

May 8, 2005 – Mirror Magazine (Sunday Times)

## **A GUIDING HAND**

You've just sat for your Advanced Level examination... a series of questions about what to do with your life lie ahead of you. Your parents think you'll be quite at home being doctor (Since you've already studied Medicine for the A /Levels), your interest in the arts wants you to go through life lost in classical languages and the theater of the world, while the voice inside your head is telling you to explore a career in creativity. ... Typical scenario in the life of a young adult?

If conclusion and too many options is your problem, your solution might be literally just a click away. Providing modern employment that goes beyond conventional recruitment, JobsNet hopes to develop and implement a service facility for seekers and provides of all employment including self employment." We match the needs of the employers and the job seekers, and are basically an information source regarding employment:, says Dileepa Manawadu, Head of marketing communications, at Jobsnet."While job orders are sent in by employers, job seekers feed in information goes in to a common database, and an automatic matching is done between the needs of the employers and the job seekers. If the numbers of availabilities exceed the requirement, we do further screening and limit it," she said, explaining the basic process followed at Jobsnet , adding that the entire procedure takes about two hours.

A project of the Ministry of Labour Relations and Foreign employment, this information center is a public sector-private sector partnership. Representing the combination of the public sector with the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, you also see the support and active participation of the private sector in this unique partnership. The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce manages Jobsnet, and while it was initially funded by the Royal Norwegian Agency (NORAD), the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) funds it at present. The draft national employment policy has formulated seven initiative, and implementation of the seventh initiative, which is "Creating an Employment Sourcing and Delivery System under the National Employment Policy of Sri Lanka,' is what we at JobsNet do." Says Dileepa.

The technical Collaborator for JobsNet is the International Labour Organization (ILO). From the second year onwards the project is being supported by ILO with a dedicated project management unit.

So how exactly does JobsNet help you find employment? "You can either visit 17 centres around the island, or get registered with us through our Website which is [www.jobsnet.lk](http://www.jobsnet.lk) ," says Dileepa. The Central database of JobsNet is located in the Colombo head office connecting 17 Jobsnet Service centers. The database carries information of jobseekers, self-employment seekers, companies (as members) who register with the system, and will continue to service these registered persons and organizations throughout."When visiting

us, you should bring your birth certificate, identifications, documents proving education qualifications, as well as a set of photocopies of all these documents. For all those of you registering online, when you need your CV sent to the employer, you need to bring these documents with you to a center, since we need tangible evidence of your certifications,” explains Dileepa.. Through our Services for Job seekers is free of charge, the employers who get in touch with us regarding recruitment need to pay a fee.”

Going onto explain how the recruitment is done, Dileepa adds that pre-interviews are held at JobsNet, where eligibility, working condition and salaries of the job seeker’s intended job are discussed. “ We then send in the job seeker’s CV and next direct the person to the employer,’ says Dileepa.

JobsNet also provides career guidance and counseling for those registered.” We also hold workshops for individuals registered with us, and organize seminars for schools, on request,’ she said. Identifying skill and training deficiencies, directing fir training, providing information in Job Market trends, skills required and training institutions, job matching on demand, web advertising and assessing and developing business plans and marketing plans for self employment seekers, are the other services provided.

“We also have a career aptitude test which is a computer based test and we recommend it to students who have done their O/Levels. For this you have to visit us at the center and a fee of two thousand five hundred rupees will be charged,” explains Dileepa.

Email job alert is another facility offered by JobsNet, where you will be informed of suitable employment opportunities.

Training referrals, which is information regarding the kind of training needed for specific jobs, is also provided by the JobsNet. “One of the main problems young people have is that they don’t know where to go to get information regarding training for various careers. We have a collected resource base what is available and where, so that these young people can be guided in the right direction,’ says Dileepa.

A serious lack of direction and negative attitudes towards certain job categories due to poor knowledge is the main problem faced by young people today. The lack of career guidance is another such problem. This is what JobsNet strived do.