AIDHA, SINGAPORE

Emily Kraeck
Class of 2017
ABOUT AIDHA & FOREIGN DOMESTIC WORK

There are currently about 225,000 foreign domestic workers employed in Singapore. While remittances provide critical support to families back home, foreign domestic workers work long hours, frequently experience ill treatment, and are often left without savings by the end of their contracts.

Aidha strives to provide opportunities for foreign domestic workers to transform their lives through sustainable wealth creation. To this end, Aidha, with the help of its volunteers, provides financial literacy programs covering money management, computer literacy, leadership, and entrepreneurial skills to help women invest sustainably and/or start their own businesses in their home countries.
PROJECTS & IMPACT

(1) Produced a **series of short videos to promote Aidha’s work, mission, and programming** and enhance social media presence and engagement.
(2) Curated and presented research on
  o comparable regional organizations, focusing specifically on curriculum content and delivery
  o financial education best practices, particularly for low-income women
  o Aidha’s measurable, to-date impact
to serve as a resource during ongoing and future re-evaluation of Aidha’s curriculum

(3) Developed a simulation game to introduce potential students to Aidha’s curriculum in an engaging and interactive way, supplementing existing Orientation programming in anticipation of expanded recruitment
AIDHA STUDENTS, INTERNS, AND VOLUNTEERS ON CAMPUS

Summer 2016
REFLECTION

My most rewarding moment at Aidha was an interview with Norma Casinova, an Aidha graduate and volunteer, on the morning of her return to the Philippines - to her home, her family, and the multiple businesses she had managed from afar. The exchange was an incredibly emotional one for both of us and, for me, has come to epitomize Aidha’s work and mission and my experience there.
Because of Aidha, I have to leave Aidha.
TAKEAWAYS

At Aidha, I learned firsthand about the nature and intricacies of nonprofit work, gaining a better understanding of day to day operations; the ways in which a nonprofit strategically situates itself within a network of related organizations; how an organization transfers knowledge, responsibility, and leadership; the metrics by which an organization measures impact and anticipates growth; etc.
TAKEAWAYS

From academic reading, my own research, and countless conversations and interactions on Aidha’s campus, I became increasingly aware of and attentive to many of the issues affecting migrant and foreign domestic workers in Southeast Asia.
TAKEAWAYS

So too, I gained valuable exposure to more particularized, innovative approaches to financial education and services, i.e. approaches accounting specifically and explicitly for factors such as age, gender, income, region, etc.
Thank you Aidha & IIP!