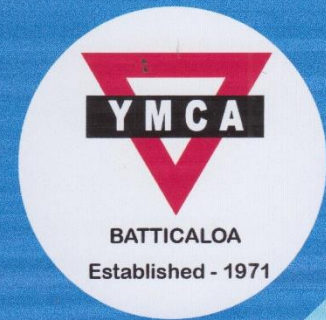


ANNUAL REPORT - 2018



Our mission is to put Christian principles into practices through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body

Strong Kids. Strong Families. Strong Community.

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Subcommittee

Youth and Child development subcommittee members		
No.	Name	Brief note on their Professional Background
1.	Mr.S.P. Premachandran	Manager, World Vision Lanka, Navithanveli ADP
2.	Mr.J.Chryshanthan	Senior Advisor Co-coordinator, World Vision Lanka, Colombo.
3.	Mrs.S.RanjiniMathitharan	General Manager, Ladder of Hope, Batticaloa
4.	Dr.T.Gadambanathan	District Psychiatrist, Teaching Hospital Batticaloa
5.	Mr.V.Kugadasan	District Coordinator CRPO, Kachari Batticaloa
6.	Mr.S. Arulmoli	District Coordinator SSO Social serves Department
7.	Mr.M. Puvirajah	ADE-ECCD Zonal Education Department Batticaloa
8.	Mr.SivalingamVasantharajah	Assistant ACLGBatticaloa
9.	Rev.Sr.Dr.Josepha	SeniorLecturer Eastern University Batticaloa.
10.	Mr.Pio Jude Navinthan	Manager, World Vision Lanka, EP, ADP
11.	Mark Patterson	Center Manager, MJF Charitable, Foundation
12.	Mr.M.Ithayakumar	Financial Officer, WUSC, Batticaloa.

Christian Subcommittee Members		
No.	Name	Brief note on their Professional Background
1.	Mr.T.Karunakaran	Rtd. Technical officer
2.	Mr.A.Raveendren	Area Programme Manager, World Vision Lanka, Karuchchi.
3.	Mr.S.Jesudas	Tax Collector, Predeshiya Sabah, ManmaunaiPattu, Ariyampathy.
4.	Mrs.R.Karunakaran	Ret. Subject Matter Officer (SMO), Agriculture Dept, Batticaloa.
5.	Mr.JebasuthanSelvaretnam	Team Leader, National Christian Evangelical Alliance of Sri Lanka (NCEASL)
6.	Mr.Kajanthan	Partnership Facilitator, Compassion International
7.	Mr.Rajeevan	Credit Officer, Sampath Bank, Batticaloa, 2nd Branch
8.	Mrs.R.Mathitharan	General Manager, Ladder of Hope, Batticaloa
	Pas. Vijiyakumar	Vice President, Pastor's Fellowship

School Subcommittee Members		
No.	Name	Brief note on their Professional Background
1.	Mr.PiousAanantharaja	Principal St.Michel's collage
2.	Mrs.N.Srinivasan	Former primary ISA
3.	Dr.JudyJeyakumar	Doctor
4.	Mr. T.Thaneshraj	Audiologist & speech language pathologist
5.	Mr.A.Ashok	Former Vaalvosai school manager
6.	Mr.C.Nikshan	Deputy Principal
7.	Mr.T.Kirubairaja	Teacher - St.Michel's collage
8.	Mr.Thayananthan	Ass. Director of Special education
9.	Miss. J.Jemathy	YMCA Model Per school teacher

Micro- Credit Subcommittee members		
No.	Name	Brief note on their Professional Background
1.	Mr.D.Ragal	Regional Operation Manager Vision found Lanka-East
2.	Mr. E.G.P .Prakash	Assistant Manager (People's bank)
3.	Mr. K.Anpurajah	Public Health field officer -RDHS, Bco.
4.	Mrs. F. BharathyKennady	Senior Lecturer in management
5.	Mr. N.Logeswaran	Former Lecturer E.U.S.L
6.	Mr. M. Ithayakumar	Financial officer, WUSC, Batticaloa.
7.	Mr. A.Ariyasuthan	Consultant
8.	Mr. .Jayamenan	Assistant Manager Seylan Bank, Bco

Acknowledgement

It with great sincerity that we take this opportunity to acknowledge the generous support and contributions accorded to us that made the year 2018 a success. We are deeply indebted for all the support offered in kind or in cash, through which we have been able to carry out the various projects and activities mentioned above, which have greatly improved the quality of life of the people of Batticaloa District. More so, it is with great humility that we offer all the glory and worship to God Almighty, who has been with us every step over the way and who has been our guiding light over the last 47 years. We are rich and blessed with divine protection, providence, unwavering love and many blessings. Truly, our cup overflows.

Your support has been invaluable in helping us to achieve our goals and to undertake the various programmes throughout the district, which has made us achieve great success in empowering and assisting members of the community, including persons with disabilities and those suffering under the yoke of poverty and disease.

We would also like to extend our gratitude especially to YMCA Singapore for answering our appeal on assistance for medical attention to the many poor families in the district who do not have the means to seek medical attention. Your support was invaluable in helping us to reach the remote areas of the district and to serve members of the community who are currently underserved and at a huge risk for numerous diseases and conditions.

Finally yet importantly, we acknowledge, appreciate and extend our gratitude and vote of thanks to all our members, members of the Board of Directors, Subcommittee members and all of the staff for their support and for the relentless and dedicated service throughout the year. We also commend their unwavering commitment that you have exhibited in varying out all the activities associated with the various projects and programs throughout the year and also for facilitating smooth running of this institution. We pray that God continue to bless you and restore your strength and dedication to our course here at YMCA. We value and acknowledge the wealth that we possess in all the people who work with us and take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude. We thank all of you and pray that our Lord gives your strength, and continues to bless you and grant you compassion, the zeal and the love to continue advancing his work.

Christian Emphasis Program

Executive Summary

YMCA Batticaloa has had a very busy year in 2018, characterized by numerous activities, which have been aimed at enriching the society and increasing the capacity of our staff to provide reliable and useful services to society and fulfil the objectives of YMCA, for the glory of God. In what has been a very exciting year, we are delighted to share with you the activities that we have engaged in during the year, and to share our successes in this report.

Worship Services

As a Christian organization, our first prerogative is to put Christ first in everything that we do. Accordingly, we conduct prayers and worship during important events and gatherings. On the first day of every year and on the first working day of every month, the staff at YMCA gets together in the morning at the worship hall, where they have a word of prayer and a sermon from the visiting clergy. The gatherings involve a thanksgiving service and individual prayers. This is also a time for devotion. We would like to express our gratitude to Rev. Fr.S.Roshan, Rev. Fr. P.Ramesh Christy, Rev. Fr. L.Lorance SJ, Pastor M.Samual Rajah, Rev. Fr T.O Thirukumar, Rev. J.W.Yogarajah, Brother.R.J. Prabakaran, Pastor.P. Rajaratnam, Pastor T.Sivanathan, Pastor.J. Nagularajah, Pastor.S.Vijayan and Pastor.S.Vasanthakumar for leading us in worship throughout the year. The students at the Vaalvoisai Center, teachers, YMCA staff and well-wishers all participated at the worship services conducted at the YMCA premises.



53rd Annual Bible Quiz

YMCA is dedicated towards encouraging young children to read, memories and practice the word of God. To achieve this goal, YMCA conducts a bible quiz every year. The 53rd annual bible quiz was conducted successfully on the 7th of May 2018. Cumulatively, 25 teams from the junior age group and 28 teams from the senior group participated in the bible quiz. These groups were from the leading rural and mainline schools, and free churches in the region. In the 53rd edition of the bible quiz, Puliyantheevu Methodist Church and Thnamunai Methodist Church



won the first and second places respectively. We were excited that more than 250 students participated in the bible quiz in 2018.

During the 53rd edition, we were privileged and blessed to have a team of 60 young volunteers; who helped us as judges, facilitators and points recorders. We also received assistance from our well-wishers and our own volunteers to conduct the event successfully. The winners at this level went on to contest with the provincial team, the winners of which advanced to the Regional level.

Regional Bible Quiz

The regional quiz competition was conducted on the 19th of May 2018. Six teams were qualified to participate in this competition. Batticaloa Jesus Saves by Grace Ministry's team won the first place, whereas Batticaloa AOG team won the second place. Batticaloa Jesus Saves by Grace Ministry is worth a notable mention, since they have emerged winners at the national level for the fourth consecutive time this year. This has brought great pride to our region.

Moving forward, we wish all the students and youngsters who participated in this year's competition. We would also like to express our gratitude to all the teachers who were involved in training the participants.



The Annual General Meeting

The 47th Annual General Meeting of the Batticaloa YMCA was held on 15.04.2018 in the YMCA Hall. The meeting was presided over by Mr.V.E. Dharshan, the President of YMCA. Rev. FR.J.Nixon delivered the devotional message. His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Joseph Ponmiah, the Bishop of Batticaloa Diocese, who is also the Patron of YMCA, delivered the special address.



Week of prayer and World fellowship

A program was conducted under the theme 'Youth Empowerment for Good', from the 12th of November 2018 to 16th of November 2018. The program was a joint endeavor between YWCA and YMCA, and was conducted at our main hall. Each day of the event was led by a different church, which took part. The Batticaloa Pastor Fellowship, the Catholic Church, the American Mission Church, Salvation Army and the Methodist Church took part in the programme. Youths, elders, and church members who took part also graced the program.

Annual Christmas Carol Service.

The children and the youth at the YMCA jointly organized the 2018 Christmas Carol Service. The event was held on the 1st of December 2018. Children from the model Pre-School, Vaalvosai students, Children's Club members and the youth conducted the entire program. The highlight of the day was the Vaalvosai School for the Deaf band, which highlighted the immense talent at the school. Santa Claus distributed presents for the children in the event. The event attracted a large audience, which included government officials, parents, donors, board members and well-wishers.

General Programs

Founder's Day

A blood donation event was organized on the founder's day; and took place in the main hall. 92 participants; including young people, volunteers, staff and members participated in this event. 47 people donated blood during this event, which will be useful in assisting those in need of blood in the hospitals.



