



MGRC NEWS

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Ten years: MGRC and Direct Donation / Noon : 2005-2015 - Klaus Glashoff



Lugano/Massagno, Switzerland
June 2015

The fruitful cooperation between MGRC and our Swiss non profit organization "Direct Donation" was initiated in 2005. We were at once very interested in the work of MGRC when we visited the Centre the first time. Communication with the group of people, responsible for MGRC was very good. We got every information we needed in order to inform our donors at home. It was touching how everybody was dedicated to the goal of helping those poor ones who are not able to help themselves.

Since then we started to find people who were willing to help MGRC with their support of poor and disadvantaged clients in the villages around Trivandrum. (Contd. on p.3)



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From the Editor's Desk

“But in the end one needs more courage to live than to kill himself.”

– Albert Camus

Despite the high literacy rate in Kerala State, the suicide rate is double that of the national average. People of all ages, from teenage children to very old ones commit suicide. Reasons could be from very frivolous to very serious ones. There are instances where young children have committed suicide just because they go a scolding from parents or were not allowed to watch TV when they were supposed to study. Failure in relationships, failure in business or in examinations, debts or other financial burdens, neglecting children by parents or vice versa etc. are all reasons for people to commit suicide. Though there are people with suicide tendencies, most people who commit suicide do so at a weak moment. Most of these incidences could be prevented if only they got an opportunity to vent out their feelings to someone. There are many organizations now working on this. The Malankara Orthodox Church also has taken it up as a challenge. “Vipaasana”, a suicide prevention program of the church and ‘Shanti Helpline’ a program of the Trivandrum Diocese of the church are two such agencies working in this area. Only God can give life and only He can take it too, at the appointed time. Let us extend a helping hand to those who are in trouble.

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Psalms 147:3

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**Ten years: MGRC and Direct Donation / Noon : 2005-2015 (Contd..)**

In Switzerland we found a donor who contributed the money for the badly needed car, which facilitated the overland tours to the villages to bring the patients to doctors and hospitals.

Shortly after this, our small organisation Direct Donation decided to concentrate on educational assistance to young people who are deserving and poor. MGRC enlarged its educational program, and during the next years our support went into this project. We felt very comfortable to do this with a group including educational experts who spend additional time for meetings advising the students. This is essential for young people who don't find this knowledge in their own families. Many youngsters from 11th Standard on were supported, and many of them who otherwise would not have been able to study, got a decent school or even college education. Among them were students who were severely disabled or had parents with severe disabilities. Each year we visited the Centre, and we went by car into the villages in order to visit young people which we supported in their home. We quickly started a real friendly relationship to the members of MGRC which lasts up to today.



When Direct Donation stopped working in 2011, we joined another Swiss organisation, Noon.ch. We were lucky to be able to continue our support for MGRC even after this change. Some time ago, Noon.ch has decided to support only organisations in New Delhi (where the other projects of Noon.ch were already located before we joined), so that our projects in Kerala will be ended. The reason for this decision is as follows: Noon.ch is a small organization of mostly young professionals who spend their scarce free time for the work at Noon.ch. Out of capacity constraints we cannot visit projects both in New Delhi and Kerala on a regular basis. So 2014/15 had to be the last year of our cooperation.

Let me say that working together with the people of MGRC for about 10 years has been a marvellous experience for us. Not only are we lucky to have had the possibility of helping deprived people, but we also learned so much about India, its culture and its social structure which we otherwise would not have come into contact with. And last but not least: We think that we have won as friends a group of admirable, selfless acting people whom we would like to stay in contact with and whom we will never forget.

We wish MGRC all the best for the future, and we encourage everyone to support this organization.



