Thirupathisaram & P.O.

K.K. Dist.

## Annual Report - 2006

# The purpose of this report is to brief KARD’S activities during the year 2006 for the prevention of Disability and Rehabilitation of the Disabled. KARD has been actively involved in the prevention activities by conducting awareness on disability at various forums in the society and attempted to rehabilitate the persons with disabilities by providing special education, mobility appliance etc. We have presented here the various initiatives of KARD to achieve its mission of “Prevention of disability and rehabilitation of the disabled”.

## I. Aim of the project:

We have been working for the disabled to prevent the problems of

the disabled, arrest disability, enable their mobility, to fullfill their basic

needs, and to integrate the persons with disabilities with the community

they are living, through various programs.

## II. Programs implemented:

* School for the Mentally Retarded.
* The Spastics Center of Kanyakumari.
* Blossom Hostel for the Mentally Retarded.
* Kanya Institute on Mental Retardation Studies.
* Resource Development Department.
* Community Based Rehabilitation programs.

## III. Activities Carried out:

1. Regular personal contact.

2. To bring the dropout children to the special schools.

3. Conducting of parents meetings.

1. Evaluation of the program activities.

5. Celebration of feasts and festivals.

6. Providing recreation to the Persons With Disabilities.

7. Conducting staff training programs. (existing and new staff)

8. Taking the children for outings.

9. Providing special education.

10. Conducting health camps for the PWDs.

11. Conducting staff meetings.

12. Mobilizing local resources.

13. Providing mobility appliance.

14. Conducting program coordinators meetings.

15. Exploring the possibilities / needs for new decentralized centers for the mentally

challenged.

16.Conducting assessments and review camps.

In order to reach ‘Total Rehabilitation’ for the persons with disabilities we have carried out the abovementioned activities in cooperation with the parents, persons with disabilities and also the community people, through the proposed programs of KARD.

## IV.Completed Activities :

It is true that we have applied different strategies, and techniques to execute these activities through the abovementioned programs. We have given below the activities completed this year.

## (a). Regular personal contact:

In order to execute the activities and reach the aim of KARD we have to develop good report with the disabled, their parents and also with the community people. We visit them regularly and the discussions held during these visits helped to develop a friendly relationship with these people. After having understood the respective family situation, we have given them special education, we have also explained their parents and community people, after having given special education and the needed therapies in special schools, these visits have enabled the staff of the program to observe the developmental stages in the behavior and attitude of the children and the community people to wards each other in the community itself.

In this respect 1874 visits have been made to the children and their parents of Nagercoil Municipal area and 625 visits have been made to the PWDs of Thovalai Block. The tabular column given below gives you more details in this regard.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SI.No: | *Geographic Area* | *PWDS Visited* | *Parents visited* | Community people visited |
| 1. | Nagercoil, Municipal Area. | 1874 | 1874 | 6239 |
| 2. | Thovalai Block | 625 | 625 | 3172 |
|  | Total | 2499 | 2499 | 9411 |

## (b). To bring the dropout children to the special schools:

Since least priority has been given to the mentally challenged children with in the family and in the community, their regularity to attend the schools, unlike the normal children is affected. The parents and the community people pay very little attention to send the mentally disabled children to special schools in spite of our regular visits and help to send their children to schools. We have to give motivations repeatedly at every now and then to the parents and the community people in this regard. The tabular column given below gives you more details.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SI.No: | Name of school / Hostel | Children in the roll | Dropouts | Brought back to school | New students  attending |
| 1. | SMR-Thirupathisaram. | - | - | 68 | 24 |
| 2. | SPASTI  Nagercoil | 166 | 89 | 77 | 11 |
| 3. | ‘BLOSSOM’ Hostel | 9 | - | - | - |
| 4. | KIMS- Aralvoimozhi | 17 | 3 | 14 | 11 |

## (c). Conducting of parents meetings:

# In order to educate the parents on the different rehabilitation strategies to be adapted to their respective children, and also to give orientation and reorientation to them on disability and rehabilitation, we have been conducting parents meetings every mouth in each programs separately. The respective staff of the program sit along with the parents in our special school and hold discussions on these, which helps the parents to understand the disability of their children, the development stages in the behavior and attitude of their disabled children and also the community people towards their disabled children, after his/her attending the special school. We have given below the number of parents meetings conducted during the reporting period, in the respective programs.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SI.No: | Name of the program | Proposed PTA meetings | *Conducted PTA* | No of Parents attended |
| 1. | SMR | 12(monthly) | 11 | 141 |
| 2. | SPASTI | 3 (Quarterly) | 3 | 97 |
| 3. | KIMS | 6 | 4 | 21 |
| 4. | BHMR | 4 | 4 | 43 |

