



## TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

By Mary Joy E. Barcelona



*DAWN women having their Advanced Handloom Weaving Training*

Sikhay believes that training and development is a continuous process in achieving its main objective of empowering women. We never stop in building the capacities of women for them to regain their self-esteem and self-confidence and enable them to sustain their economic situation to support their children.

Through the years, we witnessed how the women change their lives with their children. The trainings also serve as therapy to the women.

Advanced trainings in handloom-weaving were conducted last July and August with Josefa Garlitos and Teresita Valencia of the Philippine Textile Research Institute (PTRI) as our trainers.

The trainings enable the women to learn new designs and the use of the eight harness machines that we have in Sikhay.

The trainings will also help improve our production, maximize the materials that we have and expand our market. Training participants included Rosalie Akase, Mary Jane Kuraoka and Anna Liza Yambao.

*“ Lahat ng bagay ay napag-aaralan, lalo na pag gusto mo at masaya kang ginagawa ito.”* (Everything can be learned, especially if you are interested and happy in doing it), Gilda, one of the members of Sikhay, says. She joined Sikhay in November 2012, after she lost her job as a massage therapist.

During that time, she was already undergoing her training in sewing, pattern-making and cutting. She became the pattern-maker/cutter of Sikhay since April 2013. She shared that being part of Sikhay is an opportunity for her who was unable to finish her studies to have a chance to learn. Gilda says, “Whatever I gained from all the trainings is something nobody can take away from me.”

Gilda, who is living in Quezon City, is planning to transfer to Manila after the graduation of her two sons, who are both in Grade VI in March 2014. Also, she is taking her Alternative Learning Study (ALS) at the Sta. Isabel College starting September and hopefully take the exams in November for the secondary level.

If she passes the exam, she will be qualified to take up her college education.

She is interested to take up a course in Designs for her to contribute more to the sewing project of Sikhay.



*Gilda Mosatalla cutting some Marche bags*



*DAWN women provided with new insights and techniques in Advanced Weaving from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST)'s Philippine Textile Research Institute (PTRI)*

For this quarter, we were able to accommodate a new set of trainees in sewing and weaving. The training includes basic pattern-making, cutting, machine operations and sewing of blouse, skirt, pants and items of Sikhay. For the training in weaving, we introduced to the trainees the different fibers that Sikhay uses, computation of weaving materials, execution of handloom-weaving and making of scarves, shawls, placemats, coasters, etc.

The trainees include the following:

Madelyn Itoh, during her first visit to DAWN verbalized her interest to learn sewing and weaving. In both trainings, she appreciated her new skills and was happy to see her finished projects like the blouse, skirt, pants, scarves and coasters. She shared that she never thought that she was able to make such items.

She also said that she can learn fast because of the guidance and hands-on trainers. Her training is also a therapy for her because of her situation of longing for her twenty-one year old son and she wishes to see him in the future.



*Madelyn Itoh cutting her blouse project as part of her training in sewing*

Melody Cabalagnan, also trained in sewing and weaving, she is happy every time she comes to Sikhay for her training. In the beginning she was nervous and worried if she can do the training but, because she is a fast learner she successfully finished her projects in sewing: blouse, skirt, pants, bags and book covers and scarves in weaving. She said that the skills she learned from Sikhay, she can use them in the future. She wanted to start a business out of the skills she gained from the training. Melody has a nine year old daughter, who is now in Grade V.

Anna Lissa Junio is a mother of two JFC, one is graduating from the university and the other is graduating from high school in March 2014. Lissa is managing a sari-sari store owned by her mother which is their main source of income. When she attended the DAWN orientation, she was encouraged to join the Sikhay trainings. She was at first hesitant, because sewing is not her forte. But, when it was explained to her that it is also another skill that can be used in the future, she decided to join the training. When she was able to make her blouse and skirt, and other projects, she was very happy and she said that she tried her best and now she was able to make her projects.



*Madelyn weaving a scarf*



*Melody Cabalagnan doing her project in sewing*



She shared that they have a sewing machine at home, because her mother is a sewer and make dresses for her and for her children.

After the training she can now use the machine to make simple items.

The various trainings are part of the project “Improving the Quality of Life of Returned Filipino Women Migrants and Their Children through Education, the Provision of Training and Health Services,” supported by the Asian Community Trust (ACT)- Japan. Other support includes school, medical and health assistance and seminars/workshops.



*Lissa Junio doing her project in sewing*



*DAWN women provided with hands-on training in advanced weaving by Misses Josefa Garlitos and Teresita Valencia of PTRI*

## DAWN/PMRW IN ACTION

Ms. Mel Nuqui, DAWN Executive Director and Philippine Migrants Rights Watch (PMRW) President, (seated right) with Filipina migrant workers, served as resource person in the Senate Blue Ribbon and Labor Committees hearings on the sex-for-flight issue held last August 15.

