

Cooking workshop at Alliance Française de Pondichéry



Quarterly Newsletter 1- 2023

And it's a wrap!

The first Propolis Tour for the program "**No More Taboo!**" is officially closed. It has been a great learning experience and confirming the following facts:

1- No matter from which social background people are coming, **there are still immense blockages to communicating on taboo topics.**

We had the chance to conduct 54 workshops and "train the trainers" to reflect on different social topics such as:

- how to allow ourselves to dream in a demanding community
- how to spot abuse and learn how to say no
- how to embrace our differences and accept them
- how to make our own decision and have a critical mind

2- **People are willing to talk**, even if the communication is difficult at first.

With the Propolis workshops, we help beneficiaries to communicate using the storytelling tool, where we tell a story that seems far away from their reality. By using drawing, script writing, and performing, beneficiaries slowly come to reflection and can open up on personal stories, like testimonials of being bullied and abused.

3- **The current top-down educational system is not making a long-lasting impact on people's mind.** Placing beneficiaries at the center of the workshop encourages them to come out of their comfort zone.

At Propolis, we like to repeat that we are not teachers and that beneficiaries are not students. There is no expectation and no comparison, all that is needed is effort and engagement for communication to happen.

Also, by making our beneficiaries move their body (the physical part of the program has been made by Vincent Chiu, a professional stage actor) a lot of emotions and tensions are released, helping to start a conversation.

Propolis Tour Numbers

70 DAYS ON THE ROAD
12 SOUTH INDIAN CITIES

990 BENEFICIAIRES IN 19
VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS

54 SESSIONS CONDUCTED,
INCLUDING TRAIN THE
TRAINER AND COOKING

7 STORIES CREATED AND
TESTED ON THEMES SUCH
AS DREAMING, BULLYING,
ABUSE, SEXUALITY...

**Testimonial of Agathe Meurisse,
Founder of Kalker Sangeet
Vidyalaya.**

"My students now have many more questions in mind, they would like to continue to go deeper into the subjects covered by Propolis and would love to know more about themselves".



**Testimonial of Akshita, trainer at Mann
Center for Individuals with Special Needs, in Mumbai.**

"Our special beneficiaries need more cognitive activities, and Propolis storytelling, involving role-playing, is a great idea for them to express themselves.

Our special adults are very often judged in their life, limiting them to dreaming and projecting anything.

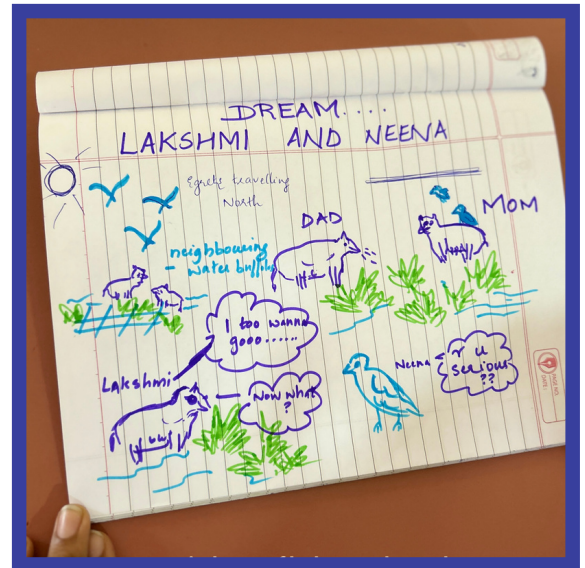
At the start of the workshop, some beneficiaries were very introverted and the Propolis activities gave them the freedom to feel lighter and talk about themselves. We were surprised at how unlimited their dreams were and how much reflection they could bring."

What is coming next for Propolis?

Now that the Indian pilot program has been tested, Propolis will be coming to France to develop the European network while continuing the activities with selected organisations in India.

Of the 19 organisations already met, we have the objective to continue working online with 5, to closely monitor the work of the managers.

We are expecting challenges to arise with the adaptation of the program in France and with finding local qualified partners who believe communication is key to challenging taboos.



the "Dare to Dream" theme

A HUGE THANK YOU!

This tour wouldn't have been possible without the very generous support of our 49 individual donors and the amazing Giving Joy Foundation associated with Curio Spice, who trusted us to share our love for cooking to open up deep conversations.

We are SO GRATEFUL to all of you, and cannot wait to share more adventures and impactful stories.



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