



THEERANIYAM

News Bulletin

Volume 2

02 June 2017

A Center for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Brothers of Charity, No.: 18, Govinton Road, Batticaloa, Sri Lanka.

The inception of the Center.

The Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is not known among the general public in Sri Lanka. All these years even the Doctors misdiagnosed the Disorder and treated the patients for other complications. The awareness of this Disorder is made known and understood very recently.

Dr. P. Judy Ramesh Jeyakumar
Psychiatrist, Mental
Hospital Services,
Valachchenai.

Batticaloa,
diagnosed many
cases of ASD
among patients
came for treatment.

The knowledge acquired from practice, reading Books and surfing the NET kindled in him a dream to set up Center for the rehabilitation and development of these children.

His search for a proper place in and near the Town was fruitless. Even to start a temporary day care center in the close



proximity with facilities was not possible. He approached the Brothers of Charity to get one side of the building where they are conducting the Vocational Training for Children with Special Needs which is in the heart of the Town. But the Brothers turned down the proposal because of the difficulty in having two institutions in the same building.

Fortunately the Superior General of the Brothers Congregation Rev. Bro. Rene Stockman. FC.

visited Batticaloa in December 2016. He was approached again in connection with starting an Autism Center. It

is he who suggested the Ground Floor of the Brothers' Community Building in front of the Bank of Ceylon in Govintan Road free of charge but for us to get it renovated and equipped.



It was a new turning point and Dr. Judy Jeyakumar grasped the opportunity and started planning to carry out the task immediately. Again the wind was

blowing on his side and the Treasurer of IMHO – USA Mr. Murali Ramalingam visited Sri Lanka within few weeks and a meeting was organized in Batticaloa.

Stakeholders Meetings.

We invited all the stakeholders to a Stakeholders Meeting held on 27th December 2016. The participants were the Government and non / Government sectors, twenty in numbers being Consultant Paediatricians, Psychiatrists, Physicians, Social Service Officers, Special Education Officers, Child Rights Promotion Officers, Principals of the schools, Rev. Priests, Rev. Brothers, Rev. Sisters and parents of ASD along with IMHO Treasurer associated with his wife and two daughters. All the stake



holders accepted the needs of the ASD centre in Batticaloa and in Eastern Province. The ASD centre will operate in a facility/building provided by Brothers of Charity. However, funds are needed to renovate the building and purchase classroom items, play items, and audio visual materials. Moreover, funds are

needed to pay the wages of a chief therapist and assistant therapists for two years. Our proposal for the activities of Autism Centre in Batticaloa was well accepted by the IMHO Board.

The project was approved and without any delay Dr. Judy jeyakumar like a spindle employed proper people to do the renovation of the damaged parts of the Building, marbling and replacing toilet items, painting the floor, colour washing the walls, Making and fixing the Cartoon Stickers in the Main Hall, cleaning and paving grass lawn and leveled the ground with sand to have a play area for children. A sensory room with colourful moving light and Audio and Video facilities were set up. Last is a big name board to capture the attention of the people passing by also erected, all within 3 months of time. Based on the book written by Sara Bitter – Attorney, the fictitious character's name "Ethan" was changed as "Theeran" in the translation by Dr. Sivani S. Pathmarajah. M.D. in regard to the theme "I also can Do", and the name of the center is given the name "THEERANIYAM" which was accepted and welcomed by all.



Another Stakeholders meeting was held on the 31st of March 2017 along with the Press conference to be published and televised in the national media about the Autism Spectrum Disorder and the new center to be opened for the care of these children. The Government Agent of Batticaloa Mrs. Charles also participated and addressed in the preparative meeting.

(The History to be continued in the next Bulletin)

The pathway before and after Renovation.



The pathway to the Center was with pot holes and buried bricks and concrete protruding all along. The need for a proper path was felt and was built with the rubbles broken in the bathrooms during repair and marbling.



The Stone Plaque gives the detailed description of the involvement of the sponsors and the delegates who opened the Center on the 7th of April 2017.



The entire activity schedule of our Center is given in a nutshell. To carry out all these activities we need the assistance of Doctors and Therapists.

During the Opening Ceremony.



The names of the students were entered in the Attendance Register Book by the guests to mark the recruitment of new students to the Center.



Dr. Ramesh Judy Jeyakumar was honored in the Assembly for his dedicated service in establishing this Center, taking all the initiatives and organizing it well.

Our Activities.

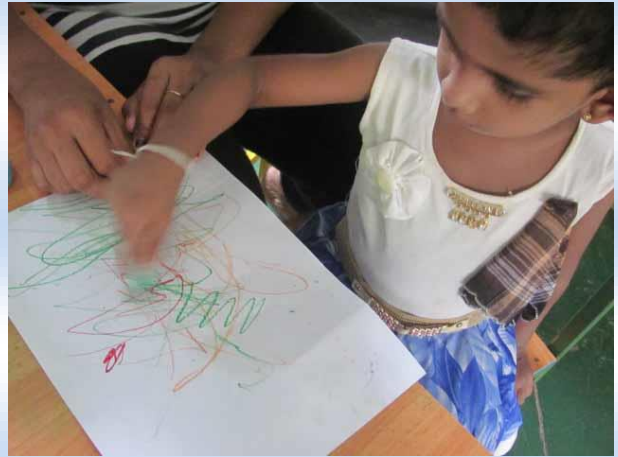


We started conducting awareness classes for Teachers, Parents and the new recruitment teachers on Saturdays. About 15 of them attended the 1st session we had on the 20th of May 2017.

The kiddies in the first Month.



During the start of the day the children are taken to the sandy play area for exercise and group activities.



They are given activities in the class room according to their ability and knowledge, skills given to write letters or draw pictures.

We hope we can achieve our goal with all your encouragements, assistance and good will.

(Even though it is not a Monthly Periodical the next issue will be published in August to share the rest of the news.)

Rev. Bro. W. Mariathas. FC.