Other hearings were held on August 8 and 29.



# LEARNING BY EXPERIENCE

*By Eugenia Y. Celario, RSW*

At DAWN, we believe that what and how children learn is very important. That's why a session with the children was organized to make it more personal and less stressful. The session created an opportunity for genuine dialogue about each child's unique strengths and challenges.

DAWN, as a child focused organization has committed to engage its members through organizing and capability building activities. DAWN has confidence in children's ability to develop. The children have the distinct capacity to make decisions given the right and sufficient information and opportunity as well.

The July to September meeting delivered many different perceptions on each child's experiences.

Different methodologies were introduced like "TALK SHOW" where there were a host and a guest. The children experienced to be a host and a guest of a talk show. They were able to realize that listening/communicating is not only by ears but also with the eyes.

Another activity is the "Appreciation Wheel" where each of them was able to receive a positive word or phrase. Likewise they also gave the same to others.

On building self-confidence, they were instructed to make their own newspaper. The contents of each section were concentrated on their lives. Each of the newspaper will be open for viewing. The children expressed their happiness after the work was done and for them it was a good opportunity to share their lives with others in a very unique and artistic way.

Another activity was introduced by asking them the possible outcomes of every decision or action that they make. They were given a situation. The output here was to know that the important part of decision making involves looking ahead "to be able to predict what will happen if I do this."



There was also an activity where the children were asked, the meaning of this quotation, "The tongue has no bones, but it is strong enough to break a heart, so be careful with words." The discussion was summarized by saying that to be able to understand others we need to be very acceptable to different changes, we must try to listen and understand before making any remarks /comments to avoid any possible conflicts and the most important is we need to be careful with our choice of words.

In summary, the children were able to understand that the emotions and feelings, such as anger, hatred, loneliness, anxiety, excitement, and happiness, will in one way or another, affect and influence our lives and the lives of others because these emotions and feelings are being communicated. Sometimes communicating our emotions is misunderstood and misinterpreted. Our emotions are signs of our uniqueness. This means that no one thinks exactly as you do or I do; no one feels exactly as you do or I do; no one reacts exactly as you do or I do. That is why no one can perfectly or completely understands you.





## Sharing, Learning... (cont'd)



*Mr. Michio Ito of ACC21 and ACT-Japan explains their support to the DAWN project*



*DAWN women and staff with participants of the Asian NGO Leadership Program*

They appreciated the project and saw how the project has been very helpful to the women in providing for their future.

They had a short but meaningful experience.

Also during their visit, we met Yasuko Ichikawa who later volunteered in DAWN.

She came every Saturday during her stay in Manila and taught Japanese language and culture to the JFC.

On September 7, Prof. Mitsuko Horiuchi and her thirteen students from the Bunkyo Gakuin University once again shared their time with us to have an exposure for her students of DAWN's work and activities.

Two members of the Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women also joined the study tour.

An orientation was followed by an open forum, exchanges, visit to the Sikhay projects and shared lunch together. After lunch, the students played Japanese and Filipino games and sang Japanese and Filipino songs.



*DAWN women, JFC, staff and Board with Prof. Horiuchi and students*



*The students, women and JFC introducing each other by singing "Kumusta Ka?" (How are You?) while moving around and changing partners*

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# SHARING, LEARNING AND UNDERSTANDING

*By Mary Joy E. Barcelona*

We learn, enjoy and understand what the study tour participants and visitors of DAWN experience every time we welcome them.

For the past months we are glad to meet students, professors, advocates, and individuals. They are not just visitors - they also provide us the joy, experience and understanding through our sharing. The different activities and sharing together are the most significant things that happened every time visitors came. We are happy that they become aware and interested on the issue of the JFC, the women and DAWN's work and its advocacy. We also enjoy having lunch together, playing together and simply talking to each other's experiences and interests in life.

On August 6, 2013, eight students of Fr. Edwin Corros with a course on Migration Theology at the Loyola School of Theology of the Ateneo de Manila University had an exposure visit to DAWN.

The students who are from Indonesia, Korea, Vietnam and the Philippines would like to understand the work of DAWN as a non-government organization assisting migrant returnees and their children.

They hope to acquire some knowledge in preparing possible pastoral program for migrants and their families in the future.



*After the sharing, the students of Loyola School of Theology, ADMU posed for a photo with DAWN members and staff*

Tita Mel provided them with an orientation about DAWN's work and the situation of the women and Japanese-Filipino children. They visited the working area Sikhay's sewing, weaving and the DAWN Wellness Center.

They also got the chance to talk with the women and take photos of the project with the women.

After the discussion, we had an evaluation of their visit.

The students shared that they are glad that such an organization is able to do good work for the women and children and they hope to be of help in DAWN's future endeavors. Tita Mel thanked them for their visit and interest to help.

Prof. Koki Seki and sixteen students of the Hiroshima University visited DAWN last August 21.