47th Anniversary of YMCA

The 47th Anniversary Programme of YMCA Batticaloa was held on the 15th of April 2018. Among the activities conducted during this day included an Art Event organized by former school students, an English drama conducted by Youth. They organized a gesture language song conducted by students from the Vaalvosai School and a Concert by the academy students. Former leaders, members, staff, members of the board of directors and youth and children's organization students also participated in the event.



Staff Get-together

The annual get-together for the staff took place in the MM foundation Center on 07.12.2018. All the staff participated in the event in uniform. The event was very useful in encouraging the staff to share ideas among themselves, forming diverse friendships and creating an environment for having fun for the staff in attendance. The President, Vice President and the Board of Directors also participated in the event and encouraged the staff.

Best Entrepreneur Award 2018

YMCA Batticaloa applied to attend the event, which was held by the Western Province/Regional Applicants from WUSC. The Batticaloa YMCA won the Best Entrepreneur Award, 2018. The award ceremony was graced by the General Secretary, and was held at the Sri Lanka Foundation Auditorium on 13.11.2018.



Best YMCA Award

There are 32 YMCAs in Sri Lanka. The awards for the best YMCA has been undertaken by the NCY for many years, in accordance to the effectiveness of the YMCAs. Batticaloa YMCA has been awarded the award for best YMCA in both 2017 and 2018.



Staff Trainings

Staff Capacity building Workshop

Staff capacity building workshop for the staff was conducted by resource person, Mr.A.Iruthavanathan, 52 staff members were able to participate in this workshop.

Workshop on Presentation skills

The workshop on presentation skills was conducted on 02. 08. 2018. The members that were present during the workshop included the staff, the teachers and the manager together with the chancellor. The workshop on presentation skills was conducted by Mr. J.T. PioNavithan who is one of the board of directors.

Disability Inclusion and Gender Equality Training for Empowerment of Staff

A total number of 28 staff members were able to avail themselves in the main hall on 29. 08. 2018 for an important training concerning empowerment of staff on inclusion of persons with disability and gender inequality. The four hour program was facilitated by Mr. S. Patrick.

A Training on self-defense and Yoga.

Six staff of YMCA Batticaloa were able to get a golden chance to be able to participate in a training on self-defense and Yoga. This training was organized by the university students together with Suriya, the training was carried out for six days

Training on Social Dialogue & Workplace co-operation

The YMCA staff were able to participate in training on importance of social dialogue and cooperation among staff members in their workplace. The staff members were able to understand labour rules and the social network. Six staff members participated.

Awareness Seminar on Staff Capacity Building

An Awareness Seminar related to Staff Capacity Building was held on held on 31.10.2018. Valvoisai School teachers and staffs attended in the event.

Relief Work

The relief materials for children affected by bad weather condition in the Northern Province were handed over to the District Secretariat on 28.12.2018. Two members of our staffs visited Killinochi alongside the National General Secretary of YMCA to donate valuable medical paraphernalia. We also received support from Singapore YMCA, which provided financial support to provide these valuable medical paraphernalia.



Participant's Testimony

Testimony 1

"Let us not, O Lord, belong to us, for Thy mercy and for your truth, and for your name be Glorified" Psalm 115: 01

My name is David Sagayanathan. For the past ten years, I have been participating in the Bible Quiz competition. Myself and my team; S. Jerushen, J. Dennis, A.Joyal, R. Priyasaki, J. Rebecca, J.Suje, participated in Biblical quiz, Batticaloa. The Lord has also supported our success in the competition, winning it for the fourth consecutive year from 2015 - 2018 in the youth bible challenge conducted by Bible quiz ministry "Jesus Christ is the Grace of Christ". The main reason for this success is the fact that we not only study the Bible with a competitive purpose, but we also endeavour to learn the words and build our belief in the Word of God, with the intention of being willing, explaining, clarifying, and making our lives better.

Testimony 2

I have enjoyed the extraordinary divine blessings I have experienced in my life since I started participating in this Bible question competition. My knowledge of the Bible has grown in such a huge way. I would like to express my gratitude to all Island Bible quiz ministry and Batticaloa YMCA team for teaching us many Scriptural secrets and in building my life on Christ and giving me a deeper meaning of God's love.



Testimonial 3

One of the sad things in the current society is the rate at which society is degrading in virtues. Particularly, young people are especially at risk of falling into this trap. The bible quiz competition is therefore a powerful force, attracting a large number of young people. The scope of the bible quiz competition continues to expand, and has been over many years now. The goal remains to prepare the Christian youth to look at the challenges, which they are facing. It is my wish that more teenagers will be blessed, because the blessings of God are available to them. Amen.

CBM Report



“Building Inclusive and resilient communities in Eastern Province of Sri Lanka”

Executive Summary of the action

The “Building Inclusive and Resilient Communities in Eastern Province of Sri Lanka” project is focused on implementing the various activities associated with Disability Inclusive Development (DID) and Disability Inclusive Risk Reduction. These activities are aimed at improving the lives of Persons with Disabilities in Batticaloa District. This project appreciates the fact that the nearly three decades of Civil War, which ended in 2009, had many negative effects on Batticaloa District and on persons with disabilities within this district. Accordingly, this project is aimed at promoting persons with disabilities and supporting their self-advocacy process from the divisional level to the provincial level, with the support of various Government stakeholders.

Conducted Activities

1. Orientation programs conducted in 14 Divisions:

14 orientation programs were conducted at the divisional and district levels. The government service providers targeted the use of meeting. Accordingly, necessary approvals were obtained following which the service providers communicated the details of the project interventions by YMCA, as well as collective project interventions with the government. In addition to obtaining permission for implementing these projects in the 14 divisions, the government service providers were able to achieve a greater understanding of Disability Inclusive Development (DID).

In total, 671 stakeholders participated in these meetings. This included 135 government representatives (81 male and 54 female), 348 persons with disabilities (186 male and 162 female) and 15 Non-Governmental Organization representatives (9 male and 6 female).

2. Conducted training on planning meetings in 14 Divisions:

In order to plan effectively for the delivery of effective training programs, 14 initial meetings were conducted on planning, in the 14 divisions during the third quarter. Participants included the following:

- Divisional Secretaries (DS)
- Assistant Divisional Secretaries (ADS)
- Social Service officers, Development officers,
- Development officers (DO-DRS's),
- Women Development Officer's (WDO's),
- Economic Development Officer's (EDO),
- Child Right Promoting Officer's (CRPO),
- Community Development Officer's (CDO's),
- Finance Assistant's (FA's) from Local Authorities,
- Assistant Director of Educations (ADE's),
- In-Service Advisor's from Zonal office's (ISA's),
- Civil Society Organization members (CSO's),
- Women Rural Development Societies (WRDS)
- Rural Development Societies (RDS's) and
- Rural Development Officers (RDO's)

In total, 233 stakeholders participated in this training consisting of 139 males and 94 female participants. Of these, 178 government staff members also participated (107 males and 71 females), and 44 persons with disabilities (27 males and 17 female. This also included 11 members from community groups (5 males and 6 females), along with the project staff attending the planning sessions.

Accordingly, the training needs of the staff were identified from among the local authorities, Zonal Education Office, Disabled Persons Organizations Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and the Divisional Secretariat. The objective of this assessment was to fill existing gaps within the various organizations and sectors that work closely with persons with disabilities.

3. Conducted 7 Capacity building training programs to 14 DPO's:

Within the above activity, 7 capacity building training programs were planned for and successfully conducted for members of the 14-Disabled People's Organizations in the Batticaloa District. Accordingly, 2 capacity-building sessions were conducted in collaboration with World Vision in Koralaippattu South and Koralaippattu North Divisions. Key members of Disabled Person's Organizations participated in these training programs. In total, there were 218 participants in these capacity building training programs, which included 177 persons with disabilities (78 males and 99 female). The rest of the participants included 6 government staff members (4 males and 3 females), and 3 NGO staff members from World Vison (3 males and 1 female). The rest were members of the project staff.

From this training program, members of Disabled People's Organizations (DPO) gained crucial knowledge on the following thematic areas:

- (i) Roles and responsibilities of DPO committee members
- (ii) DPO constitution
- (iii) Participation & Acceptance
- (iv) Basic rights of persons with disabilities
- (v) Lack of services, information & Awareness on PWD's
- (vi) Accessibility
- (vii) Promotion of inclusion and
- (viii) Challenges of Persons with disabilities

4. Conducted 7 meetings with farm Managers, consultant team (Farm Management Team), Agriculture Department AO, GS, Environmental Department AO, Director and staff of the Forest Department as part of the initial approval process for the farm, to start the integrated farm that would benefit the "Vaalvosai School":

A total of 7 meetings were conducted with the aim of providing livelihood opportunities for PWDs at YMCA integrated firm. Approval was sought and obtained from authorized departments of Pradeshiya Sabha – Vaharai, the Divisional Secretary – Vaharai, the Environmental Authority, the Veterinary Department, the Forest Department and the Agriculture Department. It was only after all approval was obtained that the project proceeded. Consequently, this formal approval process to obtain approvals from the above-mentioned departments took more time than expected, which resulted to delays in implementing the farm activities.

5. Government Staff – the Dos and the SSOs conducted 1 TOT and 14 advocacy workshops for DPO members in the 14 divisions:

15 advocacy workshops were conducted in total. This included 1 TOT for government professionals and 14 training programs for members of DPOs. These advocacy workshops were conducted by members of the project team. In total, there were 426 participants in these roll out sessions, 228 of whom were male and 198 female. Of this figure, there were 242 persons with disabilities (120 male and 122 female), 164 government staff (91 males and 73 females) and 2 female community members and project staff.

In line with the action plan prepared during the TOT training by government staff members (SSOs and Dos), 14 roll out sessions were planned, and then conducted in the 14 divisions. The Roll out sessions mainly focused on the following thematic areas:

- (i) Allocated Allowances of persons with disabilities in DS office & LA's
- (ii) Accessibility
- (iii) Medical assistance for persons with disabilities
- (iv) Rights of persons with disabilities
- (v) Knowledge on Special Education units

- (vi) Available services for health Issues
 - (vii) Knowledge on Vocational Trainings and (viii) Livelihood opportunities, referrals.
6. 3 meetings were conducted with the consultant team, AD-DMC and GA on the application of the District DiDRR Strategy Plan

Courtesy of these meetings, the strategy planning process began with the Disaster Mitigation Committee (DMC). The process was started by the consultant team, with the support of the Assistant Director and the Government agent. In total, there were 36 participants, 26 of whom were male and the other 8 female. The District Disability Inclusive Disaster Response Plan and the Risk Reduction DiDRR Strategy will be formalized by March 2019.

