



# St. Joseph's Development Trust



**Annual Report  
2019-2020**



The background of the entire page is a vibrant collage. It features a central photograph of a group of school children in blue uniforms, led by a teacher in a purple and orange sari, walking along a dirt path. The scene is framed by large, intricate mandala patterns in yellow and blue. A golden ribbon flows across the top, and the word "DEDICATION" is written in large, bold, yellow letters. A yellow thought bubble at the bottom contains a dedication message. The overall color palette is dominated by yellow, orange, and blue, with a starry, ethereal background.

# DEDICATION

We dedicate  
this **Annual Report**  
to late Ms. Joselin who has  
dedicated her life for  
**SJDT** and its services.



# St. Joseph's Development Trust

## VISION Statement

Kingdom of brotherhood where  
equality and social justice reign.  
Everyone's right is respected  
and equal opportunity is  
provided for all.

## SJDTs Approach

SJDT'S Approach is called as "MEALS" Approach

**M**otivating  
**E**quipping  
**A**ccompanying  
**L**inking &  
**S**elf sustaining

## MISSION Statement

Our organization in participation  
with the grass root level people  
seeks to serve irrespective of  
caste, creed or religion, the  
weaker sections of the society,  
the women, children, youth and  
marginalized communities and  
offer them the opportunities for  
developing their potentials  
leading them to have a self  
sustaining life.



The **MEALS** approach envisages the  
NGO as a facilitator in motivating and  
mobilizing the community from the  
outside and not as "one of the  
community" equipping the community  
through skill transfer, accompanying  
the community by providing relevant  
backup, and eventually enabling them  
to link with mainstream resources and  
services and being instrumental for  
policy influences.





# Contents

Message from the Executive Director .....	<small>PAGE</small> <b>03</b>
Introduction.....	<small>PAGE</small> <b>04</b>
Some basic Statistics.....	<small>PAGE</small> <b>05</b>
Activities of the children in our Orphanages.....	<small>PAGE</small> <b>06</b>
School and Home for Differently Abled Children..	<small>PAGE</small> <b>17</b>
Village Outreach Program.....	<small>PAGE</small> <b>22</b>
Interactions With the Beneficiaries.....	<small>PAGE</small> <b>24</b>
Community based Rehabilitation Program.....	<small>PAGE</small> <b>25</b>
Activities during COVID-19 Pandemic Period.....	<small>PAGE</small> <b>34</b>
With Grateful Hearts.....	<small>PAGE</small> <b>36</b>





# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Greetings and prayerful wishes to you all from  
Dr. I. Sebastian M.A., M.B.A. the Executive Director of  
St. Joseph's Development Trust!

Herewith I present to you the Annual Report of our programs for the period of 2019-20. The academic year 2019-20 was a happy year for our children as they have enjoyed good academic work. Due to covid-19, all the children have been promoted to the next class except the 12<sup>th</sup> standard students. The 12<sup>th</sup> standard students have completed all the exams and have been assessed. Based on the exam papers they too have been promoted. All in all, we had a very good year of academic excellence as well as excellence of our children in other extracurricular activities such as dancing, crafts, games and sports.

However the current year has also become very difficult for the children as they have already lost almost six months of schooling due to covid-19. This has impacted the necessity of taking care of them within our institutions 24x7. We also had to reach out to other home based children for covid-19 relief distributions. In spite of all the above mentioned challenges, we have been able to express in words our activities in the following pages. We hope that you will have time to read through our annual report and share in our joy of achievements.

**Please let us know if you have any observations or clarifications.**

Thanking you all,  
Yours Fraternally in Christ,

**Dr. I. Sebastian M.A., M.B.A.  
Executive Director,  
St. Joseph's Development Trust**





***“ With some love for every life around us and some sense, we can transform the environment around us and the world we live in”***

***- Dr.I.Sebastian***

## **INTRODUCTION**

St. Joseph's Development Trust's projects and programs endeavour to address the educational, social and environmental challenges that stand as obstacles for children to reach their full potentials. Only by clearing these road blocks will we be able to create an atmosphere for the flowering of individual genius and wellbeing of the human race.

