

ALL KERALA ASSOCIATION FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED

CIMR, Murinjapalam, Medical College P.O., Trivandrum-695011

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2022-23

I am presenting the Annual Report of All Kerala Association for the Mentally Retarded (AKAMR) for the year 2022-23 before the Annual General Body meeting.

1. Homage to Founder President Fr. Thomas Felix CMI

I am very sad to report that our Founder President and Founder Director of CIMR Rev. Fr. Thomas Felix CMI, passed away on 11th January, 2023 at KIMS Hospital Thiruvananthapuram while undergoing treatment. The funeral was taken place on 15th January, 2023 in a specially arranged Tomb at CIMR as per the last wish of Rev. Fr. Thomas Felix CMI. The funeral function was officiated by Bishop Sebastian Vaniapurackal, Bishop Sebastian Vadakkel, Arch Bishop Emeritus George Valiyamattom, Rev. Fr. George Edayadiyil in the presence of a good number of Priests, Religious Sisters, well wishers, parents, children and neighbours. A large number of people from different walks of life including Hon. Governor of Kerala Shri Arif Mohammed Khan, Minister Shri. Antoney Raju, MP Shri K Muraleedharan, MLA Shri V K Prasanth, Dy. Mayor Shri P K Raju. Former Speaker Shri. M. Vijayakumar, Ex. MLA Shri. Sabharinath, Shri. M M Hassan, Dr. Johannes Meunzel from Germany paid homage to the great soul of Fr. Thomas Felix.

A function to commemorate our beloved Rev. Fr. Thomas Felix CMI, the Founder President of the Association and Founder Director of CIMR was held on 15th February 2023 at CIMR Auditorium, Murinjapalam, Thiruvananthapuram. Shri Arif Mohammed Khan, Honourable Governor of Kerala was the Chief Guest. The presidential address was delivered by Mar Joseph Perumthottam, Arch Bishop, Archeparchy of Changanassery. Welcome address was made by Rev. Fr. Thomas Chenganariparampil MST, President, AKAMR, Dr. KM Abraham, Chief Principal Secretary to the CM of Kerala, Dr. Syed Ebrahim, Honorary Consul of the Federal Republic of

Germany for Kerala. Very Rev. Fr. Morely Kaithaparambil, Vicar, Lourde Forone Church Thiruvananthapuram, Rev. Fr. Roy Vadakel, Chairman, Association of the Intellectually Disabled, Rev. Fr. Roy Kannanchira CMI, Chairman, Special Olympics Bharat Kerala Chapter and Dr. Glorine Gnanathankom, Parent DCMR Special School were offered reminiscences. Vote of Thanks by Sr. Elise Mary, Director CIMR. Hon. Governor of West Bengal Shri. Anand Bose also visited the Tomb and paid homage to Fr. Thomas Felix.

We gratefully acknowledge the valuable contributions of Rev. Fr. Thomas Felix CMI. AKAMR and CIMR were established and reached this stage because of his hard work. He stood firm for the growth of this Association and for the cause of the Intellectually Disabled persons till his last breath. We are indebted to him for this and we shall try to make his memory live for generations by continuing the good works that he has initiated.

2. Election of General Secretary

Ms. Mary Joseph, General Secretary of our Association had submitted resignation from the post on 12th August, 2022 expressing, her inability to discharge the duties of General Secretary due to her poor health.

The Managing Committee held on 1st September, 2022 had accepted the resignation of Ms. Mary Joseph from the post of General Secretary of the Association with effect from 12th August 2022, and recommended to place her resignation in the next Annual General Body meeting.

The Annual General Body Meeting held on 21st September 2022 accepted the resignation of Ms. Mary Joseph unanimously and elected Sr. Elise Mary, the present Secretary for the post of General Secretary of the Association. Since Sr. Elise Mary, the present secretary is elected as General Secretary of the Association, the General Body unanimously elected Mr. S. Sreekantan Nair as Secretary of the Association in place of Sr. Elise Mary.

As per the byelaw, the strength of the Managing Committee is 9 including office bearers. Since 2 vacancies of managing committee members exist, the General Body unanimously elected Shri. Joby Jacob Jose, Kavalamputhenpura, Changanassery P.O, Kottayam and Shri. Mejo G Jolly, Mejo Nivas, Saphalya Nagar, Kesavadasapuram, Pattom P.O, Thiruvananthapuram as members of the Managing Committee for filling the existing vacancies.

