



Annual Report 2004-2005

Introduction

Another year has gone by and we would like to update you on all of the happening at People's Craft Training Center (PCTC) in the last year, 2004-2005. During this year we had secured a big asset in the form of "Human resource development center" which provides space for the rehabilitation program,

staying facility for the 40 trainees whenever required and for the student centered activities to provide opportunities for the rural children to bring out their inner potentials. The challenge to sustain the programs and to increase the self generated funds to maintain the program continues.

People's Craft Training Center



We are ever grateful to you, who always share a similar concern in building the program at our end.



Community Based Rehabilitation program.

This year too the National program for the Rehabilitation of people with disabilities has been implemented in two blocks with the support of the government of Tamil Nadu. With 3203 people with disabilities receiving rehabilitation interventions. From the 15th of February 2005, 70 Community based Rehabilitation workers supported by the program were asked to discontinue their services by the Government. This was a set back to the program for the next year as we are yet to receive further communication regarding their continuity. The integrated education program for 778 children

between the ages of 0 - 18 being done in two blocks with close collaboration with the National program - Sarva Siksha Abiyan (Education for all program). In Thurinchapuram Block 1640 people with disabilities were on our list at the beginning of the year. During this year 60 more people were identified as having disabilities and added to the list while 107 people were removed from the list due to death and migration, but a majority were removed due to the correction of their disability. During this year we also registered 1458 pregnant women in the area of op-

eration, of which 158 were found to be high-risk pregnancies. 983 children were born of which 555 were male and 428 were female and out of the babies born 532 children were delivered at home. Among the children after birth 142 were reported to weigh less than 2.5 Kgs and 40 children were reported to have died, 22 girls and 18 boys. 28 abortions were also counted. Among the children 8 were found to have disabilities, 3 with multiple disabilities, 1 with Cerebral Palsy, 1 with congenital deformity and 2 children with cleft lip. Every Wednesday our

early intervention clinic had 10 regular children attending it. 135 children along with their parents attended the monthly parent training sessions and in the 3 cluster schools 23 disabled children were regularly attending classes. This year 35 exclusive self-help groups were formed for people with disability, 18 people received special assistance to the tune of Rs 175000 from the Collectors discretionary fund. At the same time 122 teachers were trained on integrated education for children with disabilities and 30 Panchayat Presidents were trained on the importance of social integration of People with Disabilities.

Rehabilitation Workshop

It has been another busy year for the rehabilitation workshop. Making and repairing assistive devices for people with disabilities to meet their various needs and mobility.

For the 135 Children who attended the parent training program this year, the workshop provided 39 assistive devices. This raising the awareness of the parents to their child's specific needs and how to overcome them.

The workshop also carried out 10 repair and maintenance jobs on assistive devices.

The local schools at Nookambadi and Kariyandal benefited from the workshop this year, with a reorganization of their classrooms, to allow space and equality for the disabled pupils. 21 educational aides were also developed and given to the toy bank. Allowing parents to use them with their children as part of a more interactive education.

8 cluster schools in the local area received teaching and learning aides and the special school in ARNI was provided with technical support to assist its rehabilitation program.



The Community Health Program

The dispensary at PCTC treated 636 patients this year. 136 children with disabilities received regular monthly check ups and treatment. The center also provided the children's parents with a first aid kit and gave them training in how to treat common ailments. This promoted a scheme of self-reliance for the families, which allowed for easier management of their child.

This year 20 students completed the 'Kutti doctors' (junior doctors) program. As part of their project they presented a paper on 'Water and Health' to the National Children's Science Congress.

Regular classes were given to the students from the 12th standard in the nursing group at Mangalam Higher Secondary School.

The Community Health project also published 3 issues of the Thirupam (Turning) monthly magazine, published the Kutti Maruthuvar (Small Doctors) book in September 2004 and released a CD containing 250 photographs of the uses of herbal plants for medicinal purposes. The project also conducted an Herbal exhibition during the festival in Tiruvannmalai which was seen by more than 100,000 people. Along with the exhibition a medical camp was conducted to great success.

The centre had connections with the junior Red Cross this year, helping with training and understanding of other methods of medicine, more accessible to the local people.

Two scientific papers were also presented this year during the national Siddha conference. The first paper presented was about 'An Integrated approach to the management of Children affected by Cerebral Palsy and Mental retardation'. The paper achieved the first prize and the second paper on 'Food for diseases like TB, HIV and AIDS' received the second prize.

Self Help Groups

So far we have promoted 525 Self Help Groups of which 35 are special groups for people with disabilities. 30 groups for men, which takes the total membership to 6665. They have a saving of 4.7 million rupees.

Revolving fund assistance from the Government has brought 7.647 million rupees and loans from various banks have brought 20.331 million rupees into the self-help group sector. During this year 2899 people have taken advantage of this loan system and availed a loan of approximately 14.689 million rupees. These figures showing that the self-help program is thriving in this area.

Along with the economic success, training has also been given to the leaders of 109 groups, members of 467 groups received training about Self Help Groups. Entrepreneurs training were given to 150 members. A further 123 members received Mosquito net fabrication, making of simple chemicals and beautician courses.

This year there has been a slight shift in our strategy in the management of our Self Help Groups. We are in the process of strengthening the Panchayat Level Federation (PLFs) to manage the groups and to endorse the groups to avail their own loans. We hope to have better

coordination with the Panchayats so that the Block level federation will get the required support from the villages.



Training for the School teachers on Inclusive education

Other Programs

The centre erected 10 temporary shelters at Chandrapadi village in Nagapattinam District for Tsunami affected people. The centre also received 45 children from Tsunami affected Cuddalore for a festival of friendship.

We also established a partnership for consultancy with Servites Net to initiate a CBR program by 12 NGOs. An initial 3 days training was also given to the heads of NGOs and coordinators.

The presence of Volunteers Andrew, Callum Watson, Jo Howrath and Niall Williams added value to our existing programs and their continued link with PCTC is to be appreciated.





Conclusion:

Till we come out with another report by the end of this financial year, we would like to share with you some of the foreseen developments during 2005-2006. Finally we have decided to work with People living with HIV and Aids (PLHA). As we come across many young widows, who have become widows, since their husbands were affected by Aids and died. This has given us a push to work in this area. We are in the process of developing a special monthly clinic for the Self Help group members for Reproductive tract Infection and to support them to have easy access to treatment and referral services. For Tsunami rehabilitation work, we are in the process of finalising the strategy which will be completed by the end of July 2005. We thank you for all your support and guidance and look forward to get your feed back on the program.



RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2005

RECEIPTS	Amount in INR	PAYMENTS	Amount in INR
To Opening Balance	2,070,934	By Program Expenditure	1,324,731
To Grants Received	2,776,667	By Women's Development	174,894
To Other Receipts	805,678	By Rehabilitation	372,673
		By Repairs & Maintenance	132,520
		By Farm	151,768
		By Administration	249,656
		By Acquisition of Assets	1,950,356
		By Closing Balance	1,296,683
TOTAL	5,653,279	TOTAL	5,653,279



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