

ALL KERALA ASSOCIATION FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED (AKAMR)

BRIEF NOTE ON ACTIVITIES

I. Introduction

The All Kerala Association for the Mentally Retarded (AKAMR) is a non-profit, social service organization founded in the year 1980 by Reverend Father Thomas Felix CMI, who devoted his entire life in mainstreaming the intellectually challenged children. Its objective is to work for the total development of the persons with disabilities with special focus on intellectually challenged children and to promote awareness among the parents and the public for an inclusive development by acquiring, evolving and disseminating information. It works closely with the families of the intellectually challenged, professionals working in this field and various Governmental and non governmental Agencies.

Central Institute on Mental Retardation (CIMR) is the executive wing of AKAMR with its Administrative Office at Murinjapalam, near Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram.

Vision

“To reach out the persons with disabilities to enable them to develop into a total person to live with all human rights through integration with family and community. We strongly believe that Less ability does not make a Lesser Human being”.

Mission

To equip the persons with disabilities to live with self-reliance by enhancing their skills and levels of confidence through holistic and enriching education by evolving special education tools and through community participation.

Strategy

The strategy of the organization is to work closely with the families of the persons with disabilities, professionals working in this field and various Governmental agency. CIMR has attained the pre-eminent position as a National Resource Centre, through its committed service for the “poorest of the poor”. CIMR has always encouraged and promoted more of “Home Based” and “Community based” rehabilitation programmes for the persons with disabilities which is centered around the mother and the child.

II. AKAMR – its Activities

Since its inception, the Institute is working for the holistic development of the persons with disabilities with special focus on the intellectually challenged persons through a series of activities such as special education, vocational training, rehabilitation programs etc. Besides regular education, the children in the Institute are undergoing training in various areas like dance, musical instruments, horse riding, car driving, cycle repairing, automobile mechanism, agriculture, fish & poultry farming, computer education etc. The institute runs two Special Schools- Asha Kendram at Ernakulam and DCMR at Trivandrum, Teacher Training Institute, Freedom Center for performing arts and an Agriculture Training center.

Activities of AKAMR

Second Commemoration day of Rev. Fr. Thomas Felix CMI

The second commemoration day of Rev. Fr. Thomas Felix CMI was observed on Saturday 11 January 2025. It is two years since Fr. Felix left us for his eternal abode. In his spiritual presence we are continuing his legacy and our children experience him as his tomb and lively portrait is in front of them. The absence of his living presence is great void which has affected the whole life of CIMR and we are trying to overcome this great gap.

The second death anniversary was observed with prayers and commemoration meeting. Holy Mass and special prayers at the tomb were offered at 9:30 a.m. Rev. Fr. Roy Mathew Vadakel, director of Asha Nilayam Special School, Ponkunnam and the Chairman of PAID celebrated the Holy Mass.

The commemoration meeting started at 11:30. His Excellency the Governor of West Bengal Dr. C. V. Ananda Bose IAS was the chief guest of the programme. Thiruvananthapuram Corporation Deputy Mayor Shri P. K. Raju presided over the meeting and Rev. Sr. Celia FCC, the Mother Provincial of FCC Sanjoe Province Thuckalai participated as the special Guest. Fr. Thomas C.T, the Executive Director of CIMR and president of AKAMR welcomed the guests and the participants. Rev. Sr. Elise Mary, the Director of CIMR proposed the vote of thanks.

In his address, the chief guest, Dr. C. V. Ananda Bose was very rhetoric about his association with Fr. Felix and the inspiration that he received from him. He said that he came in contact with Fr. Felix at the age of seventeen. He said that he was inspired by Fr. Felix on several occasions and he learned many lessons from him which he still practices in his life. He mentioned several occasions in which he had interactions with Fr. Felix where he proved that nothing is impossible in life. He was successful in bringing out the best from the intellectually challenged children which many others thought was impossible. He said about Fr. Felix that his enthusiasm was infectious. His involvement was such that it inspired many. He always stood for justice and truth and he fought vehemently for that. He was a very good example for everyone to follow. “Many are called, few are chosen”. Fr. Felix was one of the specially chosen person who accomplished the special call.

The Hon'ble Governor graciously announced an award, "Governor's Award of Excellence" to Rev. Sr. Elise Mary of CIMR for her outstanding works for the downtrodden intellectually challenged children. The award carries a citation and a cash prize of Rupees One lakh. The award will be given later.