7. 1 TOT and 14 DiDRR roll out sessions were conducted in the district by the DO-DRS

The DPO members acquired crucial knowledge on the following from these roll out sessions:

- (i) what is Disaster & types of Disaster
- (ii) Rights of Persons With Disabilities
- (iii) Importance of inclusion in DRR committees
- (iv) How to empower persons with disabilities to take a part in each sectors of DMC
- (v) The significance of the participation of PWD's
- (vi) Evacuation methods and priority of responsibility
- (vii) Sharing information for all types of persons with disabilities
- (viii) Change of strategy/policy initiates by DPO's.

A total of 559 stakeholders participated in these sessions, comprised of 164 male participants and 295 female participants. Of this total figure, 450 participants – 190 male and 260 female – were persons with disabilities. 66 of these participants were government staff (44 males and 22 females, and 6 NGO staff (3 male and 3 female). The participants also included 2 community representatives (1 male and 1 female), 7 children (3 boys and 3 girls) and members of staff.

8. Conducted Divisional level DiDRR meetings with DO-DRS and DPO members:

29 Divisional level meetings were conducted in the 14 divisions by the DO-DRS and the DPO members. The goal of these meetings was to enhance inclusion and generate increased awareness of inclusion in the village committees. These meetings were also aimed at ensuring that DiDRR practices were understood and would be adopted in all GN level DRR committees. Accordingly, 272 village level meetings were conducted at the GN level in all the 14 divisions. These meetings were conducted by GramaNilathari to provide knowledge on DiDRR activities and to promote inclusion in GN DRR committees. A total of 504 persons with disabilities comprised of 198 males and 306 females gained this crucial knowledge and awareness on DiDRR through the village meetings at the GN level.

Persons with disabilities are already engaged in the divisional DRR committees, through their Civil Society Organizations, which represent their village at the GN division. However, these Civil Society Organizations do not specifically represent their DPOs. Following the roll out of sessions of DiDRR, persons with disabilities obtained memberships from their repressive DPOs to the divisional DMC. A total of 61 persons with disabilities – 41 male and 20 female- were included in the DMCs in the District. This also included 9 persons with disabilities from Koralaippattu Central all of whom were men, 16 persons with disabilities from Koralaippattu West all of whom were male, 22 persons with disabilities in Koralaippattu consisting of 5 males and 7 females, and 24 PWDs in Koralaippattu North consisting of 11 males and 13 females. All of these PWDs were included in the divisional committees, save for Manmunai North and Koralaippattu South Kiran.

YMCA requested the Dos and the DPOs to consider ensuring gender balance while including persons with disabilities.

9. 3 exchange visits to 3 project model areas of MW, EP & KPN were conducted:

Three exchange visits were organized as field training sessions. A total of 50 males and 78 female persons with disabilities participated in these training sessions, alongside 7 female government staff who also participated in these activities. The persons with disabilities gained very crucial knowledge on the following:

- Inclusion in PS Advisory Committee
- Inclusion in the budget process
- Inclusion in the preparation of community driven plans which are succeeded in model divisions
- Budget allocation for welfare of persons with disabilities under PS Amendment
- Greater awareness on UNCRPD
- The various services for persons with disabilities under Pradeshiya Saba Act
- Officers for persons with disabilities while allocating shops

More recommendations were sent to Las and appropriate action was taken, which increase the number of visitor persons with disabilities to LAs and other departments.

10. Conducted DPO assessment in 14 Divisions:

14 mapping exercises were conducted for the 14 DPOs to determine the current status of DPOs. The criteria used is as follows:

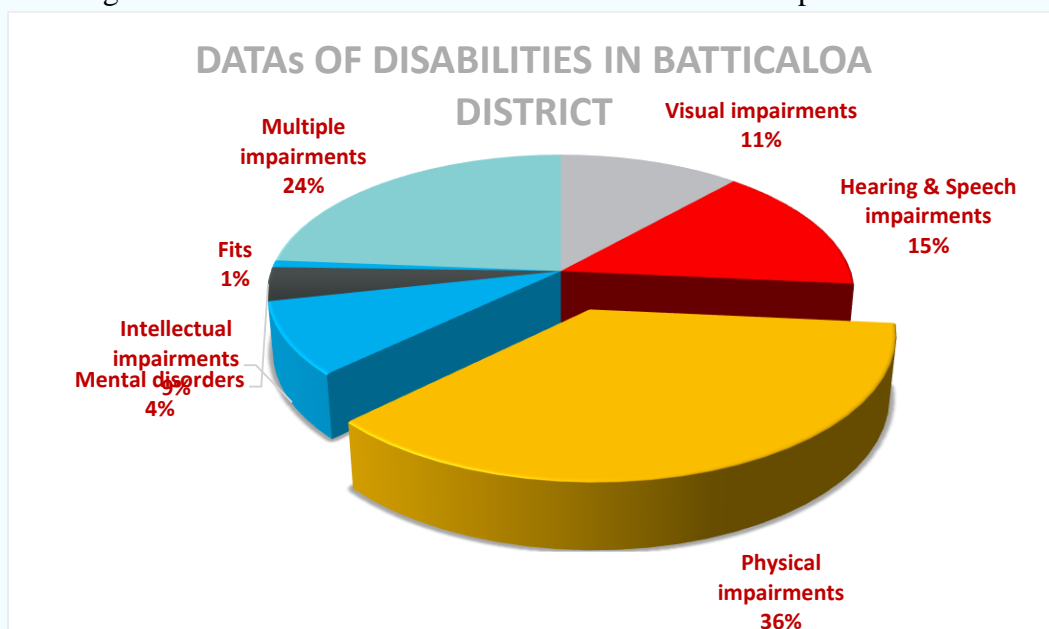
- (i) Key members
- (ii) Registered members in the organization
- (iii) Date of Formation
- (iv) Strength and weaknesses of the Organization
- (v) Does the DPO have a Bank Account
- (vi) Does the DPO follow cheque transactions

- (vii) Does the DPO have sustainable future plan/strategy
- (viii) Stakeholders details
- (ix) Does the DPO practice Documentation
- (x) Current activities carried out by the DPO
- (xi) Challenges faced by DPO's
- (xii) Lesson learned
- (xiii) Fund raising activities of DPO's
- (xiv) Coordination with stakeholders undertaken in the mapping exercise.

The mapping process facilitated the identification of well-functioning DPOs and DPOs, which need to be strengthened through the mapping exercise. The mapping exercise found 11 well-functioning DPOs, except Manmunai West, EravurPattu and Vaharai, which needed to be strengthened. This exercise was helpful in identifying existing Persons with Disabilities in the district. Accordingly, there were 7,401 persons with disabilities in the district and from this; only 5,644 PWDS had gotten membership in the beginning. All the PWDs were promoted and obtained membership through this activity.

11. Conducted Baseline assessment in 14 Divisions for 3367 registered persons with disabilities:

A baseline assessment was conducted for 4,602 registered persons with disabilities under the DPO in 14 divisions, because there was lack of data on persons with disabilities in the district to guide the social service department. Accordingly, to the assessment, physical disabilities were higher than other disabilities in Batticaloa District are represented below.



Person with Disability Children Data in Batticaloa District

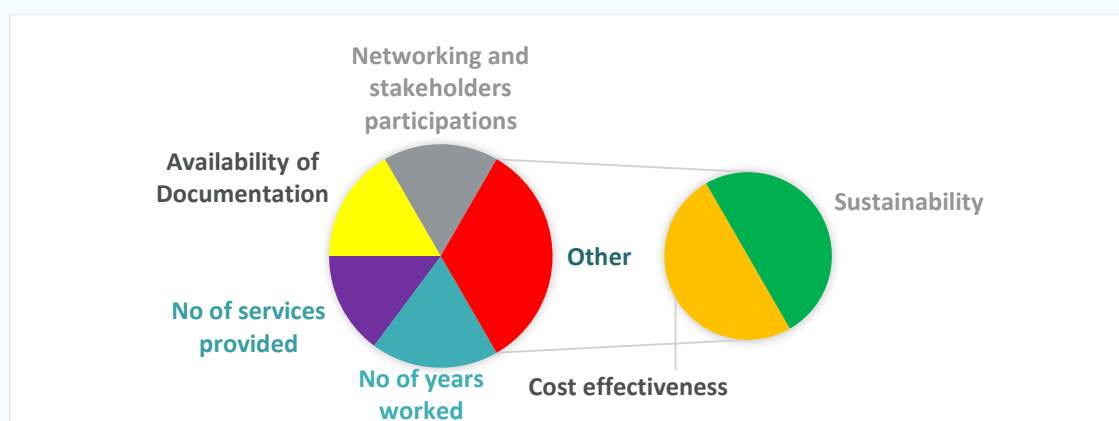
Types of Disabilities	Boys	Girls
Visual impairments	26	7
Hearing & Speech impairments	74	46
Physical impairments	83	58
Intellectual	57	30
Mental disorders	3	3
Fits/epilepsy	5	4
Multiple impairments;	124	61

12. Conducted a study at YMCA and identified the major goal of YMCA of “Providing educational and Vocational training support to children and youth with hearing impairment”

A singular consultation meeting was conducted as planned by the team. In this meeting, YMCA’s good practices were identified during the discussion. We looked at all the areas where YMCA worked in the past to guide this assessment. According to the discussions that followed, we identified that YMCA is dedicated towards “*Providing educational and Vocational training support to children and youth with hearing impairment.*”

The following criteria was set to assess YMCA’s good practices:

- (i) No of years worked
- (ii) No of services provided
- (iii) Availability of Documentation
- (iv) Networking and stakeholders participations
- (v) Cost effectiveness
- (vi) Sustainability.



