

VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER MONARAGALA

A social initiative funded by Hilti employees



This initiative offers young people from poor backgrounds a professional perspective and enables them to build a self-determined life in Sri Lanka. The Vocational Training Center not only enjoys an excellent reputation but is also considered a showcase project by the Ministry of Education.

The training program consists of a total of six courses, ranging from computer courses to welder training. Graduates of the vocational school are sought after throughout the country and in many

cases start their own businesses. In this way, they not only create new jobs, but also pass on their knowledge to the next generation.

The Vocational Training Center was realized in 2005 by the NGO «SOS Children's Villages Sri Lanka» with the support of Hilti. To date, this EBB initiative has been financed exclusively by Hilti employees, with donations now being used mainly for the construction of the training workshops, maintenance and work clothes, as well as various other purchases.



**SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES**

History of origins

At the end of 2004, the seaquake in the Indian Ocean and the subsequent tsunami destroyed entire swathes of land. The disaster triggered a wave of donations from people all around the world, which meant that large sums of financial aid were suddenly available. The problem: there was a lack of meaningful projects. Hilti therefore decided to support an initiative of the NGO «SOS Children's Village» in the Sri Lankan jungle. The children's village in Monaragala was opened in 2000 and initially offered underprivileged children as well as orphans a new home. However, the seaquake then confronted the region with new challenges. With Hilti's support, the children's village was therefore expanded to include a vocational training center, where young people from poor backgrounds are given career prospects. The educational programs offered are now known throughout the country and set national standards for skilled workers.

Support opportunities

There are various ways to support this initiative. For example, interested Hilti team members can simply

transfer monetary donations. However, they can also run their own fundraising campaigns at their workplaces and then donate the campaign proceeds. What such a fundraising campaign looks like in detail is left solely to the creativity of the organizers: Ideas range from fundraising runs or sales campaigns to paid training courses. The proceeds of the donation then only must be transferred to the headquarters in Schaan and will then benefit directly the Vocational Training Center in Monaragala.

Facts & Figures

In 2024 alone, more than 65,000 CHF was collected by Hilti employees. Since the founding of the VTC, Hilti employees have all together donated approximately 1.5 million CHF. A total of 2,250 disadvantaged young people have benefited from these donations since 2008.

Mechanics

Computer

Welding

Carpentry

Electrics

Baking



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Current challenges and bright spots of the training center

But of course, there are also challenges that the VTC faces. For example, all courses offered are based on apprenticeships, which is particularly common in German-speaking countries. Consequently, this system of training takes place in two places of learning: The school on the one hand and a company on the other.

This is exactly where the center faces challenges since the concept of vocational training is still comparatively new in Sri Lanka. Therefore, the VTC still has a lot of convincing to do to win over

companies for internships as not all companies are willing to train young people. But there is reason for hope: to ensure a sufficient supply of qualified craftsmen, the government is collaborating with the Vocational Training Center in Monaragala.

Do you have any questions? You can reach us by e-mail: foundation-ebb.hiltiteam@hilti.com

