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## ANNUAL REPORT – 2000

The purpose of this report is to brief KARD’s activities in the area of Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation in its working area-- Thiruvattar Block, Thovalai Block and Nagercoil Municipal Area. A total of 4.9 lakh population is covered in these three geographical areas. As usual we gave more emphasis to prevention of disability rather than rehabilitating disabled people of our project area. A detailed report of activities carried out in the year- 2000 is presented below.

Prevention of disability being the most needed activity of our project, we have concentrated more on creating awareness on disability among the people in the community and persons with disabilities. We splited the community people in to groups like youth, religious groups, schools teachers, village leaders, (local body members) transport staff, etc. and conducted Disability Awareness seminars in which the causes, prevention of disabilities and the various rehabilitative measures and appliances to be used were explained. The need for the right appliance to be used is explained and the people were made aware of. The following tabular column explains clearly the number of Disability Awareness Seminars conducted this year.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sl.No. | Name of the Groups | No. of prog. | Total participants |
| 1.  2.  3.  4.  5.  6.  7. | School teachers  Youth / mahilamandal  Village Leaders  Religious groups  Bus drivers /conductors  Staff of voluntary Organizations  Students | 115  201  25  183  3  4  3 | 1243  2962  351  3035  967  156  137 |
|  | Total | 534 | 8851 |

30960 people of the community were visited during this period. These people were visited for health education, for getting co-operation and help for the rehabilitation of the disabled in their village, to visit the disabled persons and tell them to use the appliance

provided. This visit helps our programme staff to form good rapport with the people which helps to implement our project activities fully and easily.

We have formed 20 sangas for the PWDs in our project area and the details of the membership in each sangas is given below :

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sl.No | Name of the Sangas | Total members | Total active members |
| 1.  2.  3.  4.  5.  6.  7.  8.  9.  10.  11.  12.  13.  14.  15.  16.  17.  18.  19.  20. | Kulasekaram  Pechiparai  Thirparappu  Verikilambi  Kannanore  Kuttakuzhi  Surulacode  Ponmanai  Ayacode  Attoor  Mulavilai  Yetacode  Kumarankudy  Aruvikarai  Kottar  BeachRoad  Vettoornimadam  Vadasery  Punnainayar  Thirupathisaram | 162  129  116  179  134  113  63  132  141  127  123  116  127  111  264  287  251  368  257  52 | 27  8  14  22  15  15  8  5  22  11  10  8  13  10  38  41  63  48  41  36 |
|  | Total | 3252 | 455 |

The sanga has persons with disabilities and also the parents of the disabled children and elderly mentally disabled persons as members.

We have been conducting parents meeting in each center in which the parents of the mentally disabled children meet every month to discuss the progress of their child’s behavior. The staff of the concerned centre also joined along with the parents in the monthly meeting.

Health education materials bearing the facts on disabilities and its various preventive measures have been printed and distributed to the people of the area. These materials have been distributed to the participants of each seminar after having thorough discussion on the information provided on the materials.

In order to prevent dropouts and make the disabled children continue their education in regular schools, this year we have extended educational assistance by providing educational materials like, notebooks, school uniform etc. In this regard we have helped 172 disabled children. 132 children with various disabilities have been referred to special schools in and around our district. 8 children have been sent to avail vocational training. Two hundred and eighty nine disabled children have been provided with application forms for scholarships and they have submitted the application forms for the same. Meanwhile one hundred and sixty three disabled children have got scholarships through their schools, which they have applied last year.

Rehabilitation is being equally important; we concentrated on providing mobility appliances. We have been conducting screening camps for the disabled persons according to their disability. The following tabular column shows clearly the details of our screening camps.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sl.No | Name of the Camps | Total No. of camp  Conducted | Total attended |
| 1.  2.  3.  4.  5. | Ortho Assessment  MR/CP Camps  Eye Camps  Camp for the hearing Impaired  Skin Camps | 13  15  34  21  21 | 256  657  2354  344  1689 |
|  | Total | 104 | 5300 |

This year we have provided mobility appliances to the disabled persons of our project area. The following tabular column explains clearly the category wise appliances provided this year.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sl.No | Name of the appliance | Recommended | Provided |
| 1.  2.  3.  4.  5.  6.  7.  8.  9.  10. | Calipers  Crutches  Tricycles  Special footwear,  Walkers  Spectacles  Mobility cane  MCR chapel  Hearing aids  Splint | 52  34  16    33  7  252  6  69  22  17 | 43  27  78  28  3  213  4    58  16  11 |

Apart from this, 133 people have been identified for cataract surgery. 769 patients who attended camps have been provided with medicines and 62 people have been referred to various health clinics 23 persons have been given physiotherapy in their home situation. Parallel bars have been put for two persons in their houses for walking exercise. Knee cage has been provided for one person. We have been providing regular repairing facilities and elderly mentally disabled persons.

We have been providing special education to spastic and mentally retarded children. We have been running six decentralized centres for the mentally disabled children in

which children from the nearby areas come in the morning and go back in the evening. We give them physiotherapy, skills on activities of daily living and also activities for their behavioral change. The following tabular column shows clearly the number of children attending each centre.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sl.No | Name of the centre | Total No. of children in the area | Total No. of children attending the centre |
| 1.  2.  3.  4.  5.  6. | Dominic’s Centre for the Disabled  Sister Nivethitha Centre for the Disabled  St. Xavier Centre for the Disabled  Swamy Vivekananda centre for the Disabled  Katheeja centre for the Disabled  Annai Theresa Centre for the Disabled | 44  46  41  103  75  52 | 9  13  14  19  16  16 |
|  | Total | 331 | 87 |

Apart from this we have a residential centre for the disabled. We have 36 disabled children – 11 orthopaedically disabled and 25 mentally disabled children. The orthopaedically disabled children attend regular school, which is near by to our centre while the mentally disabled children attend special education in our centre itself. We are running the centre purely with voluntary contribution. We provide vocational trainings like gardening, rearing of cattle, poultry, etc.

# INTERFACE ON DISABILITY PROGRAMME

The govt. of Tamil Nadu has identified KARD through Spastic Society of Tamil Nadu,Chennai, as the Nodal Agency to implement Disabled Rehabilitation programme in Kanyakumari district. Under this program, KARD has engaged itself in early identification -New born baby screening in three major Government hospitals of our district – Government Head Quarters Hospital Nagercoil, Government Hospital, Kuzhithruai, Government Hospital, Kulasekaram. This year we have screened 1758 children and 57 children have been identified. These children have been followed up and the parents have been motivated to undergo treatment and therapies in the early stages itself in order to avoid deformities .

# Celebration of the World Day of the Disabled:

This year, we celebrated disabled day in a different manner. We motivated the disabled people of our area and extracting the co-operation of the community people we helped them celebrate by themselves through their respective sangas. They themselves raised the funds, invited chief guests, conducted sports and games, had public meeting and distributed the prizes.

Again, as a combined programme we celebrated the day in our district headquarters. We, the NGO’s working for the disabled in our district and the Government rehabilitation department joined along with the disabled people of our district and celebrated the day. Sports and games were conducted. The district collector was invited as the chief gust and the MLA’s and MP’s of our district were invited as special invitees for the public meeting.

At this juncture, I extend my sincere thanks to our donors and well wishers, the staff of our programme, the disabled people and the people in community for their co-operation to implement our activities. Our special thanks goes to Mr. Sundar Egbert – Our consultant for his guidance to implement our project activities in an effective manner.

Thank you very much

DIRECTOR