



Sombo has been working in the clinic since it was formed and like 80% of dentists have no formal qualifications. In Cambodia there is no restriction on who can practice dentistry.

Sombo is wonderful at treating children and I often saw her helping out experienced dentists who were not coping with a child. She can do all types of fillings and extract all teeth and has gained considerable experience by watching the volunteers who visit the clinic.



The other dental assistants watch and learn as well and several of them provide treatment when the clinic is short of volunteers.

I offered to give them some basic theory about dental disease and the procedures we undertake so they could better understand the reasons for particular treatments.

We started with some teaching on medical emergencies and some basic life support and at the end of the training sessions they were given a short practical test as well as some written questions – which they all managed to write in English. Professor Raman Bedi a former Chief Dental Officer of England was working in the clinic on the last day and kindly presented them with their certificates of achievement.





My wife Sandra and daughter Helen joined me in June to experience the life in Cambodia and they were well looked after and entertained by the staff at the clinic.

They got a chance to look round all the local markets and see Cambodian life.



One of the other delights of working at the clinic was joining the staff for lunch after a long clinical session.

This was always rice with a vegetable soup with a little fish or meat –as well as chopped chillies to make you sweat regardless of the heat.