

MCC SALT/YAMEN Service Opportunity

MCC is an equal opportunity employer, committed to employment equity. MCC values diversity and invites all qualified candidates to apply.

Assignment Title & Partner Organization: SALT/YAMEN: Nursing Tutor – Dhamtari Christian Nursing College

Term: August 16, 2022 – July 15, 2023

Date Required: August 16, 2022

Location: Dhamtari, India

Project Theme: HS Health Salt/Yamen

Job Synopsis:

The SALT/YAMENer will serve alongside Dhamtari Christian College Hospital, assisting the Demonstrator and tutors in planning, organizing, and tutoring nursing students. They will also teach English and computers to develop the skills of the nursing students. They will also assist and participate in extracurricular activities and events organized by the college.

Qualifications:

All MCC workers are expected to exhibit a commitment to a personal Christian faith and discipleship; active church membership; and nonviolent peacemaking.

An invitation to an assignment is contingent on the successful completion of a criminal background check.

- Bachelor of Science in nursing at minimum. MA in nursing (M.Sc.[N]), Sociology, or Psychology preferred.
- Demonstrated competency in relevant subjects such as nutrition, psychology, sociology, genetics, anatomy, and physiology.
- Strong English language skills, both verbal & written.
- Ability to develop lesson plans, assist in giving lectures, marking exams & observing students during clinical work.
- Degree or training in computers is an asset to assist students in using computer-based nursing databases/programs).
- Good communication skills & professional relationship with students & faculty.
- Ability to be independent in daily living and working situations, with back-up support from MCC India staff.
- Flexibility and adaptability in assuming a variety of job responsibilities depending on changing needs.
- Adaptable to basic lifestyle and lodging accommodations.
- Language learning aptitude and desire to learn a new language.
- Willingness to live as a member of an Indian household, learning a new language, ways of living, custom, foods, communication patterns, modes of travel and modes of worship.
- Willingness to be open to the mentoring and support of an Indian church community.
- Willingness to make ones needs known.
- Creativity and ability to take initiative.

- Relationship oriented with strong interest in building relationships with the community.
- Demonstrates maturity and positive attitude towards others.

Key Responsibilities:

- Assist students in strengthening English as per the qualifications needed for their area of study.
- Cooperate and build relationships with staff and coach them in English, as needed.
- Assist or guide the nutrition practical and computer practical and project.
- Dependent on expertise, conduct theory classes for Nutrition, Psychology, Sociology, Computer, Genetics, Anatomy & Physiology.
- Use audio-visual resources and prepare PowerPoint slides to be used to tutor and teach classes.
- Ability to develop internal assessments to test knowledge of theory required for general nursing and midwifery, Post B.Sc.[N], Basic B.Sc.[N] & M.Sc.[N].
- Encourage and motivate the students in various cultural, spiritual, and athletic co-curricular activities.
- Regularly attend the morning devotion at chapel in the campus.
- Assist and actively participate in weekly MYF (Mennonite Youth Fellowship) meeting held every Saturday between 7 to 9 pm.
- Attend a local church and relate to the local Mennonite and Christian community.
- Participate and connect with young adults from the Mennonite church.
- Follow supervisor guidance and support in personal and social matters.
- Live as a member of an Indian household, learning a new language, ways of living, custom, foods, communication patterns, modes of travel and modes of worship.
- Participate with MCC India, attending the Annual Retreat, workshops, and seminars.
- Help MCC India or Mennonite Christian Service Fellowship of India (MCSFI) as opportunities arise or according to one's interest.

Assignment Narrative:

Through living with host families and participating in host churches and service assignments, SALT/YAMEN participants in India will:

- Realistically test their gifts, limitations, and their call for further training and longer-term cross-cultural service.
- Grow spiritually as their faith is challenged and nurtured in a cross-cultural setting.
- Broaden their understanding and appreciation of the lives of their brothers and sisters in their host country and further mutual trust, relationships and caring.
- Help to dismantle the stereotypes and prejudices that exist between cultures both during the exchange year and upon their return to their home communities.

