THIRUPATHISARAM & P.O

## ANNUAL REPORT - 2002

We are happy to present the annual report of activities for the year 2002. KARD has been working for the PWDs in Kanyakumari District in all these years for their upliftment and rehabilitation.

## Projects under taken:

1. Rehabilitation of the Disabled (Thiruvattar Block)
2. Rural Disabled Rehabilitation programme (Thovalai Block)
3. Community Based Rehabilitation for the persons with Disabilities (Nagercoil Municipal Area).
4. Interface on Disability Programme (Kanyakumari District)

A detailed Report of activities for the year 2002 under the above mentioned projects is given below.

## Rehabilitation of the Disabled:

With the aim to rehabilitate the disabled children and to prevent the disabled persons from their future sufferings and also to create a society without disability, we have been implementing these disabled Rehabilitation Program in Nagercoil Municipal area.

## Activities carried out:

1. Regular personal contact with the disabled.
2. Providing of special education to special children.
3. Giving of therapies for their mobility.
4. Providing of aids and appliances.
5. Conducting of Disability awareness trainings/seminars.
6. Conducting of assessments and review camps for various disabilities separately.
7. Providing repair facilities for their aids and appliances.
8. Helping the PWDs avail the govt. schemes for their Rehabilitation.
9. Training the staff.
10. Organizing the PWDs and their parents.
11. Co-ordinating the PWD/parents associations.
12. Conducting of Newborn Baby screening.
13. Taking the disabled to holiday trips.
14. Celebration of feats and functions.
15. District level co-ordination.

## Regular personal contact:

To learn the home situation before entering in to the Rehabilitation activities, the PWDs have been met and counseled in their homes situation itself. This has been a regular and routines activity in the process of Rehabilitation. In this respect, 7360 visits have been made to the PWDs. And their parents.

## Special Education:

The special school for the mentally disabled children has been functioning in Nagercoil Municipal area where 130 mentally challenged children are attending special education. Activities of daily living, therapies for their mobility and some vocational training constitute their syllabus.

By bringing these children to the school, the loneliness at home is prevented and they enjoy the company of friends and teachers. They get a chance to see the outside world and thus they get a chance to live in this world by coping with the rest of the society. The children who are attending the special school are classified according to their mental ability and subjects like literacy, numeracy speech and physiotherapies vocational training etc., are given as needed. This school has been functioning as a daycare school where children come in the morning and go back in the evening.

## Physiotherapy:

In order to provide easy mobility, to move independently, to prevent further deformities and also to use aids and appliances for their mobility, physiotherapy has been given to them. This has been an every day activity in which we give group exercise and are also concentrating individually.

## Disability Awareness Trainings/seminars:

In order to prevent disabilities, awareness has to be created among the Persons With Disabilities and also among the community people. Disability Awareness seminars/trainings have been conducted to the groups in the target area. All the people in the community are met under any one of the following groups, youth, women, village elders, village leaders, elected local body members, religious groups, disabled, school teachers, students. In these trainings/seminars, facts on the causes of disability its prevention have been explained. The tabular column given below shows the number of persons trained in each category.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sl.No. | Name of the group | No.of trainings | Total attended |
| 1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10 | School teachers  Village elders  Village leaders  Students  Personswith Disabilities  Youth  Women  Local body members  Cycle repair shop men  Religious groups | 69  83  17  62  6  29  42  3  5  153 | 1647  1269  318  1876  261  817  1681  41  52  2173 |

## Assessments and review Camps:

In order to provide mobility appliances, the disabled persons need to be assessed and measurement must be taken for the right mobility appliance. The identified persons for the appliance have been given motivation to use it and given the needed physiotherapy to release the contractures and they were provided with the necessary mobility appliance. The disabled persons were categorized according to their disability viz. Orthopaedically disabled, Hearing impaired, Visually impaired, Skin ailments (Leprosy affected) and also mentally disabled and separate assessments have been conducted for each disability in the villages itself. The assessed disabled persons were reviewed for new appliance or for correction in the provided appliance after an interval of six months. The tabular column below explains the number of assessments conducted and the appliances provided and repaired.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sl.No. | Name of the Assessments | No.  of camps | No. of persons attended | No. of new appliances provided | No. of appliances repaired |
| 1  2  3  4  5 | Ortho camps  Eye camps  Skin camps  Camps for MR/CP  Camps for Hearing Impaired | 18  9  6  6  8 | 389  621  439  168  147 | 68  32  17  9  6 | 192  --  36  19  -- |

Availing of Government Schemes:

It is their right to avail and utilize the schemes of the government departments. With the co-operation of the state Rehabilitation Department we have helped, through District Disabled Rehabilitation Officer, the disabled persons to avail the following number of benefits through Rehabilitation Department and other departments and sources.

