



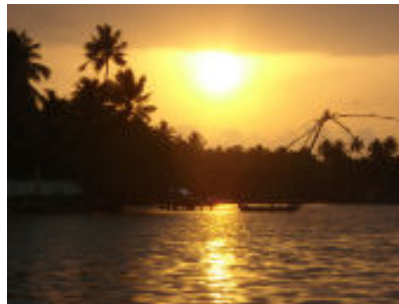
INDIA CENTER FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

REPORT OF THE TSUNAMI REHABILITATION WORK AT ALAPPADU

(1st part of the second stage of the project during the period from May 2007 to June 2008)

(Submitted to the Malankara Archdiocese of the Syrian Orthodox Church in North America)

Introduction



India Center for Social Change (ICSC) is happy to present the report of the Tsunami Rehabilitation work, being undertaken by India Center for Social Change, at Alappadu in Kollam district, with the help of the Malankara Archdiocese of the Syrian Orthodox Church in USA and Canada. We are now in the second phase of the project. Report of the first stage was submitted last year with statement of accounts, duly audited.

The following is a brief report of ICSC's programs and activities (second phase) in the post-Tsunami Alappadu.

Children's Get-together

Under the auspices of India Center for Social Change, regular meetings for children aged from 6 to 14 are being held on every Saturday in wards 2,3&4 of Alappad Panchayath. These meetings are held in ward 2 every Saturday from 10.30 to 11.30 and in ward 3&4 in the afternoon. These gatherings provide the children opportunities for developing their talents in drawing, writing stories and poems, quiz and various cultural and physical activities. Along with this, we are also making house units once a week.



Medical Camp for Senior Citizens



Under the auspices of India Centre for Social Change, a medical camp for senior citizens was held at Theeram Center in Alappad Village on 20th June 2007. This was organized in collaboration with the Alappad Primary Health Centre for determining various diseases. The President of the Karayogam Mr. Muthukrishnan presided over the meeting, held prior to the Camp. Project co-ordinator Mr. Aniyankunju.K.S welcomed the gathering. The camp was inaugurated by Panchayath President Mr. T. Ramdas. Ward members Shibu Pazhanikutty, Siju and Dr.Anilkumar spoke on the occasion. Subsequently the medical team under the leadership of Dr.Anilkumar examined the patients and distributed medicines free of cost to deserving patients. 115 patients above 65 years of age from ward I to IV participated and benefited from the camp. Deceases such as Asthma, Cardiac ailments, diabetes, blood pressure, skin deceases were detected and medical service offered. Project Co-ordinator Mr. Aniyankunju.K.S proposed vote of thanks.

One-Day Seminar for Women

Under the auspices of India Center for Social Changes a one day Leadership training program for women was held on 12th Sept 2007 at the Alappadu Panchayath Community Hall in ward IV. Ward member Smt. Sneha Sasikumar presided over the meeting in which the ICSC Program Director Shri. Sam Abraham delivered the key-note address. Project Co-ordinator Shri. Aniyankunju.K.S welcomed the gathering. Shri Santhosh Kumar spoke on the subject "Women & Enviroment". In the forenoon session, retired Labour Officer Shri. Sebastian Maliyakkal took a class on the subject "Women & Society" In the subsequent discussions held; it was decided to have similar seminars in future also. The meeting concluded with vote of thanks expressed by Smt. Sindhu.

Youth Meeting

A leadership training program for 40 selected youth (girls & boys) from wards I to V of Alappadu panchayath was held under the auspicious of India Center For Social Change on the World Youth Day, 1st Aug 2007. Smt. Shobha Mohanan, ward member of 4th ward presided over. Project co-ordinator Aniyankunju.K.S in his welcome speech explained about the program and its activities. The program was of two sessions. In the morning session held from 10AM to 12 noon. Retired Labour Officer Shri. Sebastian Maliyakkal conducted a class about "Personality Development". In the afternoon session, held after the lunch, Mr. Pradip Kumar spoke on the subject of "The World Youth Day" and on the tendency of youth to deviate from moral and ethic values and their adverse consequences on the wider society.. In the discussions followed, it was evaluated that the classes were extremely beneficial and informative on various aspects for the participants. The meeting concluded with vote of thanks expressed by Miss. Rejitha.