13. Three (3) Arasaditheevu School teachers were trained at YMCA’s School.

Special Education unit Teachers from Arasaditheevu School were trained at YMCA’s “Vaalvosai School”. Additionally, through CBM’s project intervention, 5 Zonal Director’s and 5 special education ISA’s from 5 Zonal offices have planned to get sign language training step by step in 2019 at YMCA.

This process is enhancing our ability to provide education and vocational training support and guidance to Hearing impaired children and youths in the District.

Achievements

The beginning of the project initially identified the gaps in the constitutions through the workshops. The constitution, which is being followed in the DPOs, is very simple in format and was revised and rewritten with the support of the SSOs, under the subject of Disability Inclusive Development. Additionally, the district DMC strategy is being recreated as part of a process to enhance inclusion in policy, with the support of the Assistant Director of DMC, and Government agents.

The District DPO is playing an active role in the district by initiating the common events (Eg: successfully celebrated the World Disability Day on December 3rd 2018). The Divisional DPO's key members and the members of District DPO and the District DPO are also supporting the Divisional DPO's, by sharing information with the Departments and actively participating in the DiDRRR strategy planning process.

DPO members have become more aware after participating in Las and Community Center Meetings in all the 14 Divisions. The LA administrative body has changed the role of the chairman. Accordingly, the advisory committee structure and the committee will now come under directly to the chairman. The DPO members also engaged in discussion with CDO and DPO's president to promote the process of inclusion in the various Las committees. The appropriate recommendations were forwarded to the CBM to organize a training programme to all 12 administrative bodies, and to provide knowledge on the rights of PWDs and on the services/provisions of persons with disabilities under the LA amendment during CBM's visit.

14 DPO's and the staff of DMC - and others who worked with PWD's – gained valuable knowledge and awareness on DiDRR. This included the PWD's in the 4 DRR Divisional committees of Koralaippattu central, Koralaippattu, Koralaippattu west, Koralaippattu North and 8 Divisions, who had made requests on that.

The district strategy planning process of the District Disaster Mitigation Committee (DMC) has been started by the consultant with the support of the Assistant Director and Government agents, due to lack of available previous evidence on DiDRR. The first draft is scheduled to be submitted for approval by March 2019.

The training planning discussion forum paved the way to conduct monthly coordination meetings with all Stakeholders who relatively work with persons with disabilities. DS office staff are using this meeting to get updates on implementations and issues regarding persons with disabilities.

Photos



Singapore and Batticaloa YMCA's Mobile Medical Mission



We were able to achieve a lot with our mobile medical clinic in 2018. The medical mission has been funded by Singapore YMCA and the tasks were carried out by Batticaloa YMCA. It has been a great teamwork. Here is a summary of what the mission has achieved so far in its eight years of existence. Some villages have been able to benefit from our free medical services in the D S Divisions of Koralaipatt South and EravurPattu.

Organization of medical clinics

Medical clinics were organized in several villages and many people were given free medical treatments under the auspices of the Rural Director of health services with the support of medical officers' health and divisional secretaries in those areas. YMCA made sure that people who needed comprehensive treatments go it from the experienced YMCA medical team.

Offering of health education

The medical team realized that the attitudes and beliefs of the people of Muruthana, Elukupothana, and Pondukalchena villages are not in line with healthy lifestyles so we offered necessary education. The health education occurred in July 2018. Apart from the health education, the team also provided various health related assistance to the communities.



Three mobile clinics were set up every week

The need for medical facilities and services was detected a long time ago and that is why mobile clinics were set up to the beneficiaries to move from village to village to provide medical treatment and health-related advice. To ensure many villages received the service, three mobile medical clinics were created in three different villages. There is no doubt, many villages were covered and they benefited from the services of the Singaporean health team every year.

The health program ran from May to October in 2018

The health program has been existing for the past eight years but in 2018, it commenced in May and we concluded it on the last day of October. The activities within the period led to the institution of 12 clinics and about 770 patients received proper medical treatments and all the beneficiaries are grateful. The medical team did provide only medical assistant also they provide proper health education to the venerable people at villagers. This was done to reduce the suffering of many people in those villages.

Youth Report

The YMCA Youth Club has achieved tremendous success over the year, with major milestones being achieved in the various goals and objectives set for the year 2018. After being re activated in the end of December of 2017, the Youth Club went on to hold and conduct a myriad of activities in the district geared towards enhancing the skills, knowledge and competencies of the youth in Batticaloa District. For instance, the Youth Club initiated the English club in the district geared towards improving the understanding of the English language in the district. To enhance the achievement of its goal of developing the youth in the district, the youth club was also actively engaged in various career guidance sessions, aimed at enhancing the ability of the youth to understand the skills that they would need, as well as how to identify the skill gap and how to upgrade their skills.

The Youth Club was also involved in enhancing cultural exchange with YMCA groups from other parts of the world, most notably with YMCA Japan, essentially facilitating an appreciation and shared understanding of culture. In the second month of February, YMCA Youth Club successfully launched the Youth 4 youth Program, which has been integral in promoting career guidance and leadership training. It is worth noting that the Youth Club was able to achieve significant participation from the youth, including a notable number of persons with disabilities in these programs. In what was a very busy year, YMCA Youth Club followed this up with a variety of half day youth development programs, particularly a half day youth development program carried out on the 31st of March. The Youth Club was also engaged in various trips dedicated to creating awareness on key issues such as the environment, as was also involved in the YMCA Youth Challenge in June,

2018. Furthermore, the club also participated in blood donations in the YMCA Day in the month of June.

In the second half of the year, the club was actively engaged in numerous youth meetings, seminars, training sessions and events, which were directed on efforts to resolve some of the issues facing the district. These issues included reproductive health and sexual education, sign language training, improving the lives of persons living in poverty through efforts such as provision of solar power, as well as experience and knowledge training to mark what has been a very busy and fruitful year.



The youth and children support desk

The youth and children support desk meeting was held at the YMCA hall on December 1, 2017. The purpose of the meeting held, was to re activate the YMCA Batticaloa Youth Club. A total of 50 active youths participated in the discussions. Accordingly, the meeting was conducted by Mr. Felician Francis and Mr. S.M. Felix. Additionally, Mr. J. Jegan the General Secretary/ CEO of YMCA Batticaloa and Mr. Patrick from the management of YMCA were also in attendance, giving valuable advice on the re activation of the YMCA Youth Club.

The YMCA Batticaloa Youth Club was subsequently established, and will function under the general body of the YMCA Batticaloa. Below is a chronological account of the activities undertaken by the youth club across the different months of the year 2018.

English Club

YMCA Youth Club members gathered at the YMCA Hall for regular meetings. During the meeting, it was proposed that the club conduct an English Club as a core activity, aimed at improving knowledge about the English language among the youth members of YMCA Batticaloa. The English club was successful in achieving its goal, and was influential in improving an understanding of English as a language among YMCA youth.

Carrier Guidance

YMCA Youth Club was also involved in conducting a career guidance session, which was dedicated towards assisting the youth to better understand the skills needed for them to select their careers in life. The career guidance session was also aimed at identifying the existing skills among the youth and on finding ways of upgrading these skills.

Cultural Interchange

On the 21st of January, the YMCA youths met with members of YMCA Japan, who had visited Batticaloa. During this visit, the youth achieved an excellent opportunity to meet with the General Secretary/ CEO of YMCA Japan. The meeting was attended by 11 participants. The discussions promoted cultural interchange. The youths were educated on Japanese culture, and were able to share some of the culture and history of Sri Lanka and Batticaloa district with the visiting youth. Special attention was given to the Kallady Bridge in Batticaloa District.

Youth 4 Youth Program

YMCA Batticaloa youths participated in the “Youth 4 Youth” program on the 18th of February which was conducted in the Eastern Symposium. The event was attended by 35 participants, including 15 hearing impaired persons and 20 youths from Batticaloa YMCA. The event was organized by UNFPA (United Nations Fund for Population Activities). The primary activity during this event was career guidance and leadership training. Accordingly, proficient speakers conducted the sessions, which were very useful to the youth in promoting their leadership skills and careers aspirations. In total 300 youths participated in the event.

Youth Development Program

A half-day youth development program was organized by YMCA Youth Club at the YMCA hall in Batticaloa. The program was conducted by Mr. Kajanthanin promoting skills development among the youth in Batticaloa District. This was a successful event and influenced the youth in Batticaloa district

Earth Day

On April 29th, YMCA Youth Club members went to a trip to Kirimichai. The trip was conducted to celebrate earth day. This trip was used to promote awareness among the public on preserving the environment. Numerous activities were conducted to commemorate this event such as Adventure activities and hiking. In the end, the event was very helpful in promoting awareness on environmental preservation, while at the same time providing an opportunity for the youth to have fun.

YMCA World Challenge

The youth in the YMCA Youth Club participated in the YMCA World Challenge, which was held in Mannar district. A total of 8 youths were able to participate in this challenge. Additionally, the event was attended by Mr. J. Jeganthe YMCA

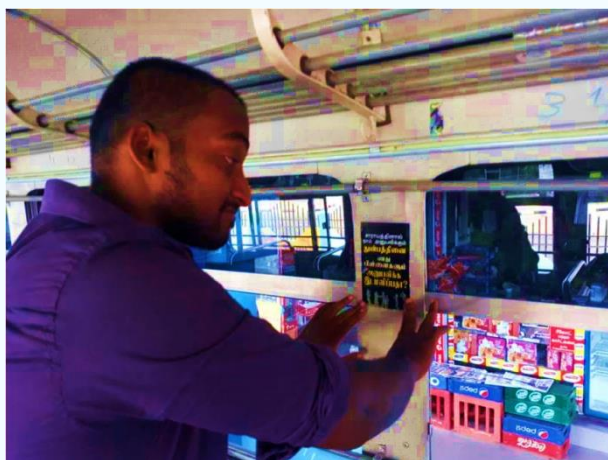


General Secretary, who accompanied the YMCA youth.

Blood Donation

The YMCA youths attended a blood donation to make the YMCA Day. The blood donation campaign was organized by YMCA Batticaloa, to mark the 47th YMCA Batticaloa Anniversary. The blood that was collected was sent to the Teaching Hospital Batticaloa blood bank. 4 youths from Batticaloa donated blood during this day.