Shri P. K Raju, the Deputy Mayor fondly remembered Fr. Felix and he said that Fr. Felix was a very special person who loved the marginalized and worked for them. We are indebted to him who proved that serving the suffering society is our responsibility.

Fr. Thomas Felix CMI Memorial Awards Presented

The second commemoration day of Fr. Felix was marked with presentation of two awards in honour of Fr. Felix. CIMR instituted two awards as a memorial of Fr. Felix so that his services are always remembered. The proposals for the awards were called for in June 2024. The selection committee appointed by CIMR scrutinized the proposals and suggested three each names from each category after thorough study.

The first award "Fr. Thomas Felix CMI Memorial Award for the Best Institution Working for the Intellectually Challenged Children" was given to 'Asha Nilayam Special School' Ponkunnam. The award received by its Director, Rev. Fr. Roy Mathew Vadakel from the Chief Guest Dr. C. V Ananda Bose. The award was given to them based on their meritorious services for the children and their contribution to the field of intellectual disability.

The second award "Fr. Thomas Felix CMI Memorial Award for Outstanding Individual Working for the Intellectually Challenged Children" was awarded to Sr. Mary Tom FCC from Assissi Vidyalaya, Chenamcode, Kanyakumari (Dt) Tamil Nadu for her committed services for the intellectually challenged children in the past 34 years. Sr. Mary Tom received the award from the hands of the Chief Guest.

Both the awards included a cash award of Rs. 50,000/-, memento and a citation. These two awards will be given every year on the commemoration day of Fr. Felix to selected institution and individual. The first award is sponsored by the family members of Fr. Felix and the second by the well wishers of CIMR.

AHR Farm Kuttichal

Agricultural- Horticultural Rehabilitation Farm at Kuttichal was active this year. The whole farm land was ploughed and many new fruit trees were planted. Short term cultivation like bananas, tapioca and vegetables also were planted.

DCMR students were taken there occasionally for training in agriculture and for horseback riding. The students enjoyed their time in the agriculture farm and it was a learning experience for them. The teacher trainees also visited the farm along with the students.

Inauguration of Soliarization project

‘ACSIA solutions’ company has installed solar energy panels at CIMR to reduce electricity charges as part of their CSR commitment. A 10 kw solar energy plant is installed and the work is completed. It was officially inaugurated on 10th September 2024 by the Honorable finance Minister of Kerala, Shi. K. N Balagopal. The honorable minister appreciated the activities of CIMR and he said that he was aware of it through Fr Felix. He thanked ACSIA Solutions Company and invited them to continue their support to their social commitment. We are thankful to the company. This company is developing software for Motor vehicles and this initiative clearly expresses their social commitment. The students of DCMR presented beautiful cultural programmes which were appreciated well by the dignitaries.

CIMR Participates in Ability Fest, Sadgamaya

CIMR participated in a four days exhibition (Ability Fest) which was named ‘Sadgamaya’ at Angels Village Ponkunnampuzha, Kottayam which was organized from 23 to 26 January 2025. It was meant to create awareness on disability and special education and to showcase the abilities of the intellectually challenged persons. The exhibition was visited by thousands of people and it was a grand success. A group of students along with the staff from CIMR put up an exhibition stall at the venue with the products of DCMR students and CIMR publications.

On 26th, a group of students and staff from CIMR visited the exhibition and understood the details exhibited there. They participated in the concluding programme also. During the concluding of sadgamaya Sr. Elise was honored for her long 52 years of service in the field of intellectual disability. She received the memento at the hands of Shri V N Vasavan, the Hon’ble Minister for *Ports and Cooperation* and Minister for Devaswoms, Government of Kerala.

Dr. Johannes Meunzel Visits CIMR

Dr. Johannes Meunzel visited and he spent two weeks at CIMR. During this visit he examined a few children at DCMR and guided the parents.

On 15th March he conducted a workshop at Navjeevan Physiotherapy College Nalanchira, Trivandrum for the final year and P.G students of Physiotherapy. Dr. Johannes explained about Vojta system of early diagnosis and Sr. Merlin FCC introduced Vojta physiotherapy.

Similarly on 19th March Dr. Johannes conducted a workshop for doctors at jubilee Mission Hospital at Thrissur on early diagnosis.

The various activities undertaken by different centers of AKAMR are as follows –

i. ASHAKENDRAM

After two months' holidays, Ashakendram Normalization Centre reopened on June 3, 2024. During the academic year we had 61 students and 13 staff on the roll.