What occurs as a problem for one person can become an opportunity for another who knows how to turn it into solution that works for all. The effort of St. Joseph's Development Trust's initiatives is to create inspired human beings who can turn every problem into a possibility. Our projects are not just about providing education, loans and medical care. They are about empowering human beings with the skill, competence and inclusiveness to address the situations they find themselves in, while becoming an inspiration for many others. For it is only where there are great human beings, there will be a great world.

Here below we proudly present to you some glimpses of the activities in our orphanages and our projects during the academic year 2019-20.



# SOME BASIC STATISTICS

## The Number of Children in our Orphanages

Orphanages	Strength
Pudhu Irudhayam	101 Children
Pudhu Vasantham	095 Children
Pudhu Punal	237 Children
Boys Hostel	077 Children
Pudhu Udhayam <i>(Home &amp; School for Handicapped Children)</i>	026 Children
Pudhu Vidiyal <i>(Home &amp; Vocational Training Centre for Senior Handicapped Children)</i>	050 Children
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>586 Children</b>

## The Number of Beneficiaries in our Village Outreach Programs

Programs	Strength
Village Sponsorship Program	634 Children
Community Based Rehabilitation Program (CBR)	085 Children
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>719 Children</b>



# ACTIVITIES OF THE CHILDREN IN OUR ORPHANAGES

## Admission

We admit in our Institutions girl children living in the remote villages situated in the Palani Hills (also known as Kodaikanal Hills) who do not have access to any education. These are mostly orphans, or children living with their guardians who themselves are economically poor, children who are unable to get education due to poverty and children from families which have four or more girl children. Our staff travel far and wide into the remote rural areas of the hills to visit the families of the children and get to know the whole socio economic situation of the child and the family. Based on the assessment and determined as fit to be considered, the child is admitted to one of our orphanages immediately.







## PANCHAYAT MEETING

### System of Self Governance



The word '**Panchayat**' stands for 'council of five persons' (mostly elderly wise men of the village). Panchayat was the functional institution of grassroots governance of almost every Indian village since 1700 BC for which documented evidences are available today. Panchayats were convened on a regular basis to address and settle amicably local issues between individuals, families and groups. A similar format of local governance exists even today as part of the *Three Tier* system of Governance of the Indian Constitution.



This form of local self governance is set up among the children for the purpose of training them in leadership skills. It helps to express the physical and mental inconvenience of the children in the home and to foster the children with personal and social discipline. The children themselves are the leaders of this council. The meeting takes place every Friday from 07.00 to 08.00 pm in the presence of the home care givers (formerly known as wardens). The issues and problems of the children are openly and frankly discussed. Then with the help of the elected leaders, the Panchayat arrives at a decision which is binding on all. Apart from cultivating leadership qualities among the children, these Panchayat meetings help the administration to be in touch with the day to day issues faced by the children.





## GROUP MEETING

### System of Family Management

All the children residing in a single cottage are referred as a group. In each group a senior girl is appointed as the leader and she organises the group meetings regularly on every Wednesday from 07.00 to 08.00 pm. The purpose of this meeting is to groom family spirit, leadership skills and to enhance mutual discipline such as cottage cleanliness, personal hygiene, taking care of personal belongings and to correct minor misbehaviours within the group. The group leader verifies the list of personal belongings of each child and seeks explanation for any lost items. Issues related to individual and cottage cleanliness are also pointed out to each of the members of the group. These occurrences are properly recorded for further follow up. The meeting takes place in the presence of the chief care taker and the respective cottage care taker. All the caretakers have been appropriately trained to handle these organizational aspects in an effective and harmonious manner.





# LITERARY ASSOCIATION & EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



The children celebrate the day with joy, participating in several competitions organised for the occasion. The purpose of the activities is to exhibit in public the extracurricular skills of the children. The competitions take place between the different cottage-groups subdivided according to children's school grades. The competitions cover a wide range of skills, such as oratorial, essay writing, poetry writing and reciting, singing, dancing, painting, Tirukural (ancient Tamil poetry in couplet forms) recitation, dramatics and so on. While the winners and runner ups are amply rewarded, all other participants are appropriately appreciated. These activities have been instrumental in promoting lot of self appreciation and confidence among the participants. Children learn to appreciate and respect each other's talents and feel happy in the small victories of their groups.