An orientation about DAWN's work, the situation of the women and Japanese-Filipino children.



*DAWN Executive Director Mel Nuqui providing an orientation to the students*



*Students of the Hiroshima University and Prof. Koki Seki with DAWN women, JFC and staff.*





*Ai Risa Akase, one of the DAWN-JFC, who is now a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), shares her experience in DAWN with the students of Hiroshima University.*



*Kansai University students with Mary Joy Barcelona choosing Sikhay products they will be selling in Osaka*

There was a fruitful exchange among the women, children and students. An open forum was held and shared lunch together and continued the exchanges. The children and students played some Filipino and Japanese games and sang Philippine and Japanese songs together.

During the Teatro Akebono presentations in Osaka, from May 28-31, we met about 12 Kansai University students and Prof. Yoshida. They helped organized the presentations and other activities in Osaka. They are interested to learn more about DAWN's work and want to sell Sikhay products in their university and other bazaars in Osaka. During that meeting they got some Sikhay items for their festival in school.

The possibility of coming to the Philippines was also part of their plan as social entrepreneur students under Yoshida-Sensei's Seminar class.

Last August 24, 2013 the visit of ten students materialized. We had an orientation and exchanges together with the women and the children. They made a video interview with the Sikhay members, so that they can promote the Sikhay products more and because most of them are now graduating students and they are planning to pass-on the information to the junior students.

By providing the video interview, they will also explain well the DAWN and Sikhay projects in Japan most especially to younger students in Kansai University.

During their visit we also discussed the price list of Sikhay items they want to sell and they shared some suggestions on how we can improve the Sikhay items, including the thread, color and design for young consumers.

Participants of the Asian NGO Leadership Program of Japan headed by Mr. Michio Ito of the Asian Community Center 21 (ACC21) and Asian Community Trust (ACT) visited DAWN on September 5. We had dinner together – the study tour participants, DAWN staff and Sikhay members.

*(continued on page 5)*



*Kansai University students with DAWN women, JFC and staff*



SINAG (akebono or yoake in Japanese) means dawn or daybreak.

It is the quarterly publication of the Development Action for Women Network (DAWN), a non-government organization devoted to issues concerning migrant women and their Japanese-Filipino children.

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**LAYOUT:** Lance A.S. Velasco

# DAWN BOARD OF TRUSTEES

*By Ma. Cristina S. Tenorio*

DAWN gladly welcomes the two new members of the Board of Trustees, Prof. Aurora Javate-de Dios and Prof. Mitsuko Horiuchi as President and Vice-President respectively. Prof. Aurora Javate-de Dios is an academic and social activist involved in various advocacies. She is the Chairperson of the Migration Studies Department, College of International, Humanitarian and Development Studies (CIHDS), Miriam College. A former chair of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women, now the Philippine Commission on Women, she also worked internationally as the Philippine Expert and Rapporteur in the UN Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) from 1994 to 1998. As chair and commissioner of the NCRFW, she helped in the passage of important legislations for women such as the Anti-Trafficking Act in the Philippines. Prof. De Dios, is also a member of the External Forum on Gender of the Asian Development Bank and a member of the Gender Advisory Group, UNDP-Asia Pacific. Prof. De Dios is the Executive Director of the Women and Gender Institute, Miriam College. She is also the Philippine Representative to the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children.

Prof. Mitsuko Horiuchi, a Professor of Bunkyo Gakuin University in Tokyo is the Chairperson of the Child Labor Network of Japan.



*(Clockwise from left) Prof. Aurora Javate-de Dios, Rev. Ding Morada, Mel Nuqui, Prof. Mitsuko Horiuchi and Pearl Domingo-Flores*

She's also the former Assistant Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO). On September 3, 2013 the group led by Prof. Horiuchi presented WFTO (The World Fair Trade Organisation Asia) to Japanese University Students from the Graduate School of Foreign Studies. Prof. Horiuchi held various positions in the government of Japan. She is the President of the Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women. Both are long-time friends and supporters of DAWN, as members of the DAWN Advisory Council. They are truly concerned in the promotion and protection of the rights and welfare of Filipino Women Migrant Workers and their children. With their professional expertise and commitment, we look forward to their great contributions for the betterment of DAWN's mission.

The election was held during DAWN's Board Meeting last September 7, 2013 at the DAWN office. Other officers elected are: Rev. Leonardo R. Morada, Secretary; Ms. Perlita Domingo-Flores, Treasurer; Atty. Danilo C. Cunanan, Auditor; members are: Prof. Corazon R. Arboleda, Bishop Julio Xavier Labayen, Mr. Ernesto Cloma; and Ms. Carmelita G. Nuqui, Executive Director.

The meeting presided by Prof. Arboleda started with a prayer led by Rev. Morada. During the meeting, Ms. Nuqui reported on the highlights of the activities from January to August 2013 and the remaining activities planned for September to December 2013 were also shared.

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