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 skill, Community living skill and Employment living skill of each intellectually challenged individual by improving the 4 cardinal functions – Motor, language, psycho-social and cognitive function- which are seen in every human being and which are underdeveloped in intellectually challenged persons. Through this we are trying to make our students 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 i.e., comprehension, competency and creativity which is formulated by Rev. Fr. Thomas Felix CMI, our Founder Director, after his several years of research and committed effort. We use group teaching method and IEP depending upon the need of the students. As majority of the students, at present are adults, we are concentrating on vocational training so that we can help them in their rehabilitation.

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 embroidery. The senior students of our centre are also given training in paying electricity bill, telephone bill, water bill, do shopping, purchase train tickets and 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.

Main events of the academic year:

This year our students participated in so many programs by various institutions and organizations. Details about the various programs attended and special events are given below.

1. Academic year started on 3rd June, 2024.
2. General body of parents was conducted on 7th June. In this meeting, election of PTA members was held.
3. On 27th July, an eye camp was conducted by Susrutha Hospital at Ashakendram. Almost all our students, parents and staff attended this camp. On the same day a team from Sharaf Hospital, Ravipuram, also conducted a camp to do blood tests for all our students, staff and parents.

4. As usual, this year also we celebrated Independence Day at school. Our ward Councilor Mrs. Padmaja Menon hoisted the national flag, Mrs. Lekha, District Secretary of BJP, presided over the function
5. On 16th August, members of Inner wheel Greater Cochin visited Ashakendram.
6. On 12th September, we celebrated Onam at our school in a traditional way. Ward councilor Mrs. Padmaja Menon, Executive Director Fr. Thomas C.T, Director Sr. Elise Mary, Mr. Joseph Kurichiaparambil, Mr. Joby etc. were our guests. Our students sang onapattu and also made pookkalm. Onam lunch was served for all.
7. 3 students from Rajagiri College, Kalamassery done internship at Ashakendram for one month from October 1st as part of their training programme.
8. On 1st October, we celebrated Gandhi Jayanthi at school by cleaning class rooms and school premises. We also conducted painting competition and quiz programme related to that day.
9. We conducted sports day at school on October 24th. We made all our students to participate in the sports competition and distributed prizes to the winners.
10. On 1st November, one of the happiest moment happened at Ashakendram. Inauguration of lift to 1st floor done by Rev Fr. Mthews Kiriyanthan. The function was presided over by Sr. Elise Mary, Executive Director of Ashakendra. Rev. Fr. Thomas. C. T, Padmaja Menon, Mrs. Sushila Kuriachan, Mrs. Renu Kuriachan, legal advisor of Trans Asian Shipping Agency etc. were our other distinguished guests. Lift work was sponsored by Trans Asian Shipping Agency, Kakkanad as part of their CSR Fund
11. As usual, CEFFE conducted children's day celebration on 14th November at Fine Arts Hall, Ernakulam for the mentally challenged students of special schools in Ernakulam district. 48 of our students, 25 parents and all staff participated in this programme. Cine artists and many other VIPs interacted with our students and entertained them.
12. Maintenance work of roof sheet at 1st floor was done by API (Association of Physicians of India) in December last week, which was great relief to us.
13. On 12th December, 10 of our students participated in carol singing competition at YMCA, Ernakulam which was conducted by YMCA.
14. One of our student, AmshikBashi got a chance to participate in Marathon conducted by Rajagiri collage, Kalamassery on 14th December.
15. 5 of our students and two staff participated in a programme named 'A Day to Remember' conducted by Stallions Group and FISAT, Engineering college at MG Hall, Aluva on 14th December. The programme was mainly for interaction between regular school students and mentally challenged students and to entertain with cultural programmes and games. Engineering college students and staff of FISAT

welcomed our students, with cultural programmes and fun games they entertained our students, prizes and gifts were given to all and it was really a wonderful day to remember.