# SCHOOL VISIT:

## Strengthening School Education

The Chief care taker together with the House care takers regularly visit the schools where our children study once a month. This is to follow up the behaviour of our children both academically and in all related aspects. The children with good academic performance are encouraged to do better and children not so good at studies are given additional academic support by way of extra personal coaching, and advice to improve in their studies for their own future. This additional personal attention plays an important role in improving the academic quality of the children and the staff interact with such children in a more personal way. The care takers maintain a personal record of such children and try to initiate ways and means of improving their academic performances.



## EXCURSIONS

During the past academic year children were taken on excursions to Madurai, Vailankanni, Mayiladuthurai, Tranquebar and Tiruvudaikeazhi. Children had witnessed the marvellous construction of the temple towers and sculptures. They enjoyed playing on the sea beach as much as they could.



## PLANTING NEW SAPPLINGS

We had set the target to plant at least two new saplings per month (twenty four saplings for the year). We have successfully achieved the target during the year involving the children for the project. We are very keen on maintaining the natural atmosphere in our residential surroundings.





The dance practice takes place every weekend and during the holidays. The practice session is organised and imparted by the chief care taker, and accompanied by the senior girls. A variety of classical dances such as Bharathanatyam, and folk dances like Kolattam, Mayilattam, Karagam, and Thappu are regularly practised to the tunes and songs from Tamil movies, together with social awareness songs on different themes. These practice sessions help the children to participate in the various cultural programs and competitions organised within **SJDT** and as well as in the schools where the children study. Regular dance practices also enable the children to maintain their bodies and minds in good condition.





## SPORTS

We give great importance to children's physical activities especially sports and games. Every evening after returning from the school, the children spent about an hour playing in the open air. During holidays the time for play is increased. A variety of sports and physical competitions are conducted during major festivals such as Pongal, Deepavali, and Christmas as part of the festival celebrations. In addition, one full day is reserved during the academic year only for sports related activities. Our Executive Director often mentions that sports and games are the fine tools to transform children's misconduct and mould them into extraordinary human beings. This view has proved to be true on many occasions.





# CELEBRATIONS

We had a number of celebrations taking place during the past academic year and we are very delighted to mention a few of them to you.

## Birthday of Our Honourable Executive Director



We celebrated Dr. I. Sebastian our Executive Director's birthday in our home. All the children and staff joyfully participated in the celebration. Prayers, dances, songs and the recitation of poems were conducted wishing our honourable Executive Director. The day-long celebration concluded with the grateful acknowledgement speech by Dr. I. Sebastian our Executive Director.

## Children's Birthday Celebrations

We celebrate the birthdays of all the children born during each month on a particularly chosen day of the month. This is to make sure that all the children born during the particular month get recognised appropriately and no one feels left out. The birthday celebrants are given gifts of new dresses and sweets on the occasion. Special prayers, cutting & feeding of Birthday cakes with birthday greetings, and distribution of sweets to all other children are the highlights of the common birthday celebrations. All the children eagerly look forward to this occasion.







## INDEPENDENCE DAY

The Independence Day of India falls on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August every year. It is a day to remember all who had struggled to attain independence for the country and to appreciate their magnanimous sacrifices to the nation. The occasion is used for inspiring the children with noble and encouraging words from some eminent persons from the locality. This year the guest of honour was a local entrepreneur. The guest hoisted the national flag and gave an inspiring talk to the children on non-violence, sacrifice, valour and honour of the freedom fighters. He also emphasised the need and importance of education during the initial years of one's life and to acquire it in spite of hurdles the children may have to face. The celebration got concluded with the distribution of sweets to the children by the chief guest.



## DEEPAVALI (Festival Of Lights)

Deepavalli is the most auspicious and joyful festival celebrated by all the Hindus in India. The feast symbolises the destruction of evil forces and the new dawn of goodness and prosperity. Although originally it was celebrated by the Hindus, over the years the festival has assumed lot of social and cultural significance and nowadays, it is celebrated as a social festival. The day begins with ritual oil bath, wearing new dresses, consumption of varieties of sweets and severities, extra dishes for the meals, social visits to friends and relatives and bursting fire crackers. We did not want our children to miss the joys of Deepavali celebrations. So they were provided with new dresses, and sumptuous meals. Towards dusk in the evening, the children also had plenty of time for bursting fire crackers under the watchful supervision of the Chief and house care takers.





