Introduction

It is with the blessings of god almighty that St.Joseph’s Leprosy Patients Society has been able to undertake valuable activities and programs for the benefit of a disadvantaged group of people-persons affected by leprosy the dreaded disease-and their families. In undertaking and implementing programs and activities St.Joseph’s Leprosy Patients Society has been watchful enough that everything is in consonance with the stipulated objectives of the organization as were spelt out in the memorandum of the organization. Rev.Fr.Schlooz & Mr.P.John, the founders of St.Joseph’s Leprosy Patients Society, established the organization with the single purpose of fulfilling after the multifarious needs of persons affected by leprosy and their family members in the villages of kalasapakkam block in thiruvannamalai district in tamilnadu state,india. The founders had clear understanding about all the problems that people affected by leprosy and they had learnt the lessons through direct field experiences. As a result Rev.Fr.Schlooz became one of the pioneers in undertaking leprosy work in south India. on the otherhand Mr.P.John acquired all knowledge about all aspects of leprosy and the innumerable problems, difficulties, humiliations and sufferings associated with the disease by direct personal experience.

The main aim of St.Joseph’s Leprosy Patients Society is to transform rural communities to accept leprosy as any other disease and treat persons affected by leprosy and their families on equal footing with others in communities. over the years St.Joseph’s Leprosy Patients Society has been able to see definite changes in the mind set of people by organizing training, education and awareness programs on leprosy for community groups aimed to spell out misinformation and stigma attached to the disease and to provide correct information about all aspects of the disease. Over the years and based on ground realities, St.Joseph’s Leprosy Patients Society has extended its field of service to cover other subjects-other disabilities, mental retardation and cerebralpalsy, income generation projects for the poor and down trodden. women etc. At present St.Joseph’s Leprosy Patients Society has been circumscribed to undertake projects and activities on a wide range of subjects-all round awareness creation, skill development, capacity building, leadership development, self-help promotion etc.

Through the partnership established with sitaram jindal foundation St.Joseph’s Leprosy Patients Society has been able to carryout some important charitable activities. Before proceeding further, St.Joseph’s Leprosy Patients Society wishes to records its sincere and heartfelt thanks to sitaram jindal foundation. St.Joseph’s Leprosy Patients Society also wishes to record here its heart felt thanks to the state government for offering a helping hand.
DESCRIPTION OF THE ONGOING ACTIVITIES OF ST. JOSEPH’S LEPROSY PATIENTS SOCIETY

- Participation in health programs and health education programs organized by the government primary health centers and sub-centers
- Providing motivation of persons affected by leprosy to continue the full course of treatment through home visits and interactions with family members of the affected persons.
- Continuation of training and education programs on leprosy
- Organization of health education programs for prevention tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS and also for prevention and control of diabetes, blood pressure and coronary heart disease etc.
- Awareness and motivation programs on the principles, practices and maintenance of self-help groups and organization of self-help groups for the disabled.

Educational Sponsorship Program
- During 2018-2019 St.Joseph’s Leprosy Patients Society had distributed books, notebooks and other stationeries, dress materials to 119 children from poor families and children of persons affected by leprosy and other disabilities & payment of tuition fees to 123 children studying in higher standards-Rs.190120
- Bearing the expenses of cosmetics, casualwear, and innerwear of 26 children from the under-the-poverty line families.

Maintenance Grant for the disabled
- Secured government maintenance grant 8 leprosy affected and 4 disabled persons

Charity Related Activities
- Distribution of rice freely to 29 families of person affected by leprosy and other disabilities expenses in this regard is Rs.171414. rice distribution was given on a monthly basis.
- Supplied dress materials, blankets, bedspreads, pillows, essential vessels etc to 79 neediest families.
- MCR footwear distributed to 51 persons and St.Joseph’s Leprosy Patients Society had to incur an expense of rupees 26300 in this regard.

Leprosy Awareness Medical Camps
- one day leprosy awareness medical camps in 48 villages.
- Program details-awareness programs, groupe ducation for self help groups of women and youth groups and school groups, rallies involving school children and members of self-help groups of women.
- Discussion points causation, early symptoms, availability of modem medicines to cure the disease, wrong ideas and notions concerning leprosy, complications of the disease, actions need to be carried out for eradication of leprosy etc.
The day's program ended with a public meeting and mass education program

Expenses in this regard-Rs. 108920

**Special School for the mentally retarded children**
- Beneficiaries are 45 children affected by mental retardation and cerebral palsy and some disabled children
- Services of 4 qualified special teachers made available for taking care of the children
- The program has been receiving help from the government.

**Vazhi Kattum Thittam**
- St. Joseph’s Leprosy Patients Society continues to work with the government in this "vazhi kattum thittam" (a program that shows the way).
- Tamil Nadu government is paying the salaries of 45 field staffs and a project coordinator.
- Activities executed enabling the differently abled to access facilities and schemes provided by the government - regular home visits of all families in their respective villages development of a good database of the differently abled people.

**Concluding Remarks**
All the above-mentioned programs are undertaken to the utmost satisfaction of the beneficiaries and the staffs of St. Joseph’s Leprosy Patients Society. The organizers are fully satisfied about the quality of work and about the dedication that has been shown by the committee members and staffs in executing the works. St. Joseph’s Leprosy Patients Society thanks all those individuals and organizations in and outside the country who had extended help to St. Joseph’s Leprosy Patients Society in implementing the above-mentioned activities. St. Joseph’s Leprosy Patients Society expresses its sincere thanks to the staffs of the organization for implementing the activities with real commitment and dedication. St. Joseph’s Leprosy Patients Society also wishes to record its thanks to all the formal and informal leaders, leaders and members of self help groups of women, teachers and children in the area schools and youth groups in the villages and leaders and members of self-help groups for extending their cooperation and support to St. Joseph’s Leprosy Patients Society staffs and program.

Report submitted by

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