## (d). Program Evaluation and Review :

In order to find out and check whether we are going in the right track in the rehabilitation process, we conduct these program evaluation every mouth. During these evaluations, the staff team of the respective program sit together and review the work completed, the hurdles crossed and uncrossed, the means to remove the hurdles etc. and also we plan out our work for the next term. We have put the details in the tabular column given below.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SI.No: | *Name of the Program* | *Proposed Evaluation* | *Conducted Evaluation* |
| 1. | SMR | 13 | 13 |
| 2. | SPASTI | 11 | 11 |
| 3. | BHMR | 13 | 13 |
| 4. | KIMS | 11 | 11 |

## (e). Celebration of Feasts and Festivals :

With the intention to bring out the skills and talents hidden within the mentally challenged children and also to make the parents and the community people realize that these mentally disabled children also can perform cultural programs like normal children, we celebrate the common feasts and festivals in which, cultural programs performance on the stage is an integral part. This provides an opportunity for the children to enjoy and their parents to witness their children performing stage programs. We invite guests and dignitaries from the community as resource persons to preside over these functions.

## The Spastics center of Kanyakumari (SPASTI)

We have celebrated the school Day of ‘SPASTI’ on 10-3-2006 in which Mr. Georgedhas, Junior Rehabilitation officer, and Rev. Sr. Sandra, Superior, Holy Cross Hospital, Nagercoil participated as resource persons and felicitated.

On 23-9-2006 we have celebrated the ‘World Day of the Disabled and Dr. Nagarajan, Medical officer, ICDS, Nagercoil, Rev. Sr.Shiny, Superior, SDS convert, Nagercoil and Mr. Arunachalam, from PTA of SPASTI attended as resource persons and celebrated the function.

X’mas day was celebrated on 22-12-2006 and Mr. Baskaran, Senior Manager, IOB, Nagercoil and Rev. Sr. Scholastica, Headmistress, Little flower Girls Higher Secondary School, Nagercoil attended and gave the x’mas message.

In all these functions, sports and games were conducted to the children and prizes were distributed. Special focus was given to cultural programs and children were made to perform stage programs. These programs were telecast on the local T.V. channels in order to create awareness on disability and disabled among the community people.

## (ii). School for the Mentally Retarded (SMR)

On 13-1-2006 we have celebrated ‘Pongal Day’. The children dressed

in new cloth enjoyed participating in sports and games. Cultural

programs were conducted in the evening.

Republic Day was celebrated on 26-1-2006 in which

Mr.P. Viswanathan, president, Thovalai panchayat union hoisted the

national flag and distributed sweets to our children, Mr.IC.Selvam,

vice president, Thovalai panchayat Union, and

Mr.Boothalingampillai, Ex. Serviceman also attended the function

along with the president.

School Day was celebrated on 4-4-2006 in which, Mr.Selvarajan,

Project officer, DRDA, Nagercoil, Mr. Joseph Benedict, Vice

President, Nagercoil Bar Association, Mrs. Malar Jose, Professor,

Nesamony Memorial college, Martandam, Mrs. Parvathy,

Headmistress, govt. High school, Thirupathisaram, attended as

resource persons to celebrate the function.

On 15-8-2006 Independance Day was celebrated and Mr.Maharajan,

president, president,Thirupathisaram panchayat,presided over the

function and hoisted the Natonal flag.

## (iii). Blossom Hostel for the Mentally Retarded (BHMR)

‘Hostel Day’ was celebrated on 2-11-2006 at Blossom Hostel

premises. The parents along with the other children of the family

attended the function, Mrs. Vimala Rani, B.T. Assistant, govt.High

School, Boothapondy, Mr. Arumugam, Rtd.Teacher,

Mr. Arunachalam, Rtd. Headmaster, attended the function and

Celebrated.

## (f). Providing recreation to the PWDs :

We have leveled the ground of the school premises and erected, swing

sea saw etc. for providing recreation to the students and the students enjoy playing in it. Also we have encouraged them working in the garden. Watering the plants in the evenings, maneuvering, observing the growth of the plants etc. provide them some recreation and also make them enjoy natures creation. In all the programs we have developed gardens and make the children spend time in the garden every day.

