

Bridge to Employment Site Reflection

BTE Site Reflection

Bangkok, Thailand

August 2025



Why BTE?

Bangkok, Thailand's capital and largest city, is a hub for education, healthcare, and technology. However, alongside its world-class universities and thriving industries, the city faces persistent disparities in educational access. This mainly affects students in public schools that serve lower- and middle-income communities. Many of these young people lack structured guidance to navigate the transition from school to university or a professional career, especially when it comes to careers in STEM²D.

In November 2022, the Bridge to Employment program launched in Bangkok at Phra Khanong Pittayalai School, in partnership with Johnson & Johnson MedTech Thailand and the JUMP! Foundation. Over three years, BTE Bangkok provided 50 upper secondary students with sustained mentorship, exposure to STEM²D careers, and the skills to succeed in postsecondary education and beyond. The program addressed structural barriers by combining career exploration, leadership development, and academic readiness activities tailored to Bangkok's diverse urban context.

BTE: A Catalyst for Postsecondary Education & Career

In its initial year, BTE Bangkok recruited 50 Matthayom 4 (Grade 10) students from Phra Khanong Pittayalai School, with nearly two-thirds of the cohort being female. Over three years, students engaged in a series of activities designed to expand their career awareness, strengthen their leadership skills, and prepare them for the competitive university admissions process. The program was implemented in partnership with the JUMP! Foundation, whose facilitators coordinated weekly sessions, and with Johnson & Johnson MedTech Thailand, whose volunteers provided mentoring, career talks, and exposure to professional environments.

The program began with interactive orientation sessions where students explored their own strengths and interests. Early highlights included a leadership camp in Saraburi Province, where students participated in group challenges that fostered teamwork and unity. Students also got to participate in service-learning projects that allowed them to contribute to their community. These experiences gave students the opportunity to step outside their comfort zones and develop communication and problem-solving skills.

Throughout the three years, students visited universities, attended application workshops, and met with guest speakers from a variety of fields, including health, science, and engineering. Volunteers from Johnson & Johnson facilitated sessions on topics like interview preparation, time management, and career planning. These activities ensured that students connected classroom learning with real-world applications.

By the final year, students were applying their skills directly to their postsecondary goals. Many had already determined their career interests, practiced public speaking in front of peers and mentors, and prepared application materials for university. “I think I can say that when students join the BTE program, it helps make the path to university easier,” one student reflected. “It helps high school students become more aware and prepared for what comes after graduation.”

Site Profile

Location

Bangkok, Thailand

Grant Period

2022 – 2025

Sponsor

Johnson & Johnson

Coordinator

JUMP! Foundation

Community Partners

Johnson & Johnson

MedTech Thailand

Phra Khanong Pittayalai
School

IMPACT OF BTE

BTE Bangkok directly impacted 50 young people in the Phra Khanong district over its three-year cycle, achieving a 100% completion rate and exceeding its target of 90%. The program excelled in preparing students for postsecondary education, with 96% accepted into a four-year university and 92% enrolled by the follow-up period. Of the graduates, 64% chose STEM²D-related degree programs, including chemistry, food science, environmental engineering, and nursing.

While the site fell slightly short of its goal to have 70% of graduates plan to pursue STEM²D careers, students expressed that the program significantly broadened their awareness of career possibilities. They reported high confidence in finding out about different careers and choosing paths aligned with their interests.

Notably, a student who was initially shy and hesitant to contribute in group settings significantly improved her participation and confidence throughout the program. By the end of the program, the student led activities, spoke in public, and engaged with mentors with increased confidence.

When it comes to mentors, students described their mentors as “like family,” offering guidance that extended beyond academic preparation into personal growth.

Sustainability

As BTE Bangkok concluded in March 2025, coordinators and partners expressed strong interest in continuing the program’s work. While funding remains a potential challenge, there is significant enthusiasm from both the school and community partners to sustain and expand the initiative. As long-term sustainability plans are being explored, the JUMP! Foundation remains committed to supporting the school community by continuing engagement with Grade 10 students through a reduced-scale model, including fewer in-person hours and expanded online support.

Future priorities include diversifying career exposure beyond health and STEM²D, increasing the

Student Outcomes

98% of BTE graduates have plans to attend a post-secondary education institution.

64% of BTE graduates plan to pursue a career in STEM²D.

83% of BTE graduates have applied to a post-secondary education institution.

87% of BTE graduates feel prepared to achieve their career goals.

number of hands-on workshops and technical site visits, and providing more frequent mentorship touchpoints—particularly during critical transition periods like the university application season.

In a city where opportunity and inequality coexist, BTE Bangkok demonstrated that sustained mentorship, relevant career exposure, and targeted academic support can transform students' readiness for postsecondary education.

BTE Bangkok is a testament that, with the right support, students from all backgrounds can successfully navigate the path to postsecondary education and create meaningful careers.