ADIC Survey



YMCA youths participated in a survey organized by ADIC (Alcohol and Drug Information Center) on July 12, 2018, in Manmunai North division of Batticaloa District. The survey was conducted among 250 affected people. In addition, a sticker campaign was also held on the same day at the Batticaloa bus stand. Here, the team pasted drug awareness stickers on buses and on other vehicles who were willing to spread the message. The team also distributed leaflets and stickers to shops around the town.

47th Anniversary of YMCA Batticaloa

The youth in the Batticaloa Youth Club attended the 47th Anniversary of YMCA Batticaloa on the 22nd of July 2018. The youths acted out an English drama during this event. The youth also shared other cultural information and history of the region. A total of 16 youths from YMCA Batticaloa participated in this event.

Meeting with Singapore YMCA

The youth met with the Singapore YMCA Representatives on the 29th of July. The meeting was chaired by Mr. S.M Felix and Miss. V.Diana. During this meeting, the youth of Batticaloa demonstrated a cultural game – “the Kabady”, which they used to share cultural knowledge with the visiting youth. 30 youths from YMCA participated in this meeting.

Youth Meeting

Youth gather for a meeting once in two months to discuss and plan events. On such a meeting held in August, a sign language campaign was conducted, during which sign language training was given for the participating youth. The youth were educated on basic sign language, to enable them to communicate with students with hearing impairments at the YMCA school for the deaf. A total of 20 youth participated in this campaign and were quick to learn sign language. The training was conducted by teachers of the school for the deaf.

Visit to Paranthan YTC

On the 6th of August, a visit was organized to Paranthan YTC (YMCA Youth Training Center). 4 participants from Batticaloa YMCA participated in the adventure training program organized by the center. 29 participants from YMCA Taiwan and 2 leaders were also present. The meeting proved to be very useful and interactive and was a great opportunity for the youth to share knowledge and experience with YMCA Taiwanese Youth.

Meeting with Rev/ Fr. Loreo

On the 26th of August, the youth met with Rev. Fr. Loreo for a discussion, accepting his invitation on the same. A total of 4 youths accompanied by Mr. S.M Felix participated in the discussions. The discussion was held to request for provision of solar energy panels to persons living in poverty in the rural areas of Batticaloa District. The youth responded positively and have forwarded the request to the General Secretary to address the request made.

Reproductive Health and Sexual Education

The youth organized a 2 day seminar on the 4th and 5th of September, on reproductive health and sexual education. The seminar was organized by the Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka. A total of 50 youth participated in this seminar, whose themes were as follows:

- Comprehensive Sexual education (CSE)
- Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH)

Rights To Information Program

The YMCA Youth also participated in the RTI (Rights To Information) conducted on the 26th of September 2018. The RTI program included 46 youths in participation from Batticaloa YMCA. The program was held at the East Lagoon Hotel Batticaloa, and was organized and sponsored by the Sri Lankan Press Institute. The speaker for this program was Attorney, Mr. Iyankaran.

Vaalvosai School Report



Introduction

It is indeed with a heart full of joy that the YMCA Vaalvosai School thank the almighty God for the success and achievement that it has been able to achieve in its 19 years of service to the community. There are also a lot of persons that have contributed immensely to the development of YMCA Vaalvosai School as well the education of the school children. This support and assistance have come in different forms such as, financial, physical, psychological and instructional. We say a big thank you for your wonderful contributions so far.

Awards and Acknowledgement

The school organized an award ceremony for our top performing students who emerged as winners at the Island Level Competitions. Important dignitaries were also acknowledged during the ceremony for their relentless effort in supporting the school in terms of donations and other types of assistance. We had Mr. M. Uthayamumar, Government Agent, Batticaloa as our Chief Guest to Honor while Mr. S. Pragash, Regional Manager, Department of Irrigation, was also present as the Guest of Honor.



Vaalvosai School Band received new Instruments

Vaalvosai School received Band Instruments from the Word Vision Lanka on the occasion of the International Children's Day. This greatly helped to bring out the best hidden talents of our school children with hearing disability.

Annual Events

In commemoration of the 19th Anniversary of the Vaalvosai School, a Thanks-giving Mass took place at the Lady of Presentation Church, Thandavanveli. There was a stage performance shortly after the service by Vaalvosai School students and this took place at the YMCA Hall. The event witnessed the presence of President Batticaloa YMCA, District Social Services Officer (Mr. S. Arulmoli), Board Members, YMCA Staff as well as other well-wishers.

Athletic Skills of Vaalvosai School Students

The District Secretariat Batticaloa conducted an Athletic Meet for Persons with Disabilities where our School students took part and won in various categories. The highlight of the event was the welcoming of the guests by the Vaalvosai School Band. One of our School students by name H. Christina took the first position in the Under 16, 100m event at the District Level. Our School also took part in the Para Athletic Meet organized by the Federation of the Batticaloa District Persons with Disability Organizations, with the support of the Batticaloa District Social Services Department. Our School students also won prizes during the event.



Vaalvosai School Model Market

Our School students conducted the Vaalvosai School Model Market for the year 2018. Teachers of the Batticaloa Zonal schools, Primary school students, and members of the Batticaloa New Century MJF LIONS Club, Air Force Officers and YMCA Staff took part in the epoch – making event. Our School students conducted this event in a professional and lively manner as they were dressed as Sales Persons. During this event, the School students put up on display various vegetables grown in the home gardens of the students and short eats and handicraft items made by them as well.

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

International Day of Persons with Disabilities was organized by the Batticaloa Social Services Department at Miani Hall, Thannamunai. The Vaalvosai School students staged two performances. This was to the much delight of the Governor of the Eastern Province, Hon. Rohitha Bogollagama and Madam Bogollagama who graced the occasion as Chief Guests. One of the highlights of the occasion was the presentation of awards to teachers who work with children with disabilities in appreciation of their dedicated service.

World Teachers' Day

During the 2018 World Teachers' Day, organized by YMCA Staff and Vaalvosai School students, souvenirs were presented to the Principal, teachers and staff of Vaalvosai School for their dedicated services.

Vaalvosai School Oli Vizha

Vaalvosai School Oli Vizha and the YMCA Carol service were jointly held at the YMCA hall on 1st of December 2018. The event had the following important dignitaries in attendance, President of the YMCA Batticaloa, General Secretary, Board Members, YMCA Staff, Vaalvosai school students and teachers, YMCA Model School students, YMCA Youth Club members, YMCA Children Club members, Parents and well-wishers.



The Vaalvosai School Exhibition

The 2018 Vaalvosai School Exhibition which was held in the School premises was an event where our School students displayed items of handicraft made by them. During the Career Guidance Exhibition held at the MuthalaikudaMahaVidyalaya, Vaalvosai School was given a stall. The event had in attendance, Vaalvosai School students, teachers and YMCA Staff.

Stage Performances

At the Provincial level selection for Sithuru Programme held at Trincomalee, fourteen students and four teachers from our school participated actively.

Photography Training Workshop

Four day Photography Training workshop was organized by UNICEF wherein two of our School students as well as one teacher actively participated. The school students were trained on the art of taking high quality photos. The high point of the occasion was the presentation of SONY DSC W 800 cameras to two students.

Community Development Services

Our School students and teachers participated in a parade organized by Batticaloa Federation of Persons with Disability Organizations in association with the Batticaloa Social Department. The parade was intended to raise public awareness among Persons with disabilities.

The Federation of the Central Hearing Impaired Organization organized the International day of the Hearing Impaired which also had a parade march as one of the activities for the day. 20 students and 9 teachers of the Vaalvosai School also participated actively in all the activities.

The Batticaloa Federation of the Persons with Hearing Impaired organized an event titled “OLI VIZHA”. Our School students organized a dance programme, lot of School children and teachers including Vaalvosai School students and teachers were present.

During the “OLI VIZHA” conducted by the Batticaloa District Secretariat, our School students who participated at the 2018 Sithur Programme were honored.

Notably, our School students participated at the April New Year sports meet for persons with hearing impaired which was held at Kokodichollai.

Prayer & Workshops in Sign Language

The Society of the Hearing Impaired organized a Sign Language prayer meeting where twelve students, two teachers from Vaalvosai School and the YMCA General Secretary.

Our School students and teachers also participated at the Bible Conference held in Colombo.



Inclusion

Some of the past students of the YMCA Vaalvosai School Miss.Yogendran Sinthuja and Miss. Arasaratnam Thevarani who had impaired hearing were recruited to the Vaalvosai School as Internship teachers. Mr. Nadesamoorthy Nithi who is also challenged with hearing disabilities was recruited to the school as a trainer teacher.



Medical clinic

At the ENT clinic held at the Batticaloa Teaching Hospital, three students of Vaalvosai School, T. Hansika, R. Kapildev and M.N. Muafick received Hearing aids after undergoing medical examination by Dr. D. Pirabashanker.

Staff training and capacity building

- Our School teachers participated at the one- day workshop on Child Psychology conducted by Mr. Felician Francis
- Two of our teachers actively participated in the Yoga Workshop held at Theeranium Organization.
- All the teachers and Staff of Vaalvosai School participated actively at the workshop on “Building Staff Capacity” which was organized by the Batticaloa YMCA.

Services offered to the community by Vaalvosai School

- Sign Language Interpretation training
- Training for other school teachers on Sign Language
- Speech therapy



Field Visits

9 teachers, 42 students and the Principal of Vaalvosai School accompanied by Lion's Club members went on a joint field visit to Batticaloa Airport. This visit was sponsored by Batticaloa New MJF Lions club.



Visitors to the Vaalvosai School

Hon. S. Viyalendran, Member of Parliament, visited Vaalvosai School and had discussions with the Vice-Principal of the School and the YMCA General Secretary/ CEO on the needs of the School.



His Excellency David McKinnon, Canadian High Commissioner, Ms. Gloria Wiseman and Dr. Claude Goulet, High Commission Officials visited the Vaalvosai School. Their visit was facilitated by WUSC. The visitors were welcome with much delight by the School band and they had the opportunity to view some of the handmade crafts by the students.