Students' Orientation Program



An orientation program for the students supported by MGRC was held on 20th June 2015. In the meeting presided by Prof Joseph K Alexander, Vice President, Mrs. Mary Varghese gave the key note address. Mr. K.John, gave the Director's Remarks. The group discussions were led by Prof.D. Mathew (Classes above Xth Std.), Mrs.Mary Varghese (Std. VIII to X), Mr. Koshy Abraham (Std. V to VII), and Mrs. Omana John (Std. I to IV) It was followed by feed back from student representatives from each group and also by the group leaders. Mr. Jose Kurien and Dr.Mrs. Rachel (Philip) Jose also spoke and distributed the educational aids to the students. The aids included School bags, note books, conveyance allowance, tuition fees etc. Earlier, Prof (Dr) Philipose Joshua, Hon. Secretary, welcomed the gathering. Prof D.Mathew, Vice President, gave the concluding remarks and proposed a vote of thanks. A total of sixty eight students including sixty from Std. I to X and eight from higher classes attended the program. MGRC is supporting a total of seventy nine students including sixty eight from Std. I to X and eleven from higher classes. The program ended with lunch for all the participants.



Students' Orientation Program





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CBR Program: PMR Field Visit

This month's PMR field visit to the bed-ridden or near bed-ridden patients was conducted on 26 June 2015 to Vellanad Panchayat where five patients were examined. One new patient was also examined at Vattiyoorkavu Panchayat. Follow up with supply of medicines etc, prescribed were done the following day itself. Dr. Selvan, Dr. Diana and Dr. Ebin P Dennison from the Dept of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation participated in the program. Prof. (Dr) Philipose Joshua, Hon. Secretary, Mr. Faustin M Rajan, Manager (CBR), Mrs. Salomy and Mrs. Sindhu, Community Workers, accompanied the team.





CBR Program: PMR Field Visit





CBR Program

Number of Clients Cared for during the Previous Month

Visually Impaired	8
Orthopaedically Handicapped	207
Hearing Impaired	12
Mentally Retarded	23
Total	250

Annual Review of Clients

The annual review of the clients have been almost completed during the month. A team for each of the six panchayats, consisting of one or two Members / Executive Committee Members of MGRC and the concerned Community Worker visited every client in their respective panchayat and collected all the relevant data concerning the clients and the family. This will help us to assess the improvement in the quality of their lives and also to plan for further follow up treatment to be given.

**CBR Program**

Details of Aids and Equipment distributed during the previous month.

Sl. #	Name of Equipment	Quantity
1	Walking Stick	2
2	Extension Prosthetic	1
3	Commod Chair	3
4	Elbow Band	1
5	Cervical Collar	1
6	Knee Support	3
7	MCR Chappal	4
8	Water Bed	1
9	CP Chair	3
10	Bilateral Scale Splint	1
11	Cot	1
12	Elbow Crutches	4
13	Spectacles	42
	Total	65



Our Patron Saint

Mar Gregorios

of

Parumala

Our President

H.G. Geevarghese

Mar Coorilose



Vision Statement

- ◆ MGRC is a non-profit making society registered under the Travancore-Cochin Scientific, Literary and Charitable Societies Registration Act (Reg. No. 235/83)
- ◆ MGRC tries to bring succor to persons with various types of disabilities such as visually impaired, orthopedically handicapped, hearing impaired and mentally retarded
- ◆ Area of operation consists of six village panchayats around Trivandrum city.
- ◆ Medical, economic and social rehabilitation service is provided to all deserving persons with disabilities in the area irrespective of their caste, creed or religion.
- ◆ This is a community based rehabilitation work and therefore the beneficiaries live and work in their own homes.
- ◆ Beneficiaries are chosen irrespective of cast, creed, or religion.

Services rendered

- Counseling
- Transporting them to hospitals
- Giving medicines & provisions
- Arranging surgery, physiotherapy etc.
- Providing equipment such as artificial limbs, calipers, braces, crutches, hearing aids, spectacles etc.
- Providing finance to start self-employment schemes like tea shop, vegetable shop, petty shop, tailoring shop, goat rearing etc. &
- Providing educational assistance to disabled and poor students.

How could you help this ministry?

**By upholding this ministry in
your prayers.**

By your physical involvement.

By providing financial support.

**By telling others about this
ministry.**