

Getting To Know Our Students

Tuty Amir, Advanced Diploma in Special Education graduate



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is currently working as an Allied Educator, Learning and Behavioural Support at Tampines Primary School and is an Advanced Diploma in Special Education graduate of Early Childhood and Special Needs Education (ECSE) Academic Group.

Please share with us your professional life's journey thus far.

I am currently working as an Allied Educator, Learning and Behavioural Support at Tampines Primary School (TPS). I joined the Ministry of Education (MOE) in 2009 and was posted to TPS after my training at NIE. My professional journey from banking to community work to education has enriched me with invaluable life experiences and has helped shaped my personality.

I had a promising career in banking but I gave it up for a more meaningful job with a Voluntary Welfare Organisation (VWO). My pay cut was worth the sacrifice! In the process of helping others, especially the beneficiaries with the VWOs, I learnt to be sincere, humble, grateful and adaptable. Finally, as age was catching up on me, I was determined to pursue my dream in education.

At which point in your career did you aspire to further your study? Any particular reason why you are interested in the area of Special Education and why NIE?

Although I had lots of hands-on learning at the VWO, I was not challenged mentally. My sister encouraged me to move into education as she observed that I had an affinity with children.

At my core, I feel especially connected with children with special needs as I understand their struggles and frustrations. As a student, I was like them, as I grappled with inattention and poor discipline, thus experiencing academic difficulties and often getting into trouble.

It was not easy pursuing a diploma without any knowledge in Special Education. However, I persevered, worked hard and used the growth mindset to overcome my challenges to earn a Diploma in Special Education (DISE) in 2009 and eventually the Advanced Diploma in Special Education (ADISE) in 2015.

How would you describe your interactions with NIE faculty members and other personnel?

Everyone was friendly, helpful and unassuming from the administrative staff to the lecturers. I found my lecturers to be experienced and knowledgeable yet humble, approachable and caring. They gave me hope, believed in me and went out of their way to help me. These superheroes will always have a special place in my heart as not only were they inspirational but were also sources of invaluable wisdom and patient mentors.

What was the best part of being a student at NIE?

NIE's nurturing environment ignites the joy of learning. The best part was the inclusive environment where everyone was accepted, respected and affirmed by the experts in education. This inclusion made it easy for me to develop meaningful friendships across generations.

Has the programme been beneficial to you in bringing forth changes in Tampines Primary School?

ADISE reignited the joy of learning and made me see the environment in a different light. It gave me the courage to explore new strategies of which I have shared on various platforms. I showcased eye-catching videos using video scribe to the school which created a 'buzz' from teachers and pupils. I would never have dared to try out new things had it not been for my learning experience at NIE.