There were other visits to the School by Staff, Head Office, World University Service of Canada, Singapore YMCA Nursing Students and CBM Officials from Germany.

Village Campaign

Lastly, there were visits to the villages of Vavunatheevu, Navatkadu, Arasaditheevu, Naripul Thottomand Unichchei. These visits were in order to enroll new students to the School. Details of hearing impaired children were collected during these visits. We receive tremendous support from the Divisional secretary, Education Department and the Social Service Officials to carry out the campaign.



Recruitment, Employment and Carrier in Tourism (REACT) Project Report



Introduction

The REACT Project is an initiative of the Australian Government's aid program under the Skills for Inclusive Growth (S4iG) initiative. The project was implemented in conjunction with the Sri Lankan Ministry of Skills Development and Vocational Training, aimed at improving skills and competencies among young people to promote their employability in the labor market.

During its inception, a YMCA Batticaloa and Scope Global (Pvt) Ltd signed an agreement for a 19-month project, which would demonstrate how an integrated approach to skill development could have positive effects on supporting inclusive skill development opportunities along the tourism value chain. The project mainly targeted the four districts of Ampara, Batticaloa, Trincomalee (Eastern Province) and Polonnaruwa (North Central Province). Through the project, YMCA Batticaloa has been able to work closely with various stakeholders including partners and employers in the hospitality industry to provide the required training and to place 250 men, women and persons with disabilities in employment opportunities within the tourism industry.

The project has also allowed YMCA Batticaloa to increase the capacity – especially of the youth in the region, to meet the skill demands in the tourism industry, which has greatly enriched the available labor force willing and able to work in this industry for better results.

Project Objectives

The project was aimed at recruiting and training project participants to fill the skill gap in the tourism industry as identified by S4iG assessment and studies. The project required YMCA Batticaloa to identify suitable candidates within the tourism sector, provide training and job place 250 individuals in the tourism sector, including men, women and persons with disabilities.

Accordingly, YMCA needed to recruit 80 men, 80 women and 90 persons with disabilities and provide them with NVQ level classroom training and on the job training, following which YMCA Batticaloa would seek suitable job placement for these persons in the tourism value chain. Through

support from its training partners as well as through the YMCA Academy, YMCA Batticaloa also sought to provide the participants with courses such as hotel housekeeping, professional baker, beautician, assistant cook, food and beverages, and front office assistant.

Below is a review of the various project activities undertaken under this project:

Project Activities

Recruitment

The project staff followed the criteria of selection of participants in the project guidelines, coupled with the timeframe provided to recruit the study participants. Accordingly, the project team sought the support of community-based organizations, institutions and key persons to guide the recruitment process. The project team therefore liaised with disabled persons organizations, the Social Services Department, women development officers and divisional secretaries in the project areas to identify suitable study participants for the program.

The recruitment process was a success, following which the potential participants were identified and assembled. To promote awareness of the goal of the program as well as to ensure that the participants were willing to be trained and employed in the tourism sector, the project team successfully conducted a career guidance program for the selected participants.

The project team also conducted orientation sessions for those who were willing to be enrolled in the program after the career guidance program. As part of the orientation process, the shortlisted candidate were given an introductory course of the tourism industry and the key departments. The candidates were then asked to select from the various training courses provided as follows:

- Hotel housekeeping
- Professional baker
- Beautician
- Assistant cook
- Food and beverage
- Front of office assistant.

The project team was therefore able to successfully carry out the recruitment process, including successful orientation and provision of support to the participants as they selected among the available courses.

Institutional Training

The project conducted trainings at the YMCA Academy and through our training partners over the course of the year. Separate MOUSs were signed with each training, empowering YMCA to conduct the necessary trainings. Prior to the commencement of the training, the course curriculum was shared with the S4iG team for approval. The project team ensured that skilled and experienced trainers conducted all the training. To ensure effective oversight, YMCA project officers assigned to each of the project districts monitored all the classroom training.

The classroom training encompassed practical sessions and theory. Our officers closely monitored the attendance of these training session as well as the course curriculum, to ensure that the necessary hours of training were accorded to the participants. The project also ensured that the participants had the necessary attire and resources. Accordingly, the project team issued the participants with

uniforms. Additionally, those travelling from far away locations were also issued with season tickets to facilitate their travels.

The project also conducted exposure visits to hotels. These visits were designed to make the participants well aware of the working environment, and to acclimatize and introduce the participants to the working environment before placement. The institutional training sessions were conducted for 3 months, although some of the courses lasted for 6 months. The following table summarized the different locations where the training was conducted.

Course/ Activity	Participant Number	Training location (District)
Male - NVQ3 Front House assistant	15	Batticaloa
Male - NVQ3 Assistant Cook	7	Batticaloa
Male - NVQ3 Front House assistant	18	Trincomalee
Male - NVQ4 Restaurant and Bar service	25	Batticaloa
Male - NVQ4 Hotel Housekeeping	15	Trincomalee
Female - NVQ3 Front house Assistant	9	Batticaloa
Female - NVQ3 Assistant cook	8	Batticaloa
Female - NVQ3 Front house Assistant	10	Trincomalee
Female - NVQ3 Professional Bakery	9	Polannaruwa
Female - NVQ4 Restaurant and bar service	2	Batticaloa
Female - NVQ4 Hotel Housekeeping	18	Trincomalee
Female - NVQ4 Beauty and Hair therapy	10	Polannaruwa
Female - NVQ4 Professional Bakery	6	Polannaruwa
PWD - NVQ3 Assistant Cook	10	Batticaloa
PWD - NVQ3 Professional Bakery	10	Polannaruwa
PWD - NVQ3 Hotel housekeeping	13	Trincomalee
PWD - NVQ 4 Beauty and Hair Therapy	5	Polannaruwa
PWD - NVQ3 Tour operator	10	Batticaloa
Total	200	

The project team conducted the training in the following centres across the 3 training locations summarized below:

- i. Batticaloa
 - YMCA academy
 - IDM Eastern campus
- ii. Trincomalee
 - BTEC
- iii. Polannaruwa
 - Vocational Training Authority
 - Marcela Salon

Work based Training

One of the requirements of the project was to ensure that the participants in the project gained valuable on the job training. Consequently, the participants – upon completion of their

classroom training, were assigned for work based training for a period of three months at reputable Hotels, Guest Houses and Restaurants in the respective districts. As it stands today, data on the work based training is as follows:

- a. 62 participants from Trincomalee districts who pursued courses in the tourism sector and who successfully completed their 3 months classroom training were successfully placed for work-based training.
- b. 72 participants who have successfully completed their classroom training in Batticaloa District were placed for work-based training during the 3rd and 4th milestones of the project period.

Employment

In line with the objective of this project to assist the participants in gaining employment, YMCA Batticaloa also invited hotel managers to get involved in the REACT Project. Through this involvement, YMCA Batticaloa has been able to assist some of the candidates who have already completed the training to secure employment with reputable hotels, guesthouses and restaurants in the respective districts. Furthermore, through the program, some of the candidates placed in on the job training arrangements have already been offered contracts of employment after completion of their on the job training. Out of the targeted 250 participants for the study, the REACT program has been able to assist 60 candidates to secure employment, which includes 10 disabled persons. Additionally, 40 participants who are still undertaking their on the job training have been promised employment contracts upon completion of their training

Coaching and Mentoring

During the 3rd and 6th months of the project, which represented the last months of the three-month programs and six-month programs, the project conducted coaching and mentoring programs for the participants across the 3 districts. The coaching and mentoring programs were aimed at introducing the participants to role models whom they could emulate, and also to remove motivational problems among the participants that could dissuade them from completing the program. The mentorship and coaching programs also allowed the participants to gain crucial advice and guidance from their mentors and coaches, while also allowing them to build strong and positive relationships with the coaches and mentors who present a strong support system and information source for the study participants.

Achievement and Progress

The project period is divided into a total of 8 milestones. At the date of this report, YMCA has successfully completed 4 milestones and is on track to conclude all the planned activities on time. Accordingly, YMCA has completed 200 out of 200 in recruitment. YMCA has also commenced training for 160 participants. From this figure, 145 participants have already completed their classroom training and have been successfully placed on the job training.

The project team has also been successful in placing several participants who have already completed their on the job training for permanent jobs in the tourism sector, across the target project districts.

Trainings conducted

NVQ level 3 for Male participants

40 Male participants were recruited and provided training on the following courses:

1. Housekeeping assistant
2. Assistant Cook
3. Front office Assistant

NVQ Level 4 for Male Participants

40 Male participants were recruited and provided training for the following courses

1. Restaurant and Bar service
2. Hotel Housekeeping

NVQ Level 3 for Female Participants

36 Female participants were recruited and provided training for the following courses

1. Front house assistant
2. Assistant Cook
3. Professional Bakery

NVQ Level 4 for Female Participants

36 Male participants were recruited and provided training for the following courses

1. Restaurant and Bar services
2. Hotel Housekeeping
3. Beauty therapy
4. Professional Bakery

In addition to this YMCA recruited and trained the following Persons With Disabilities to be employed in the tourism sector.

NVQ level 3 for PWD participants

33 Persons With Disabilities participants were recruited and provided training for the following courses

1. Housekeeping assistant
2. Assistant Cook
3. Professional Bakery

NVQ Level 4 for Persons With Disability Participants

15 Persons With Disability participants were recruited and provided training for the following courses.

1. Beauty Therapy
2. Tour operator

Micro Credit Program Report

"Economically Empowering Women for poverty Alleviation"

Introduction

The Micro Credit Programme celebrated over two decades since its launch by Batticaloa YMCA. Over this period, the Micro Unit Programme has been actively involved in furthering its mission, and our journey so far has been marked by numerous successes in our endeavors.

Eradication of Poverty

Specifically, this programme has contributed significantly to assisting numerous families in the district who live under the poverty line, through our micro credit scheme, which offers low interest and an easy payment facility. This has been integral and very timely especially due to the high number of people living in poverty in the district as a result of many years of civil war and a series of natural disasters, which have rocked the country over the last several decades.

