

ABOUT KARD AND ITS PRESENT ACTIVITIES

The Kanyakumari Rural Development Society, (KARD) is a Voluntary Organization working with the people of Kanyakumari District for the past twenty five years. It was registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act in the year 1985. KARD has been serving as a charitable organisation and we have obtained 12A registration and our organisation has been registered under 80G of Income Tax Act. We have also registered under Foreign Contributions Regulations Act and obtained FCRA number. We have been submitting reports to the respective departments regularly.

KARD has been implementing various programs since 1985 – Organization and Education of Women, Agriculturists, Students and Youth, Mother and Child Health program, Rehabilitation of the Disabled in Thovalai Taluk, Prevention of Disability and Rehabilitation of the Disabled in Nagercoil Municipal Area, Action on Disability prevention and Rehabilitation in Thiruvattar Block and Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) programs for the disabled..

At present, KARD is implementing the Community Based Rehabilitation programs for the disabled-Prevention of disability by conducting Disability Awareness trainings /seminars to various groups in the society namely; youth, women, village leaders, village elders, school teachers, religious groups, students etc.The causes for disability, need for its prevention and the importance of mobility appliance in their physical mobility have been discussed and explained.

Rehabilitation activities cover five major disabilities – orthopaedically disabled, visually impaired, hearing impaired, mentally retarded, cerebral palsy and victims of leprosy. A door to door survey was conducted to identify the disabled persons, and about six thousand disabled persons have been identified.

We have been conducting assessments and reviews for the respective disabilities separately and disabled persons have been screened. For the orthopaedically disabled, mobility appliances like calipers, crutches, walkers, special footwear, body braces, tricycles have been provided. For the visually impaired, referrals for cataract surgery are done, and spectacles are supplied to those requiring the same. Mobility canes are given to those who can use the same. For the hearing impaired, referrals are made to special schools, and hearing aids are provided to those who would benefit by using the same. For those detected with leprosy, arrangements are made for treatment at Primary Health Centres or leprosy hospitals. Persons with anaesthetic feet are given micro cellular rubber footwear.

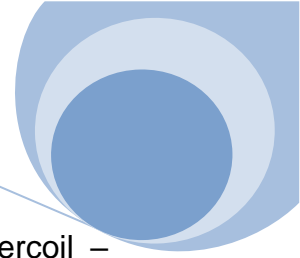
KARD,

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We are running a residential cum day care special school at Nagercoil – **SPASTICS CENTRE OF KANYAKUMARI**. Nearly 125 children attend the school every day for special education and the needed therapies. These children are conveyed to and from our school by our van every day. Apart from literacy and numeracy we concentrate on their physical mobility and activities of daily living.

We have been running a residential special school- **SCHOOL FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED** at Thirupathisaram in Kanyakumari District and 53 children stay here for special education and the needed therapies. We have been running this program purely with local contributions. We have named this model of rehabilitation as Community Contributed Rehabilitation. We have been providing food, shelter, medical care, clothings, recreation etc. All the children who are staying here in this school are orphan, neglected, poor mentally disabled children who has nobody to take care of them.

Our **BLOSSOM HOSTEL FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED** is a hostel for the Mentally Retarded children attached to the special school SPASTICS CENTRE OF KANNYAKUMARI, where we have thirty two mentally challenged children. Apart from providing the needed therapies, recreation, food, medical care etc. we provide round the clock care for these children.

Another day care special school we are running is **KANYA INSTITUTE ON MENTAL RETARDATION**. We have been running this special school at Aralvoimozhi with 48 children. We have been providing the needed therapies, literacy numeracy, recreation etc.

KARD has been authorized by the Govt. of Tamil Nadu through Spastics Society of Tamil Nadu, Chennai, to implement Project ID – Interface on Disability – in Kanyakumari District. In this project we have been conducting screening of newborn babies in Govt. hospitals in our district, for identification, intervention and rehabilitation in the early childhood days itself. So far we have screened 1758 new born babies in the three major government hospitals of our district and have identified 157 children with disabilities. The identified children have been followed up and the needed motivation and guidance have been given to the parents for providing early intervention and rehabilitation.

With the aim to provide rehabilitation to all the disabled persons of our district, we have brought together the organizations working for the disabled in Kanyakumari District and have formed a Network to share thoughts and ideas leading to exchange of skills and expertise, and joint action. We have named it as Kanyakumari District Disabled Development Network (KDDN), and we are meeting on the second Saturday of every month.

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KARD is a member of other networks also – State level Interface on Disability Network, Tamil Nadu Voluntary Health Association, District level Social Action Movement.

We are working in collaboration with many organizations in our state – Spastics Society of Tamil Nadu, Chennai; Helen Keller Service Society, Madurai; Govt. of Tamil Nadu (Rehabilitation Department, Health Department, Revenue Department). This helps us to implement our programs in a better and effective manner.

(S. Basil Rajan)

DIRECTOR.