



Craft Aid

Craft Aid is a Tearcraft partner based in Mauritius. Craft Aid's way of trading puts people before profits. Its main aim is to provide paid employment for disabled people, offering a living wage and a safe and healthy working environment.

Today, Craft Aid runs fully equipped workshops with more than 125 employees. 40 per cent of them are disabled and employed full-time. There are departments for furniture making, pressed flowers and handicrafts, packing tea and sugar, as well as a textile department.

Gabriel Kamudu, the managing director of Craft Aid, Mauritius, says, 'Our production activities are carefully chosen so as to be in line with the ability of the disabled person to fit the work. The true business figures of Craft Aid therefore lie in the human benefits rather than the financial ones.'

Meet Cindy

My name is Cindy Beehary and I live in Quatre Bornes. I am married, 25 years old and have one son aged four. I am deaf and dumb.

After my schooling, I joined Craft Aid as a helper in the textile department. My job consists mainly of cutting thread, turning socks and gloves and I also help on the production line.

I feel as important as the normal workers. I am happy with my job and appreciate very much what I am doing.

After joining Craft Aid, I feel that I have achieved something in my life and I am convinced that I will continue to progress in life just like any other normal human being.

Meet Naidu

My name is Naidu Koomaladevi. I am 17 years old and I have been dumb and deaf since my birth. I stay at Quatre Bornes. I have worked with Craft Aid in its textile department. My work consists mainly of cutting thread, packing and placing stickers on boxes.

When I was 16, I started looking for a job, but as I am dumb and deaf it was difficult to find work. I wanted to be independent and stand on my own. I joined Craft Aid in January 2002. Today after more than one year with Craft Aid, I feel my personality has changed. I have responsibility and I am independent. I am happy that I have many friends at Craft Aid. Even though I communicate with sign, they understand me very well. Craft Aid has not only given me the opportunity to work but has also taught me to live with people having other disabilities.