# PONGAL



The Pongal (The festival of Harvest) is identified as the Festival of Tamil Culture all over the world. It signifies the happiness of a good harvest. The Deities (especially the Sun God) and animals which enabled a good harvest of produce (mainly Rice) are gratefully remembered during the four days of the festival. Pongal is a special dish made of new rice, coconut milk, and country sugar cooked together, and allowed to overflow the cooking pot (signifying prosperity) with loud shouts of **“Pongalo Pongal”** from the family members. After the symbolic offering to Deities, the sweet rice is shared among the family members for consumption. Part of the meals is also fed to the animals which helped to produce the harvest. Our Children organised the events with the help of the House Staff and enjoyed eating the Pongal together. Following the main event, several sports and games competitions were held for different age groups. Children actively involved in all the events and had an enjoyable Pongal festival.

# CHRISTMAS



The celebration of Christmas is one of the major events in the annual calendar of SJDT in which all the children and all the staff of SJDT actively participate. The festivity lasts for two days. Apart from prayer sessions with carol singing, sports and competitions, many more cultural events are also conducted in which everyone actively get engaged. It is also the time for sharing personal gifts and expressing positive affirmations to each other. All the members of the staff receive their annual Christmas gifts directly from the Executive Director during the celebrations.





# COUNSELLING



With the present day modern life style, it is inevitable that children from occasionally suffer from melancholy, mental desperation, psychological scruples, verbal and physical abuse of each other and so on. In order to address these psychological issues, we arrange for professional counselling by external experts in the field. Apart from personal dialogue with the counsellors, the children also go through group therapy in which they receive affirmations, motivations for better inter personal relationship with other children, and to get motivated to do well in their daily events. . These sessions also covers the children's way of speech, behaviour, self respect and social responsibility. In this way we hope to instil in the children hope for a better future for themselves for all whom they come in contact with. A well developing generation of youth gives the hope for a better world in future.





# SCHOOL & HOME

## For the differently abled and Mentally Challenged Children

### Aim

To provide qualitative life based knowledge and skills to children who are differently abled physically and mentally in a residential ambience. The children are also imparted with social and community life skills, so that they are able to grow with self confidence and become useful and contributing members of the society, overcoming their personal physical and mental disadvantages.



### Admission

Children are admitted on the basis of IQ assessment under taken by our own trained staff. This includes assessment of children with Down syndrome, Autism, Mild Cerebral Palsy and other mental and physical disabilities. Priority is given to the children who are abandoned, economically poor and rural children who are deprived of rehabilitation opportunities.







## School Activities

During the school hours, the children are taught concepts of ADLS (Activities of Daily Life), which consists of drawing, painting, games and practice of yoga enabling the children to be actively engaged. An educational program approved by the Ministry of Welfare for Physically Challenged is implemented for the benefit of the children.

## Vocational Training

Training in vocational skills such as phenyl production, making of garlands and inexpensive bead necklaces, production of vegetables, spinach, mushrooms and goat rearing are imparted to the children.

The phenyl produced by our Pudhu Udhayam children is used in all of our children's home for sanitising purposes. The same is also supplied to three other small industries in our neighbourhood.





## Multiple Skill Training

Children are trained in academic and non-academic skills. The general pattern of activities include specific individual programmes based on Madras Development Programming System (MDPS) suitable for the special needs of the children according to their biological age and Intelligence Quotient (IQ). Regular assessment of each child is done based on the collective observations of the staff and consultations about the child's behaviours in the routines of daily life and the interactions the child maintains with the teachers, physicians, therapists, members of the staff and other children living with the child.



## Therapy

The school employs a full-time physical therapist who works individually with each child. The therapist oversees and recommends as per need alternate therapies available at the school. Some of the physical therapies available at the school are speech therapy, sensory stimulation, practice of yoga, physical exercise and fine arts.



## Rehabilitation

The main purpose of the programme is to rehabilitate every child to normalcy as much as possible. When the child is ascertained to be ten years old, the staffs start identifying and initiating the child's special skills and provide opportunities for future vocational skills training.





## Parents meeting

The parents of the children at Puthu Udhayam meet with the members of the staff and the children every second Saturday of the month. General agenda for the meeting includes items like food, cleanliness, general sanitation, studies, vocational training, general discipline and specific behaviours that are to be brought to the notice of the parents. Viable Ideas and suggestions from the parents are noted down for consideration and future

## Medical Camp

Special Medical Camps suitable for the children with special needs take place once a month at Pudhu Udhayam. A medical team from Ammainayakkanur Primary Health Centre conducts this Medical Camp for the benefit of our children.

