EDUCATE & REHABILITATE CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES IN MEGHALAYA, INDIA

PROJECT REPORT: DECEMBER 2018



By-

Bethany Society, Lady Veronica Lane, Laitumkhrah, Shillong, Meghalaya – 793003, India

SUMMARY

Name of Organization	Bethany Society
Title of Proposed Project	EDUCATE & REHABILITATE CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES IN MEGHALAYA, INDIA
Location of Implementation	Meghalaya, India
Organization Address	Bethany Society, Lady Veronica Lane, Laitumkhrah, Shillong , Meghalaya-793003
Organization URL	www.bethanysociety.org
Contact Person	Mr. Carmo Noronha (Executive Director) Ph.- 9436119808 Email: bethanyngo@rediffmail.com



Summary

Bethany Society aims to provide safe accommodation and opportunity for quality inclusive education to 110 children and young persons with disability belonging to marginalized and remote areas of Meghalaya, India where they are deprived of access to education or skill-training. These children come from extremely poor & deprived backgrounds. The goal thus is creating equal access to opportunities for education and employment for these 110 young people with disabilities living in Bethany Society.

MAJOR APPROACHES TO ACHIEVE THE SAME

Inclusive Education in Meghalaya:

Jyoti Sroat School, Shillong (A Unit of Bethany Society) is an inclusive school providing educational and mainstreaming opportunities to vulnerable groups which include children with disabilities, children without disabilities and children from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds. These children study together in the same classroom facilitated by teachers who are specially trained. Established in 1993 as the first school for the visually impaired in Shillong, from 2006 onwards, Jyoti Sroat School is evolving into an inclusive school offering educational opportunities to ALL children.

The school is recognized by **Meghalaya Board of Secondary Education (MBOSE)** and accredited with **National Institute for Open Schooling (NIOS)** and offers services right from Early Education to Senior Secondary (10 + 2) level**. Currently JSS promotes inclusion of 240 children with and without disabilities.**

Learn more about Jyoti Sroat School here
Video: Watch more about Jyoti Sroat School here



Jyoti Sroat School Campus



Early Education Unit





Multi-Sensory Learning through Innovative Teaching-Learning Materials

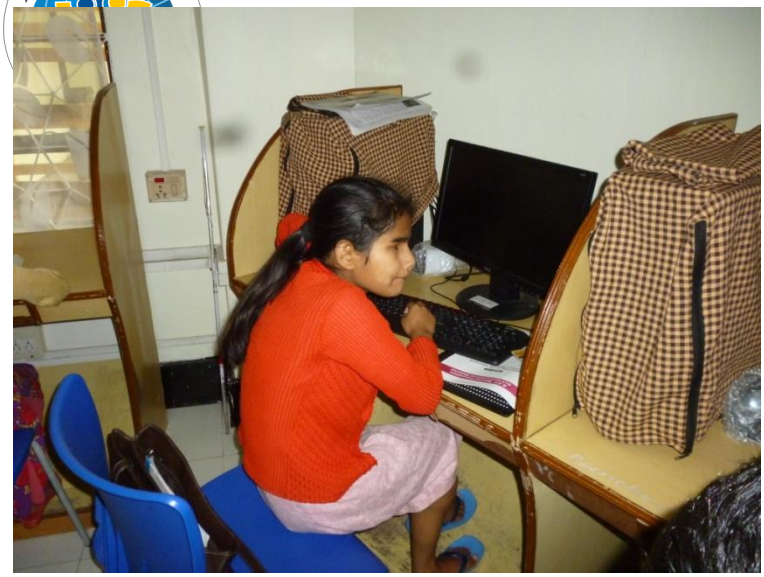


Classroom Learning

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Early Intervention Service



Computer Centre for the Visually Impaired



Inclusive Sports

Divine Flame Hostels for Independent Living

The main thrust of the program is to provide hostel facilities for persons with disability from remote rural areas and to some of those from neighbouring states. Students residing in the hostel can avail of educational, vocational and rehabilitation facilities that are available around the hostels, but these are not supported by the project. The hostels are located in Tebrongre, Rongram Block, W. Garo Hills District and Shillong, East Khasi Hills district and there are separate hostels for boys and girls. The program is cross-disability and the clients avail of

opportunities that are either on campus or in campuses close to the hostel. On behalf of the Governing Body of Bethany Society a committee headed by a member of the Governing Body looks after the management of the hostels.