To help meet these objectives, the SALT/YAMENer will:

- Participate in an in-county orientation of 5 to 10 days in Kolkata.
- Have six weeks of language study.
- Live as an adult "son" or "daughter" in an Indian family.
- Expected to be part of church and community life.
- Full participation and mutual support in the local Mennonite church.

The SALT/YAMENer will serve at Dhamtari Christian hospital to work as a Nursing Tutor and to teach English at the nursing school run by the Dhamtari Christian Hospital.

Dhamtari Christian Hospital is a large, self-supporting hospital begun by Mennonite Church missionaries in the early 20th century. While North American Mennonites no longer subsidize any part of the hospital's program or operations, the hospital continues to welcome American Mennonite friends, with an open invitation for medical personnel to serve in short-term assignments. While North American Mennonite missionaries operated and supported Dhamtari Christian Hospital for its first 50 years, the hospital now has a long history of independence and local direction.

The Dhamtari Christian Nursing School and College adds an important dimension to the hospital's ministry as well, and the nursing education programs have grown significantly with the addition of a satellite campus at the former leprosy hospital location in nearby Shantipur.

The college runs BSc Nursing, MSc Nursing and a General Nursing program. The BSc Nursing is a four-year degree course. MSc Nursing is a two-years master's course and General Nursing is three-year degree course. The college provides holistic development for the students.

Location Description:

The SALT/YAMENer will live in Dhamtari, close to Raipur, the capital of Chhattisgarh. The population of Dhamtari is around 500,000. Raipur airport is 2-hour drive away. The MCC office is in Kolkata, about a 16hr train ride away.

Dhamtari falls under the hot temperature climate zone causing the district to experience very hot and dry conditions of up to 45 degrees Celsius. Summer starts from April to mid-June with a rainy season due to southwestern monsoon occurring from mid-June to end of September. From the beginning of November to mid-February is the winter season.

The Mennonite Church in India has a significant presence in the district. The local Mennonite Church is very active. There is Sunday school on the campus every Sunday where one can be involved.

The SALT/YAMENer will stay with a host family or in a guest house.

Health related problems during one's stay can be taken care of at DCH. There are well qualified doctors and other staff present.

The MCC office in Kolkata, has been in the same location since 1962, having begun its presence in India in 1942 in response to the Bengal famine. Since then, MCC's primary strategy in India has been to identify needs and to provide consultative and financial assistance to indigenous registered societies wishing to engage in relief, development, education, and peace initiatives. Assistance is provided without regard to caste, colour, or creed. Except for projects initiated by Mennonite churches in India and of the Church's Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA) in response to disasters, MCC India confines its work to the five states nearest to Kolkata – West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh – which are also the poorest and most populated states in India. MCC India has a national staff of 23 and a North American country representative.

The MCC office is situated near Entally Market, one of the most interesting and exciting indoor/outdoor markets in the city. One will not be bored with a walk through the market, or in the streets surrounding the office. The SALT/YAMENer will discover a variety of shops including

pharmacies, tailor shops, outdoor barbers, the coconut seller on the corner; as well as men washing at open pipes; rickshaws, pedestrians, motorcyclists, taxis, and private vehicles vying for street space; sleeping street dogs; families living and sleeping in front of buildings; mazes of tiny alleyways; snack and sweet shops of all descriptions. There is a cacophony of noise at most hours of the day or night. At night the street is brightly lit, and activity abounds until 10pm or later, depending on the season. The MCC Office itself is considered an oasis of quiet in a sea of confusion.

MCC India works closely with the Mennonite Christian Service Fellowship of India (MCSFI). MCSFI was founded in 1964 and is the service arm of nine Mennonite and BIC church conferences in India and Nepal. MCSFI provides fellowship and teaching opportunities within the church community for youth, women, men, pastors, and leadership workshops. MCSFI also engages in service through churches in the community. Presently MCSFI is engaged in projects involving food security, HIV/AIDS awareness, as well as peace and conflict resolution. The administrative office of MCSFI is in Korba, Chhattisgarh. Rev. Benjamin Nand is the Director of Mennonite Christian Service Fellowship of India.