## CELEBRATIONS: Independence Day

Mr. Ravichandran, the President of the Pallapatti Panchayat Union was invited as the chief guest for the occasion. He hoisted the national flag and delivered a wonderful speech in which emphasised on national unity and integrity. Sweets were distributed to the children at the end of the celebration.

## Christmas

The festival of Christmas was joyfully celebrated in Pudhu Udhayam home. The children enthusiastically involved themselves by singing Christmas carols and dancing to local popular tunes. Dr. I. Sebastian, the Executive Director treated the children with new dresses and delicious sweets and savouries.





# INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE DISABLED

Since 1992, 03<sup>rd</sup> of December is observed as the International Day for Disabled Persons as promoted by the United Nations. The day highlights the need for recognising disabled persons in the society and understanding their different abilities which need to be harnessed appropriately. This will assure the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. The Day also seeks to increase awareness and need for the integration of disabled persons with the socio, political, economical and cultural dimensions of everyday life. Each year the day focuses on a specific issue related to the Disabled Persons.



As part of the celebrations every year, a District Level Special Olympics is organised by the District Disabilities Rehabilitation Officer (DDRO). All the children from the different special schools in the district participate in the events. Our Children Prakash and Udayanithi secured 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> position respectively in shot-put. Anusiya and Mavika secured 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> position respectively in long jump. Priyadharshini and Siva secured 1<sup>st</sup> position in 50mts and 100mts running respectively. Siva and Padmaseshan secured 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> position in softball throw respectively.



# VILLAGE OUTREACH



St. Joseph's Development Trust is outreaching to the village children in the districts of Theni, Dindigul and Nagapattinam in order to develop them as useful members of the local society. The rate of literacy in these districts is very low and SJDT pays additional attention and extended period of involvement in these districts. Since the calamity related to Tsunami, in 2004, Nagapattinam District still continues to struggle in socio economic developments. Many of the children still suffer the trauma of the loss of parents, relatives and socio economic livelihood. St. Joseph's Development Trust continues to identify and support such children so that they may move out of their misery and join the mainstream as early as possible.



## The Initiatives of the Sponsorship Department

With the effective guidance provided by Dr. I. Sebastian, Executive Director, the staff of Sponsorship Department visit the villages to identify the underprivileged children for sponsorship. They organize regular gatherings of the children and acquaint themselves with their education, physical and mental development.



# SOME OF THE BENEFITS REACHING THE CHILDREN

To provide some economic relief to the children and as well as to their families, we support them with scholarship, school stationeries, dresses, bed sheet. To motivate, and inspire the children and to deal with their physical and psychological difficulties, motivational sessions by professionals are organised on a regular basis.

The sports and cultural activities which are part of children's gathering programs provide ample opportunity to socialize themselves with other children from other localities, and serve as a tool to identify their own individual skills.



## FIELD VISIT



## School

Once a month, the staff from the sponsorship department visit the schools where the sponsored children are studying. They interact with the class teachers and headmasters discuss issues related to children's discipline, learning, extracurricular skill, etc.



## Home

After collecting the information about children's academic performance from the school, the staff visit the children's families and discuss with the parents related issues. The staff provide necessary counselling to the children as well as to the parents depending on the need.



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S INTERACTIONS

Our Executive Director regularly interacts with the staff and the children and his advice and suggestions are considered as points for improvement. All the children, the parents and the staff attentively listen to his suggestions and try to translate them into actions. During the past year, he has addressed many of the children's gatherings and has guided all the children, their parents and the staffs to perform better in all aspects.



## Some of the points he has emphasised are:

- Ø Children should choose professional courses after the High School studies.
- Ø Try to place themselves in government jobs as there are always vacancies, especially in the defense forces.
- Ø Empowerment of women especially in terms of literacy, self assertion, and economic self reliance.
- Ø Women self-employment, and entrepreneurship.
- Ø Handling anxieties, safeguarding the children from all kinds of abuses both within and outside of the family.
- Ø Identifying and developing personal multi-skills and utilizing them for better opportunities.
- Ø Appreciation and encouragement to all the part-time working students for their efforts to be financially self reliant.





# COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION (CBR) PROGRAM



Some of the purposes of St. Joseph's Development Trust are to identify needs, express views on priorities, evaluate the services and initiate advocacies for change and create public awareness. As one of the means of Self development, we provide the opportunity to develop the personal skills of the beneficiary, negotiate the structural and organisational process, provide appropriate and mutual support, and share information for further involvement. In this participatory process, it is imperative that the personalised development of each beneficiary needs to be appropriately monitored and encouraged.

## Home Based Physiotherapy

Children residing in our special school for the disabled are given qualitative physiotherapy at regular intervals within our campus. For other home based children with disabilities, the field staff make arrangements to take them at regular intervals to qualitative Physiotherapy centres situated nearer to their homes. This regular practice helps the children to get appropriate medical attention they require. Due to our qualitative medical assistance, the parents are able to witness the remarkable changes that take place in their children. The field staffs make regular visits to the family motivating the parents to make sure that the children keep doing the physiotherapy in their respective houses also.







## Basic Medications

Regular administration to the sponsored children help the parents in maintaining the good health conditions of the families. The parents are very cooperative with our field staffs in this regard. We help the children getting medicines as per need. Now we are exploring the possibility of providing medicine and physiotherapy for disabled children. The children and the families now avail the medicines that are helpful for the children.

## Equipments for the Hearing impaired

Children with hearing deficiencies have been provided with hearing equipments . Both the children and the parents are highly satisfied and happy about this much needed assistance.



## Early Intervention

The CBR field staff together with the Project Coordinator have identified number of new children and other beneficiaries in need of our intervention in Periyakulam Taluk (sub division of an administrative District), in Theni District. All basic information about the beneficiaries has been duly collected and Individual Rehabilitation Plan (IRP) have been drawn for all the children. This process has been completed with the help of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan(SSA) staff from the locality and the parents of the beneficiaries. Some of the children did not have their Government certified disability identity card. We made arrangements to obtain this important documents and now the children have their certificates through our intervention. Thus we have actively involved ourselves in obtaining maximum benefits for the children from the Governmental agencies and brought about identifiable changes in their lives.



# ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

## Health Training / Awareness for parents and Child With Disabilities ( CwDs )

The program took place at the head office of St. Joseph's Development Trust. Ms. Pakkiam, a Special Educator of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) animated and motivated the parents and their CwDs.

Ms. Pakkiam covered many of the areas in handling the special children, taking care of the physical as well as mental conditions of the CwDs, pointing out the parents' strengths and the weaknesses, and their need to live in harmony and mutual cooperation.



## Training and Awareness Program for Balwadi Teachers

The awareness training program for Balwadi Teachers took place at Child Development Project Office, Thamaraiikulam in Theni District. Balwadi Teachers of various villages participated in the program which was presided over by Ms. Chinnaponnu, Community Nutrition Instructor of Thamaraiikulam. The sessions were conducted by Mr. V. Rathnagiri, Regional Manager of Swasti, a Non Profit Organisation. The sessions covered topics like importance of early identification of disabilities in children, ways and means of treating such children, passing on the necessary information to the respective parents and integration of CwDs with normal children.





# ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

## Awareness and Training for Teachers dealing with CwDs

The program for the Teachers took place at Government Primary School, Devadanapatty, Theni District. Teachers from ten government and government aided Schools participated in this program. Ms. Malarkodi, Special Teacher of CENDECT, a non profitable organization animated the session. The topics covered during the session were the criteria and the types of disability, inclusiveness of CwDs, care and importance that should be given to CwDs.



## Awareness on Inclusive Education for the Community

This program took place at Erumalainayakkanpatti in which fifty one persons from the village participated. Similarly another awareness program took place at Saruthupatti in which sixty one people participated. One more awareness program took place at Devadanapatty with sixty four participants. The project coordinator spoke on the need to be inclusive of CwDs in normal schools, social gatherings, functions, festivals, and the importance of how CwDs should be treated and respected by the parents and the society.



# ENABLING ENVIRONMENT - SOCIAL

## Disabled Persons Organisation ( DPO )

The representatives of Disabled Persons Groups (DPGs) such as leaders and secretaries of each DPG form a Disabled Persons Organisation (DPO).

