

Montfort Special Mission For The Less Privileged People



HISTORY

KEYWORDS :

A. Innaci Raj*

Research Scholar, Department of History, R.V. Government Arts College, Chengalpattu-603001, Tamilnadu

Dr. S. Kunasekar

Assistant Professor, Department of History, R.V. Government Arts College, Chengalpattu-603001, Tamilnadu

ABSTRACT

The Objective of the paper is to record the mission done by Montfort Special Mission for the less Privileged people with varied centers of service to mankind. The different centers located in different parts of the country are the living evidences of the congregation that extended its arms to the people in need and less privileged.

Introduction

The sustained dynamism of Montfort Brothers in the field of education and social rehabilitation of the disabled across the nation needs to be elaborated and studied. The mission they are carrying out is a unique one. It is a matter of great pride and immense joy. I would like to give a detailed work that is being carried out by our Montfort Brothers.

Montfort Community Development Society

MCDS Montfort community development Society, under the leadership of Bro. Patrick started functioning in 1996. Ever since its inception, it has been involved in various activities that care of the less privileged people of Chennai city and its neighborhood. Bro. Patrick was a leader and a good organizer and with like minded people, works for the neediest people of Chennai. About 10% of any society is considered disabled by physical, mental or sensory impairment. The sad reality is that many, particularly the so called 'forward communities' believe in the theory of KARMA. By this it is believed that the disabled are reaping what they sowed in past lives, and any attempt to help better their lot would be an act of interfering with divine justice. MCDS manages 3 community based rehabilitation (CBR) centers in its adopted areas supporting over 100 children through a community based programmes. Acceptance to special children and in their integration in to society is a major concern of MCDS along with awareness in causes and possible prevention of disabilities.

The CBR programmes includes

Identification and assessment, special education based on functional assessment, vocational training, physiotherapy services for corrective survey, counseling for parents a whole some meal at noon, micro credit mechanism for parents and recreation and sports. The CBR programme is more effective in rural and slum communities, where priority of the average family may be at the level of survival needs rather than solving problems of a disabled member. Disabled children and their families are more likely than the rest of the population, to live in poverty. MCDS enjoys partnership with Andhra Mahila Sabha for physiotherapy, canteen at the office of the city commissioner police for noon meals, Montfort Matriculation school, St. Thomas Mount, Chennai for sports and games. It has been decided to involve members of the MCDS self-help groups and senior citizens forum in the various activities for our 'special children' Education, particularly that of girls, has been proven to reduce child mortality improve child health and also to reduce population growth given that educated women tend to marry later and have fewer children Societies that invest in educating girls and boys equally reap huge development dividends.

On Poverty and Education

- Children are the hardest hit by poverty it causes lifelong

damage to their minds and bodies

- Education is the key to ending poverty.
- More than 100 million children are out of school.
- Given the right motivation, children can change for the better and act as agents of change.
- MCDS support schools located at city slums as well as settlement set aside for families affected by the Tsunami. All the children associated with MCDS actively participate in festivals and celebration like Christmas, Deepavali, Pongal and Republic Day etc.,

MCDS Transit Schools

Child labour impairs the health disrupts the education, alters perspective of society and violates the right of children. These children at different circumstances are brought into mainstream through proper schooling and education. 'Transit School Programme, endeavors to help child labourers and early school leavers to get back into normal schools to continue their education along with other children as well as become one among them.

Women empowerment

The Self Help Groups (SHG) movement and entrepreneur training of women in Tamilnadu is a tremendous success story with financial support from the Govt. and availability of funds from banks, the sky is the limit for enterprising members of the SHG.

Care of the Aged

The Senior Citizen Forum of MCDS aims at adding life to their years, believing that much is yet to come. MCDS manages 6 day care centers where senior citizens gather every afternoon. The senior citizens are also fruitfully involved in small income generation programmes.

Rural Development

About 80% of India's population lives in rural areas and many of them below the poverty line. Only about 15% of the benefits of the development programs of the government manage to percolate to the rural areas.

The Tsunami and its aftermath

26th Dec.2004 would be remembered for all time death and disaster caused by the killer waves of the Tsunami. Television channels and Newspapers across the World provided extensive coverage of the event. One of the worst affected location was Sinivasapuram a settlement in Santhome area. As many as seven of our associates, including two members of our staff, perished while trying to save some children. Loss to life and property was enormous. MCDS was proud to extend a helping hand, networking with other institutions and organisations.

Montfort Sirahugal

A society for slum development and children at risk
What do they do?