16. Remembrance of our Director Rev. Fr. Thomas Felix CMI was held on 11th January 2025 at CIMR, Thiruvananthapuram on his 2nd Death Anniversary. All staff and 5 of our students attended the function and paid homage to him.
17. On 18th December, we celebrated Christmas at our school. As usual we made crib, decorated Christmas tree, sang carols and a skit was played by our students about the story of birth of Jesus Christ.
18. B.Sc. psychology students from St Theresa's College, Ernakulam celebrated their Christmas with our students on 19th December at Ashakendram.
19. On 22nd February, we conducted one-day picnic to Bhoothathankettu and Thattekkadu bird life sanctuary. 28 students, 14 parents and all staff went for the picnic. Everyone enjoyed the day as special.
20. A team of 19 members including students, staff and parents supported the strike which was organized by AID, PAID and MAID against Govt on 19th January, held at Thiruvananthapuram Secretariat.
21. On 27th March we celebrated 45th Annual day in a grand manner. Mrs. Padmaja Menon, ward councilor, Fr. Thomas Changanariparampil, President AKAMR, Sr. Elise Mary General Secretary Ashakendram were our distinguished guests. All our students got an opportunity to show their talents on this occasion. In this occasion, a water cooler was donated to us by Bank of India, Ravipurambrach, Ernakulam.

As part of their outreach programme aimed at identifying the specific needs of special schools in Ernakulam district, K Chittilappilly Foundation - *Helping Hands, Changing Lives*, Kakkanad, Thrikkakara P.O. has donated an amount of 12 lakhs towards the day to day activities of Ashakendram, which was a great relief for our financial crisis.

Parents Meeting

We conducted parents meeting once in every 3 months to discuss about their children's development.

The Financial assistance by the state of Kerala, since 2008-09 was a great relief to us for the smooth functioning of our institution. Since 2023-24 financial year, we didn't get any assistance from the state, since the govt. fixed the tariff i.e., special schools should have 20 students below 18 years of age. We have only 4 students for this financial year.

All the achievements of Ashakendram are due to the effective guidance of our Founder director Rev. Fr. Thomas Felix CMI, the whole hearted support of the managing committee and the committed effort of the staff of Ashakendram and co-operation of our parents. We also remember the noble hearted people who are supporting us by giving their valuable suggestion, guidance, time, money, material and good will. We acknowledge our gratitude to all our well wishers who have helped us directly or indirectly. We hereby conclude our report by bowing our head to the Almighty for the abundant blessings showering on us.

ii. DCMR SPECIAL SCHOOL

With hearts filled with reverence, we offer our deepest respects to the luminous and cherished memory of the honorable Father Thomas Felix CMI, our guiding light who has departed from our midst. His wisdom and care continue to inspire us. Following the irreplaceable loss of the esteemed Father Felix, the academic year 2024-25 at DCMR School unfolded with remarkable success under the leadership of Fr. Thomas and Sr. Elise Mary. Their commitment has ensured the smooth continuation and progress of our mission.

Throughout this academic year, we were immensely fortunate to receive exceptional cooperation and unwavering support from the parents and guardians of our students. Their partnership has been invaluable in fostering a positive learning environment. Furthermore, numerous other compassionate individuals and esteemed organizations generously contributed to our various initiatives, enriching the lives of our students. The school year commenced on the third of June, marked by new beginnings and renewed hope. A total of 127 students, each with unique potential, embarked on their learning journey across our diverse educational groups: Pre-Primary, Primary, Secondary, Pre-Vocational, and Vocational. Here, they received specialized training tailored to their individual needs and aspirations.

For those children who are facing significant challenges, online classes and Home-Based Rehabilitation program were provided. Additionally, therapists visited homes to deliver necessary therapies. In school, classes were conducted following the 3Cs educational method alongside the SCERT syllabus, ensuring that every child had access to all classes.

Beyond special education, therapies such as Speech Therapy, Physiotherapy, and Montessori Therapy were also offered. Training was imparted in Dance, Instrumental Music, Vocal Music, Yoga, Exercise, Craft, and various sports items. Moreover, the Vocational training provided students with diverse learning opportunities.

This year, we were privileged to welcome numerous visitors who came to witness and understand the impactful work being carried out at our school. Their presence and interest reaffirmed our commitment. Additionally, a significant number of students from various educational institutions and fields visited us to gain practical training and insights into our specialized methods. This exchange of knowledge and experience is invaluable. Our own

students and dedicated teachers actively participated in a wide array of external programs and training sessions, broadening their horizons and bringing back new perspectives. Detailed information regarding these enriching experiences is narrated below:

- The school year commenced on third of June, 2024, with a vibrant Entrance Festival, symbolizing a welcoming start for all our students. Esteemed members of our Residence Association and enthusiastic parents actively participated in this joyous occasion, fostering a strong sense of community from the very beginning. Notably, our midday meal program was also started on the same day, ensuring the nutritional well-being of our students. The Entrance Festival was celebrated with great enthusiasm and meticulous planning under the guidance of Fr. Thomas and Sr. Elise Mary.
 - On the fifth of June, we observed World Environment Day with enthusiastic participation from the entire school community. Under the leadership of Fr. Thomas, the day was commemorated in a meaningful and comprehensive manner. Students actively engaged in planting saplings, nurturing a connection with nature. Furthermore, they were educated about the critical importance of environmental conservation, instilling in them a sense of responsibility towards our planet.
 - In a heartwarming gesture of community support and engagement, the staff members from the BSNL office, where the mother of Sarang (a student of our school) is employed, organized a delightful musical program for everyone at DCMR. This thoughtful initiative not only provided entertainment but also allowed them to spend valuable and joyful time interacting with our students and staff, fostering connections and creating cherished memories.
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- The school was honored by the visit of the esteemed Kerala Finance Minister, Shri. K. N. Balagopal. On September 10, 2024, the hon'ble minister inaugurated the solar energy panel system installed at the school by Acsia Technologies. During his visit, he commended the activities of DCMR and expressed his sincere appreciation for Acsia Technologies' socially responsible contribution. He also encouraged continued support for the institution in similar endeavors. The CEO and team members of Acsia Technologies were present on this significant occasion.
 - On November 23, 2024, a dedicated medical team from the eye hospital conducted comprehensive vision screenings for the children of DCMR and other attendees, providing essential guidance and recommendations.
 - Second-year Psychology students from Christ Nagar College undertook an educational visit to the school. They observed and gained a thorough understanding of the school's operations and the progress of the students. They also provided insightful explanations regarding the various activities undertaken by the school.
 - Nursing students from Rukmini Nursing College and Azhikode Cooperative Nursing College visited the school as part of their academic engagement.
 - Children from Akkulam Good Shepherd School also visited the school, where they had the opportunity to observe and understand its various activities.

- In commemoration of Independence Day, the school organized a quiz competition for the children, followed by a prize distribution ceremony on August 14th to recognize their achievements.
- Teachers' Day was celebrated with great respect and enthusiasm on September 5th. During the event, the dedicated teachers and staff members of DCMR were felicitated under the guidance of Fr. Thomas and Sr. Elise. Adding to the joyous occasion, Lourdes Matha Care Center generously provided a delicious Onam feast for both the students and the teachers.
- The festival of Onam was celebrated vibrantly at the DCMR school on September 13th. The esteemed District Collector, Smt. Anukumari Madam, graced the occasion as the chief guest. The talented children presented a diverse range of cultural performances. Impressed by their abilities, the Collector encouraged the young performers and lauded the teachers who nurture their talents. A traditional Onam feast was also arranged for the children.
- An insightful workshop titled "Xceptional Learning – Technology-related learning for differently-abled children" was conducted by the Xceptional Learning team on October 1st for parents and teachers. This session aimed to integrate technology with conventional teaching methods, providing educators with valuable knowledge about technology-based education.
- Demonstrating a commitment to collaboration and feedback, the school held three productive parents' meetings in the year to review and evaluate the ongoing activities of DCMR.
- The students and staff participated in the procession and other activities organized by District Social Welfare Department at Govt. Women's college Thiruvananthapuram. The teacher trainees performed a mob show during the procession highlighting the importance of inclusion. The children participated in the various cultural competitions conducted on the occasion.
- Teacher trainees from CIMR organized a comprehensive and impactful celebration of International World Disability Day. The event featured engaging programs by the children, and all staff members of CIMR were honored with mementos in recognition of their dedication.
- On October 11th, representatives from the Association of People with Disability (APD) Bangalore organization visited the school to understand the operations and impact of the DCMR School.
- On November 21st, staff members from Christ Special School in Bangalore visited DCMR to understand its operations. They engaged in discussions to learn about the teaching and training methodologies employed here.
- December 19th marked the joyous Christmas celebration at DCMR. The main guest for the event was Smt. Shiny Mol Madam from the Thiruvananthapuram District Social Justice Department Office. Other staff members from the Social Justice Department

Office also graced the occasion. The celebration included vibrant cultural programs and a Christmas feast.

- Starting from February 27th, digital learning classes commenced for the teachers, equipping them with modern pedagogical skills.
- This year, SBI generously gifted the school a water Cooler.