ID cards :61 Persons

Bus Pass :17 Persons

Tricycles :27 Persons

Loan :11 Persons (applied)

Education Scholarship :71 Persons (applied)

Artificial limbs : 3 Persons

## Staff Training:

In order to provide good service to the disabled, staff need training. Our program staff were given training adequately. In the training programs topics like ‘Disabilities’, ‘Need for prevention, of Disability’ “Government schemes and the means to attain them’, ‘physiotherapy, skills’, ‘Vocational training skills’, ‘Need for special Education “Teaching kills to Mentally Retarded children’, Training to conduct “Disability Awareness Seminar’, ‘Drug Addition and Disability’ ‘Malnutrition/anemia and Disability’ are some of the topics dealt with. Apart from the internal trainings our staff had attended outside trainings also.

Our staff team attended a one day training on Special Education for the mentally disabled children at central institute for Mental Retardation, Trivandrum.

Another staff attended a three day training program on ‘Drug addition and Disability’ at CREED, Azhegiamandapam.

Two of our staff attended ‘Malnutrition/anemia and child hood disability’ at community Health Development program, (CHDP) – a unit of Kottar Social Service Society, Nagercoil.

A three days training program was attended by Miss. Victoria on Need for Integrated Education the Disabled’ at Spastics Society of Tamil Nadu (SPASTN) Chennai.

Two of our staff attended a training program on ‘Components of CBR’ organized by TNVHA (Tamil Nadu Voluntary Health Association) at Kanyakumari.

Miss. Victoria of our organization attended a three days training program on ‘Need for Integration of the Disabled children in the Main stream’ at SPASTN Chennai.

Our staff Miss. Shanthi attended a fifteen days training program organised by SPASTN and conducted at SPASTN Chennai. The training was on ‘New Born Baby screening Skills and prevention of Disability’.

## Organising the Disabled:

We have also organized the Disabled persons in the sangas and we made them meet every month. The elderly disabled persons and the parents of the disabled children and the mentally disabled constitute the membership for this sangam. This sanga meets every month to discuss their problems, like ‘difficulties they face while maintaining a disabled child, their illness, their mobility problems, the means to find solutions for their difficulties in getting the government schemes. We have five such sangas and the membership ranges from sixty five to eighty. An average of thirty five members are active in each sanga 46 sanga meetings have been conducted this year and 9162 members have met this year.

We have also co-ordinated these sangas and the office bearers of the five sangas formed the membership for this co-ordinated committee. This co-ordinated committee meets once in three month at the special school. 4 co-ordinated committee meetings have been conducted this year and 69 office bearers of the sangas have met in this regard.

## Celebration of Feasts and Functions

In our mission of making these participate in the functions and feasts, we have attained success in making them celebrate the feasts and functions. We started from making them participate in the local functions and feasts and now they have activily involved themselves in organising the local feasts in their respective areas. We have also made them take active roles in the district level committee to celebrate the ‘World Day of the Disabled’. They were also made to celebrate the School Day of the Spastics Centre of Kanyakumari along with the mentally disabled children, their parents and also with the administration. Days like ‘Republic Day’ ‘Independence Day’ Pongal’, Pooja have been celebrated meaningfully.

## RURAL DISABLED REHABILITATION PROGRAM

This program has been implemented voluntarily in Thovalai Block for the past nine years. All the activities carried our in this program have been implemented only with local contribution. We have been implementing this program as a model CBR for the Disabled.

## Activities Undertaken

**Regular personal contact.**

1. Educational assistance to the PWD children.
2. Special education for the MR/CP children.
3. Physiotherapy for their mobility.
4. Co-ordinating the PWDs and their parents.
5. Availing of government schemes.
6. Providing of new Aids and appliances and repair facility.
7. Celebration of feasts and function for their.
8. District level co-ordination.

In order to plan and implement activities of this project effectively, we have decided to met and counsel the PWDs at their home situation. This year also we have followed the same strategy and attained success in the implementation. We have made 879 visits to the PWDs and their parents in their home situation. During these visits, new PWDs have been enumerated and included in the list.