## (g). Conducting staff training programs :

It is essential to refresh the skills and talents of the program staff. Hence we organize in service trainings to the existing staff of the respective programs. On

15-2-2006 a one day training program was organized for the program co-ordinators on ‘Lesson plan preparation and ‘Teaching special Education’. Six program coordinators of the programs participated in this training program. These program co-ordinators in turn will train their respective program staff.

On 22-2-2006 a training program was organized to prepare ‘Teaching Aids for the Special Children’. We have to give orientation, motivation, and training to the new staff at every now and then on Disability Rehabilitation and Special Education. This year we have conducted a six days residential training program for the new candidates from 17-4-06 to 22-4-06. Eleven candidates attended the training program. Apart from the theoretical part, the candidates were made to visit special schools on various disabilities and Community Based Rehabilitation programs. We have also conducted training programs for the new candidates from 9-1-06 to 14-1-06 and from 23-1-2006 to 28-1-06 in which 14 new candidates attended the training program. Prevention of disability, its causes, various rehabilitation methods, need for special education etc. were dealt with in the training programs.

## (h). Taking children for outings :

Special children never had a chance to visit tourist places, temples, churches, park etc. unlike the normal children of the same family. These children will be left at home when the other members of the family attend functions like, wedding, house warming etc. This isolates the mentally challenged children from the other members of the family. Hence we organize outings for these children and in this respect on 20-2-06 we have taken the children to kanyakumari, Vattakottai, Suchindreum temple etc. On 20-9-06 the children were taken to Mukudal dam-where they enjoyed seeing the dam, enjoyed in the park and also enjoyed sight seeing.

## (i). Providing Special Education :

In order to improve the standard of living of the mentally challenged children, and change the attitude and behavior of the special children and the community people, towards each other, we have been providing special education by preparing a separate syllabus, and we teach them in a non formal way. The curriculum includes, literacy, numeracy, number concept, color identification, time concept, money concept, etc. Apart from this we also give the needed therapies and small vocational trainings. This year 89 children attended SPASTI, 51 children attended SMR, Thirupathisaram, 11children attended, KIMS, Aralvoimoyhi, 8 children stayed in the BHMR, Nagercoil.

## (j). Conducting staff meetings :

We have organized monthly staff review and evaluation for each and every program. In between, we conduct staff meetings to review the planned monthly work. In this respect we conduct staff meetings on the 15th of every month in each program in which the respective program staff sit together to resolve the hurdles and the problems they face while implementing the planned monthly work. The tabular column given below gives the details of the staff meetings conducted this year.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SI.No: | *Name of the program* | Number of staff meetings | Number of staff attended | Date of meeting |
| 1. | *SPASTI* | 11 | 8 | 15th of every month |
| 2. | SMR | 18 | 6 | 15th of every month |
| 3. | BHMR | 16 | 4 | 15th of every month |
| 4. | KIMS | 7 | 3 | 15th of every month |
| 5. | Adm. Office | 12 | 4 | 15th of every month |

Even if we get help from abroad seldom, we impart help and support from the local community people. This helps us to sensitize the community people and make them aware of disability and Rehabilitation especially rehabilitation of the mentally challenged children. We have been running the SMR – with 53 inmates purely with the generosity of the community people. They provide meals, dress, medical help, mats, rice, cash etc. on request by our staff. We are thankful to the donors for their generosity without which we can not run this residential special school with 53 inmates. This school we have been running for the past seventeen years. For the other programs also we forget not to extract co-operation and support from the public in each and every activity. For example for celebrating the feasts and functions we get donations, for taking the children for outings we get local contribution, even for purchasing things like fans, T.V. etc. we go to the public and the parents and have got it.

## (l). Conducting coordinators meeting :

To review and check whether the organization is implementing activities in order to reach its aim of “Prevention of Disability and Rehabilitation of Disabled” we have been conducting program co-ordinators meeting, every month in which the respective program co-ordinators submit the report of activities for the respective month. He/She has to explain how he implemented it, the obstacles or the hurdles crossed while implementing the activity etc. so that, this will be an information for the other co-ordinators. Also they will have to explain the future plan of activities for the next month for their respective program. This year we have conducted 11 co-ordinators meeting.

