Thirupathisaram & P.o.

K.K. Dist.

## Annual Report – 2007

Kanyakumari Rural Development Society abbreviated as KARD has been engaged in the rehabilitation of the persons with disabilities for the past twenty-three years. KARD has been implementing projects which aim to prevent disabilities and rehabilitate Disabled persons in these years. Prevention of Disability includes conducting of Disability Awareness seminars/Trainings in which the causes of disabilities-five major disabilities namely Orthopaedic disabilities, hearing impairment, visual impairment, skin ailments – Leprosy and mental disabilities. These awareness trainings/seminars have been conducted to the community people namely youth, women, village elders, village leaders , elected local body members, religious group, school teachers, students, cycle repair shop men, etc. Thus we have aimed at disseminating the facts about the five major disabilities. We also forget not to explain the various preventive measures.

Rehabilitation activities includes providing of various mobility appliances to the

persons with Disabilities namely: Calipers, Crutches, Tricycles, Wheelchairs, Special foot wear, Spectacles, Mobility cane etc. to the needy persons and thus promoted their physical mobility. We have also provided educational guidance and assistance and thus have helped the disabled students to continue the normal schooling. We have also referred them to the respective Special School – Polio home, Special School for the Hearing Impaired, Special School for the Visually Impaired, leprosarium and also Special Schools for the Mental Disabilities. We have referred the needy persons to the respective medical experts for treatment, referred some of them to the right vocational training centre, for availing skills without disturbing their health.

This year in our attempt to prevent disabilities and rehabilitate disabled people, KARD has moved one step further. We, the staff team of KARD along with the parents, of the disabled have launched the rehabilitation activities carried out by us this year.

The major projects implemented this year are:

1. Community Based Rehabilitation program for the disabled.

2. Spastics Centre of Kanyakumari –Nagercoil.

3. School for the Mentally Retarded –Thirupathisaram.

4. Kanya Institute on Mental Retardation –Aralvoimozhi.

5. Resource Development program.

## Community Based Rehabilitation Program:

In this program, we go to the community people meet them in their home itself and provide the needed rehabilitation measures, keeping in mind, their home situation, the potentialities they have and above all extracting the support of the community people. Since KARD has been the only organisation implementing rehabilitation programs exclusively for the disabled in our district, requests for mobility appliance come from the needy people from allover Kanyakumari District. As KARD do not have funds we have to contact local donors for each request form their community itself and we have provided mobility appliance prepared in our workshop at Thirupathisaram. In this respect we have provided the following appliances and services to the disabled persons this year.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Calipers | Crutches | Special foot wear | Appliances repaired | Medical advice | Counseling | Referral |
| 16 | 3 | 17 | 81 | 33 | 69 | 21 |

## Spastics Centre of Kanyakumari (SPASTI)

Spastics Centre of Kannyakumari (SPASTI) is a Daycare Special School for the mentally challenged children in Nagercoil Municipal Area. KARD has been running this school for the past eleven years. We have been running this school with an ideology of extracting “Parents Contribution”. We extract parent’s contribution and co-operation in each and every activity, in this school. We have been providing Special Education with more emphasis on activities of daily living skills. We have been providing physiotherapy and the needed appliance in order to help them in their physical mobility. We, with the aim to make mentally challenged persons more independent in their daily activities. Hence we concentrate on this in all our education and therapies. We meet the parents of the children in their home on every weekend and understanding the home situation of each and every child we provide rehabilitation measures and the needed therapies. Since the number of mental disabilities is increasing day by day, we have to engage in providing rehabilitation to the new children of our project area- Nagercoil Municipal Area. We conduct staff meetings and evaluations to plan out and review activities of the respective month. This year we have celebrated School Day, World Day of the Disabled and X’mas Day in our special school. In all these celebrations, we invite Special guests to our school and perform cultural programs by our children. Apart from their special education, we have also concentrated on their recreation, they were also given gardening, sports and games to make their physique healthy. The children were taken to picnics thrice this year –Kanyakumari, Thirparappu, and Muttom. The tabular column below shows the details of our activities this year.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. of Parents Meetings | Total Attend | No. of Staff Meetings | No. of Co-ordinators mettings | Total No. of Children | New Children | Visits to parents | Visits to disabled | No. of children giving physio |
| 4 | 87 | 12 | 13 | 66 | 13 | 495 | 495 | 6 |

## School for the Mentally Retarded:

School for the mentally retarded is a residential Special School for the MR Children. We have been running this school with an ideology of getting “Community Contribution” and hence we have named it as “Community Contributed Rehabilitation”. We have been admitting here in this school poor, abandoned, orphan and who are also mentally retarded who warden in the streets. We provide them total care and education. We have been providing medical care during their illness and also regular recreation and physical exercise. We have been doing all these purely with the help of local donors from the nearby areas. We approach them for every need-food, medicines, clothing, recreation, etc. and thus we are meeting their needs. We provide Special education and the needed therapies and mobility appliance for their physical mobility. By making the community people contribute to the program, we have been sensitizing them on disability and on these neglected mentally disabled children. We also distribute brochures, which explain our program to the people. We started with five children and now we have fifty-three children in our residential Special School. We have taken the children for picnics – to Kanyakumari to Sothavilai Beach and also to Thiruparapu false.

