

SPASTIC SOCIETY OF MIZORAM

Brigade Area, Bawngkawn, Aizawl - 796014
(Regn. No. SR - 13 of 1989)

ANNUAL REPORT 2022 - 2023

The Chairperson and Executive Members of Spastic Society of Mizoram are please to present the Annual Report of 2022 - 2023 covering our activities during the period.

School : It is an undeniable fact that the impact of COVID 19 was most suffered by our vulnerable children with disabilities . Their physical and mental progress had been delayed during the closing down of the School, though we somehow manage to take on line classes during those hard days of COVID lockdowns yet it was not much effective compared to regular classes in the School. Now with the dawn of post pandemic period, that is the reported period, the Society faces so many challenges and tasks to make up the lost of opportunity in terms of learning - teaching and all other activities.

The number of students enrolled at Gilead Special School in the year are as follows:

Cerebral Palsy/Multiple Disability:	23
Intellectual Disability:	57
Autism Spectrum Disorder:	19
Hearing & Speech Disability:	13
Total enrolled:	112

So the School was re-opened on 01st April 2022, like other pre-pandemic years students turned up in large numbers and it was really fantastic to see the students enjoying the Classes with full enthusiasm, so the classes were resumed regularly all during the reported period. Though they faced some set back initially, yet with the hearty dedication and hard work of the staff the students had good progresses academically, physically and mentally. Besides normal functioning of the School staff and students participated in these events:

01. Disability Sunday : Every third Sunday of June is observed as Rualbanlo Pathianni (Disability Sunday) by Presbyterian Church of India in the whole of Mizoram. This Year, the day fell on 19 June, 2022, our School received invitations from three local Churches. The Committee members, teachers and students are divided into three groups to attend the services and took parts in the programme. Every Church we went to received us with full enthusiasm.



Participants at Kulikawn Presbyterian Church

02. Staff and Students observed these specific days in their own creative way at the School

(1). 05 Sept., 2022 - Teachers Day



(2). 06 Oct., 2022 - Cerebral Palsy (CP) Day



(3). 01 Dec., 2022 - Social work



(4). 05 Dec., 2022 - Advent Christmas



(5). 03 March, 2023 - Chapchar Kut

Society : The Spastic Society of Mizoram (formerly called Society of Rehabilitation of Spastic Children) was formed on 10th April, 1989 with specific aims and objectives, now after 33 years of its existence the aims and objectives which initially seemed high and far reaching is now fully fulfilled by the grace of God. There is a strong feeling among us the need to re-structure our visions for future. So the Committee after deep consideration decided to bifurcate our services into three big departments viz: (1). Gilead Special School (2). Skill Development and (3). Training Centre for B. Ed. (Disability) under the umbrella of newly named Centre **Gilead Institute for Learning & Research**. It is so designed that each Department will function separately in their area of operation under the guidance and administration of Director of Services. Prof. Margaret Zama who officially joined the post of Director of Services on voluntary basis with effect from 10 Jan., 2023.

The Society has sponsored two trainees during this reported period to enrich staff strength for the Institution: they are Lalzirmawii. studying Diploma in Sign Language Interpreter at Bon Hooghly, Kolkata and Lalnuntluangi, studying Diploma in Special Education (Multiple Disability) at Sishu Sarothi, Guwahati.



Fun day with students and parents and staff of Gilead Special School sponsored by Samagra Shiksha Mizoram widely known as SSA.



Pi Chhingpuii flanked by Mrs. Margaret Ch. Zama, Director of Services on the left and Ms. Laldinpuii, Principal on the right

We are extremely proud to report that Pi Chhingpuii, a strong pillar of the Society from the beginning holding Office Bearer post without break till date and also one of the founder member of the Society was awarded by Govt. of Mizoram a State Award on 23 January, 2023. She is one of the two awardees to receive the first State Award for the Welfare of Person with Disabilities.

We are also happy to report that Prof. Margaret Zama was selected amongst 13 Mizo women who have made a difference in their respective area of work organised by Govt. T. Roman College, Aizawl on 17 March, 2023. Prof. Margaret Zama is one of the founder members of the Society.

Funding : Right from the start the Spastic Society of Mizoram has remained private non-government organization having no regular income of its own but working hardly to get funds for the progressive growth of the Society till date . It has reached its present status due to commitment of Committee members in organising fund raising programmes from time to time seeking donations and sponsorships from concerned organisations and general public. Our major source and support had always been the Grants-in-aid from Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India that has funded us since 1995 every year. But the funding from the Ministry got locked since 2020, the most difficult period of all time. So the Society faced fiscal problems and we were unable to pay our staff as our funds were exhausted but we had to continue our services by loans from our well wishers as we could not terminate our services. So for three years we were running from pillar to post in order to get sanction from the Ministry, finally we received some amount from the Ministry in February and March of 2023.