- 4 hostels: 2 in Tura & 2 in Shillong for Persons with Disabilities
- Cross-Disability
- PWDS avail of formal and non-formal education programmes and sustainable livelihoods training

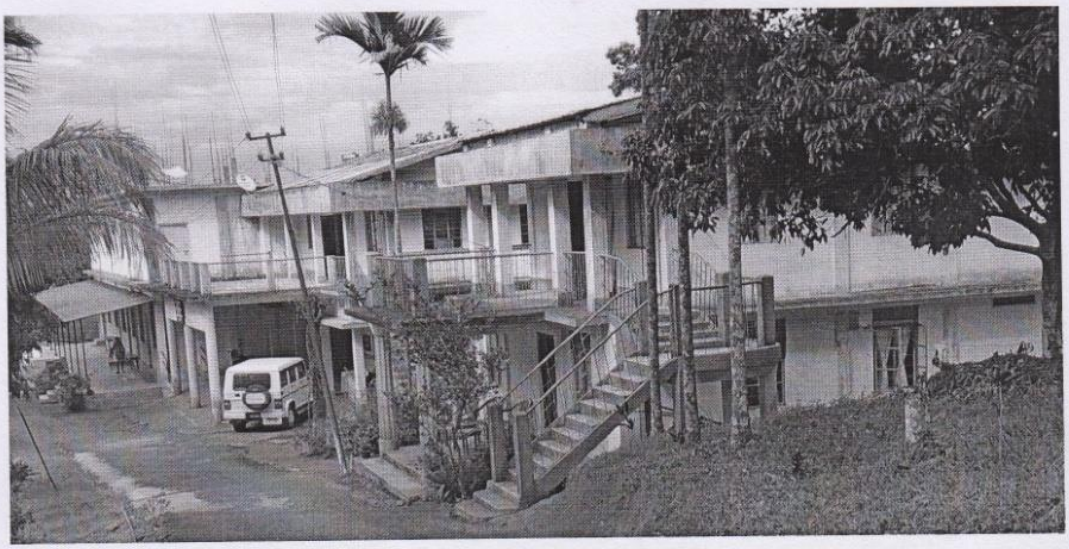






ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN UNDER THE PROGRAMME:

The main thrust of the programme is to provide hostel facilities to persons with disability from remote and rural areas. Most of the persons are from Meghalaya and some are from the neighboring states. Students residing in hostels current avail of educational, vocational and rehabilitation facilities. The hostels are partially supported by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India.



HOSTEL CAMPUS IN VILLAGE TEBRONGRE (West Garo Hills Dist)



HOSTEL CAMPUS IN SHILLONG (E. Khasi Hills Dist)

The Project supports 4 hostels 2: in West Garo Hills District and 2 in East Khasi Hills District of Meghalaya

In 2017-2018 there were 139 young people who benefitted from the programme.

2.1 Hostel facilities:

The hostels are located in ***Tebrongre, Rongram Block, W. Garo Hills District*** and ***Shillong, East Khasi Hills Distric***t. There are separate hostels and for boys and girls. Each hostel is independent and has specific staff. Some staff are supported by the MSJE while others are supported by Bethany Society.

The MSJ&E grant is exclusively for this programme and covers partly, the following budget heads:

- Honoraria for staff (12 staff supported)
- Food for hostelites
- Contingencies, medicines and maintenance

GIA has been received till 2016-2017. The hostel facilities have been provided without any GIA for the year 2017-2018

Details of persons who benefitted under the programme for the year 2017-2018 are as follows:

S.No.	Name and Location	F	M	Total
1.	Divine Flame Hostels, Shillong& Tura	69	70	139

The programme is cross disability and the clients avail of opportunities that are either on campus or in campuses close to the hostel . On behalf of the Governing Body of Bethany Society a Committee headed by a member of the Governing Body looks after the management of the hostels.



SOME OF THE ADULT STUDENTS OF TEBRONGRE, TURA, HOSTEL

Hostels are open from February to December. But facilities are also made available in the vacation period of January, for students who wish to study for various examinations. Programmes in the hostels aim to create opportunities for young people with disability and emphasis is given to :

- Independent living
- Total communication
- Community living
- Community work
- Games and hobbies
- Prayer, meditation & value education
- Opportunities for education and rehabilitation
- Interaction with the local community
- Developing partnerships with other institutions.
- Working with other vulnerable groups.
- Life skills training.
- Special tuition classes

- Music
- Indoor and outdoor games
- Career Counselling

Volunteers make it possible for students to visit various facilities in the city and town such as banks, parks, hospitals, Post Office, markets, churches, temples, celebrations. Local Doctors associations and the Government Health services are used for health checks. Specialized medical treatment is made available if necessary. A nurse is available on campus and there is a provision for a first-aid room.

Parents are encouraged to visit their children as often as possible and to take them home for short holidays.

Counselling services are available for all students.

Students of local colleges pursuing MSW programmes are invited for placement in the organisation and their professional support improves the quality of services.