## (m). Exploring the possibilities/ needs of new decentralized centers for

## the mentally challenged :

As far as the mentally disabled are concerned there is very little scope and very few programs in Kanyakumari District. So they are simply left at home idle, uncared and they are denied of even food, clothing, medicine etc. Most of them come out on the streets for begging for their food. So KARD has initiated programs for the mentally challenged. Since we have the basic things like experience, expertise, and infrastructure and since no other NGOs come forward to implement programs for the PWDs, KARD has engaged itself in this activity. When we receive requests from the parent of the mentally challenged children from the nearby areas, we conduct door to door survey and start visiting the parents, children, and the community people. This year KARD has surveyed in two areas and due to lack of funds we could not start special schools for the mentally disabled children.

## V. Activities which we couldn’t complete:

# Of course we admit that we faced some hurdles and obstacles while implementing these activities. Due to various reasons we couldn’t complete certain activities.

# We have listed below those planned activities, which are not completed.

## (a). Conducting Health camps :

# This activity has been planned to be implemented in our Special Schools after having reviewing the health problems of the children who are attending our special schools. Since we received very little co-operation from the parents and since we couldn’t contact medical officers, who are willing to spare their time , money and above all their kind heart to help these poor mentally challenged children.

## (b). Assessments and review camps :

Since the CBR activities have not been carried out fully, due to lack of

funds, we couldn’t conduct assessments and review camps.

## (c). Attending meetings and trainings in other NGOs and groups :

Except very few meetings in spastics society of TamilNadu (Chennai) our staff didn’t attend meetings and trainings within the District. Very few NGOs are implementing rehabilitation activities for the disabled. Actually this activity was planned, since KARD has experience and expertise. In order to help the other NGOs who are in the process of implementing rehabilitation programs for the PWDs. Hence, since no request came from the other NGOs we couldn’t make any remarkable

work in this activity.

# VI.SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

## (a). Providing school uniforms :

###### **We have children who hail from very poor families who are not able to**

spend for their special children. For these children we have been

providing school uniform. We have contacted the well wishes and

generous people and have got uniform cloth and have distributed them to

the poor children who attend our special school. 64 poor children of

‘SPASTI’ and 53 poor children of SMR, and 9 poor children of

‘KIMS’ have been provided with two sets of school uniform this year.

## VII.Future plan of Activities :

* Regular personal contact
* Providing special education
* To bring out dropout special children
* Conducting parents meetings
* Conducting staff meetings/ evaluations
* Celebration of feasts and festivals
* Recreational activities for children
* Outings for children
* Staff exposure visits
* Conducting Health camps
* Organizing Training Programs for existing / new staff
* Imparting local contribution
* Providing therapies to children
* Providing trainings for other NGOS
* Conducting Co-ordinators meetings
* Conducting assessments and review
* Exploring the needs/ possibilities of decentralized centers for the special children
* Providing repaired/new mobility appliance
* Providing residential care for the Mentally Ill patients.

We expect about 700 to 800 mentally ill patients in our district. Most of them are North Indians left at Kanyakumari during their family visit to the holy place. Now they have been wandering about allover our district. These patients are denied of medical care, proper food, and dress. They eat hotel waste, wander about in the hot sun and rain, and roam about in rags. This year we have planned to rehabilitate the mentally ill patients of our district – to provide them food, shelter, and proper care. The generous contribution of the donors will definitely help us provide rehabilitation to these mentally ill patients wandering about allover our district.

It is our privilege to thank Mr.Suresh Rajan Minister for Tourism, Tamilnadu, for his visit to our special school twice this year. We thank Mr. Bellarmin, Member of Parliament, Nagercoil constituency for his valuable suggestions and support for the development of our school. We thank the Member legislative assembly Mr.Rajan for his kind generosity and concern for our special children. We are thankful to Mr. Ashokan Salamon, Municipal chainman, Nagerciol for his concern for the development of our special children. We are also thankful to Mrs. Jemila James, Ex- Chairman, Nagercoil Municipality, for her frequent visits to our special schools and her interactions with our special children in our special schools.

It is our duty to thank our well wishers, donors, local community people, parents of special school children, resource persons, guests for their co-operation and generosity with out which we would not have run these programs.

We are thankful to our staff team for their sincerity and efforts to implement the activities planned.

Our special thanks goes to the well wishers who motivated us to start and implement rehabilitation activities for the disabled.

**Thank you**

DIRECTOR