Building : As repeatedly reported in the previous Annual Reports our long awaited dream of having our own building was fulfilled under the supervision of Health and Family Welfare Department, Govt. of Mizoram. The Department gladly handed over to the Society the ownership of the building on 02 November, 2022



The School Building



Pi Neihluangi, Secretary at the handover of the School building

The Society now having its own building, so freed from the burden of house rent, we are now partly relieved from the stress of acquiring monthly rent. But the fact is that our dream for the School complex is not yet fulfilled, with 2996.42 sq. metres area of our land, we still dream of having Parents' Cottage for parent's short stay in the Cottage to learn home management for their children with disabilities. Also we dream of having Futsal playground for use by our students as well as for income generating by giving out for hire as it is a popular game in Mizoram. Besides the above infrastructure mentioned more buildings like staff quarters, separate building for Skill Development Training with workshop are also very much needed. We have a living hope that all these needed infrastructures will come into reality some day in future somehow either through Government or private agencies.

Events & Programmes :

1. Four Executive members of the Society met His Excellency, Governor of Mizoram, Mr Hari Babu Kambhampati, on 05 December, 2022. He listened us with open heart when told about our hardships and problems we are facing at present. He instantly took action in the area we asked for his help and we are very glad to have a meaningful meeting with him as a result of our meeting the Governor handed over Rs 10,000/- and others in kind as Christmas present to the Society on 16 December, 2022.



Some of our Society members with His Excellency, the Governor of Mizoram

2. We are thankful to be recognised NGO by the Presbyterian Church of Mizoram, the largest Christian denomination in the State. To bless and witness our services for the people with disabilities Synod Partnership Committee under Presbyterian Church of Mizoram used to donate some amount of money for the last five years and we received Rs 50,000/- on 07 March, 2023 from them at a function organized by them. Thanks to Mizoram Presbyterian Church.
3. On 30 July, 2022 the Mistiri Association of Mizoram voluntarily extended their helping hands to make furniture for Gilead Special School to commemorate their rising day. About 100 mistiri (expert carpenters) whose daily wage is around Rs 1,000/- each turned up for the work and they made lots of different kind of furniture like benches, desks, almirahs etc needed very much in the class rooms. We are very much relieved and happy to replace worn out broken furnitures by the new ones. We express our sincere thanks to the Misitiri Association of Mizoram.





Students of Gilead Special School participated in the First ever Cricket Tournament for PwDs organized by the Cricket Association of Mizoram, where they won First and Second place.

4. We express our sincere thanks to :

(1). Mr Lal Dingliana, IFS (Rtd) for donating Rs 1,32,000/- for construction of shed/play station for balu therapy needed for neurological therapy. He donated the amount to bear the name of his beloved autistic son Lalawmpuia.



Sand Therapy

(2). Chanmari Kohhran Pavalai Pawl donated 16 mattresses and water filter for use in the hostel on 06 September, 2022. Our sincere thanks go to them.

(3). DGP, DVESH, Aizawl Mihlun Thlahte, Mizoram Rural Bank, Samaritan Association, Thakthing Veng Kohhran Hmeichhia, Pi Sailuti, Chairman, Mizoram Kohhran Hmeichhe Inkhawmpui Lian, Dr. Malsawma Nghaka all of whom gave donations in kind and cash to the Society.



4. On 03 December, 2022 World Disability Day was observed in Aizawl organised by Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs Department, wherein our students took part in procession led by Dr. K. Beichhua, Hon'ble Minister i/c Social Welfare Deptt., Govt. of Mizoram.



5. As invited by the Department of Labour, Employment, and Skilled Development & Entrepreneurship we were allotted a shop at Christmas Fair organised by the above mentioned Department. We sold out our vocational training products and also our students did on the spot face painting which was valued by the public.



Observing Independence Day at the School



Observing World Health Day, a free clinic was held at Gilead Special School



Special Olympics Bharat organized one of its Healthy Athletes Activities, Special Smiles, for our special Athletes



7. On 25 January, 2023 we participated in National Voters Day function.

Condolences :

Lalrammuani (Mamuanteii), age 34 years, one of the 4 founder children of the Spastic Society of Mizoram was founded, died on 12 July, 2022 and also her father Mr. Sangsiam, one of the founder members of Spastic Society of Mizoram passed away on 31 August, 2022. We mourn the demise of father and daughter and our sympathy goes to the bereaved family. Mr Sangsiam was always a strong pillar of the Society all along and his absence will create a large void in the Society.

We also mourn the untimely demise of our dear students Janet Lallawmsangi (ID) on 08 July, 2022, KC Lalramtiamia on 11 March, 2023 and Daniel C. Thawnliana on 18 March, 2023. May the Good Lord comfort the bereaved families.



A wife and mother left by her beloveds Mamuantei and Pu Sangsiam



Janet Lallawmsangi



KC Lalramtiamia



Daniel C Thawnliana

Neihluangi
(NEIHTLUANGI)

Secretary
Secretary
Spastic Society of Mizoram
Aizawl

Zokhumi Vankung
(ZOKHUMI VANKUNG)

Chairperson
Chairperson
Spastic Society of Mizoram