Women Empowerment for Poverty Eradication

Besides assisting people living below the poverty line in the district, the Micro Credit Programme has also been invaluable in furthering women empowerment in the region. Through the Economically Empowering Women for Poverty Eradication programme, many women previously living in poverty have been empowered through provision of micro credit facilities.

The Micro Credit Programme has been alive to the large number of women living in poverty in the region, mostly because of being widowed by the war or heading single parent headed households with little to no economic resources or leverage.

Support for the Vaalvosai School for the Deaf

The income from the interest earned in the Micro-Credit Programme has been used as the main source of funding to support the Vaalvosai School for the deaf in Batticaloa District. The Scheme has therefore played a pivotal role in assisting deaf and hearing impaired children in the region to get assistance from the school, which is also operated by YMCA.

Empowerment of Rural Households

The Micro-credit scheme has provided loans for women living in rural areas of their district to enhance their empowerment. The women in the rural areas have especially been viewed as vulnerable, and the offering of these facilities has played a central part in the social and economic empowerment.

Promotion of Business Opportunities

The Micro Credit Programme also offers loans ranging from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 250,000 in stages subject to the repayment capacity of the beneficiaries. Accordingly, the period for loan repayment varies from ten to 24 months, depending on the amount given and the repayment capacity.

Promotion of Local Industries

Numerous loans have been given which promote the development of local industries. So far, the program has provided loans for Cashew production, Palmyra products, Mat production, dry fish production, small grocery shops, tea and food shops, cattle, poultry and agricultural production. The project has therefore so far enhanced the emergence, growth and development of these industries, which has in turn increased production and improved the standards of lives of the residents in the region.



Monthly Meetings with Village Level Mobilizers

The project management team meets with village level mobilizers on a monthly basis. During these meetings, the project management team and the mobilizers discuss the following:

- Recovery of loans
- Issues of repayment among the beneficiaries
- Documentation and Procedures to follow
- Ways of maintaining better relationships with the beneficiaries
- Ways of communication



To this end, training is provided to the mobilizers, to help them to better carry out their jobs in the field. This is as summarized below:

Training for Mobilizers

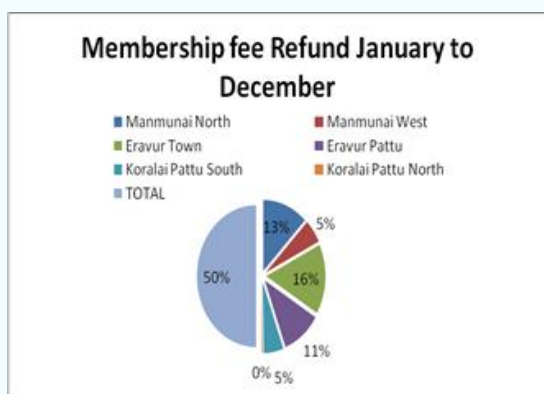
The staff and mobilizers involved in the micro credit unit participated in a training program, which was organized by the district secretariat. During this training programme, the participants were educated on various leadership skills. The aim of these training programs are to enhance the quality and capacity of



the personnel – including the staff and village level mobilizers, to help in the achievement of the goals and mission of this program. So far, many mobilizers and staff members have undergone through these training activities.

Beneficiaries of the Micro Credit Programme through the DS

Many individuals have benefited from the micro credit program through the Divisional Secretariat. This program is a government initiative, which is aimed at writing off loans of individuals who were affected by the recent drought conditions that devastated the district.



Membership fee Refund January to December 2018	
D.S. Division	Total Loan
Manmunai North	122
Manmunai West	53
Eravur Town	156
EravurPattu	105
KoralaiPattu South	53
KoralaiPattu North	03
TOTAL	492

loan Disbursement January to December 2018			
No	D.S. Division	Total Loan Amount	Total Loan
1	Manmunai North	26,521,000.00	268
2	Manmunai West	3,535,000.00	44
3	Eravur Town	23,400,000.00	294
4	EravurPattu	20,230,000.00	251
5	KoralaiPattu South	1,465,000.00	13
	TOTAL	75,151,000.00	870

Field Visits

SMCGL Officers field monitoring visit

Mr. SumuthuNathira, Mr. Gnanapragasam and Mr. VimalaratnaLiyanarachi – all officers of SMGGL, visited YMCA on the 13th of July 2018. During the visit, these officers visited Santhively and Puthunagar villages, to meet with our project beneficiaries, who have acquired micro loans through the Micro Credit Programme. The officers also inquired about the progress of the self-employment initiatives to get a good handle of the functioning and operations of the project. The officers also gave very valuable advice to the beneficiaries on how to be most productive. The officers also held a meeting with the YMCA management and project staff.



SLSB Officials Field Visit

Chief officials of the Sri Lankan Savings Bank visited Batticaloa YMCA on the 16th of October, 2018. These included Mr. Dayan Bandara and Mr. E.W Priyantha, who sought to meet the beneficiaries of the project during these field visits. The field visits were carried out in the Sethukudah and Puthunagar villages.

During the beginning of the year on 11th of January 2018, a loan agreement of Rs. 80 million had been signed with the SLSB. The officials were pleased by the fact that the entire loan amount has been absorbed in to the micro credit program, implemented by YMCA. This spoke volumes of the success of the micro credit program in meeting both its objectives and its financial obligations to its partners.

Success Stories

Mrs. SinathabmiKunasundary

Mrs. SinathabmiKunasundary lives in Batticaloa District. She is from a very poor family background. Currently, Mrs. Sinathabmi has two children, a 10 year old boy and a 13 year old girl, both of whom are in school. Her husband worked as a laborer in a mixture snack-making factory situated in Colombo. She and her husband began a mixture producing business of their own on small scale in 2006. In 2008, she joined the YMCA micro credit program, following which she obtained a loan of RS. 10,000 in 2009 from the YMCA micro credit program.

Using this loan, Mrs. SinathabmiKunasundary developed her mixture business further. She was able to successfully manage the business and repay the loan within the stipulated time. During the second phase of the business, Mrs. SinathabmiKunasundary obtained an additional loan of RS. 98,000 to develop her business, and is repaying the loan in time for each of the payment periods with the income that she is making out of the business.

She gets help in the mixture business from her husband and her mother who are now involved in the business. While the initial business was to produce mixture snacks, she has been able to develop and expand the business to producing other products such as manioc chips. To this end, she has purchased a machine to slice the manioc. The business has steadily developed into a large-scale business and it is now producing roasted peanuts, Thata, Muruku, Vadai/Pakoda and Roasted Grams. She is now distributing these products to shops around the district.

Mrs. SinathabmiKunasundry has also purchased a three-wheeler out of the profits that she has made from the business. She has also partially completed a house using the income that she has earned, and bought furniture for the house.

Mrs. Sinathabmi attested that the loan, which she obtained from YMCA through this project, has helped her to achieve what she has today. She stated that she was able to give her children a better education and meet their needs. Her husband is also making use of the three-wheeler, which she purchased to go on school hire. The income that they make from this is saved and she intends to develop the business further, and to provide employment opportunities for the young women in her village in the future.



She mentioned that the loan obtained from YMCA through this project has helped achieve that they have achieved today. We are able to give our children a better education and the needs that they require. Her husband is also making use of the three-wheeler that was purchased to go on school hire and the income earned from it is been saved. She intends to further develop her business and provide employment to young woman of her village in the feature.

Mrs. RamalingamLoganayagi



Mrs. RamalingamLoganayagi is a residence of Savukady village in Batticaloa District. She is a mother of 6 children. Initially, she used to earn income through rearing chicken. Her husband is a day laborer, and as such, their income was limited. In a bid to increase her income, she joined YMCA Credit Program in 2012. In 2013, she was able to obtain a loan of Rs. 20,000 through the micro loan scheme, which she used to improve her business. Accordingly, she bought more pens and more chicken.

Mrs. RamalingamLoganayagi was able to repay the loan that she obtained within the stipulated time. She was therefore able to obtain a second loan to finance the second phase of her business. She was awarded Rs. 50,000, which she used to build a bigger poultry shed and to purchase incubators to produce country bird, which she also reared for business. She also reared fighter cocks and was able to make a good profit upon

selling them. She is currently reinvesting the profits which she makes into her business, and plans her production according to the climatic conditions in the district.

She has also been able to support her husband to purchase cattle for his new business. The p-profit, which she has earned, has also helped her to open up a small grocery shop at her residence. She recently gave away one of her daughters in marriage and had no trouble in meeting the expenses for it. She is also very comfortable in providing her other children with proper education. She attests that YMCA's Micro credit program has helped her and her family to develop economically. She says that she will work hard to further develop her business and provide employment to more people.

Model Preschool report

Introduction

The year 2017 was a very successful year for all of us here at the YMCA Model Preschool. We are indebted and grateful of the financial support that we received from ZOA, which enabled us to launch the YMCA Model Pre School. The school has grown steadily since. We began the year 2017 with only 12 children and 3 teachers. I am proud to announce that by the end of the second year (2018), the school had 20 children and 5 teachers. We expect the school to continue growing steadily in both the number of children and the staff over time,

The YMCA Model Preschool conducted a welcoming event for the new students in 2018. This took place at the premises of the Preschool. This event was graced by the YMCA President, the Secretary General, the ZOA office staff, and parents. This report will summarize the main events and activities that characterized the year 2018, which cumulatively made it a success for the Model Preschool. These are as below.

The Annual Sports Meet

The YMCA Model Preschool successfully held its annual sports meet at the YMCA hall. The meet was attended by the Education Director – West Zonal, BEDS office staff, the Batticaloa YMCA President Mr. V.E. Dharshan, and the Batticaloa YMCA Board of Directors. The event was a great success, and we want to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to all persons who were involved in the planning and execution of the meet, as well as all those who were able to grace the event.

Outdoor Tours to the Airport, Railway Station and the Beach

The children at the YMCA Preschool were treated to an eventful tour to the Batticaloa Airport as part of an outdoor tour. The children were also taken to the Valaichenai Railway Station and the Kalkudah beach as part of the tour. The tour was positively received by the children, who were ecstatic and who also attested that they got to learn a lot from the tour. The outdoor tour was also an excellent opportunity for the children to have fun and to bond out of the preschool environment.