Furthermore, the children actively participated in various external programs, showcasing their talents and engaging with the wider community:

- On September 6th, DCMR children presented captivating cultural performances at "A Day with Gifted Children," organized by YMCA.
 - The children participated in CEEFI program as part of children's day celebration held at Tagore Theatre, where they showcased their artistic talents through cultural performances.
 - On October 7th, DCMR children presented cultural programs at an event held at Pothys Swarna Mahal.
 - In commemoration of Children's Day on November 14th, the children participated in an event at Raj Bhavan alongside the Honorable Governor of Kerala, who graciously distributed gifts to the children.
 - Students and teachers visited the Kuttichal Agriculture Farm and the Kovalam Freedom Centre a couple of times for enriching training sessions.
 - On November 5th, a group of students and teachers had the opportunity to visit the Kerala Legislative Assembly.
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- Children from the school participated in the Special School Kalotsavam organized by the Kerala Government.
 - On November 24th, children participated in the Sports Day organized by the Rotary Club.
 - Children visited the Science Fair organized at the Government Women's College.
 - Children were taken to Captain Lakshmi Park in the Museum compound.
 - From January 23rd to 26th, some teachers and students from DCMR participated in the Sadgamaya Exhibition held at Angel Village, Ponkunnam.
 - DCMR children participated in the painting competition conducted by Pothys Swarna Mahal and won prizes.
 - An inspection was conducted by the Deputy Director's office, department of education regarding the School Package.
 - The second anniversary of the respected Fr. Felix was organised on 11 January. The Governor of Bengal, Shri Ananda Bose IAS, was the chief guest on Fr. Felix's death anniversary. Along with this, awards were given for the Best Institution and the Best Special Educator in the honour of Fr. Felix. The staff, students and their parents participated in the programme.

- The Governor's Award for the best performance in this sector was announced by the West Bengal Governor Shri Ananda Bose IAS to CIMR Director Sister Elise Mary during the ceremony.

CIMR Teacher Training Institute

Introduction

Training teachers was one of the important activities that CIMR initiated in 1980 so that trained human resource is prepared to meet the educational needs of children with intellectual disabilities. This is the first teacher training institute in Kerala in the field of disability. Starting with short term training programmes, after the establishment of Rehabilitation council of India, it was affiliated with RCI. At present two years diploma course is being conducted at this centre. Over the years 54 batches have passed out from this institute and CIMR has trained nearly a thousand teachers who are working in different parts of India. 55 and 56th batches are undergoing training now. This year 13 students were enrolled in the first year and 12 students continued in the second year. Details of the activities of the teacher training centre are described here below:

First-Year Program Initiation:

This year the classes were started on 15 July 2024. An introductory session was conducted for the first-year students under the guidance of Fr. Thomas Chenganariparambil and Sr. Elise Mary. During the session, each student introduced themselves. The teachers gave an overview of CIMR Institute and the structure of the Diploma Course. Classes for the respective subjects began in the following days as per the approved schedule.

IEP Assessments

As part of their curriculum, trainees conducted IEP assessments, developed IEPs, and engaged in teaching during the months of September, October, and November.

Trainees completed their Resource Room Teaching Practice at Pattom Government Girls High School from January 20 for two weeks.

The teacher trainees conducted Educational visits were made to:

Kovalam Training Centre on October 18- the teacher trainees accompanied the DCMR students to Kovalam along with their teachers

Kuttichal Agricultural Farm on October 30- the teacher trainees accompanied the students of DCMR to Kuttichal Agricultural rehabilitation farm. They engaged the children in various agricultural activities, goat rearing and feeding the cattle in different groups. They also helped the children in horseback riding with the help of the instructors. They themselves were excited to ride the horse which was a different experience for them.

Psychopark, Vellanad on November 5- the trainees visited a psychology park that explains the origin and history and development of Psychology studies in the world, important contributors in this subject, various branches of psychology etc. It was a very good experience for them where they could gather very important knowledge about the subject comprehensively.

Shalom Special School on January 23- as part of their exposure visit the trainees visited a special school, Shalom special school at Vattappara, Trivandrum and they gathered information regarding the functioning of the school and various activities conducted there

Conclusion

This Year concluded with lot of activities. The children were active and enthusiastic to learn new things. All our centers marked steady growth in terms of activities, children's involvement and people's participation. New programmes were planned and implemented. The spiritual presence of our founder gives us strength towards realization of the objectives of the organization.

We are thankful to all our well wishers and supporters. Individuals, institutions and companies that support us in our journey, are our strength. Thanks to our committed coworkers and parents. Let us continue this journey together to make all our children independent as far as possible. AKAMR is committed to this cause and that was the vision of our founder.