

Tharani d/o Karthikesu

Work-Study Diploma in
Community Engagement
and Development

ITE College Central



ITE Lee Kuan Yew

Model Trainee Award

Finding Her Path

Tharani paused her diploma studies at Republic Polytechnic due to financial difficulties and responsibilities caring for her grandmother, becoming her family's sole breadwinner. She worked various jobs, including administrative roles, cabin crew, and freelancing as a nail and henna artist.

Seeking flexibility as her grandmother's health worsened, Tharani became a freelance caregiver with Homage, which inspired her to pursue a Work-Study Diploma in Community Engagement and Development.

Now working as an Admin & Operations Executive at Inclus Pte. Ltd., Tharani supports and trains students with special educational needs, helping them transition to work life. Her patience and empathy have allowed her to build a meaningful career empowering others.

From the Heart

"The WSDip programme really helped me to grow as a person. Before WSDip, I felt like everything was on 'pause' after completing my Higher Nitec. The gap between me and my peers was getting bigger and bigger each year. My colleagues, my friends, my classmates... they were all moving forward in their careers and further away from where I stood. Thanks to the WSDip programme, I finally feel that I am progressing, and since working at Inclus, I've learnt how to be more professional and communicate well with others."

Life after ITE

Tharani would like to continue working with persons with disabilities and exploring areas related to training. She also hopes to go on to do a degree in the future.

Top Achievements

- Tharani overcame her initial challenge in communicating effectively with bigger groups of people by actively seeking guidance from her colleagues and mentors and putting what she learnt into practice to build her confidence.
- One of her projects involved working with special educational needs students interning at Starships Flowers and Balloons. Training these interns on developing the soft skills they need for their job was challenging but fulfilling, inspiring Tharani to work more closely with persons with disabilities.
- The skills she picked up during the course and while working at Inclus, have helped her improve professionally and gain more confidence.
- While patience was already a virtue that Tharani possesses, she was able to develop it further to handle clients experiencing meltdowns in a calm manner. She is proud that this has become one of her greatest strengths.