Onam Celebrations



Kerala's famous harvest festival '**ONAM**' was celebrated on 26th Aug 2007 in Alappadu Panchayath. The celebration was organised by India Center For Social Change at Govt. High School, Alappadu. Men, Women, Youth and Children actively participated in the cultural & sports activities. It started with 'Athappookkalam' (Flower display) competition. Over 30 Kudumbasree units (women's organization) participated. This was followed by sports activities. 'Onam Sadhya' was served to all in which over 300 people participated. At 5.30 pm, a public meeting was held in which ward member Smt. Shobhana presided over. ICSC programme co-ordinator Sajan James welcomed the gathering. Mr. Anil Varadarajan delivered the Key note address. Ward member Mr. Nakulan, Smt. Shobhana Mohan & Smt. Sneha offered felicitations. Panchayath President Shr. T.Raju Das distributed the prizes to the winners. Meeting concluded with National Anthem.

Report of 'Theeram' Vocational Training Center at Alappadu for the period from May 2007 to June 2008

In our report of the first stage submitted last year we had indicated that a 'Theeram' vocational training center for mentally challenged children was started at Alappad. The center has been functioning well since its opening in May 2006. We now have 16 students who are being trained at the center. Some of the highlights of the year are given here.



Cinema Program

On May 18 was a special day for our students of Theeram center in Alappad. We took them to Ragam Cinema Theatre at Karunagappally for a movie. For most of the students, this was the first ever experience in their life. This could be arranged free of cost, thanks to the help of the Municipality and the Film Production Company. Children enjoyed the film show and it provided lots of fun and time of relaxation to them.

Medical Camp

A medical camp for our Theeram students and other mentally challenged people in the village of Alappadu was held in June 2007. This was organized with the help of Alappadu primary health department. 36 people were examined by doctors and were given free medication and treatment. Dr. Anilkumar led the medical team and the Panchayat leaders also took part in the camp.

Independence Day Celebrations

On August 15, 2007 Theeram center in Alappadu celebrated India's Independence Day with various programs. Center organized a fellowship of youth and students in the village to celebrate the day with the Theeram trainees. Mrs. Sobha Mohan, Ward member hoisted the national flag and delivered a challenging message on the occasion. Children led a rally holding national flags and also singing patriotic songs. Sweets were distributed to all those who took part in the event.

Christmas Celebrations and Uniform Distribution



Christmas was celebrated at the Center on December 22, 2007. Parents of Theeram students took the lead in the celebratory events. Mr. Shibu Pazhanikuudi, Ward member was the chief guest. Mr. Raja Das, Panchayat President gave the Christmas message. New garments were distributed to all students as Christmas gifts.

Picnic Program



On April 23, 2008, Theeram center organized a picnic for our students. For all of them, it was a first-time experience in their life. They had never gone out of their village even once before that! We took them to the State Capital, Thiruvananthapuram and showed them the Musuem, Zoo, Shamkumukam shore etc. The experience took the students to a higher level of mental joy.

Social and Political Intervention by Theeram

ICSC through 'Theeram' took the initiative and approached the local government for scholarships for all mentally challenged people in the village. Together with the parents, we presented our case before the Social Welfare board and managed to avail scholarships for 40 mentally challenged people in the village. 14 of them are our own students at the center

Center for the Elderly in Alappadu



Among the affected by the Tsunami, the elderly are one of the most severely affected. ICSC has done surveys among them and felt the need to open centers where the old people can come and relax. One such center is all set to take off. The center will be inaugurated on 30th June 2008 and it is envisaged to accommodate 15 elderly people at the center.

Conclusion

Theeram center and other ICSC initiatives at Alappadu are running smoothly mainly due to the financial support from the Malankara Archdiocese of North America and the support and good will of the local people in Alappadu Panchayat. We still have a long way to go....With the continued support of the Malankara Archdiocese of North America we hope to tread this path. We also would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude and sincere thanks to the Archdiocese, particularly to Archbishop Eldho Mor Titus and the diocesan council for their continued financial and moral support and prayers.