They instill a taste for schooling to the child labourers and drop-outs in the slums through Transit schools. They provide computers technical education to exploited teen agers in the slums and settle them with jobs. They show new life to the 10th and 12th Std dropouts by making pass in the exams . They provide strict supervised study for the slum kids in providing better education. They do referral services children at risk in slums refined to good care homes. They organize communication skills for the youth at slums and show employment opportunities available for the slum youth. They also organize sports and cultural, children's day, picnics, residential campus, awareness programme for all type of children – at-Risk in the Slums. They do medical refund services and involve in the upliftment of gypsies.

Their Vision

A world without percentage difference between the rich (30%) and the poor (70%) a World of equality A world of justice.

Their Mission

Since education of the marginalized is the only way to bridge the gap between 30% and 70% we take up mission of education of the Marginalized Children, Teen agers and Adults. The main objective of Montfort Sirahugal (Montfort wings) is reaching out Montfort's education healing to those children and adults who are lost in the streets and the slums of Tamilnadu particularly in the city of Chennai-India.

The area of operation of Montfort Sirahugal

Target area : Velacherry, Perungudi, Tharamani, Thiruvanniyur (Kuppam), Kotturpuram, (Gypsy street), Greenways Road, Mandaveli, Mylapore, Thousand light and Saidapet etc. "Every child is a Jewel to the Nation, let us fight against child labour"

Social Action Center – A. Poruvai

This center which was started by Bro. Joseph John in 1982, had its high and low tide period in its growth. However there was new impetus and spirit in all the activities of the center from the time it came under the direction and animation of Bro. Edwin Joseph 1994. True to his dynamic nature and concern for the less privileged, he ventured to a simple village folk. They introduced various projects and movement like Adult education, Literacy Campaign Woman Self Help Groups. Much energy was spent in health and hygiene education. The momentum which picked up in the center's activities had its grand regress due to financial constraints. However the services of Bros helped to keep alive the center which was dormant.

Montfort school for the Disabled, Belagola

The school for the disabled children started in 1999 in the name of Montfort School for the disabled with 7 hearing impaired and a few other handicapped children. The number kept increasing and the other handicapped children were filtered out, since the Brothers wanted exclusive to concentrate on the Hearing impaired students. It follows the syllabus of Karnataka Board of School education. The medium of instruction is Kannada. They give special training for speech, lip reading auditory awareness, develop auditory and visual memory, Auditory training Apart from that they provide facilities like sports and games, drawing painting, crafts, dance, dramas etc., for the development of in-born talents of these disabled children. AIM : The aim is to provide inclusive and integrated education for the empowerment of the disabled with job oriented training. Though integration in itself cannot be a substitute for external planning and intervention with regard to the special needs of the disabled children. They are given the opportunity and self-confidence to work with other. The overall strategy is to provide the disabled child with

the best possible intervention in an integrated setting. In recent years there has been a major shift away from special education to inclusive and integrated education. It is in the light of this that integrated high school is planned at this center. The children who are pursuing higher education will be integrated into this school.

Montfort Social Institute (MSI) , Hyderabad :

The institute is at the threshold of another important share in the Journey of Montfort brothers. The new building built with contributions from hundreds of people all over, would become a 'people's place' where all those who love justice, freedom, democracy and sustainable development can find the space and the ambience to articulate their ideas, promote them and create alternative ways in which the world can be organized. Above all the poor and the victims of injustice would find a place here.

Montfort centre for Education, Tura

Montfort secondary school is an integrated school where the blind children study along with the sighted. Visually impaired children from class V onwards are integrated along with the sighted. The children who are integrated are supported by special education teachers and are provided with books in braille.

School for mentally challenged, Tura

It has a separate school for the children who are mentally challenged. It caters to the training of children in daily living skills, vocational education like weaving, printing, book binding, embroidery etc., based on the ability of the each child.

Gabriel school for the Deaf, Tura

Montfort centre for education has a separate school for the children who are hearing impaired. They have classes from nursery to class X. They follow the state syllabus as well as National Institute of Open Schooling.

Marian school for the Blind, Tura

It has a separate school for the blind. It prepares the Visually Impaired Children to be integrated in the regular schools by training them in braille, abacus, tailor frame etc., The children are admitted in the integrated and inclusive education school, after their class in the Marian school for the blind.

Conclusion

Once in a life time some one with a genuine love for humanity begins his labour of love and others follow in his foot steps. Brothers who were motivated by genuine love and concern for the persons with disabilities are doing a marvelous work for the disabled. The institutions would strive to establish an effective system of vocational guidance, in active collaboration with Govt. agencies, for the rehabilitation of the disabled and thus to reduce the dependent of the disabled on the charity and sympathy of others.

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