Nirmaan Site visit report

By: Keertana Marella Date:20 June 2016

Nirman Hyderabad is an exceptional example of how much of difference a little guidance can make at the right time, to a rural student seeking pursue education further. In a country like India, we see a lot of students dropping out of school or college just for reasons revolving around their family’s finances, and the government of India releases scholarships for students who fall under that category; and these students being first generation learners in their families, are unaware of any such assistance. And Vidya Helpline is undoubtedly bridging this gap and reaching out to these students. They also seem to extend their hand to help underprivileged students who are looking for guidance in making better career choices.

The tele counselling staff are more than capable of handling students who are looking for guidance both career wise and financial assistance. And also would like to make a special reference to one of the staff members ‘Nithya’ who has taken it upon herself to make a parent understand the importance of education and why he should encourage his daughter study – In this particular case the parent was under the impression that his daughter did not need any further education (beyond 10th standard) and was concerned what kind of impression it would leave in his society if his girl was moving to a different village to study, and believed that this would only make room for unnecessary expenses. She very patiently made him understand that he need not pay the tuition and the college that his daughter chose was funded by the government. Being uneducated he could not see how her being educated was going to help the family in the long run, she toned herself down and explained all the relevant information though the parent was quite reluctant to listen. The staff at Nirman genuinely care, to help and reform the kind of serviced that are available to the unprivileged communities. Their role at the workplace definitely goes beyond what they are expected to do and far more what I initially thought they were doing. The level of dedication these people show for their job is almost personal and they consistently do above and beyond what they are required to help these students. One of the things that impressed me the most was them going back and following up on the progress of the students who have made the calls and also took it upon themselves to text them the relevant information in their regional languages in time for them to make a necessary decision.

Also their ‘Career Counselling Workshop’ is another outstanding example of how a little guidance and make all the difference to the students who don’t know what to pick after their secondary education. Most of the students that Nirman caters to are the weaker section of the society that require them to pick up odd jobs to support their family. And they are given the right kind of guidance at the right time, and their idea of following up twice on their initial workshop would only help fill any gaps. The initial workshop helps them set goals and the next are focused on sustenance of the goals. And this is done with utmost care and guidance by the volunteers who talk the students through various phases of achieving the goals and also discuss the essentials in detail – like accommodation, scholarships and financial assistance available.

It is also commendable that Nirman makes the effort to identify and mentor the bright students that they come across and give them a hand to hold on to throughout their chosen career path. Overall, they are doing everything in their power to give out the best possible help to the economically backward communities, who could not have been able to get the kind of guidance they provide.