It is sad to note that Ms. Marykutty Joseph, our former General Secretary passed away on 8th January, 2023 after long illness at Changanassery. We remember her valuable contributions to the Association and pray for the repose of her soul.

An urgent Managing Committee meeting was held on 13th January, 2023, immediately after the death of our founder president and nominated Fr. Thomas Chenganariparampil, Vice President of the Association as acting President as per Rules and Regulations of the Association.

3. Election of new President and Vice President

The Extraordinary General Body in its meeting held on 14th March 2023 unanimously elected Fr. Thomas C.T (Chenganariparampil) as President of the Association and unanimously elected Mr. Joby Jacob Jose as Vice President. The General Body also unanimously elected Shri. K.Krishnakumar as member of the Managing Committee in the existing Vacancy.

4. Activities of AKAMR

The various activities undertaken by different Centres of AKAMR namely i) Ashakendram Normalisation Centre, Ernakulam, ii) Developmental Centre for the Mentally Retarded (DCMR) Special School, Thiruvananthapuram, iii) Jeevan Prakash Child Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, iv) Teachers Training Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, v) Agri-Horti Farm, Kuttichal and vi) Freedom Centre, Kovalam are as follows –

i. Ashakendram Normalisation Centre, Ernakulam

After two and a half month's holidays, Ashakendram Normalization Centre for the Intellectually Disabled children, reopened on June 1st 2022. During the academic year there are 68 students and 12 staff on the roll.

Out of 12 staff, 5 are special educators including Principal, 1 Vocational Instructor, 2 Special artists (Instructors for Band, Vocal and Instrumental music) and 3 non-teaching staff and 1 Physiotherapist. Out of 5 Special Educators, 1 of them is working also as vocational Instructor after undergoing certificate course in certain trades like candle making, book binding and soap and detergent making. Out of the 3 office staff, 2 of them (Ayas) are mentally challenged students who had undergone training at Ashakendram.

a. Activities of Ashakendram

Activities at Ashakendram is planned in such a way to develop the 4 main living skills like Basic living Skill, Independent Living skills, Community living skill and Employment living skills of each mentally challenged individual by improving the 4 cardinal functions – motor, language, psycho-social and cognitive function- which are seen in every human being and which is subnormal in mentally challenged persons. Through this we are trying to make our students to achieve personal adequacy, social competency and economic independence and lead a life as normal as possible in the society in which they live. For all this development, we implement the 3’Cs philosophy ie., comprehension, competency and creativity which is formulated by our Founder Director, Rev.Fr.Thomas Felix CMI after his several years of research and committed effort. We use group teaching method and IEP depending upon the need of the students.

Students of Ashakendram are divided into 6 groups according to their age and functional level for main classes, and for band, music (Both Vocal and Instrumental), sports and academics, we have different groups according to their ability in each of this item.

The main classes of Ashakendram consist of Knowing shapes(concept building), Making Shapes (Carpentry), Selecting shapes (Cycle assembling), Combining Shapes (Home management class which includes cooking, washing, ironing clothes, bed making, cleaning class rooms, bath rooms, toilet, surroundings etc.) academics, drawing and painting, craft, stitching, health and hygiene, horticulture, time and money concept, general

knowledge, sports and games (both indoor and outdoor), dance, vocal music & instrumental music(Jas, Drums, Organ, Bongos, Thabala and band.

As part of the training we take our students for outing to the nearby places like Public Park, railway station, bus stand, shopping centers, hospital, church, post office etc and also attend various festivals, cultural programmes, exhibitions and public functions taking place in the city. We also take our students to attend the social functions like funeral, marriage and other functions in connection with our well wishers, staff and students. For various reasons and occasions, we take our students to Central Institute on Mental Retardation which is our main Centre at Thiruvananthapuram. By this, our students get chances to travel by train, bus and auto, to take food in moving trains, use public toilet and interact with public etc. By all these activities we make our children understand and familiarize the cross section of the society. At the same time the society also get a chance to know our children. This will indirectly develop the community living skill of our students and thereby integration and inclusion in the society in which they live is also possible.

