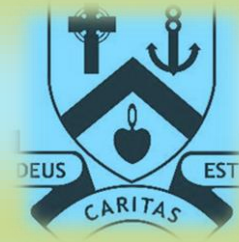


# NEWS LETTER



Volume 2.

## **St Joseph's Special Education Center.**

**No.: 10. Advocate Road. Batticaloa.**

**01 - 07 - 2016**

### **Progress.**

Our Institute is happy and fortunate to have the basic requirements of tools and equipments and other facilities to impart the necessary knowledge and skill to the youths with special needs who are undergoing training in our Center.

The writing skill of most of the trainees is almost nil. Either they were not educated at all or they forgot what they learned at schools and their homes. They learned the alphabets of their languages but forgot what they learned before. In the workshop also they show very little progress.

This absent mindedness is due to weak memory and inability to register the facts permanently. Also, they take

things very lightly and do not take much interest in learning. Their capacity is limited to think and plan further ahead for their future. They are satisfied with the facilities given by their parents or guardians. It is very difficult to make them understand and motivate to act for their future.

We have added another elderly and well experienced Teacher in our teaching pool. She is very kind and shows love and affection to win the hearts of these youngsters.

We thank the Brothers of Charity Religious congregation for its financial help to run this center smoothly without any interruption.

## **Dropouts.**

We recruited 12 trainees in all to start with, but as the time passed by:

1. One Muslim Girl could not continue the training due to poverty in the family. The mother's earning by doing odd jobs in 2 or 3 houses was not enough to feed the children and to look after their needs. This girl was pulled out to help the mother in her work as a support.
2. Two sisters attended our Center and were regular for some time. Due to the parents' negligence they were not taken for medical clinic regularly. The younger one became aggressive and we could not control her. Instead of treating and medication the sick they stopped both girls coming to the Center, thereby spoiling their future.
3. A retired officer used to bring his son by his scooter from 14 Km. He was fed up of the distance, time consumed and the money involved and stopped bringing him for class.
4. Other two trainees are not regular. Even though the parents / guardians have all the facilities they bring the children only when they find time and to their convenience.

## **Our efforts.**

To rectify these short comings, we made an appointment with the Divisional Secretary who came for the opening of the Center, to brief our activities and to ask the staff of



the Social Service Department to find youths with special needs to fit into our training. He arranged a date with the District Coordinators which helped us to talk to them and explain all about our project and our request. Now we are expecting children to come from all areas in the District. We have asked them to find trainees who can find their own transport, but I wonder how far it will be successful.

We have asked the Social Service Department authorities to help us with Medical and Clinic facilities periodically and also to give these children the financial assistance which Government gives to such children in the villages.

## Our Benefactors.

We take the opportunity to thank the IMHO in America and the Country Coordinator Dr. Judy Jeyakumar. Through his untiring effort we got a second allotment for tools and equipments for the Center.

## The Musical Instruments.

The traditional instruments to our culture will help the trainees to learn and conduct Sing song, Dance and Theatre to their ability rather than going for expensive Western Instruments.



## The play materials.



All the youngsters like to play using play materials and they enjoy using these items. We hope to take them to compete with the other similar schools in the years to come.

## The Tools and Equipments.

This is the very important part of the gift to enable to learn the skill they are here for. These tools will help the trainees to learn the skill and to produce items for us to put for sale and make an income as a support to maintain and run the Center.



Mr. Sellathurai Selvarasa Emmanuel - a Male Nurse working in Australia - donated some Sewing Machines, Multimedia Projector and the Screen for the use in the Center.



## New Skills.

One by one our trainees are taught handicraft skills they can master. The raw materials are commonly available in and around Batticaloa District. The teachers exhibit much patience and tolerance in infusing the skill into them.



## Making Brooms.

The Palm fringed cost of Batticaloa produces Coconut Husk Fiber and Eakle as by-products in plenty, but the people have to spend much time and money in making brooms using these by-products. However, hard labour is involved but comparatively less income is earned in this industry, when compared to fishing and paddy cultivation and other crops.

The ordinary people use these products to clean their houses and the surroundings and therefore there is a demand for it in the market.

## Entertainment.



The trainees are given one period in a week for general cleaning of the interior and the surrounding of the Center, Time to play indoor and outdoor games and cookery class from the produce of their own garden.

## The Sports Meet.

Our sister schools in Ja-Ela and Negombo had their Annual Sportsmeet in May. Due to Government warning of high temperature and other constrains like travelling, accommodation and safety of the trainees, only the staff took part in the event. With more trainees and good preparation and training we too will participate and win awards next time.



## Conclusion.

Our Manager and the three staff are very much dedicated and work hard to train these youngsters putting all their efforts. They bring in new ideas and training methods to create interest and involvement in learning and achievement.

We expect the parents to bring the trainees to the Center regularly, on time and check and help in their home works and other activities we expect from them.