THIRUPATHISARAM & P.O

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR -2001

We are happy to present the annual report of KARD for the millennium year and amidst all the obstacles, we have implemented the programs – ACTION ON DISABILITY PREVENTION IN THIRUVATTAR BLOCK, DISABILITY PREVENTION AND REHABILITATION IN NAGERCOIL MUNICIPAL AREA, RURAL DISABLED REHABILITATION PROGRAM IN THOVALAI BLOCK, PROJECT – ID – (Interface on Disability) and WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROJECT. We are presenting this report to brief KARD’s activities in the area of Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation in its working area. We have covered a total population of 4.9 lakh people in these three geographical areas. We gave more stress to prevention of disability rather than rehabilitating disabled people of our project area. A detailed report of activities carried out in this millennium year- 2001 is presented below.

Unlike the previous years, this year we have given a lot of training to our staff. We have given them training to conduct disability awareness seminars / trainings, training on counseling skills, physiotherapy skills, Tools handling and minor repairs of the mobility appliance training, training on the anatomy of the various organs of our body, the functioning of the organs of our body, training on the various disabilities (viz.) Orthopaedic disabilities, Hearing Impairment, Visual Impairment, Mental Retardation, Cerebral palsy, Spasticity, and Leprosy disabilities.

With the ideology “Prevention is better than Cure” we have concentrated more on creating awareness on disability among the people in the community and persons with disabilities. We contacted the community people in their existing groups like youth, religious groups, schools teachers, village leaders, (local body members) transport staff, etc. and conducted Disability Awareness Seminars in which the causes, the need for the 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. In all these Disability Awareness Seminars, we gave more opportunities for their interactions rather than lectures and we clarified their doubts raised during the interaction. Unlike the previous years this year the target groups participated in the seminar with interest, involvement and enthusiasm our staff too could conduct the sessions easily, since they have gained experience in handling the groups / thorough with the subject and they have also felt the need for conducting this session. We have given below clearly the details on the number of Disability Awareness Seminars conducted to various groups this year.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sl.No. | Name of the Group | 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 | 141  273  37  231  6  8  14 | 1634  3617  415  3726  961  262  618 |
|  | Total | 700 | 11233 |

Our staff had visited 31212 people of the community during this year. 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 etc. This visit helps our program staff to contact the people to form good rapport with them, which helps us to implement our project activities effectively.

We have 20 sangas for the PWDs in our project area and the members include the PWDs and the parents of the disabled children. This year we have concentrated more in the membership of the sangas. We have given below the details of the increased membership in each sangas.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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  Punnainagar  Thirupathisaram | 163  129  116  179  134  113  63  132  141  127  123  116  127  111  264  287  251  368  257  52 | 32  -  37  29  38  39  19  41  43  47  37  28  41  16  49  53  67  53  63  39 |
|  | Total | 3252 | 455 |

The sangas have been motivated to start small savings and now they have some money in all the sangas. They have started to give loans to the members of the respective sanga with minimum interest. The savings in the sanga ranges from three hundred to two thousand rupees.

We have seven centers for the mentally retarded in which six are daycare centers and one is a residential center. 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 center also joined along with the parents in the monthly meeting. We have elected office bearers for these parents’ sangas and these office bearers are responsible for these parents’ sangas. They meet every month along with the members in the respective center to share their experience while taking care of their disabled child and to discuss and plan the activities to be carried out in the rehabilitation of the disabled children.

We have distributed health education materials bearing the facts on disabilities and its various preventive measures to the participants of each seminar after having thorough discussion on the informations provided on the materials. This enables them to get thorough knowledge on disability and rehabilitation.

We have been extending educational assistance by provided educational materials like, notebooks, school uniform etc. in order to prevent dropouts among disabled and make the disabled children continue their education in regular schools. This year we have helped 193 disabled children. 187 children with various disabilities have been referred to special schools in and around our district. 11 children have been sent to avail vocational training. 186 among the 289 disabled children have got the scholarship, for which they have submitted the application forms last year.