Vocational training at Ashakendram includes horticulture, carpentry, Cycle assembling, cooking, Cleaning, Washing and Ironing clothes, making envelopes, greeting cards, candles, Files, wall hanging, glass painting, X’mas Cards, tablemats, bags, hand wash, dish wash soaps, phenol, soap powder, Book making and binding, spiral binding, tailoring and paper plate making. The senior students of our centre are also given training in paying electricity bill, telephone bill, water bill, do shopping, purchase train tickets and top-up cards to recharge mobile phones, go to post office, banks and LIC office etc. for various purposes. Training is also given to our senior students to work as Peon, sweeper, Ayah, Gardener etc.

b. Main events during the academic year:

School reopened formally on June 1st 2022.

1. One of our student Athul Sathyan and his mother Ms. Prameela Sathyan participated in a T.V. Programme named Sreekandan Nair’s show in Flowers channel, programme conducted by CEFEE.

2. On 4th July we celebrated feast day of our Founder Director, Rev.Fr. Thomas Felix CMI. All the Students expressed their love and gratitude in their own words. Distributed cake to all students and staff.
3. Two of our staff underwent training, named “Kshamatha 2022” at Women’s Association Hall on July 7th which was conducted by AID.
4. We celebrated Independence Day by hoisting National Flag, singing patriotic song and dance and conducted quiz competition regarding Independence Day and distributed prize to winners.
5. All the teachers attended online training programme conducted by SCERT on 3.8.2022 and 28.10.2022.
6. Onam was celebrated on September 1st 2022, by making “Pookalam” by students. Students sang onam songs. Some students performed “Thiruvathira” and one of our students dressed as ‘Mahabali’.
7. Ten of our students participated Pookkalam Malsaram conducted by CEFEE on 3.9.2022 at Bharathamatha College in connection with their Onam celebration. We also competed in ‘Malayali Manka’ and fancy dress competition ‘Mahabali’.
8. On 24th September 2022, PAID conducted their State level meeting at Chavara Cultural Centre, Karikkamuri, Ernakulam. In this programme our school was honoured for the meritorious functioning of 40 years in the field of mental retardation. One of our staff also received Achievement Award for serving 35 years as Special Educator.
9. On November 14th 2022, 56 students and all staff of Ashakendram participated in Children’s Day celebration conducted by CEFEE at Fine Arts Hall, Ernakulam. As usual this year also, the programme conducted was named ‘Uniquely Me’. Many VIP’s and Cine artists interacted with our students and entertained them. One of our staff was honored in this Function. Two of our students participated in Tablow in this programme as Dada Bhai Navaroji and Shri Kelappan.
10. In respect of Anti-Drug day on 31st October 2022, all of our students, staff and parents created Human Chain in front of our school holding posters and banners against drugs.
11. Twenty-three students of our Institution participated in sports meet at Maharaja’s College ground, Ernakulam conducted by DSWO in connection with World Disabled Day, on 3rd December 2022.

12. As usual we celebrated X'Mas at our school on 22nd December 2022 with variety of cultural programmes based on Christmas, Carol singing, Skit about “Thiruppiravi” and dance. One of our students was dressed as Santa Claus and sweets and gifts were distributed to all students.
13. Our Students and 2 staff members got an opportunity to meet Honourable Governor of Kerala Shri. Arif Muhammed Khan, at Government Guest House, Ernakulam on 16th December 2022. This programme was conducted by CEFEE.
14. This year, we received Special Rice 340 Kg. and it was distributed among 68 students during vacation.
15. Two students and one staff attended Santa Run conducted by Rotary Knights at Grant Hyath Hotel, Bolgatty, Ernakulam.
16. On 27th March 2023 fourteen of our students participated in a cultural competition at Town Hall, Ernakulam conducted by Cochin Corporation. We participated in Painting, Light Music and Group song competition.

In Commemoration of the sad demise of our Founder Director Fr. Thomas Felix CMI, we offered a Holy Mass for our father on 12th January 2023 at St. Joseph church, Karikkamuri, Ernakulam. All students, Staff and some parents and well-wishers attended the Holy Mass.

Smt. Mary Joseph, General Secretary of All Kerala Association for the Mentally Retarded, passed away on January 8th 2023 and two of our staff attended the funeral on 10th January 2023.

During this academic year, 3 of our students, namely Josna Jose, Eunice Joseph and Lijo James also passed away. Some of our staff and students attended the funeral.