2.2 Educational and Rehabilitation Programmes: ***(Not supported by MSJE)***

On a daily basis from 8.00 am to 3.00 pm students residing in the hostels attend educational and rehabilitation programmes either managed by Bethany Society or other NGOs. Parents, young people with disability, counsellors, staff and other professionals together decide on the most appropriate intervention.



BOYS' HOSTEL SHILLONG

The following options were available for students in 2017-2018, but these are not supported financially by the grant released by MSJ&E

- Formal education from pre-school to Class XII
- Non-formal education through NIOS & IGNOU
- Livelihood and Vocational Training Opportunities
- Graduate studies and Post Graduate Studies
- Computer Education



ORGANIC VEGETABLES GROWN USING COMPOST FROM SEGREGATED ORGANIC MATTER



HORTICULTURE NURSERY PREPARED AT TURA CAMPUS

4. **CHALLENGES**:

While funding from the MSJE has facilitated the rehabilitation of over 3000 young people with disabilities in Meghalaya, the erratic release of grant-in-aid is a cause of major concern during the last five years. The amount of GIA being sanctioned has remained stagnant for many years. Helpers in the hostel are being paid a meagre INR 2000=00 per month while Wardens are being paid INT 5000=00 per month. The amount for food is limited to INR 10,000=00 per student per annum. These amounts are very meagre, particularly in the NE Region where the prices of all commodities is aleast 20% higher than in other States.

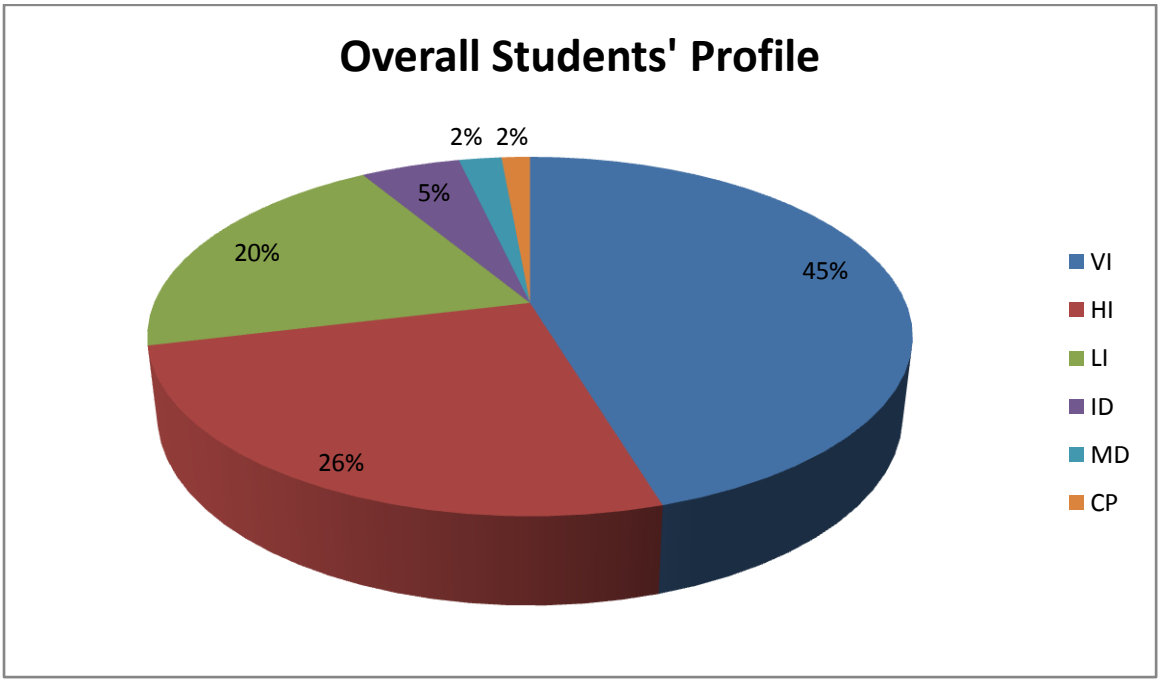
Bethany Society is grateful to the MSJ&E and the Department of Social Welfare, Govt. of Meghalaya for the support in empowering young people with disability and hopes that there will be timely release of funds.

Mr. Carmo Noronha

May 20, 2018

Overall Details of Students residing in hostels:

S.No.	Disability Type	Male	Female
1.	Visual Impairment (VI)	35	28
2.	Hearing Impairment (HI)	17	19
3.	Locomotor Impairment (LI)	12	16
4.	Intellectual Disability (ID)	03	04
5.	MD	01	02
6.	Cerebral Palsy (CP)	02	
		70	**69**



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