Male and female friendships are understood differently in India than in other parts of the world. A SALT/YAMEN participant would need to spend time in mixed groups or with friends of the same gender and be very sensitive to cultural cues. Following the lead of Indian friends of the same age and gender will help to prevent cultural blunders.

Indian culture is extremely complex and mysterious to North Americans, with its layers and layers of unspoken rules pertaining to social protocol. The elderly, those in authority and teachers are generally held in high regard and deferred to with respect. In many ways Indians are extremely reserved. Nothing is quick or simple, nor black and white – but on the streets one experiences a fresh bluntness, vitality and an energy that defies description. India is a land of contrasts and contradictions, and those fortunate enough to spend a year in the rich tapestry of this pluralistic society called India, are most fortunate.

Challenges:

- COVID-19 remains unpredictable both at home, and around the world. MCC strongly recommends vaccination against COVID-19. Safe and effective vaccines against COVID-19 are a vital part of prevention, by reducing individual risk of disease and risk of transmission to others. Vaccination is particularly important for those who are interacting closely with members of the community, those staying with host families, who are traveling, who live in contexts with limited healthcare resources, or who are at higher risk of serious disease. Proof of vaccination may be required in individual cases to fulfill job expectations, for example, if it is required for travel by an airline, a government requirement to enter a country, required by a local partner organization, etc.
- To prioritize wellness and limit risk to our participants and the local community from COVID-19, assessments of each task will continue on a regular basis. If an assignment is found to be no longer viable, we will do our best to help you secure an alternative assignment.
- To live with an Indian host family might be challenging due to cultural differences. Indian families feel more responsible for guests and would certainly be very protective which might be very unusual or considered controlling for someone coming from North America.
- Indian food, although very delicious, can be very spicy. It may take some time to adjust to this. Yoghurt is frequently served with meals and is cooling when eating spicy food. Digestive upsets are common, especially during the first 2-3 months of the assignment.

Differences in diet and water sources take time to adjust to.

- Dhamtari is situated on the National highway which makes it very dusty. Dhamtari is not for shy people. The SALT/YAMENer should be prepared to have their senses stimulated by crowds, hectic traffic, little personal space, good and bad smells, garbage, and diesel fumes. However, people are generally very welcoming and kind.
- Learning language and building cultural understanding requires time, patience, and dedication. Willingness to practice, make mistakes and an ability to laugh at oneself is important.
- The hot climate can be quite uncomfortable. Most of the Indian families do not have air conditioning and use locally made air water coolers to cool the houses.
- Train travel should be viewed as an adventure and is an integral part of experiencing India to the fullest. With limited language skills, the participant may be nervous about travel, especially travelling alone, but they will find people to be kind and helpful.
- Perceptions of LGBTQ+ individuals are generally negative, and more strongly so in Christian communities. An openly LGBTQ+ Christian would likely face significant challenges with acceptance in this context.
- Managing frustration when things don't turn out as expected can be hard. While we do our best to determine and outline job responsibilities with our local partners, assignments really come alive based on the passions, skills, and giftings of an individual. Responsibilities may change or be refined over time in communication with supervisors to meet the ongoing changes and needs within a local context. As such, the greatest characteristics a participant can bring to an assignment are adaptability, flexibility, patience, a willingness to get your hands dirty, and humility to complete even mundane tasks.
- For those who are very task oriented, it can be a challenge to recognize the importance of "being" instead of always "doing" as building healthy relationships and mutually transformative learning is an important part of the participant experience. We hope participants will come with a desire to walk alongside our local partners, rather than see the assignment solely as a way to "get things done".

Benefits:

For all SALT/YAMEN assignments, MCC provides:

- All basic needs related to assignment i.e., travel to and from assignment, food & household costs, housing, in-country transportation, etc.
- Modest monthly personal allowance
- Modest monthly worker care allowance
- Full medical coverage—no co-pay
- Educational loan reimbursement
- Vacation days
- Orientation and Re-entry Retreat costs
- MCC in-country meetings and retreat costs
- End-of-term benefits

For more information, see mcc.org/salt or mcc.org/yamen