This year we had inspections from AEO office, DDE office, Kakkanad and from Cochin Corporation for issuing Fitness Certificate.

All teachers attended training programme conducted by AID and CRE classes, updated their knowledge in this field.

c. Special School package

The State Government sanctioned financial assistance to Ashakendran as part of the implementation of special package to Special Schools.

Accordingly, an amount of **Rs.6,94,100/-** (Rupees Six lakh ninety four thousand one hundred only) had been released to Ashakendram. Government has categorised Ashakendram under Grade – D based on the strength of the students for sanctioning Special Grant.

ii. Developmental Centre for the Mentally Retarded (DCMR), Thiruvananthapuram

There are **126 children** in DCMR School during the current Academic Year, out of which 55 are below 18 years and 71 are above 18 years. Among the total children, 75 are boys and 51 are girls. At present, there are 17 Teaching staff, 8 Non teaching staff, 1 physiotherapist and 1 speech therapist working in the School.

Regular classes for the current academic year started on 1st June, 2022 with “Praveshanolsavam” which was inaugurated by Fr. Thomas Felix, Director, CIMR. During this occasion, Fr. Felix delivered a marvellous speech.

During this academic year, DCMR followed both 3Cs curriculum developed by Fr. Felix, Founder Director of CIMR and the syllabus developed by SCERT. Classes were carried out covering both 3Cs concept and SCERT syllabus.

As part of SCERT syllabus, it has imparted online training to the teachers by introducing the new system of Evaluation Program for Intellectually Challenged Children (EPICC) to the teachers.

During the current academic year, teachers prepared development report of each child based on 3 Cs concept and group wise evaluation report of EPIC system and the EPICC evaluation report were sent to SCERT.

a. Visit of students from other Institutions:

As part of experiencing 3Cs concept of teaching methodology and interacting with our intellectually disabled children, normal students from other Institutions visited CIMR. The details of visitors from other Educational Institutions during the current year are as follows:

1. Students of 9th Standard of Good Shepherd School, Akkulam, Thiruvananthapuram visited DCMR School on 26th August, 2022 and a batch of 10th Standard on 9th December, 2022.
2. On 3rd November, 2022, a batch of 4th year BSc Nursing students of Co operative College of Nursing, Karakulam visited and on 4th November, 2022, a batch of 3rd year Nursing students also made their visit.
3. 4th year Nursing students from Saraswathy College of Nursing, Karode, Parassala visited DCMR on 24th November, 2022 to experience the teaching activities carried out to improve the mental ability of intellectually disabled children.
4. Students from Nightingale College of Nursing, Nedumangad made a visit to DCMR on 13th December, 2022 and interacted with our disabled children and experienced their cultural activities.
5. On 30th March, 2023, Nursing students from the Co operative College of Nursing, Azhikode also visited DCMR and experienced various activities.

b. Participation in “School Kalolsavam”:

Our children also participated in School Kalolsavam on 10th October, 2022 conducted at SMV High School, Thiruvananthapuram. Two students from our school had participated the programme and one of our students Aby got second prize in light music at District level competition and qualified for State level competition. State level competition was at Kottayam and Aby participated on that programme.

c. Awareness program on Disability.

DCMR Special School organised one day awareness program for the parents of Intellectually Disabled children on 1st December, 2022 at CIMR Auditorium, Thiruvananthapuram. 82 parents are participated. Ms. Jency, Director of SIMC, Thiruvananthapuram had inaugurated the programme. Dr. Glorine Gnanathankom, Ms. Kala Bhaskar and Ms. Greeshma are conducted the classes.

d. World Disabled Day:

42 Students and 18 staff of DCMR Special School participated in the cultural programs named “Unarv – 2022” organised by Social Justice

Department on World Disabled Day (3rd December, 2022) at Government Boys HSS, Chala, Thiruvananthapuram.

e. Donation of Smart Classroom for DCMR Special School

As part of Excelling the method of teaching, a smart classroom was funded by Credit Access India Foundation, Bangalore under its CSR project. The Credit Access Grameen Limited commonly known as “Gramin Koota” is one of the largest micro finance Institutions in India and supports the socio-economic growth of low income household in rural India.

