



'Theeram' focuses on young adults with intellectual disabilities and other developmental disabilities in Kerala, India. 'Theeram' now has regional centers at ten different parts of Kerala. 'Theeram' centers are functioning under **India Center for Social Change (ICSC)**, a trust registered under the Trust Act of the State of Kerala. (Reg.No.65/2002/IV)'Theeram's prime goal is to help the social process of empowering the mentally challenged.

It is estimated that in India there are about 90 million people who are categorized as 'disabled', out of which 31.5 million people are considered those with mental challenges. Despite the fact that 2.5 to 3 percent of the Indian population constituted 'the disabled', it was only in June, 2000 that the Government of India officially announced that disability be included in Census 2001. People with disabilities in India are forced to live in isolation and receive little support except those provided by parents and relatives who themselves struggle to make both ends meet. People with intellectual challenges are, perhaps, the worst affected, with the onus of care on the family rather than the community. It is where the ICSC comes in.

ICSC is also designed to help local organizations that are already working in the field of mental disabilities to provide support services to people with developmental disabilities, particularly to those with intellectual challenges. ICSC will enhance its ability to meet its goal by monitoring and reporting performance aggregated at the community, national and organizational levels.

### What does ICSC do?

India Centre for Social Change does the following:

- Conduct village based surveys to identify people with developmental disabilities.
- Operate village - based day care - vocational training centres for children / youth in collaboration with local governing bodies and other non-governmental organizations. ICSC has

already started 10 such centers at Madappally, Kurichy, Puthuppally, Kuttoor, Kunnamthanam, Karukachal, Kozhencherry, Alappad, Alathur and Kasargod in Kerala.

#### Vocational centers

These centers cater to the poorest strata of society in rural India. After one-on-one survey, individuals with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities are identified and incorporated into the vocational centers where they are trained according to their functional abilities. Embroidery, Picture framing, Glass Painting, Tailoring etc are taught at the centers

#### Paper Bag making Unit

These units train high functioning individuals with disabilities and enable them to live a productive life.

#### Umbrella making Unit

Individuals at ICSC receive training in making umbrellas. Theeram Umbrellas are now marketed

#### Tsunami Rehabilitation

ICSC started Day Care home for elderly in Alappadu along with the vocational training center there. Among the affected by the Tsunami, the elderly are one of the most severely affected. It is envisaged to accommodate 35 elderly people at the center. This program is supported by the Syrian Orthodox Archdiocese in USA.

