

**Madhuram Narayanan Centre for Exceptional Children
(A unit of Bala Mandir Kamaraj Trust)
18, Prakasam Street, T. Nagar, Chennai – 600 017**

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023-2024

1.0 Introduction:

The Centre completed its 34th year on December 12th, 2023 in its provision of an array of services to children with developmental delays and Intellectual disability.

1.1. During the year under report, the Centre made substantial progress in terms of:

- The number and types of children served, those geographically located not only in Chennai and other parts of Tamil Nadu but also from other States in India.
- Developmental improvements made by the children
- The training of parents to train the children.
- Rehabilitation of parents (mothers mostly) by their involvement in the training of the children and the activities of the Centre, their development of self-esteem and self-pride in them and motivating them to become co-teachers, and co-therapists and encouraging them to take up the DECSE.

2.0 Children served:

2.1. Number

• Number of children served (cumulative) as on 31.03.2023	:6596
• Number of children registered for EI as on 31.3.2022	
• Average number of children attending the program, daily and periodically with parental teaching at home based on the individualized program plan with the relevant training material, provided from time to time (Out- station children, home-based service)	:6113
	:94

2.2 Clinical types served:

Children with developmental delays / Intellectual disability, in the age group birth to 6 years. It is to be noted, with concern that amongst this population; nearly two thirds of the children are those with:

- Autism with ID
- Cerebral palsy with ID

Amongst the other types there are children with

- Down's syndrome
- Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder
- Microcephaly
- Hydrocephaly
- Metabolic disorders and
- Other chromosomal disorders

All the above disorders with Intellectual disability

2.3 Children with intellectual disability with Cerebral Palsy or Autism Spectrum Disorders form nearly 60 percent of the total population being served. Apart from these over 20 children have additional handicaps, such as visual, hearing or physical impairments making them multiple disabled.

2.4 The children being served also include those with brain damage due to various reasons such as ante-natal health conditions in mothers, asphyxia at birth, and illnesses during early stages of infancy and so on.

2.5 Geographical areas served:

- City of Chennai and its outskirts (Mostly).
- Districts of Tamil Nadu.
- Andhra Pradesh, Bengal, Karnataka, Kerala, Pondicherry.

3.0 Personnel (Training, Admin, Support, Consultancy and Management)

3.1. Training Staff

Teachers trained in Special Education/crèche care and other specialists and volunteers.

Number of members on the teaching staff:

(i)	Principal	: 1
(ii)	Vice Principals	: 1
(iii)	Group Heads	: 4
(iv)	Special Educators	: 20
(v)	Montessori	: 1
(vi)	Physiotherapists	: 4
		:

		31

3.1.2 Administrative and Support Staff

(i)	Manager	: 1
(ii)	Office Executive	: 1
(iii)	Office Assistant	: 1
(iv)	Drivers	: 1
(v)	Kitchen In- charge	: 2
		:

		6

3.1.3. Volunteers Training Helpers / Consultants –

(i)	Physiotherapy (Consultants)	: -
(ii)	Occupational Therapy – Consultant	: 2
(iii)	Computer program – Consultant	: 1
(iv)	Music Consultant	: 1

(v)	Parent helpers	: 10
(vi)	Doctor – Consultant	: 2
(vii)	Clinical Psychologist –Consultant	: 1

		17

3.1.4. AVMVK Training Centre

(i)	Coordinator	: 1
(ii)	Faculty	: 1
(iii)	Faculty - Part Time	: 3

		5

3.1.5. Management

Member in charge	: 1
------------------	-----

4.0 Upanayan Early Intervention Programme

Upanayan engages parents as partners in the implementation of the program. They are trained by the special educators to lead the children towards their developmental goals. **Upanayan** Early Intervention Program, was sponsored by its parent organization - **Indchem Research and Development Laboratory (1987-'89)** as a part of its initiative for corporate social responsibility. This program, based on India's time tested legacy of child care, was designed keeping in view the socio-economic conditions and the cultural milieu of the country. An interdisciplinary team consisting of experts in Developmental Psychology, Neonatology, Audiology, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Education, Special Education, Yoga and Information Technology, besides a Nutritionist and Dietician, worked on the project from March 1987 and completed the first phase of the project covering the age group of birth to two years in December 1989. The program was field tested for its workability and suitability, and was formally released by **Saint Mother Teresa** in July 1992 at Kolkata. The training program, covering children in the **age group birth to 6 years** has since been successfully implemented and over **6400** children have benefited over the last **33 years** from various states of India and abroad.

4.1. Early Intervention Services

Early Intervention services are provided for **children with Developmental Delay/Intellectual and Associated Disabilities**, in the age group birth to six years: **The Intervention services comprises** the Individualized Education Plan drawn up for every child after Assessment, Physiotherapy, Group Activity, Activity based training, Yoga, Physical Education, music and play therapy

4.2 Special Staff and Consultants

The specialist staff for providing the services comprises Special Educators, Physiotherapists, consultant Occupational Therapists, consultant Speech Therapists, consultant Pediatrician, consultant Physical Education Instructors, consultant Yoga specialists, consultant Dietician & Nutritionist and Specialists in Music, Art and Craft.