The Smart classroom is an Air Conditioned Smart Classroom with latest equipments such as Touch Interactive white board, Short throw projector, Laptop, Sound system etc. The smart classroom will help us to introduce modern technology to our children and also impart training programme to the Intellectually Disabled children more effectively and efficiently. The class room was inaugurated on 1st March, 2023 by the Chairman, Credit Access India Foundation.

f. Visit to Estuary SAROVAR PORTICO at Poovar:

On 16th March, 2023, the students and staff of DCMR School made an exposure visit to a Backwater Resort namely Estuary PORTICO SAROVAR at Poovar and spent a day. This was based on invitation made by the Management of the Resort. During the visit the children interacted with the staff of resort and jointly performed singing and dancing. The children also had a visit to the sea shore. It was a wonderful experience as far as our children are concerned.

A contract was agreed upon with the Resort for conducting performing arts before the guests by our children Pratheep and Arun on the evening of every Saturday, which is going on well.

g. Special School package

A team of officials from the Department of Education visited DCMR on 6th January 2023 in connection with the Inspection for the Special Package to Special Schools. DCMR School got “C” grade under Special school package during the current Academic year. Under special package, Government granted honorarium only for 10 months to the teaching

and non teaching staff. An amount of 28,74,300/- was released to DCMR Special School.

School closed on 31st March, 2023 for summer vacation.

iii) Jeevanprakash Child Centre, Thiruvananthapuram

Dr. Johannes Meunzel, Neuro Paediatrician from Nottwill, Switzerland visited CIMR on 18th August 2022 in connection with Vojta Therapy. He was at CIMR for 3 weeks. During his stay at CIMR, he diagnosed 5 children with acute neurological problem and carried out Vojta Therapy with support of Dr. Glorine Gnanathankom.

iv) Teacher Training Centre, Thiruvananthapuram

Uniqueness of our training Center is that along with the RCI approved syllabus, trainees attended 3C's curriculum developed by Rev.Fr. Thomas Felix CMI. Trainees were given opportunity to experience various activities like agriculture, arts and music, sports & games, car driving, horse riding etc. Agriculture farm at Kuttichal and Freedom Center at Kovalam serve as a platform for them to gain life changing experiences. Trainees also got involved in various activities like early identification and interventions.

52nd batch (2020-2022) of teacher trainees successfully completed their course. The results of 52nd batch got published on July 2022 and all students secured good marks. All 21 students got placements in different Schools.

Classes of 53rd batch (2021-23) started on 20th January 2022. Due to the COVID restrictions that prevailed we continued online classes till March and offline classes started from April 2022. This Academic year, RCI revised the Syllabus of two year Diploma course and name of the course was changed to DEd. Spl Ed (IDD). Admission for the course was through All India Entrance Exam and 23 students joined our Institute. First year examination of this batch was conducted on January 2023 at ITI Kazhakkuttom. Mrs Sandhya Soonu from SIMC, Pangappara was appointed as external examiner. Results of first year Examination published on 18th March, 2023 and all students secured good marks. Second year classes for 53rd batch started on 1st February, 2023.

Classes for 54th batch (2022-24) started on 25th November, 2022. This admission was initially done through All India Entrance Examination, but later RCI announced open admission for those who haven't attended entrance examination. Hence 12 students joined this batch.

Regarding other events happened in this year are Sr. Elise selected as committee member for admission committee for Diploma course at SIMC, Pangappara.

v) Agri-Horti Training Centre, Kuttichal

Agriculture activities are mainly focussed on Cassava, Banana, Elephant Yam, Ginger, vegetables etc. Under Diary Farming, there are 3 milking cattle with a yield of 15 litres of milk per day. Among the 3 cattle, one is a rare breed namely "**Vechur**" which is the smallest cattle breed in the world according to the "Guinness Book of Records". Apart from the cows, there are four high breed goats.

As part of the poultry training, we have 3 goose and 6 ducks for familiarising our children about these birds.

a. Leasing of Rubber plantation at Agri Horti farm, Kuttichal for tapping.