## Educational assistance to disabled children:

Those disabled children who hail from very poor family situations and who could not continue their studies form the target group for this activity. With the help of well wishers 27 children have been put back in to the regular schools and make to continue their studies. They have been provided with educational assistance like, school uniform, note - books, school fees. Etc., Four such children who do not have study facilities in their houses were brought to our organization and they were provided with food, cloth and study facilities and these children are studying in the Government High School located close to our organization. They are provided with a facility of integrating with normal children.

## Special Education for MR Children:

In order to provide special education for the Mentally Retarded Children who hail from very poor situations and who do not have that awareness to maintain their disabled children were brought here. Fifty Mentally Retarded Children from very poor home situations, who are totally neglected by their parents, their family, their neighbors, stay here and receive special education. “School for the Mentally Retarded” provides special education of activities of Daily living along with some vocational trainings. All the activities in this special school have been carried out with the co-operation and support of the people from the community.

## Conducting of PWD/parents sangas:

#### This sangam has been the base for all the activities carried out through this project. Without the help of the parents, we could not have implemented this much under this project. They PWDs and the parents of the disabled children and MR people are the members of this sanga. 12 meetings have been conducted for the members this year and in these meetings they have discussed the progress, growth of the children in the special school and also the growth of the special school.

## Availing of Government Schemes:

To avail the schemes of the government and tap resources for the disabled, we the staff team have formed a report with the officials of various departments especially with Rehabilitation and Revenue Departments. We have made the disabled to attend the camps organised by the District administration held on 9-4-2002, at Azhegiapandiapuram on 11-4-2002 at Aralvoimozhy, 16-4-2002 at Boothapondy and on 18-4-2002 at Thovalai. The following number of beneficiaries has been identified in all these camps and the necessary benefits have been provided to them.

Sewing machines for the disabled : 6 Persons

Maintenance grant : 42 Persons

Identity Card : 65 Persons

Bus pass : 12 Persons

Free house : 2 Persons

Providing of new appliances has been provided to the disabled persons and repair facility for their mobility appliances have been provided to them. Since we have two Ortho workshops and since the repairing facility has been a recurring one, we have been providing this facility in our workshop. The following appliance have been provided this year.

Calipers (New) : 8

Crutches : 7

Special footwear : 16

Special seat : 1

Tricycles : 28

Repair facilities : 427

## Celebration of functions and feasts:

We have made the PWDs enjoy by celebrating the feasts and functions like Republic Day on 26th January Independence Day on August 15th Special Flag Hoisting was conducted Pongal has been celebrated in a meaning full day and all the disabled children participated and enjoyed. Pooja has been celebrated and X-mas day has been celebrated. In all these celebrations, children enjoyed and participated with interest. Disabled day has been celebrated at our school and disabled children were made to stage cultural programs.

District level World Disabled Day celebration was conducted at the district Head Quarters, Nagercoil. Our children participated in the sports and games and have received five prizes in the competitions. Two children qualified for attending the state level sports meet.

## Community Bassed Rehabilitation for the Disabled:

Our organisation has been identified by TNVHA (Tamil Nadu Voluntary Organisation) a state Networking agency to implement its state level CBR program for the disabled. Our organisation have been actively Co-ordinated the NGOs in our district who are willing to take up CBR programs for the disabled and have given training to their staff. In this respect 2 staff each from MALAR Trust, VINNARASU Association, CREED, and Catharine Booth Hospital has been given training. A three days training has been conducted for these staff on 24th 25th and 26th of July 2002 and these NGOs have been equipped to take up CBR programs. Our Master Trainer Miss. Victoria has been visiting these NGOs and following up CBR activities every month. Follow up trainings have been conducted on October 7th at CREED, October 22nd at CBH (Catharine Booth Hospital) on November 5th at Vinnarasu Association and on December 2nd at MALAR Trust.

## INTERFACE ON DISABILITY:

In order to identify child hood disabilities in the early stage itself and prevent deformities, this program has been implemented. Our staff has been conducting New born baby screening in all the Government Hospitals in our district and also in their working areas 4627 newborn babies have been screened this year and seventy three babies have been identified. These identified babies have been followed up and the needed therapies have been given to them.

KARD has been served considerably this year for the rehabilitation of the disabled in our district. We have served in collaboration with the district administration, Rehabilitation Department, Health Department, Revenue Department and aimed at the total rehabilitation of the disabled people of our district.

A word of thanks to our well wishers, donors, consultants, experts and parents of the disabled children, who has been helping us in our process of rehabilitation of the disabled. Without their contribution we would not have achieved anything.

Thank you

DIRECTOR.