

Sun City

3rd Quarterly Report

For 2015

NAME OF PROJECT	NO OF CHILDREN	DISTRICT
Shannon	65	Nuwara - Eliya / Hatton
Ragala	100	Nuwara - Eliya
Kannaginagar	160	Kilinochchi / North
Udappu Kulam	132	Mullaitivu / North
Keppa pulavu	110	Mullaitivu / North
Ganeshapuram Shanmuganathan	75	Vavuniya / North



Kannaginagar stuns all other CFCDPs

Kannaginagar CFCDP has progressed tremendously over the last couple of years. The increased number of children to the CFCDP has stunned all other CFCDPs in Sri Lanka.

Kannaginagar is one of the areas that was devastated by the war. The village had nothing except walls with bullet holes when the people returned from the camps. Children were scattered. There was no proper plan to fix their issues by the Government or any other organizations. The focus was more on the resettling process as that was the need of the hour. After some time, the school came in rescue of the children. They came in as a day care center for the children. Children gathered there every morning. There would be someone; most probably a community leader or an educator to tell them stories and perhaps sing a few nursery rhymes and keep them occupied till noon. Children were sent back by noon. This continued for close to a year. Thereafter, the Government appointed a Principal and got it off the ground with 42 children. The school slowly improved; teachers and volunteers began joining the school to help the children. Gradually the number increased; more and more children began entering the school. In 2013, the number had increased to 94, by that time almost all the people had returned to the village from the IDP camps.

NCML moved into Kannaginagar in 2013 and began its children Ministry in this school. As said above, the 94 children enrolled to our CFCDP; undoubtedly, all of them needing very special care. Their stay in the welfare camps definitely hadn't been comforting. They faced severe hardship and challenging moments. There were even children who had faced sexual harassment. So, it was a challenging call for NCML. NCML initially dealt with the caregiver as it certainly foresaw the challenges they will be faced with. NCML was well aware of the challenges and made sure its team had the knowledge and capacity to handle difficult situations. The local workers and the volunteers underwent trainings before they began dealing with children's issues.

Children were given the best of attention at the CFCDP. Each child was helped individually for effective results. The caregivers spent ample time with children. It also had plans drawn for the adults. Each child's home was visited. The team spent time with the parents and guardians; counselling and listening to their grievances. NCML built close relationship with the community. The community liked our program and more parents began sending their children to our CFCDP.

Children outside our program got to know the different activities taking place at the CFCDP. Parents realized that the children of this school scored more points at examinations than the other. Mostly, Children of the Kannaginagar School looked happier than children of other schools. This brought in more new admissions.

New enrollments started flowing in. In two years, NCML's hard work doubled the numbers almost beating all other schools in the village. The number increased to 160. 160 children now receive afterschool support at the CFCDP. The Principal confirms that it is solely because of the after school program. ***"Children enjoy the programs at the CFCDP NCML conducts. Many parents have thanked me for opening the doors for NCML to conduct their program"*** the Principal said and thanked for the commitment of the teachers and the local NCML workers.

Other CFCDPs.

Other CFCDPs supported by Sun City, namely, Ragala, Uduppu Kulam, Keppapulavu and Ganeshapuram are doing significantly well. The children of grade 5 in all these CFCDPs sat for the Scholarship examination in August this year. Everyone seem to have done considerably well. They receive an afternoon meal at the CFCDP that keeps them healthy throughout the day. Children have participated well in activities, both classroom and outdoor very well. Frequent visits are made to their homes. NCML meets with parents very often to increase their participation to the CFCDP.



Ganeshapuram CFCDP



Livelihood project awareness training in Ragale

Success Story

It is not an exaggeration to say that the tea plantation workers are the most oppressed and exploited people in Sri Lankan society. They are the most exploited section of the community from the time of British imperialism. Interestingly, the main sector of income generation in the economy is the tea industry; in other words, the tea plantation workers shoulder the bulk of the economy, but they get very little in return for their contribution.

Plantation workers consist mainly of Tamils of Indian origin. Most of the actual tea pickers are women and they are the lowest paid workers in the country. Their daily basic salary is only about 3 dollars. They can earn one more dollar provided they work 25 days a month. This is not enough to sustain a family for a week, let alone a month. It is the main reason malnutrition, especially among children under 5 years, is most prevalent in the tea plantation sector.

That said, the Shannon CFCDP in one of the tea gardens can be considered as one of Sri Lanka's most marginalized CFCDPs. Here lives a community that solely depends on the income from the tea gardens. In many other estates, almost all the workers have tiny pieces of land within reach that can support the family through vegetable cultivation or rearing livestock. This is for consumption and perhaps sell what's left. But in the case of Shannon, people have no opportunities for extra earning. They have no land that they can make use of. They also have other issues like, water, mode of conveyance, Electricity and nearby hospitals. The CFCDP has no electricity, and therefore the time the teachers can spend with children is limited. The children have to be sent before its dark.

Nevertheless, none of these challenges were strong enough to demotivate the children and the staff of the Shannon CFCDP. Though their limitations and challenges were many, they still had the courage to walk through difficult situations fearlessly.

The parents have never received education and the children too had no interest on their schooling. Their standard was extremely poor. The NCML local worker had to walk from house to house to motivate parents to send their children to school. Eventually the children began going to school and attended the CFCDP in the evening.



The teachers began working hard with 3 children last year, namely, Lakmitha, Dharshan and Mireesa. They began preparing them for the scholarship examination while they were in grade 4 as the examination compiled subjects from both years (grade 4 & 5). They were very confident that extra work will certainly help their children get through the exam. NCML helped the children with extra tuition materials and supported them in every possible way. All three of them are children of the plantation workers who earned very little for their family. Even providing 3 meals for their children was a struggle for these parents.

The children solely relied on the after school help NCML provided for this giant examination. In August 2015, the 3 of them sat for the examination. They faced it very confidently and were very certain of obtaining good results. In September the results were released and most astonishingly all three had passed the examination. Lakmitha with 151 points and Dharshan with 159 points have gone well beyond the cutoff mark while Mireesa gets 115 points to win a merit certificate for herself. This has stunned the poor workers of the Shannon tea garden. This was way beyond their imagination; never imagined that their children were capable of achieving such heights.

NCML met with the parents both prior and after the examination. They were tensed as to what the results would be. NCML again met them once the results were out. They were overjoyed. Though they are unschooled they have realized the importance of education. They thanked NCML and its donors for the afterschool support.

Lakmitha and Dharshan have earned themselves the privilege of choosing a school of their choice in any part of the country. The decision is yet to be made. It was the hard work and the commitment of the teachers at the CFCDP that was behind the success of these children. Together with the parents, NCML too thanks them for their commitment, hard work and mostly responding to their call.