At Kuttichal Agri-Horti farm, AKAMR has a rubber plantation in 50 cents of land. There all altogether 96 rubber plants, out of which 60 plants are ready for tapping. As we are not involved in tapping, it has been laying idle without income. The Management Committee held on 10th October 2022, has resolved to lease out the said rubber plantation at Kuttichal to Mr. Biju M , S/o Mr. Manual, Holy Angels House, Pachakkad, Kuttichal P.O for a lease amount of Rs.50,000/- for three years. It was agreed to pay the lease amount will be paid in three instalments, first instalment of Rs 20,000/- on the day of execution of agreement, second Instalment of Rs. 20,000/- on the very day of completing second year and the third instalment of Rs. 10,000/- on the very day of third year. An agreement in this regard had been executed by the President as authorised in the Managing Committee meeting held on 10th October 2022 with Mr. Biju.

b. NSIL project implementation (Skill development training with focus on Agriculture)

Central Institute on Mental Retardation (CIMR) initiated the skill development project entitled “Project for Skill development of the mentally challenged with focus on Agriculture”, funded by NSIL under its CSR funding on **19th March, 2022**. The project has been implemented in the Agriculture farm owned by CIMR at Kuttichal.

During the first phase, we concentrated on preparation of farm land for planting seedlings. Land preparation work in the farming areas had been initiated on 19th March, 2022 and completed by April end. In the second phase, we focused on the purchase of plants of different varieties and it's planting. We had planted 26 jackfruit plants comprising 13 varieties, 53 varieties of medicinal plants, 48 varieties of bamboo, 50 numbers of papaya and 104 numbers of mango seedlings comprising of 6 varieties, pepper seedlings and tapioca. We also initiated vegetable cultivation. A major activity in phase two was the selection and finalization of 40 trainees (mentally challenged children of above 18 years) for the skill training.

Skill training had been initiated during the middle of August, 2022. Planting materials such as Mango, Jackfruit, Pappaya, Pepper, Medicinal plants and Bamboo seedlings had been introduced to the trainees.

During the third phase, we focused mainly on imparting hands on training on agriculture such as introduction of agriculture tools, land preparation for planting, introduction of different fruit plants such as mango, jackfruit, papaya and other plants namely pepper, medicinal plants and bamboo seedlings, planting methodology for different types of plants, fertilizing, watering, removal of weeds etc. Hands on training on various aspects of agriculture skills had been carried out.

A Hand Book on the methodology for agriculture skill training (content, strategy and learning objectives) of the mentally challenged children had been developed by CIMR during 3rd phase and is in use.

During the fourth phase, hands on training on various farming activities of fruit plants, medicinal plants, pepper, papaya and tapioca had been

continued. A major activity during this phase was the harvesting of Tapioca planted during the initial phase. The trainees got an experience on tapioca harvesting. They learnt about tapioca plant, preparation of soil for planting, planting of tapioca, managing of plants and tapioca harvesting.

vi) Freedom Centre, Kovalam

The Freedom Centre at Kovalam has been working as a special school. The Intellectually Disabled children from the coastal areas in and around Kovalam are undergoing education at this centre. There are 26 students, 2 special educators and 2 non teaching staff are in this school. A school bus is running to Poovar, Vizhinjam, Balaramapuram etc for bringing the children to the school.

5. Visitors from International Organisations:

Mr. Herk and Ms. Ying Jig of Singapore International Foundation visited CIMR on 23rd November, 2022. Fr. Thomas Felix made a presentation about CIMR and its activities. A short video narrating various activities of CIMR had also been exhibited. Fr. Felix also explained the evolution of 3Cs Concept based on shapes and its application in developing the intellectually disabled. Sr. Elise Mary, Associate Director, CIMR was also present in the occasion. After the presentation, the team visited different class rooms namely Knowing the Shapes, Making the Shapes, Selecting the Shapes and Combining the Shapes etc and explained the tools used for educating the disabled.

6. Donation of Horses by Indian Army

The Indian Army has donated two Horses for the training of Horseback Riding of our Intellectually Disabled Children. The Horses were brought from Army Horse Depot at Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh on 3rd October 2022 and has stabled at our Agri-Horti Rehabilitation centre, Kuttichal. Two personals namely Mr. Chandran V.S, retired Sub Inspector of Mounted Police, Government of Kerala and Mr. Abhilash. B had been engaged for managing the horses at Kuttichal.

7. Association with CreditAccess India Foundation.

As part of Excelling the method of teaching, a smart classroom was funded by Credit Access India Foundation, Bangalore under its CSR project. The Credit Access Grameen Limited commonly known as “Gramin Koota” is one of the largest micro finance Institutions in India and supports the socio-economic growth of low income household in rural India.

