

MANDALA VIKLANGULA SAMKSEMA SANGHAM (MVSS) ATCHUTAPURAM

1. Name of the Organization : Mandala Vikalangula Samkshema Sangham
2. Registration No. : 487, April 1994
3. FCRA No. : 010350079
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About the organization

The organization is the vision of Mr.P.S.T.Patnaik who is himself a disabled from childhood because of polio. The disease has affected his both hands and legs, after under going five operations he has to spend most of his time in the wheelchair. As he already gone through the trauma and difficulties faced by the persons with disabilities. He wanted to help other persons like him. As he was educated up to matriculation he knew about some government schemes, so he initially started to help disabled persons living in Atchuthapuram mandal. Later, with the help of some of his friends he started working in the rural mandals of Rambilli, Mungapaka, Madagula, Parawada along with Atchuthapuram. After some time working like this he formed the organization and got it registered in 1994 under the society Act of XXI/1860 and named it Mandala Vikalangula Samkshema Sangham with its administrative and registered office located at Atchuthapuram, 50 km from Visakhapatnam. Mr.P.S.T.Patnaik was elected the founder Secretary of the organization, so the organization came to be known as “organization for the disabled run by the disabled”. MVSS is also registered with

the Home Ministry under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act.



PST.Patnaik National award in 3rd December 2006

Objectives of MVSS

- To build up self-confidence of the handicapped through counseling.
- To help them with corrective measures such as operations, physiotherapy etc.
- To motivate and train parents/ guardians of the disabled to handle the handicapped with compassion and understanding.
- To motivate the community to empathise and help the disabled to be on their own.
- To persuade and motivate the policy services tailor-made, to specific needs of the handicapped.
- To strengthen and enable and disabled through education and economic programme to come into the mainstream of life as self-confident persons.
- To organize the PWD into self help groups from the panchayat level to raise awareness and fight for their rights.

Work Experience:

Initially, MVSS started working only as a liaison between the Government Department and the target group. A number of meetings were conducted to have an exchange of ideas and also to motivate the disabled to gain self-confidence.

After registration of the society, MVSS with the help of few local educated volunteers conducted a survey of the operational area to identify the handicapped persons to understand their living conditions.

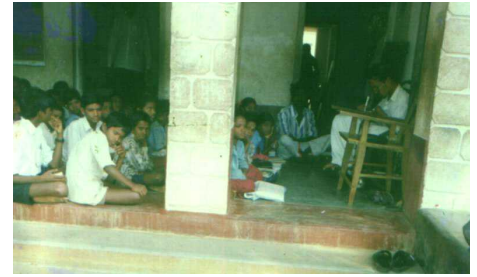
The programmes organized:

- MVSS is running a special school for disabled students named Integrated Vikalangula Ashrama Patasala in Atchutapuram. 80 PWD students are studying as residential scholars and 261 normal students as day scholars.



School Students during morning assembly

- MVSS is associated with National Child Labour Project for the elimination and prevention of child labour for the last 8 years. It had run centers in the Mandal for providing education to the child labour to be mainstreamed into schools. It had nearly mainstreamed around 1100 students in to schools till May 2006.



NCLP Center

- Running a Home Based Rehabilitation Program named Alambana for the severally mentally retarded persons living in the Atchuthapuram, Rambilli and Mungapaka mandals. As part of the program the organization is providing support to 30 severally mentally retarded persons.
- The organization has implemented an Open Well Rehabilitation Project in Salur and Pachipenta Mandals of Vizianagaram District. The project is supported by ARCDIS Euro Consult, Netherlands under the VISWAS Project. The project mainly aimed at providing safe drinking water for the tribal community living on hill tops in deep forest. The organization is rehabilitating 34 wells



- Rehabilitation of Well**
 - and in all provided safe drinking water in 56 hilltop habitations.

- Conducted survey of Disabled persons in Atchutapuram Mandal with the support of Action Aid.
- Conducted Baseline survey of Disabled persons in ten panchayats of Mungapaka Mandal with the support of CAPART.
- The organization as also participated in the State Wide Study conducted by Action Aid India for IKP to assess the socio economic condition of the PWD living in the State. The study was conducted in 16 districts of the state.
- **PRA Process in Progress**
- The organization has formed PWD sanghams in 55 panchyaths of Rambilli, Atchuthapuram and Mungapaka mandals with the help of CBR To create awareness among the PWD about their rights and various schemes available to them.



Strengths of the organization

The main strength of the organisation is the understanding of the disability problem among the poor with whom the organisation is been working from its inception. The staffs of the organisation are very well trained and have been working in the disability sector. They have through knowledge about formation of Self Help Groups, strengthening of the groups and community based rehabilitation which they are presently carrying out in their respective field areas

Achievements and Impacts of activities of MVSS:

The main achievement of the organization is that it is able to deliver various government services and schemes to the disabled persons such as scholarships, medical board certificates, concession, renewal and issuing of railway and bus passes etc. The organization has to some extent trained its field staff to assess the strength and weaknesses of the present target group to provide required skills and financial support, if necessary, to enable them to be self-reliant.