## Setting up of Disabled Persons Organisation (DPO)

SJDT has planned to form six Disabled People Groups (DPG's) in six villages. We have successfully set up five DPGs in five different villages. Under this program, the parents / caregivers of children with disability are motivated to save some amount of their income for future benefit of their CwDs. All the five villages have started separate designated accounts in the local post offices. Each group elects a leader and a secretary. Regular group meetings and discussions are held by the members of DPGs for sensitizing on related issues. The individual savings are pooled for common networking and presented as securities for obtaining government programmes in favour of their own CwDs. Field staff together with the Coordinator facilitate all the different activities of these groups. The members of the five groups are very happy to have involved in this program as they feel the importance of such collective action for the benefit of the CwDs.



## Camp for Identification of Blood Groups

In order to help our beneficiaries and their parents to live a healthy life, we organized a Camp for identifying Blood Groups at the Head office of St. Joseph's Development Trust. Medical Laboratory Technicians from a Private Medical Laboratory conducted the necessary blood Tests. Many of the CwDs, together with the Parents participated in the program. The Project Coordinator explained to all the participants the significance of being aware of one's own blood group and about the importance of Blood Donation.







# LOBBYING AND ADVOCACY

## Grassroots Comics

The program took place at the head office of St. Joseph's Development Trust. The Project Coordinator commenced the program explaining the importance of Grassroots Comics program. Starting with simple lines and shapes CwDs learned to express their ambitions, emotions and situations and they did so with great enthusiasm.

## We ring the Bell

Ninety percent of all children with a disability in the world are out of school. That is approximately thirty three million children. For several years we are pushing to change these figures by promoting good quality and inclusive education for all children. That is why children at schools whistled together with us. By making a lot of noise, they drew attention to the urgent fact that many children with a disability are not able to, are not allowed to, or do not dare to go to school.

For the first time we organized the "We Ring the Bell" campaign in two Higher Secondary Schools in two villages. The response and the impact were great. The staffs and students enthusiastically participated in the campaign. The campaign was first held at the Government Higher Secondary School, Silvarpatti. More than two hundred students participated in the program. The Headmaster of the School welcomed the participants and gave a good introduction about our program. Then our project Coordinator Mr. Edison briefed the participants about the objective of the campaign. The students and teachers were very pleased to have participated in the program.

In the evening of the same day the same program was conducted at the Government Higher Secondary School, Saruthupatti. This program started at 03:30 PM. About two hundred and fifty students participated in the campaign. The Assistant Headmaster inaugurated the campaign with some emotional and meaningful explanations. He stressed the point that no one in the world was disabled and everyone was somehow gifted with some talents. Then the staff from SJDT spoke on the theme of the day. The participants listened with much attention to what was presented and expressed their appreciation with lot of clapping and whistling.





## **COUNSELLING THE PARENTS ON CHILD WITH SPECIAL NEEDS(CwSn)**

### **Youth with Special Needs (YwSn)**



The program took place at the head office of St. Joseph's Development Trust. The parents participated and benefited from the program. The counselling was given by Mr. V. Rathnagiri, the Regional Manager as well as the Trainer of the Trainers of Swasti, a Non profitable organization. After the counselling the parents expressed the view that their mental ruffles have very much been eased and their attitude for the love of their children has increased.

## **ENABLING ENVIRONMENT - LIVELIHOOD**

### **Self Employment of the Parents/Caregivers of CwDs through Revolving Fund**

Through constant efforts from field staff and project coordinator five DPGs have been formed in five different villages. Among these, we have chosen two groups for the intervention. Under the scheme, the parents of the beneficiaries invest some amount of money in a particular financial venture that would bring some additional income to the family. Accordingly, some members have purchased tailoring machines, while others cattle. All these investments are expected to yield considerable income soon. Thus the financial loan received through the groups is very helpful to initiate activities that can generate income for the families. The loan received through the group is to be repaid with minimum interest. The process has already been started and the beneficiaries have been up to date with the repayment.



### **Skill Training for Parents**

We have conducted two days of skill training workshop for the parents at St. Joseph's Development Trust head office. Ms. Malarkodi of CENDECT a non-profit organization along with two of her associates conducted the sessions. Production of Chalk Pieces and Incense Sticks was taught to the participants. Next day training in Candle making was given to the participants





# PUDU VIDIYAL :

## A NEW VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

### Introduction

It had been decided to implement a new vocational training centre for senior handicapped children (above eighteen years). It had been decided to construct additional toilet facilities and to purchase additional basic physiotherapy equipments for this new facility. The following is a short report of this project implementation. This facility is called Pudu Vidiyal (New Dawn).

