWD with marketable skills
- Transform general public's views

Program Overview

- 5-year project: 2007-2014
- Funders: USAID, CRS and local partners
- Geographic areas: Hanoi, Saigon, Da Nang
- Two hundred (200) students/year
- Three (3) participating vocational training centers
- 3,6 or 12-month trainings offered
- Key activities:
 - Student scholarships
 - Living stipends
 - Curricula development
 - Social support & activities



Student Profile Overview

- Age range: 16-35 years
- 40% female: 60% male
- Types of disabilities:
 - Mobility , Deaf, Blind, Autistic
- Recruitment
 - Disabled people's organizations
 - Online forums
 - High Schools
 - Alumni networks



Program Outcomes

- Graduates: 734
 - Basic: 225
 - Advanced: 509
- 84% advanced training graduates employed
- Companies
 - Hiring graduates: 150+
 - Advising in curriculum development: 30



Why Information Technology?

- Range of options suitable to multiple disabilities
- IT sector is fast growing
- There is Shortage of workers
- Diverse job availability
- High paying
- Prestigious – reduces stigma



- Assess market demand
 - Employment introductory centers
 - Business advisory council
 - Specific employers
- Develop curricula
 - General
 - Co-design
- Include soft skills training



Training courses offered

- Programming
- General IT management
- Graphic Design
- Architect Engineer Design
- Website Management
- IT trainer training for the blind
- Short courses on basic IT for blind and deaf



Training Methods

- Participatory & Interactive
- Hands-on
- Group work
- Project-based
- Online teaching materials
- Intensive schedule
- Frequent tests
- Teach resourcefulness

Additional Student Support

- Medical insurance
- Psychosocial Support
 - Social worker
 - Peer support and social activities
 - DPO linkage
- Professional Mentoring
- Housing



Student Placement Activities

- CV writing and interview coaching
- Exposure visits
- Practicum/internships
- “Earning while learning”
- Awareness raising with employers
- Entrepreneurship support



Financial Sustainability

- Student and family contribution
- Government funding
- Fundraising
- Income generating activities

Advocacy and Replication

- Inclusive classes
- Outreach training
- Sharing experience other schools
- Sharing experience with policy makers

Conclusions



- Technology is a powerful tool
- Conducting multiple types of market assessments yields best training fit
- Limiting specialization important
- People with disabilities can learn and work successfully



Thank you!

For More Information:

Email: cheng.zhao@crs.org