- 240 SHG are formed with PWD members in Atchuthapuram, Rambilli and Mungapaka mandals and helped in getting revolving fund Rs.5000/- from the Government to 79 groups.
- Formed Mandal Level Samkhaya in Atchuthapuram, Rambilli and Mungapaka consisting of the village level PWD sanghas.
- Formed Village Level PWD Sanghas in 77 villages of Atchuthapuram, Rambilli and Mungapaka Mandals.
- Formed District Level Federation consisting of members from Mandal Level Samkhaya for taking up the issues relating to PWD at the district level.
- Created safe drinking water sources in 56 hilltop habitations for tribals in Pachipenta and Salur Mandals of Vizianagaram District.
- The organization had taken the initiative in the formation of State Level Network named "Disabled Rights Forum" for taking up the cause of the PWD at the state level in 2005 which is at present doing work at the state level.
- 3565 Medical Board Certificates for the PWD has been issued in this year, in total the organization have helped nearly 1900 DAP's in getting the certificates.
- 3845 DAP's have received bus and train concession passes with the help of the organization.
- 125 houses have been sanctioned for PWD under Indira Avas Yojana in Atchuthapuram Mandal.
- 956 pensions for the PWD has been sanctioned.
- 82 marriage incentive for the PWD has been sanctioned.
- 230 wheel chairs and tricycles have been sanctioned.
- 356 limbs and calipers have been sanctioned with the support of Lions Club and Government of Andhra Pradesh.
- 81 cataract operations were conducted in collaboration with Shankar Foundation, Visakhapatnam.
- 124 eye operations were conducted in collaboration with Government Regional Eye Hospital, Visakhapatnam.
- 68 corrective operations were performed with the help of Rani Chadramani Devi Hospital. And prema hospital the help of satya sai seva samithi ukkunagaram.
- 65 PWD students are being shifted to other handicapped organizations running special schools .

- Vocational training for 45 female PWD has been carried out by MVSS on tailoring and embroidery. And at present the organization is providing training to 30 women and disabled persons in fashion technology.
- Awareness Programmes for the PWD has been organised by MVSS with the help of Directorate of Field Publicity with the topics, National Integrity, Pulse Polio, HIV/AIDS etc.,
- Awareness Programmes for the PWD are been conducted every three months with the government officials.

Our Staff

The staff of the organization is dedicated, trained and experienced in activities related to DAPs. Especially in conducting mobilization, awareness creation, training for PWD and formation of SHG's/ VO's/ CBO's etc. Some of the staff has participated in various community development activities with our partner NGO's in the fields of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene education and welfare activities for fisher folk.

The organization staff is also trained in PRA and other surveying techniques and has conducted surveys in the field area and also participated in assessments conducted in different areas by other NGO's. Some of our staff members were involved in State Wide Study on PWD conducted by Action Aid India, PPA conducted in Gajuwaka and have also worked for VELUGE in PIP conducted in Prakasham District.

At present 30 staff members are working in various project organized by the organisation from Community Based Rehabilitation of the disabled to school and child labour schools

Integrated Vikalangula Ashrama Patasala

The School "***Integrated Vikalangula Ashrama Patasala***" was started with an aim of providing free and quality education to the disabled students living in rural areas. The school is the ideas of ***Mr.P.S.T.Patnaik***, secretary of the organization. During the survey of the rural areas regarding the people with disability by the staff of the organization it was found that many disabled children in the age group of 6-15 years were not able to go to schools, because the schools were far from their houses. Mainly in villages there are only elementary schools and for higher studies the students have to go to other villages. It is very difficult for them to travel to mandal headquarters or other villages for higher education. The parents of the students are illiterate, so they do not gave any emphasis over education for their disabled children.



PWD Students in class room

Keeping in view the difficulties faced by the economically backward disabled students living in the rural areas regarding education. The organization decided to start a school with residential facility for the disabled students. The institution ***Integrated Vikalangula Ashrama Patasala*** was started on **1st September 1998** inaugurated by the then District Collector of Visakhapatnam **Shri. S.Narasinga Rao, IAS**, with the aim of providing free and quality education to the disabled students of the economically backward class on par to the normal students. The school was started with 10 disabled and 20 normal students from 1st to 5th classes, with free hostel facility to the disabled students and free education to the normal students with the help of some donors. The organization is of the view that to motivate the disabled students and to take out the inferiority feeling from their hearts they should be treated equally with the normal students, so normal students were admitted into the schools. Because of this integration of normal and disabled students in school the overall



view of the normal students regarding the disabled students as changed. They now look to the disabled students like any other students and help them in their day to day activities. This has helped the organization in changing the mind frame of the disabled students, they now do not feel isolated and the feeling that they are disabled is gone because of this novel idea. With the help of donors the school developed day by day and in 2000 the Government decided to fund the school. The school in 2002 was recognized by the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh from 1st to 7th classes and in

2003 it got recognition for its 8th to 10th classes. At present there are 100 disabled students belonging to all categories i.e. physically challenged, visually impaired, speech & hearing impaired and mentally retarded and 261 normal students studying in the school. There are 14 qualified teachers and 4 hostel staff. There are 4 ministerial staff. And 3 staff are on the field work. Above the staff all 70% of disabled persons

The Integrated Vikalangula Ashrama Patasala at present is able to provide hostel facility to only 80 students. Delay from the government in providing funds the school as to look for support from donors in running the school and hostel. There are many disabled students living in the rural villages who want to join in the school. But the financial position of the Organization is not so strong, so it is not able to provide hostel facility to all the students. The organization has no separate hostel building for accommodation of the students. The organization has land to construct the hostel building but needs financial support for construction of the building. The organization is only able to cater to the minimum needs of the students.

