



NEWS LETTER



Volume 3.

ST. JOSEPH'S SPECIAL EDUCATION CENTER
No: 10. Advocate Road, Batticaloa, Sri Lanka **10-01-2017**

Constrains of Parents

As I mentioned in the previous News Letter, that the number of trainees from the center dropped out to 7 from 12 members. The reason we could realise was the transport problem. The parents could not accompany their children to and fro to the center regularly and in time. Either the families are poor and forced both the parents to work for their daily livelihood or the single parent had to manage the whole up keep of the family. In addition to it, getting ready to school, preparing, feeding and also parcel some food for the noon are all tiring

and consuming lot of their time. These constrains made the parents to stop sending children to the center. The second reason of the parents is the perception that, what is the big advantage we gain, even after undergoing all these difficulties, the children will come back and be a burden even after the training.

Being the first year of our training there is no output from our side yet, the parents and the society do not know the benefits of the Vocational training we impart along with the academic and moral knowledge.

Adequate Transport Facility

The transport problem was discussed at length in the Board of facilitators and was decided to hire a van for this purpose. The parents who detained their children are now sending back their children and the children are happy and willingly following the classes regularly.



Recruitment

After providing the transport facility we regained all the lost trainees and at the same time we recruited another 3 more new trainees in the register. Adding all together now we have 14 trainees attending classes regularly. We are thinking of recruiting another 5 to 6 next year to increase the number to 20 trainees.



Third Teacher added

In order to ease the burden on the 2 teachers, we have recruited another teacher in her 50s and well experienced in this field. Since all the teachers are trained, experienced and dedicated we hope to infuse good knowledge and skill for the trainees to stand on their own legs and lead a gainful living.

Our Activities

These youths undergo training in the class room and workshop activities under a tight set of time table. The interest created in them makes them to learn enthusiastically and develop their skill and knowledge. They have their failings and go wrong doing things incorrectly. The teachers behind them, encourage and repeat the things again and again until they perfect it, not losing their patience for the sake of the future of the child.

The trainees happily do the cleaning and the upkeep of the interior and the surrounding of the Center. They water the flower plants and maintain a small vegetable garden.

For entertainment they view Cartoons, Talents, Stunts and achievements of normal and people with special needs. Given opportunity to enjoy indoor and outdoor games and also given practice in music and dance.



In the workshop they are given various types of handy works which would be a source of income in the future, if they can master any of the skills. We use materials that could be obtained locally, like Off cuts from Garment factories, coconut husk fiber, coconut eackle, Palmira leaf and so on. Many of our produce are being sold already to visitors, benefactors and friends making an income to the center in a small scale.



The Manager of the Valaichchanai Paper Mills Corporation donated 2 Envelope making cutters and we are making good use of them to produce envelopes with the assistance of the trainees. This is also producing a small income to the center by selling them to the shops and departments.

We will venture in making candles even though there is a fear of trainees burning or injuring them, we will take utmost safety measures to ensure that the capable trainees only will be given chance and training to handle this project.

Visit of Dignitaries.

Visit of IMHO Foundress

The Foundress of IMHO- USA. Dr. Mrs. Rajam paid a courtesy visit to our Center on the 22nd of July 2016. Her Organization helped us twice to equip all or needs with supply of Electronic Entertainment Devices, Music Items, kitchen utensils, workshop equipments and tools when we were in despair.



We cordially welcomed her and entertained her to the best of our ability. We thanked her for all her valuable contribution towards the wellbeing of the Center. We thanked Dr. Judy Jeyakumar the coordinator of this organization in Sri Lanka for his valuable part played in getting these items.



Visit of Sponsors from Ireland

Our center is totally sponsored by our Religious Congregation of “Brothers of Charity” through Fracarita Foundation contributed by the Brothers of the same congregation in Ireland.

Three members namely Rev. Bro. Gregory Boyle, Rev. Bro. Alfred Hassett and another gentleman paid their annual visit and pointed out some defects and means of developments and the satisfaction on the activities of the center.

Visit of a well wisher

Mr. Selathurai Emmanuel a migrant resident in Australia is a social worker who spends all his earnings to the poor and needy people specially in Trincomalee. He helps mostly to the private Nurseries and primary schools in the rural areas and villages to improve their study environment with Toys, TVs, Computers, Books and play materials, that he



could collect in Australia. He helped us also with 40” Flat TV, 2-Sawing Machines, welding plant and an Air compressor when he visited our center on 20th of November 2016. We are grateful for his selfless contribution.

Year-End Program

In order to celebrate the successful completion of one year anniversary of the Center, it was planned to do it in a grand scale.

We were fortunate to have our Superior General of the Congregation of the “Brothers of Charity”, happened to be in the island and he graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The chieftains of the City, the Revenants of all Denominations, heads of Departments, Parents, Well Wishers and friends were invited. A special stage was erected and tents hoisted to hold about 200 invitees. A fair amount attended and gave their support and appreciation.



Our teachers and parents devoted their time and effort day and night for months together preparing the trainees to perform the acting. The hard work put in by the teachers was very successful making these youths with special needs to an extend of showing their talent and ability on a stage for the first time in their life.

The program was well organized with speeches in between to give time for the actors to change their costumes. It was very much appreciated and praised by the audience for the 14 trainees to produce 9 items with much coordination and timing taking a total time of 2.00 Hours.

We thank our coordinator Mr. Lucian Ranasingha for organizing and conducting this event with his gang of teachers and staff from “NISANSALA” Ja-Ela. The combined effort of all lead to achieve a happy ending of the 1st anniversary of our Special Education Center.

We thank you all for all your valuable contribution in every way possible.

MAY THE NEW BORN CHILD BLESS YOU ALL