Students from Govt. Nursing College, Nagercoil, MSW students from S.T. Hindu College, Nagercoil. Youth Red Cross students from Holy Cross College, Nagercoil, Students from Department of English, Holy Cross College, Students from Women Christian College, Nagercoil, Students from St.Xaviers Catholic College of Engineering , Nagercoil. Visited our children on different days and they engaged our children by conducting cultural programs, and helped them enjoy the day. We, the staff team explained them about our program, about mental retardation, the need for their rehabilitation etc. and distributed brochures explaining our program.

The tabular column below shows clearly the detailed functioning of our residential Special School.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Total No. of Children | No. Of meals Received | Number of picnics | No. of Program | No. of Visitors this year |
| 53 | 223 | 3 | 3 | 608 |

## Kanya Institute on Mental Retardation Studies:

Kanya Institute on Mental Retardation Studies is a Daycare Special School started six years back. The number of mentally challenged children in Aralvoimozhi area seemed to be high and hence we conducted a door to door survey in Aralvoimozhi and we have identified sixty-two children in school going age. Hence we started this day care Special School where thirty two mentally challenged children come to the school every morning and go back to their respective homes in the evening. During day time they have been given Special Education by preparing a syllabus of our own and the needed therapies. The children were taken for outings twice this year – the nearby Kurusady chruch and also to Sothavilai Beach, Manakudy, Sanguthurai Beach. The tabular column below shows clearly our activities.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. of a study | No. of Parents Meetings | No. of Parents attend | No. of Picnics | No. of  program | No. of  Visits to  the parents | No. of New children |
| 39 | 8 | 113 | 3 | 3 | 162 | 6 |

## Blossom Hostel for the Mentally Retarded:

Having understood the difficulties in maintaining the disabled children at home and having received repeated requests from the employed parents of special children, we started this hostel in the year 2001 and now it is attached to the school ‘SPASTI’. Now we have thirty-two deserving special children in this hostel. We provide round the clock care to them. During day time they attend ‘SPASTI’, which is in the same campus, for special education and the needed therapies. This year the children were taken to Kannyakumari and Sothavilai Beach for outings and we have celebrated Hostel Day, Pongal, and Saraswathi Pooja in which the children staged cultural programs and fancy-dress competitions. Special guests were also invited for the function. The tabular column below explains the activities of the hostel clearly.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. of Children | No. of Parents Meeting | No. of Parents attended | No. of Picnics | No. of Programs | No. of New children this year |
| 32 | 3 | 61 | 3 | 3 | 4 |

## Resource Development Department:

Since we do not have funds for our projects, we have to mobilize local funds from local donors for our needs. Hence we approached local donors for food, clothing, medicines mats, uniforms and common needs like drinking water facility, mixy, cooking vessels, etc. In this respect this year we have got 223 sponsors who provided meals to our children.

It is our duty to thank our donors and well wishers who have helped us this year, without which we would not have completed our activities. We say our sincere thanks to our donors who have donated in cash as well as in kind.

We extend our sincere thanks to our visitors who have visited our children and well wishers. It is they who have given us advice and suggestions to run these programs perfectly.

We also extend our gratitude to The Mother General, Sisters of Divine Saviour Congregation, and the Provincial Rev. Sr. Joselita, and the superior Rev. Sr. Shiny, for their advice and guidance for our endeavours.

Our special thanks goes to the Lions Club of Nagercoil –Parvathipuram, for their help in providing us a water system to our special children. The office bearers of the lions club especially Mr.Ved Anand took special interest in this project and provided the same. Thanks to him and his club members.

We are thankful to Sri. Ganapathy motors, Nagercoil for their generosity to provide an used Maurti Omni Van to our organisation. When we explained the need for one vehicle to Mr. Visvanathan, the proprietor, he accepted to donate a vehicle and has donated it. Thanks to Mr. Visvanathan. Also they have accepted to provide free maintenance of the vehicle. Thanks to the staff of Sri. Ganapathy Motors, Nagercoil.

Thanks to Mr. Bellarmin- Member of Parliament, for his encouraging words, Mr. Suresh Rajan, Minister for Tourism and Registration, Tamil Nadu, for his repeated visits and help to our children, Mr. Jeyapaul, MLA, for his visit to our special school and the encouragement, Mr. Rajan MLA, for his help and suggestions to improve the school, Mr. Ashokan Soloman, Chairman, Nagercoil, Municipality, for his visit to our school and suggestions to improve the school, Mr. Chezhian District Pancyayat Member, for his repeated visit to our special schools and help to our children, Mr. Immanuel, Thovalai union member for his visit to our special school and help to our children and other elected local body members who have been generous and extending their support to our programs.

We thank Dr. Swarnappan, “Swarna Clinic", Kulasekaranputhoor, for his timely help to our children during their illness.

We thank our staff team for their effective and sincere work, without which we could not have completed the work and submit this annual report.

We once again thank our Special Guests, donors, and well wishers, visitors and friends who are more interested in our activities.

Thank you very much.

DIRECTOR.