Alambana (Home Based Rehabilitation Project)

Alambana is a unique and special project launched by Mandala Vikalangula Samkshema Sangham on the eve of 'World Disabled Day' on 3rd December 2003. This program mainly caters to the need of severely mentally retarded persons living in the three mandals of Atchuthapuram, Mungapaka and Rambilli.

As part of the program the organisation distributes a monthly nutrition food pack containing rice, pulses, eggs, biscuits, oil, bathing soaps, detergent soaps etc costing Rs.200/-. The main motive of the organisation of supplying the food pack is to help the families living below poverty line to properly take care of the mentally retarded persons. The staff of the organisation observed that in the families who have a severely mentally retarded person and living below the poverty line were not able to take care of the person properly. The mentally retarded persons are not able to do their day to day works and were depended on their families for every thing. This meant the one of the

family member had to stay back at home to take care of the needs of the mentally retarded person and it led to lose of income generated by the person. This effected the economic position of the family. So some families left the mentally retarded person under the care of their grandparents and did not care about them. So to supplement their income and to encourage them in taking care of the mentally retarded person this project was launched. The organisation on its part not only gives the monthly pack but also send their staff to meet the mentally retarded persons and their caretakers on day to day basses. The staff talks to the caretakers and gives information aspects relating to the mentally retarded persons, they also help the caretakers in training the mentally retarded persons in doing some day to day works.

The project initially was started with 6 persons selected from the rural mandals of Atchuthapuram, Mungapaka and Rambilli on 3rd December 2003. The staff of the organisation under the leadership of their secretary P.S.T.Patnaik selected the beneficiaries. During the selection main preference was given to families who were from very economically backward class and who were not receiving any government benefits i.e pensions etc. The response to the project was very good. So the organisation again selected 6 persons under the project and started supporting them from 18 February 2004 on the 10th founding day of the organisation. Presently the organisation is supporting 30 severely mentally retarded persons in the project area. The organisation is thinking of extending the program to every mentally retarded person in not only the three mandals but also the nearby rural mandals. The organisation is getting application from parents of other mentally retarded persons but due to financial constrain it is not able to extend the project.

Support :- The program is supported by individual donors which is not sufficient for all the beneficiaries. The organization bears most of the expenditure on this project.

Field Activities

The organization for the past 8 years has been working in the field with the support of field staff. The organization at present has 3 field staff who work in the three mandals. The organization initially started working in the field by sending its staff to survey the villages for persons with disabilities. After taking up the survey they are provided referral services to the persons with disabilities i.e. getting medical board certificates, bus and train concession passes, scholarships, pensions etc.



Staff Identifying DAPs'

Later from 2001 the organization with the support of donor agencies started various programs. The organization first took survey of Atchuthapuram Mandal following PRA technique and started forming village level PWD's sanghas in the villages. The organization also motivated the people in thrift collection etc. The organization also provided referral services to the PWD's living in the villages. The program was supported by Action Aid India. In 2002 the organization conducted survey in 10 villages of Mungapaka Mandal using PRA technique.



SHG MEETING

The organization formed village level sanghas in the 10 villages and provided referral services. The program was supported by CAPART. In 2003 the organization conducted survey in 10 villages Rambilli Mandal and formed village level sanghas and provided

referral services to the PWD's living in the Mandal. The program was supported by Action Aid India. The organization is following up all the activities in the field area. The staff regularly organized sanghas meetings and attends them. They also visit the villages on a regular basis and hear to their problems and try to sort out them. The organization is not getting any support from August, 2003 but it is maintaining the field staff on its own. The organization is presently working on Rights Bases Approach for the rehabilitation of the persons with disabilities. The organization has formed 77 sanghas in the villages of the three mandals to work for the rights of the persons with disabilities. It has also formed Mandal level Samakhya of the village level sanghas. he organization has taken up signature campaigns, ost card campaigns highlighting the problems of the PWD's. The PWD's with the support of the organization has also organized a protest in front of RTC depot in Anakapalli protesting about the discrimination by the RTC employees in issuing confessional bus passes to the PWD's.



Mandala Samakhya meeting

The organisation as also formed Self Help Groups and helped them in securing revolving fund from the government. The staff members help the groups in opening the bank account and train the staff in maintaining their accounts and books. The staff constantly meets the SHG members for developing their leadership skills for strengthening the groups. The organisation has formed 209 SHGs in the three mandals of Atchuthapuram, Mungapaka and Rambilli Mandal.

