

Topic: Employment

Activity: Opportunities and Moving Up in the Workforce: A Lesson Plan for Use With Bhutanese Refugees

Objectives	Participants will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ identify potential entry-level employment opportunities in the United States✓ explain how previous experiences and employment may be relevant to positions in the United States✓ explain that there is usually room for growth within a position or the workforce in the United States✓ identify some of the basics of U.S. workplace etiquette
Lesson Time	60 minutes
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Bhutanese Refugees in the United States</i> (http://www.cal.org/co/videos/Bhutanese/Bhutanese.html)• Internet access, laptop, projector, and screen, or DVD, television, and DVD player• Flipchart paper, markers, tape• <i>Opportunities and Moving Up in the Workforce: Images Worksheet</i>, 1 per participant (included)• Writing implements, 1 per participant• Optional: <i>Opportunities and Moving Up in the Workforce: Quotes Worksheet</i>, 1 per participant (included)
Introduction	<p>Think-pair-share. Participants think about past jobs they have had. (Remind participants that a mother or housecleaner is a job!) In pairs, participants share one of the past jobs they have had.</p> <p>Bring the large group together and create a list of past jobs held on a flipchart.</p>
Viewing Activities	<p>Tell participants that the group will now watch a 15-minute video of interviews with Bhutanese refugees resettled in the United States. Distribute <i>Opportunities and Moving Up in the Workforce: Images Worksheet</i> and writing implements to participants. Tell participants to watch for the images on the worksheet, and check them off when they see them in the video. Ask participants to pay special attention to different jobs refugees in the video hold, and how they moved up in their positions.</p> <p>View <i>Bhutanese Refugees in the United States</i>.</p>
Practice	<p>In small groups of 4-5, participants discuss the types of employment they saw in the video and how the positions relate to their previous employment experiences. Remind participants that they can use the <i>Opportunities and Moving Up in the Workforce</i> worksheet images as reminders. Bring the large group together and record highlights from these discussions on a flipchart.</p> <p>Ask participants to spend a minute thinking about what speakers in the video said about changing jobs and moving up in the workforce. As a large group, brainstorm some of these thoughts and record them on a flipchart. Ask participants what speakers mentioned as important pieces of U.S. workplace etiquette that is helpful in moving up.</p>

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Discussion Questions

(Answers may include good time management, working hard, learning English, learning the system, etc.)

- What are some skills you have acquired in previous positions that might be useful at a job in the United States?
- What workplace etiquette basics were discussed today that you think might be important for your employment in the United States?
- What did you hear today about ways to move up in the workplace?
- How do you feel about changing positions within the workplace, or getting a new job?

Variations

1. When working with more literate participants, distribute *Opportunities and Moving Up in the Workforce: Quotes Worksheet*. After viewing the video, participants complete the worksheet and discuss their answers in small groups. These quotes can also be utilized during the large group discussion to highlight other related topics discussed in the video.

Key English Vocabulary

employment

entry-level

experience

growth

job

opportunity

position

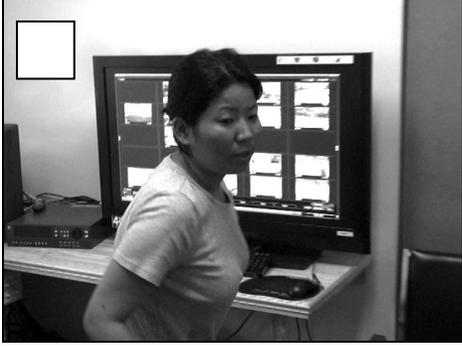
skills

to work

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Opportunities and Moving Up in the Workforce: Images Worksheet

Directions: As you watch the DVD, look for the images below.
 Put a check (✓) in the box next to the image when you see the image.



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Opportunities and Moving Up in the Workforce: Quotes Worksheet

*Directions: Read the quote from the DVD.
Determine the key messages in the statement, and how you feel about them.*

Quote	Key messages?	How do you feel about these messages?
<p><u>Kumar Adhikari:</u> I was scared because I didn't have any skills. Now, I've been living here for a year and I've started to adapt to the system. We can do the same jobs as people here. We don't have the high-level jobs we had back home – we have to do entry-level jobs here. There's no discrimination here, which has helped us survive.</p>		
<p><u>Dilu Rai:</u> I found that you don't necessarily need to speak English as long as you take pride in your work and work very hard. If you prove yourself to them, then you will find that many people like you.</p>		
<p><u>Laxmin Gurung:</u> In America, work is relatively easy; you don't have to carry heavy loads and heavy stumps the way you do in Nepal. It's not hard on your body... It's mostly technical work done using machines. However, it's most important to manage your time.</p>		
<p><u>Suk Rai:</u> You can't expect to have the same high position that you had back in Nepal. There's a system here and you have to follow this system. I was saddened by the fact that I had to start at an entry-level job. The education I had was not of any value here.</p>		
<p><u>Homa Subedi:</u> When you come here, you can't think that just because you had a certain job there, you're going to have the same type of job here. You have to have a positive attitude towards work. In the beginning, you have to be able to take any kind of work. As the saying goes, "Slowly I will move forward and learn the skills – and in my work and my attitude, I will progress." This is the type of thinking to have when you come.</p>		

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