



**Sarvodaya Suwasetha Ananda Grero Memorial Resource Center,
Thalpawila, Matara**

Bi Annual Progress Report 2023



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Bi-Annual Progress Report 01-01-2023 to 31-12-2023

Ananda Grero Memorial Special Education Centre for Children with special needs, Thalpawila

Background

In 1958 Dr A.T.Ariyaratne established the Sarvodaya Shramadana Sangamaya to empower the grass root level marginalised segments in the Sri Lankan Society. In 1975 the welfare activities of the organization were brought under the Sarvodaya Suwasetha Sewa Society led by Mrs Neetha Ariyaratne. Subsequently Sarvodaya Suwasetha Sewa developed into an independent unit that affirmed the rights of abandoned and undernourished infants, neglected and orphaned children, young mothers who were victims of rape and other sexual abuse, helpless elders without anyone to care for them and was registered as a charity in 1984.

Sarvodaya Suwasetha growing with time established a project with funding from Sarvodaya Netherlands to rehabilitate and empower persons and children with disabilities in the two Districts of Kalutara and Galle. The Special Education units for children with special needs are a part of the CBR project. The Special Education units aim to take service delivery into the rural areas to empower and develop skills of children with special needs to lead a meaningful life as independent persons in the community.

The Special Education Center housed in a premises donated by Mr. Ananda Grero is situated in Thalpawila in the Matara District. It was inaugurated in the year 2004 and has been funded by Sarvodaya Netherlands to date.

This year, 15 children with special needs of ages ranging from 06 to 17 years are attending this school. The children come from low income earning families who cannot afford or do not have the knowledge to care for their children with special needs. Two specially trained teachers train these children to carry on their day to day activities independently and to improve their skills so that they can upgrade themselves and join the main stream education units for children with special needs.



Project Objective

To provide facilities to Children with special needs to develop their physical and mental conditions to enable them to be active as a normal person in the society.

Activities implemented during this year

Outcome 01

Promote Healthy Development of Children

Activity 1:1

Speech Therapy Clinics

There are currently 10 children studying in Thalpavila Special Education Unit and three speech clinics were conducted for those children during the year. The clinics are conducted by Chathuri Fernando, a talented and experienced speech therapist, and the liaison work is done by Galle District Field Officer Miss Rajitha Gammanpila. All the children of the unit participate in this and it is special to see the participation of the parents as well.



Through these clinics, some improvement in the children's speaking ability can be seen and the contribution received from the wardens in charge of the units is also immeasurable. Because in the classroom they give the children the exercises that the therapist tells them.

Activity 1:2

Primary Health Clinics

Primary medical clinic was conducted at Thalpavila Special Education Unit on 10th March 2023 and 26th July 2023 under the leadership of Thalpavila Rural Hospital Nurse and Family Health Nurse. Children and their parents also attended the clinic.

In this clinic, the nurse and family health worker gave simple lecture about nutrition and mental health to the children and parents. Then they talked to the children and parents separately.



Outcome 02

Religious and Cultural Program

Activity 2:1

The 04th of February is the day when all Sri Lankans celebrate National Independence Day. It is a very auspicious day for us. This year we celebrated the 75th National Independence Day. The children of our special education unit in Thalpawila joined their teachers and celebrated Independence Day on 03rd February 2023.



Activity 2:2

Kiddies Fair

On March 20, 2023, a kid's fair was held by the children of the Thalpwila Special Education Unit. On that day, all the children joined their parents for this and they brought various things to the fair. This program aims to give the children some idea about the nature of a fair, how trade is conducted, and how to deal with customers, the teachers of our unit successfully organized and carried it out.



Activity 2:3

Celebration of Sinhala Hindu New Year Festival

Every year in April we celebrate the Sinhala and Tamil New Year. We celebrate the year with great joy with various rituals. Therefore, our teachers of Thalpapwila Special Education Unit also organized a New Year celebration on the occasion of the Sinhala and Tamil New Year. It was held on 06th April 2023 in the unit. That day was a very auspicious day for our children and everyone started performing New Year rituals and engaged in New Year folk games. The main purpose of this was to make the children enjoy the wonder of the year.



Activity 2: 4

Vesak and Poson

Our teachers organized some innovative programs based on Vesak poya day. They organized a sermon program and a Bakthi Gee program on May 04, 2023, for the children. A monk visited the school to preach the dharma. After that the children started performing some devotional songs. The teachers were trained the children and the children performed to the best of their ability.



Activity 2: 5

Dengue Control Program

Due to rainy conditions in the country, a dengue epidemic started to spread throughout the country. To suppress its rapid spread, various programs were organized at the village level. As a good response, a containment program was organized by the teachers and parents in our unit on May 12, 2023. And the teachers arranged for the children to participate in it. There, in the environment around the school, they took care of destroying the places where water could stay and cleaning the dirty places.

Activity 2: 6

Shramadhana Campaign

On May 22, 2023, a shramadhana campaign was conducted by the teachers for the unity of parents and children. It was remarkable that all the parents participated for their children. It was a good example for the children.

Activity 2: 7

Sila Campaign

This program was organized by teachers to inculcate and develop discipline in children. This program was held on 29th May 2023 at that unit. All the children in the unit were involved in the program and seemed to try to remain as calm as they could.



Activity 2: 8

World Environment Day Celebration

On the occasion of World Environment Day, many different activities were carried out across the country. The teachers of our special education unit also started conducting such a program on 19th June 2023. The teachers along with children planted flower plants, fruit plants, and medicinal plants in the school garden. The main objective of this program was to create good thoughts in children to love the environment and protect it.

Activity 2: 9

Annual Trip

In addition to educational activities, we also provide entertainment for children through our special education unit. That means taking the children on an educational trip at one time every year. This time too, the trip was arranged on June 29, 2023, by the Thalpawila Special Education Unit teachers. There the children were taken to see the Koggala Martin Wickramasinghe Museum, Galle Fort, and Unawatuna Beach. That day was a very happy and unforgettable day for the children.



Activity 2:10

Annual Exhibition

Teachers encourage children to make various creations to develop their creative abilities. Through that, they were able to bring out the hidden talents of the children. Accordingly, under the guidance of the teachers, an exhibition was held in the unit on December 06, 2023 by collecting the designs made by the children.



Activity 2:12

Christmas Celebration

On December 09, 2023, a celebration was held in the unit on Christmas day. The children enjoyed the day creating Christmas trees with their teachers and decorating the unit with Christmas decorations.



Activity 2:13

Annual Concert

At the end of this year, the teachers organized an annual concert to showcase the talents of the children. On that day, the children performed the dances practiced by the teachers very happily.



As we always mention the stalwart behind all our activities is Sarvodaya Netherlands that has continued its financial assistance unabated. We are thankful for their generous funding and appreciate the guidance offered at all times.