### Basic information about the Origin of Pudu Vidiyal

SJDT has been involved in the work of providing qualitative rehabilitation to the Disabled Children at Puthu Udhayam for more than a decade and this had caught the attention of the Government Department of rehabilitation for the Disabled. The Government officials came forward to sanction additional residential home and skill training for senior children (Above 18 years) with disability. This has been code named as **Pudu Vidiyal**.





The refurbished Pudu Vidiyal facility was opened on 01-12-2019 and has a total strength of thirty Boys and twenty Girls. The program is based on Madras Development Programming System (MDPS) and modified to suit the special needs of the children according to age and Intelligence Quotient (IQ).

## Need based Provision

Added toilet facilities and additional physiotherapy equipments were assessed as immediate needs to accommodate the senior children. It was decided to address these important needs immediately.

### A) Project implementation of Toilet Construction

The construction of toilets was taken up and the following pictures are some of the snap shots of the different stages of this activity.



### B) Purchasing of Physiotherapy Equipments

Soon additional physiotherapy equipments were bought and a physiotherapist has been appointed to provide the necessary therapies to the children. The following pictures are some of the snapshots of the project implementation.





# ACTIVITIES DURING COVID-19 Pandemic



COVID-19 Pandemic was an unexpected hardship for the Children in terms of restricted normal life due to lock down, masks, social distancing, etc. The Children of course find the lockdown very strange, stressful, and difficult to understand. Long holidays from schooling without monthly and annual exams, no dates yet for the reopening of the schools, no travel outside the campus etc. We organised different programs such as internal exams on moral and life orientations, watching educational movies, extra time for games & sports, book reading, drawing, gardening, beautifying the cottages, moral and life orientation classes on Time Management, Leadership skill, Teamwork etc. These programs have been organised to keep the children engaged and motivated in view of their studies next academic year.







## COMMUNITY REVOLVING FUND



With the funding support of **Holstebro Workgroup** organization in Denmark which is managed by Signe Holm and Ryan, we managed to promote a community revolving fund registered as '**Benefit Trust Holstebro / Mayiladuthurai**'. The new people's organization is now revolving twenty seven lakhs providing micro loans to one hundred and forty four beneficiaries. These are women beneficiaries who form a joint liability group and promote individually some income generating project to earn an income for their livelihood. They repay the loan in fifteen to twenty four months period. This repaid amount will be passed on to new beneficiaries. I take this opportunity to thank Signe Holm and Ryan and all the members of Holstebro workgroup for their generous contribution to launch this community managed revolving fund.



# WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS.....



**Dr. I. Sebastian M.A., M.B.A.**  
Founder & Executive Director

## Dear Friends,

On behalf of SJDT, we thank you for spending some of your valuable time for reading our Annual Report and viewing the gallery of photos of our activities.

But for your continued support and encouragement, our involvement in the lives of so many of our women and children beneficiaries would not have been possible. We gratefully appreciate all your financial assistance, timely advice and encouragement all along our journey over the years.

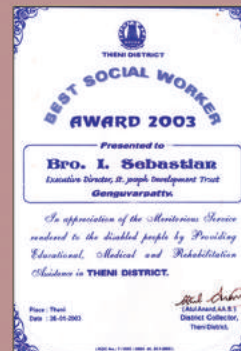
On our part together with all our children and all other beneficiaries, we wish that you be abundantly blessed with joy and happiness and prosperity in all your endeavours. With warm hearts we say a big ***“Thank You”***







## AWARDS RECEIVED







S  
J  
D  
T

Dr. I. Sebastian M.A., M.B.A  
Founder & Executive Director

*"With some love for every life around us and some sense,  
we can transform the environment around us and the world"*

*- Dr. I. Sebastian*

St. Joseph's Development Trust  
(A Centre for Developmental activities)

Genguvarpatti - P.O, Periyakulam - Tk, THENI- Dist,  
Tamil Nadu, South India.

Mobile:(0)94426 42486

Email: sebaedsjdt@gmail.com / edsjdt@rediffmail.com