The smart classroom was inaugurated on 1st March 2023 by Mr. George Joseph, Chairman, CreditAccess Grameen Limited. Shri. Ganesh Narayanan, Deputy CEO, Credit Access Gramin Limited, Shri Nibin, Regional Manager of Credit Access Grameen Ltd, Shri Arun Kumar, Asst.Commissioner of Police, Thiruvananthapuram, Fr. Saji, Kamukincode Church were present on the occasion. Sr. Elise Mary, Director CIMR delivered welcome address and Shri. Thatte Thrinath, Regional Manager, Credit Access Grameen Limited extended vote of thanks.

The Smart classroom is an Air Conditioned Smart Classroom with latest equipments such as Touch Interactive white board, Short throw projector, Laptop, Sound system etc. The smart classroom will help us to introduce modern technology to our children and also impart training programme to the Intellectually Disabled children more effectively and efficiently.

8. Association with New Space India Limited (NSIL):

The New Space India Limited (NSIL), Bangalore – the Commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development (CSR&SD) Activity has invited proposals. Accordingly a proposal entitled “Empowering the mentally challenged through Hippo Therapy” had been prepared and submitted by CIMR.

Horseback riding is a unique and highly successful initiative of CIMR. Riding a Horse by an intellectually disabled person is unbelievable for a normal human being. It was made possible through rigorous skill training and continuous handholding support provided by our Institute.

With a view to cater faster development of intellectually disabled children, CIMR initiated Horseback riding. The rocking and rhythmic motion of horse riding gives the students to stimulate various and different sensors of body and brain simultaneously, which is highly regarded as therapeutic. Horse riding has not only provided them physical agility, but also the much needed mental attributes confidence and comfort too. This activity remains the pride of our students providing them valuable experiences and fond memories for ever. The purpose is to give the students ‘courage & confidence’ that they can lead a fierce horse by holding the rein with a definite length and strength.

It has proved that the horseback riding and allied training programs will improve the motor and intellectual development especially the children suffering from Cerebral Palsy. The objectives of the proposal are as follows.

- The main objective is to impart Horseback riding training to the intellectually disabled children who undergo special education at DCMR Special School.
- To improve the motor and intellectual development of intellectually disabled children.
- To improve the courage and confidence among the intellectually disabled children.

The estimated cost of the proposed project is Rs. 6,00,000/- (Rupees Six Lakhs). NSIL approved the project and an MoU was executed on 22nd December, 2022.

9. School Bus for DCMR Special School under MPLAD Scheme.

Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Hon'ble M.P of Thiruvananthapuram Constituency has recommended for the supply of a new school bus for our DCMR Special School under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), an agreement was executed with the District Authority, Thiruvananthapuram for this purpose. The proceeding for the release of the bus is under process.

10. Special Package for Special Schools

State Government has accorded sanction to implement a special package for the Special schools of mentally challenged children in the State, vide G.O. NoM1/51543/2022/DGE dated 31-03-2023. For implementing the special package, the Government has graded the Special schools into four categories namely Grade A, B, C and D based on the strength of the students in the school. Accordingly, our DCMR School comes under Grade -C and Ashakendram at Kochi under Grade -D. The financial support and number of posts sanctioned varies depending on the Grade and the Government released the grant for the year 2022 -2023 during March 2023.

Since, DCMR School comes under the category of Grade -C, the Government sanctioned an amount of Rs 28,74,300/- and Ashakendram comes under D Grade and an amount of Rs. 6,94,100/- has been sanctioned as grant.

11. Adjusting long pending unsecured loans obtained from the well wishers

The Audit Firm of AKAMR has informed that there is a long list of pending unsecured loans and sundry credits to be paid it was received from the well wishers of AKAMR. Normally huge amount of liability in the Audit report may badly affect the goodwill of the Organisation among the outsiders, especially the funding agencies. AKAMR which was established in 1980 has been functioning with the financial support from its well wishers apart from nominal Government Grant. In extreme situations AKAMR had been compelled to borrow money from our well wishers by personal means and the borrowed amounts remain unclaimed for years together. The Financial Department of AKAMR has prepared a list of such long pending loans / sundry credits amounting to Rs. **45,05,862.41**. The Managing Committee held on 13th May 2023 decided to write off long pending loans.
