



Insight

**The Institute for Indian
Mother and Child (IIMC)
INFORMATION SHEET**

The Institute for Indian Mother & Child (IIMC) is a non-governmental voluntary organisation, committed to promoting child & maternal health, literacy and to accelerating International solidarity & Peace.

IIMC was initiated by Dr. Sujit Kumar Brahmochary and was set up in 1989, with the mission to give support to the medical needs of the poorest and most backward people of West Bengal, India; people who have no access to basic healthcare and medicinal facilities. Today, IIMC has expanded its activities to include Medical Programs, Health Education & Health Promotion Programs, Network Programs, Education & Sponsorship Programs, and integrated rural developmental projects including female economical empowerment through Micro Finance Banking Program and agricultural program.

Insight members were lucky enough to hear Dr. Brahmochary speak in 2008. His enthusiasm and passion for his work was contagious and he expressed a very keen interest in Insight members of all year levels participating in his program.

Below is information submitted by medical student Tanya Duke who attended IIMC in 2008.

Insight cannot reserve specific spots for members, but wishes to act as an avenue for students to participate in the program.

Child Sponsorship

IIMC have had a child sponsorship program established since 1994. Currently, over 2000 students are being sponsored by international donors from all around the world. \$360 per annum will give an Indian child the opportunity of an education and much better living conditions. Split this amongst your friends and receive quarterly letters from your child!

For more information, visit <http://www.iimcmisioncal.org/>

To acquire a registration of interest/submission form email iimccal@dataone.in



PERSONAL DETAILS

Name	Tanya Duke	Current year level	3
E-mail address	t.dukey@gmail.com	Phone number (optional)	0400513411
<i>Information disclosure:</i> Do you give Insight permission to make your contact details available to anyone with further questions?			Yes

ELECTIVE DETAILS

Country	India	City	Kolkata
Setting	Rural, developing		
Local languages spoken	Bengali, English (by most staff), small amount of Hindi		
Dates of elective	From 26/11/08	To 02/01/09	Duration 1 month
Year level during elective	Between 2 nd and 3 rd	Expected level of knowledge	Quite low – how to take BP etc. Anything not known can be taught there easily

DETAILS OF INSTITUTION

Name	Institute for Indian Mother and Child	Population served	Rural population south of Kolkata, mostly women and children
Size	One primary health clinic – 16 beds, and a daily visiting clinic to four villages. Five or so doctors, eight nurses, many health workers		
Departments/specialties available	Only primary health clinic so doesn't deal with anything too difficult, mostly manifestations of malnutrition and skin infections		
Further description	The health care arm looks after the basic health needs of the population south of Kolkata – anything the clinic cannot handle is referred onto a state hospital. There are also other arms of the programme – child sponsorship, education, womens' empowerment programs, microcredit etc. It's encouraged for volunteers to visit these. There is a reasonable amount of spare time once your duties are finished, so it really just depends on your initiative how much you can get involved with other areas. New ideas are always welcome.		
Student responsibilities	Taking and recording vital signs of patients in primary health clinic (temperature, pulse and respiratory rate), taking blood pressure, giving IM injections and dressing skin infections and minor wounds in visiting clinics, preparing and giving lessons to health workers in training (on subjects such as hygiene, basic anatomy, HIV etc)		
Teaching availability	Lessons in basic Bengali given at the beginning of the month, a couple		



	of lessons given from doctors on different topics (ours were tuberculosis and GI parasites), possibility to sit in with doctors during visiting clinics, a daily 'ward round' with doctor in primary health clinic
Elective contact	Costanza Gazzaniga - costanza.gazzaniga@projectforpeople.org , fax +390299982010, tel +390236552292, address: Ufficio Associazione Project for People ONLUS Via Angera, 3 20125 Milano
Application process	Fill in an application form about 4 months before planning on going, they will let you know 3 months beforehand
Donations brought/grants	I was already sponsoring a child through the organisation, but wasn't able to bring any donations when I went. They would be more than welcome though

TRAVEL, ACCOMMODATION, FOOD, LEISURE...

EXPECTED COSTS

Accommodation options	Guesthouse for foreign volunteers	EUR 150 (about AUD \$300)
Accommodation details	Organised by IIMC	
Travel to location (including necessary documentation)	Approximately one hour by autorickshaw or bus	AUD\$ 0.50
Transport within location	Provided by IIMC – jeep or bus	AUD\$ 0
Food allowances	Lunch provided by IIMC for 10 rupees (AUD\$0.30), very inexpensive breakfast and tea can be bought from vendors or cooked in the guesthouse kitchen	Minimum about AUD \$1.50 per day
Social activities	Many outings organised together by foreign volunteers, Sundays are your day off so you can explore the city	Depends – for example, dinner at a restaurant may cost about 150 rupees (AUD \$5.00), large beer costs about 60 rupees (\$2.00)
Recommended vaccinations	Hep A, typhoid, cholera, malaria prophylaxis	About AUD\$180 (just an estimate, may be less)



ADDITIONAL DETAILS

The good	Being able to work with women and children, working with medical students from around the world, exploring the countryside of West Bengal, the amazing food, the awesome people you work with, learning a new language, learning to do simple things like injections, learning about the many different facets of the project and how they are changing lives
The bad	The pollution in Kolkata is atrocious, especially when driving in an open rickshaw, you're not exactly saving lives, but I think the experience is more important, and that's also what makes it good for pre-clin students
Further descriptions, comments or advice	
For more information	http://www.iimcmisioncal.org/
Recommendation rating	5/5