

StyleSpeakTM

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Educating Nail Techs

International Educator & Nail Expert, Gurpreet Seble tells you what takes to be a successful nail artist!

Take a cue on how to upgrade your skills and make a successful career in the nail industry. Gurpreet Seble, an International Educator and Nail Expert from USA, has 20 years of corporate experience with Air Canada, where she was the Director of Education.

In 2004, on a sabbatical, she came to India to spend time with her family and decided to introduce the Artificial Nail Industry here and the rest, as we say, is history. Her track record of perseverance, dedication and commitment has led to an explosion in the nail industry. She has written the 'National Standards for Nail education' in India, under Skill India. No wonder she says, "I love what I do, it's not a job, it is my life." And today, her efforts are paying off for the many youngsters who aspire to be nail technicians.

SETTING STANDARDS

Last year, Gurpreet assisted the Vocational Training Charitable Trust (VTCT) with judging the nails for the 'Brides of India' competition. "The VTCT Brides of India competition was focused on bridal make-up. Nails were also part of the bridal theme but only as an accessory. The judgment was based on the main objective of selecting the best make-up artist, however nails had to complement the look, so they were judged only from that perspective," says Gurpreet.

In fact she has worked with VTCT to develop the National Occupational Standards for Nail Technicians for the Beauty & Wellness Sector Skill Council (B&WSSC). "Being a governing council

member of BWSSC I have been greatly instrumental in creating the various Qualification Pack's developed by BWSSC in the nail category, including the occupational mapping of this category defining the career growth path and career progression of a person joining the nail industry. We had an international sectoral expert who was from VTCT who was involved only in validating the NOS created by the industry. We have also benchmarked the nail technician role to National Vocational Educational standards," says Gurpreet.

Today, standardisation is a norm for all categories of Beauty & Wellness and this is becoming an absolute necessity.

EDUCATION MATTERS

Nail curriculums are based on the job roles and each one has distinct procedures and practices to follow. "Nails may be a small part of the human body but learning about nails or compiling a syllabus is an extensive exercise. After creating the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) we have taken floor validations to formulate a comprehensive program. From nail anatomy, to nail disorders, to doing refills and overlays, it's all in the program," says Gurpreet who has written the National standards for Nail Education in India, based on the International curriculum that is followed at 'Nail Spa by Gurpreet' Academies countrywide.



She has trained hundreds of uneducated youth who are working in the nail industry earning anything from Rs 10,000 to Rs 80,000 per month and admits that this is the power of education. "Ideally, a minimum of Grade 8 is preferred. Skill India is all about skilling the uneducated youth who have missed the bus for school education. If India has to become the HR capital of the world, we cannot disqualify anyone from vocational training," says Gurpreet.

"Nails are the latest entry into the Indian Beauty Industry and a very fast growing vertical that needs an international platform so that we all follow the best practices. All job roles in nails today are synchronised to international protocol," Gurpreet Seble.

MAKING A BETTER CAREER

So what must technicians do to rise in their careers and do better? "The most important part of any career is the education that comes with a vast knowledge base. Finding a good institution that has an excellent track record of graduates who are job ready with placement guarantee is necessary. This gets them off to a good start. Their commitment, dedication to work and determination to prove themselves will take them up the ladder of success," says Gurpreet. To keep oneself updated



it is also important that technicians keep up with new products and techniques. Continued education is the cornerstone of Nail Spa academies.

According to Gurpreet, nail technicians should be encouraged to refresh their skills and learn new technologies. All Nail Spa by Gurpreet technicians are upgraded three times a year. Under her guidance,

they basically focus on three aspects:

- enhancing technical skills
- ensuring that the speed is improved in terms of enhancing the time taken for any service
- training in new technologies

She further reveals, "Since there are many new innovations and new product launches, it is important that technicians keep abreast of latest technologies. For example metallic gel polish is a new technique and it cannot just be picked off the shelf and used. Likewise, 3D gel polish is a product that is not available as such, but we introduced it about 2 years ago. Also, as technicians are all not on the same level, it is important that they are trained to upgrade their skills to the next level. In fact the idea of training is that. And once you are skilled, it helps you do better in the profession. Learning and earning goes hand in hand". **SS**



Gurpreet Seble
International Educator & Founder of Nail Spa by Gurpreet