Rehabilitation being equally important to the disabled, we concentrated on providing appliances for their mobility. This year we have conducted review camps in which the PWDs who attended the screening camp earlier and also new PWDs and persons with ailments attended. We have given below the details of the review camps conducted this year and the number of persons attended the review camps.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sl.No | Name of the Camps | Total No. of camp  Conducted | Total attended |
| 1.  2.  3.  4.  5. | Ortho review camps  MR/CP review camps  Eye camps (review)  Review camp for the Hearing Impaired  Skin Camps (review) | 16  22  37  19  23 | 271  869  2921  316  1733 |
|  | Total | 104 | 5300 |

Since we have two Ortho Workshops located in two different parts of our project area, we could help the disabled persons in the repairing of their mobility appliance. We have also provided mobility appliances to the disabled persons of our project area. We have given below the details of the mobility appliances provided and the number repairs done this year.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sl.No | Name of the appliance | Repairs | 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  Splints | 121  46  16  87    16  --  17  143  -  16 | 81  29  42    61    11  289  13  61  21  27 | 72  28  76  69    11  261  12    61  21  19 |

In the eye camps we have identified 127 persons for cataract surgery this year. 892 patients who attended camps have been provided with medicines and 76 people have been referred to various health clinics 41 persons have been given physiotherapy in their houses. Physiotherapy was also taught to their parents / brothers / sisters, so that they will continue the exercise regularly. We have helped 4 persons to put parallel bars in their houses for walking exercise. Knee cage has been provided for three persons.

In our day care centers and residential center special education have been provided to spastic and mentally retarded children. We have been running six decentralized centers 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. We have given below the details of the children attending the centers.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sl.No | Name of the center | Total No. of children in the area | Total No. of children attending the center |
| 1.  2.  3.  4.  5.  6. | Dominic’s Center for the Disabled  Sister Nivethitha Center for the Disabled  St. Xavier Center for the Disabled  Swami Vivekananda center for the Disabled  Katheeja center for the Disabled  Annai Theresa Center for the Disabled | 44  46  41  103  75  52 | 9  18  17  23  21  22 |
|  | Total | 331 | 87 |

We are running a residential center for the disabled. We have 36 disabled children – 12 orthopaedically disabled and 24 mentally disabled children. (13 mentally retarded and 11 spastics) The orthopaedically disabled children attend regular school, which is near by to our center while the mentally disabled children attend special education in our center itself. We are running the center purely with voluntary contribution. We provide vocational trainings like gardening, rearing of cattle, poultry, etc. along with the activities of daily living.

## INTERFACE ON DISABILITY PROGRAM:

We have been implementing this program to make early intervention early identification and early rehabilitation and thus prevent childhood disabilities and deformities. This program is implemented in collaboration with the Government of Tamilnadu and UNICEF. In this program we have engaged ourselves in the identification of disability in the early stage itself. We have been conducting Newborn Baby screening in the three major Government Hospitals of our district. This year 2082 children have been screened for detecting childhood disabilities and 38 children have been identified with disabilities. The identified children have been referred to experts / given physiotherapy / referred to special centers as needed.

## 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 by 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. Many disabled people spoke on the importance of the day. In some sangas they distributed lunch to the participants of the program. It was a day of fun and joy for them. All these they have been doing by raising local funds. Our staff helped them to plan and celebrate the day.

## WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROJECT:

In order to provide opportunities for the rural women in the society and empower them we have been implementing Women Empowerment Project. This program is implemented in collaboration with Tamilnadu Voluntary Health Association and Government of India. We have trained 24 rural women this year and they are serving as volunteers in their respective villages, helping the people to avail the government schemes.

Thanks to our donors and well wishers for their generosity and encouragement, the officials of various departments, the staff of our program, the disabled people and the people in community for their co-operation to implement our activities. We specially thank Mr. Sundar Egbert – our consultant for his guidance without which we would not have achieved much.

Thank you very much.

DIRECTOR

(S.Basil Rajan.)