

RELIEF ORGANISATION FOR HANDICAPPED (ROH) - HINDUPUR

ANNUAL REPORT 2004-2005

ROH began this year with various projects on the agenda especially for education, economic development of persons with disabilities, women. Efforts have been taken to coordinate with organizations, government for moving ahead in its activities. It is also noteworthy that the vast stretches of Andhra Pradesh and other parts of India being affected by Tsunami and ROH initiated various short and long-term project in its effort to mitigate the suffering of Tsunami victims.

To ensure sustainability to the work in the field ROH strived for building linkages and networks of grassroots organizations and educate the people on various aspects emphasis on disability related issues. The following activities have been undertaken during the course of the year.

Vocational training:

Various rural and rural-urban potential income generating activities were identified like garland making, photography, service oriented activities like bicycle repair and assembling, incense sticks making, basket making, tailoring etc. which are suitable for the people with disabilities and women. Identified disabled persons and women have been given training either at town or within the village or by contacting institutions like *Jana Shikshan Sansthan* (Ministry of Human Resource Development). 40 people from 20 villages spanning three mandals have been given these trainings.

Self-Employment:

The vocational trained persons have been facilitated with financial support drawn from the local banks, government subsidized loans through Velugu project. Some of the people have also started to work under existing outlets owned by other people who have large orders for making the items.

Employment:

Disabled persons who are either done graduation or 10+2 or 10th and remained jobless have been identified. Opportunities given by State government, local private organizations have been circulated to the identified candidates and they guided for filling the forms and appearing for interviews and in getting the jobs. Likewise 15 disabled persons (10: VI; 2: HI; 3: OH) have been provided employment.

Education activities:

Bridge school for hearing impaired children:

Efforts have been initiated to start a Bridge school for short-term primary education for children with hearing impairment and dumbness which is being sponsored by the District Primary Education Department. This will be pioneering institution since there is no special education/instruction institute for children with hearing impairment in the entire district. The school will house 40 children as allowed by the Government orders.

Inclusive education for disabled children:

Children with disabilities who are dropouts from school or have not joined school at all have been identified and given *education-at-home* with trained teachers visiting them at their houses teaching primary education. Later on they have been joined back to schools and are monitored for regular progress. *Orientation and mobility* skills are also given for the children with disabilities with trained O & M instructor at their homes. Through this activity 70 children were covered for education.

Admissions into Residential school for visually handicapped:

Children with visual impairment who are in villages have been identified and admitted into the school where specialized education along with other free-of-cost benefits including stay and food. 40 children were admitted into the school during the academic year.

Education material:

Education material like Braille slates, papers, books, tape recorders have been distributed to the children with disabilities in schools.

Dress material:

Dress material for disabled children have been given on the occasion of 1st January 2005 which brought joy to the children.

Mobility devices:

Tricycles, hearing aids which are often given by the charitable trusts have been facilitated to the persons with disabilities who have been diagnosed with disability and given medical certificate specifying their disability.

Medical camps:

Regular medical camps were conducted in 4 mandals of the district covering 2-3 villages per camp which helped for general population like disabled persons, women, aged persons, sick persons who are from poor communities. Experienced doctors like Dr. Lokendranath, Dr. Balaji, Dr. Sivakumara Swamy have participated and examined the patients and medicines were given free of cost. 10 camps were conducted during the year with local support.

Self-Help Groups:

15 self-help groups are functioning at present with 10-12 registered members in each group on an average. The villages include Gauriganipalli, Kaluvapalli, Lepakshi, Hindupur, Hanumepalli, Gollapuram, Guddam, Parigi, Madakasira, Kodigenahalli, Sasanakota, Subbarayanapalli, Chalivendula, Santhebidanur and Basanapalli. The members are saving Rs. 10/- a week and drawing loans from the groups for their individual economic activities. Efforts are underway to get credit support from National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) under the aegis of Govt. of India. This activity is helping to give space for disabled persons to occupy mainstream, put forward their points and needs, discuss their problems which was absent earlier.

Training programmes:**Sensitisation of Government and public functionaries on disability issues:**

This programme is organized with the help of National Institute for Visually Handicapped (NIVH), Dehradun. Elected representatives and government functionaries at grassroot level have been trained and oriented on the aspects of disability, their special needs and facilities required. 70 representatives from all over AP who are working at village level have participated in this training programme.

Scientific awareness:

This is organized with the support of COVA, Hyderabad. The elected representatives and government functionaries at the village level needs to be enlightened on the scientific ways of doing things especially for disabled persons who are with special needs. Hence 40 elected representatives were given this awareness programme.

Awareness activities:

ROH being member of various NGO networks also participated in awareness activities on AIDS/HIV, women empowerment, environmental awareness, health awareness, dalith empowerment.

Support activities:

Disabled persons are facilitated with concessional facilities, marriage awards, land and housing for disabled etc.

Tsunami relief activities:

ROH has pooled efforts and along with various organizations have raised support which were spent on providing essential items like food items, blankets, vessels, clothes along with other organizations.

Rehabilitation activities:

Rehabilitation for Tsunami affected children, providing catamarans for fishermen, damaged schools repairs have been proposed to be taken up during the year.

International travel by organisation's members/staff:

ROH is making efforts to get an opportunity for attending conferences / workshops, training programmes in foreign countries but this year staff/members **did not undertake** any international travels.

Salary and benefits to the head:

The head of the organization is **not entitled** to any salary, benefits or any special privileges and his services are honorary.

Staff salary distribution:

The Co-ordinator and office attendant of the organisation with Rs. 42000/- and Rs. 12000/- are the highest and lowest paid salaries per annum respectively.

| Slab of gross salary (in Rs) plus benefits paid to staff | Male staff | Female staff | Total staff |
|--|------------|--------------|-------------|
| Less than 5000 | 5 | 7 | 12 |
| 5,000 – 10,000 | - | - | - |
| 10,000 – 25,000 | - | - | - |
| 25,000 – 50,000 | - | - | - |
| 50,000 – 1,00,000 | - | - | - |
| Greater than 1,00,000 | - | - | - |

Acknowledgements:

ROH gratefully acknowledges the support received from GIVE Foundation, NIVH, COVA and other bigwigs, individuals, to undertake various activities.

Conclusion:

The efforts and endeavours of the organization to reach and revive the lives of marginalized and disadvantages sections of society are being fructified although there lies still a lot to be done for the target group. ROH depends and draws guidance from God, and very much on the moral support from various individuals which continue to drive and inspire us to achieve higher purposes.