The Model Market

Children at the Model Preschool were provided with necessary inputs to set up a model market at the school. In performing this activity, the children and students were able to gain wonderful experience about market activities from the simulation. This was knowledgeable event, especially on the basis that it also introduced the children to commerce and trade in the market place.

Introduction to the Home Environment

In addition to setting up a model market as noted above, the children at the Preschool were also equipped to set up model houses together. This activity was an important event especially from the perspective of developing a better understanding among the young children of the home and housing environment. As part of the activity, the children were also encouraged to set up vegetable gardens to engage in gardening activities. The event played a significant role in introducing children to the home environment.

Introduction to Society

A cultural event titled “Our Country” was held at the Model Preschool in 2018. During this event, the children at the YMCA Preschool were taught about society and good habits. Furthermore, the children also engaged in group activities designed to introduce them to God rearing and to cultivate their faith in. This also included introduction to religious places of worship, establishing a sound religious foundation for the children.

International Children’s Day

In 2018, the Model Preschool students celebrated the International Children’s Day together with YMCA Batticaloa. In attendance were members of the YMCA Board of Directors, YMCA Staff, World Vision Lanka Staff, YMCA Children’s Club members and children from the neighborhood.

The children from the preschool were excited to participate in the various activities during the event, including exhibitions, various sports, stage events, dance and entertainment. The event was hosted in the YMCA Hall on the 3rd of October, 2018.

Donor Visit

Officials from ZOA visited the YMCA Model Preschool in 2018. During the visit, the officials interacted with the children at the preschool. This marked a significant event, and the children were very excited and happy to meet with the ZOA officials. This event also gave the children a chance to interact face to face with the main sponsors who had made the school possible.

Teacher’s Day

On the 6th of October 2018, the children of the preschool, their parents, and other YMCA staff joined with the teachers in celebration of the Teacher’s Day. This provided a platform for the teachers, children, parents and staff to interact during the celebration.

Oil Vizha and the YMCA Carols

The 2018 YMCA Vizha event and the YMCA Carols both took place at the YMCA Hall. The event was graced by the Chairman of the Batticaloa YMCA, the General Secretary/ CEO and the Board of Directors. Also in attendance were the staff of YMCA, well-wishers, teachers at the Vaalvosai school, students from the Vaalvosai School, YMCA Model Preschool Students, YMCA Youth Club Members, the YMCA Children club members, parents and experts. These events brought together the different members and groups under the YMCA Batticaloa organization in what was an eventful festival.

During the event, the children at the YMCA Model Preschool got a chance to perform their dance in front of all those in attendance. The YMCA club members also performed a carol song during this event. Both events took place at the YMCA hall on the 1st of December 2018.

Teacher Visits to Children in the Homes

Teachers from the YMCA Model Preschool visited the homes of the children to assess their progress and to monitor the kind of activities that the children engaged in while at home.

YMCA Academic Report

WUSC Computer Graphic Design Course

The WUSC Computer Graphic Design Course played a major role in enhancing the knowledge and skills of the children at the Preschool in Computer Graphic Design, and had many positive results. The students from the Preschool were awarded certificated for computer graphic design by the WUSC office staff. This event was graced by 5WUSC office staff from Colombo, Batticaloa YMCA, Patents, entrepreneurs and students.

17 students who completed the Computer Graphic Design Course were also involved in apprenticeship training following interviews conducted jointly by the YMCA General Secretary/CEO, the Vaalvosai school principal and employees of YMCA. In addition, Jathulan and Sinthuja – two students who completed the Computer Graphic Design Course, were able to demonstrate their talents at the Job Fair conducted by Shakthi FM, and sponsored by WUSC.

Advancing Career Skills

Course Title	:	Advancing Career Skills – NVQ Level 04.
No of Batches Passed out	:	01
No of Students	:	33
Course Duration	:	360 Hours
Course Fee	:	Rs. 15,000.00
Names of Lecturers	:	Mr. S. Jeyarajah, Mr. Rajeeakaran. N, Mr. S.M. Felix, Fr.J.Jeevaraj

Critical Summary of Certificate in Advancing Career Skills – NVQ Level 04.

This course intended to provide students on other courses with basic employment skills. The curriculum ensures development of competencies, in addition to those related to their field of employment that will enable them to work productively.

All recent studies make it clear that one of the greatest problems noted in regard to the employment of students in this sector is with regard to the knowledge of English. The need of more soft skills has also been accepted. However it should also be noted that the latest study indicates that wider cognitive skills too are lacking, in the sense of conceptualization skills.

This curriculum, which is to be used on all NVQ courses, and is advised for other courses in the sector too, is divided into five sections, which cover English as well as two aspects of soft skills. At least a third of the course should deal with development of soft skills. Teachers are advised to start

each lesson in this curriculum with an ice-breaker exercise, for instance to strengthen concentration, ensure responsiveness, and encourage speaking and self-confidence.

This course builds on NVQ Level 1 to develop career skills further. Their knowledge of English is enhanced while they also learn more about the world at large. More open attitudes are developed along with practical skills, and cognitive abilities and skills that will allow them to make connections and conceptualize more effectively. This course will also act as a precursor to one of the employment oriented Level 3 courses which introduce them to basic knowledge regarding careers in different sectors.

In addition to this course also includes a module in computing, and will require two group projects that relate to environmental concerns and sustainability as well as to enhancing social sensitivity.

Note that before the course begins revision of the competencies that were prescribed for NVQ Level 3 courses is necessary. At the end of this course students should be able to ,

- Understand and use simple expressions of communication.
- Read with understanding and write effectively at appropriate levels by writing short introductions. (self, friends, places)
- Students should understand the structure of English so as to use it effectively, with regard to Question forms.
- Students should be introduced to the following cognitive skills with regard to effective work.
- Students should develop the capacity to work effectively on their own and in harmony with others with particular attention.
- Work with computers so as to enter information swiftly and store it systematically, retrieve it easily, communicate on email, and use social media and messenger systems with due attention to ethics.
- Plan and implement two group projects, one with regard to environmental protection / conservation, the other a social service project in response to identified community needs. Students should plan the project systematically, target specific outcomes, report on progress, present results to an audience and evaluate the project on completion.

Eventually, By the end of April 2018, We had passed out 48 students, including the 1st batch with potential competencies based on TVEC curriculum as well as to face the challenges in their lives. The final examination was scheduled by TVEC on 28th December 2018 at Batticaloa YMCA. Only 44 students were able to sit on final examination and are waiting for the results to award with NVQ Level 4.

Scout Report

YMCA Open scout troop

The substratum for YMCA Batticaloa open scout troop was formed in early 2000. 19 boys and 14 girls eagerly joined the YMCA open scout troop. We have formed an inclusive scout troop with 38 hearing impaired children from "Vaalvosai School". There are 5 scout masters including 3 females and 2 males. We conduct trainings/classes on every Friday for scouting students with special monthly troop meeting.

Founder's Day Celebrations

On the 22nd of February Scouts and Guides worldwide celebrated Founder's Day to mark the birthday of Lord Robert Baden-Powell the founder of Scouting and saluting also his wife Lady Olave Baden-Powell. 12 boys and 10 girls participated in this program under the special supervision of two scout masters. There was a special awareness program conducted on the founder and Scouting.

First aid training

Mr Patkunalingham. Thinesh from ST. Johns ambulance, organized a first aid training for YMCA youth team on 10th August 2018. This attempt was to gift first aid proficiency badges to YMCA's Scout children. About 33 scouts participated in this program.

35 students from YMCA Vaalvosai School were presented with Scout Batches at the Scout Investiture Ceremony. This was part of the activities that took place during the International Day of Persons with Disabilities which was held at Miani Hall Batticaloa. The program was organized by the Social



Services Department, Batticaloa. The Chief Guests of honor were Hon. Rohitha Bogollagama, Governor, Eastern Province, and Madam Bogollagama. This event was notably the first ever scout troop for persons with disability in Sri Lanka.

Children Club Report

The YMCA Children's Camps

NCY YMCA organized a Children's Camp, which took place in Ragama Boys. Five children and the YMCA General Secretary/ CEO were present at this children's camp. Additionally, five children and YMCA Staff also participated in a children's camp that was held in Kallar YMCA, from the 27th to the 28th of August 2018.

Visit to Passikuda

On the 22nd of August, 2018, 60 members of YMCA Children's Club hosted a 1-day visit to Passikuda. Children, parents, and YMCA workers graced this event.

International Children's Day

On 3rd October 2018, the International Children's Day was held and our School students as well as other School children from the YMCA Model, YMCA Children Club and children from the neighborhood graced the occasion. Also in attendance was The President of the Batticaloa YMCA, General Secretary/ CEO, Board Members, YMCA Staff, World Vision Lanka Staff, Sponsors, Well-wishers as well as Parents. Up to 150 children participated in the event. There was a lot of games and entertainment for the children



YMCA Guest House Report

This year, the YMCA Guest House has accommodated both foreign and domestic guests in what was a very successful year. The Guest House is especially appealing to visitors due to its prime location in the heart of Batticaloa Town. This makes it very easy for our guests to access essential services from only a walking distance. The Guest House is also very well equipped, and has all the basic facilities to serve our guests. This year, we placed greater emphasis and efforts on upgrading the quality of the services provided at the Guest House.

These efforts reaped positive outcomes. During this year alone, we received 2,271 room bookings at the Guest House. Out of this figure, 203 were foreigners. In addition, we also received 38 bookings for the YMCA Main Hall for workshops, celebrations and conferences. We also hosted 80 training programs in YMCA's other facilities which were hired of the same. This represented a significant increase in bookings and hires as compared to last year. This is as elaborated below.

All the training courses of the YMCA REACT program were held at the YMCA training hall. On the same breadth, all activities by local institutions and other auspicious events hosted by individuals took place at the YMCA Hall. This also included YMCA's spiritual events.

There were also notable improvements made, taking need of some of the recommendations by the General Secretary. For instance, all the lighting at the main hall was replaced with modern lighting. Furthermore, the drainage system was fully renovated in a bit to prevent instances of dengue fever.

There were also an array of activities which took place at the guest House. These activities played a significant role in adding value to the visitor's experience.