4.3 Montessori

Montessori Unit was started on August 15th 2013. This unit was started with the intension of facilitating and equipping the children with skills for better adjustment in the mainstream environment, as it is a well known fact that Madame Maria Montessori started this programme for the development of children with Intellectual Disabilities. Children who have completed 80% of the Upanayan Birth to Two years Programme by chronological age 3-4 years are identified for the Unit. They are to undergo three years of

training in the Montessori Unit and at the end of three years are placed in the Mainstream Environment. They are trained in the Montessori Method and their development is assessed and evaluated every quarter using the Upanayan Early Intervention Programme. In April 2016, the first batch of children was mainstreamed. On an average 6-8 children benefit from this programme every year.

5. Parental involvement in the training programme and parental empowerment:

Rehabilitation of parents who had been shattered by the disability in their children is one of the prime objectives of this centre. Guided by the special educators, the parents have been trained in the assessment and the training of their children and also of other children at the Centre. Parents have been trained to become the co-teachers and co-therapists of the children at the Centre. They are also trained to be carry over agents at the home environment of the children. Parents involve themselves in planning the activities of the Centre be it indoor or outdoor play, outings like picnics, celebrations of festivals and the Centre's anniversary. Parents take turns to supervise the cleanliness and upkeep of the Centre premises. The parents practice *yoga asanas daily at Centre*, along with the children as taught to them by the yoga teacher and the special educators. Parents' Association: Satellite schools: An Association of the parents' ("Maithree"), promoted initially as a club by this Centre and subsequently motivated to form an association, has established Eight schools for special children, six vocational centers, a Care and Management Centre and two Group Homes in Chennai. Our Centre assists these satellite centers in their functioning and also in the Association's planning of other centers in the city. Children completing their early intervention training at this centre are sent to Maithree schools.

6. Practical Training / Placement / Visits of Students and Teacher Trainees:

- 14.6.2023 – 7 students of Tamilnadu Open University (BE.d Special Education distance programme) visited MNC for observation of the Intervention provided to the children at the centre. This was a part of their course work of Institutional Work.
- 30.6.2023 – The second year students of Madras School of Social Work, came for their field work project as part of their course (subject : Disability and Empowerment).
- 6.7.2023 - 6 students of III Year Psychology at Madras School of Social Work came for internship to the centre.
- 21.7.2023 – 7 students of Natioanl Institute of Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities, Chennai came for practical exposure in various units in Early Intervention and Tools and Assessment used.
- 11.12.2023 – First Year students of Madras School of Social Work, Disability and Empowerment department visited our centre for doing filed work as prescribed in their curriculum.

7. Celebration/Excursions:

Celebrations are part of the activities at the Centre to keep stimulating the interest of the children, parents, and teachers, promoting the development of the children, empowerment of parents and honing the management skills of the parents. During the period under review, these activities included:

- 21.6.2023 – International Yoga Day was celebrated. Staff from Krishnamachari Yoga Mandiram gave a demonstration of Yoga for special children.
- 22.7.2023 – Samyam celebration – A get together of the current parent, old parents and the future parents on the same platform for exchange of ideas
- Sambhavam – Experiential training in real life situations – Children were taken out to the Metro railway station and a ride on the Metro.
- 11.8.2023 – A mega outing was conducted to MGM theme park. All the children participated and had a fun day.

- 15.8.2023 – Independence Day was celebrated.
- 5.9.2023 – Teachers Day was celebrated. The parents played host to the teachers and welcomed them with a rose and lead them to the prayer hall decked with balloons and festoons. Games, songs and dancing were all a part of celebration and all staff had a very joyous day.
- 15.9.2023 - Vinayaka Chaturthi was celebrated. Children made vinayaka idols in clay and wheat dough for the celebration as a part of their arts and crafts class. All the idols thus made were kept in the hall and a small pooja was conducted in the presence of the parents and children. The concept of celebration of a religious function at home was learnt by the children.
- 30.9.2023 - It is usually the mothers who get involved in the day to day affairs of the child. To sensitize the fathers to the intervention being given to their child and to see the benefit the child accrues the fathers were invited along with the children to spend a day at the centre. Many of the mothers stayed back and sent the children with the fathers. However some of the mothers came since they had reservations about their husbands being with the children alone all day. 62 fathers came this year and made the meet a grand success.
- 25.10.2023 – Saraswathi Pooja was celebrated at the centre.
- 10.11.2023 – Diwali was celebrated on the 10th of November. Children lit a small lamp and left it on the front yard as a symbol of peace and prosperity. Sweets were distributed to all the children and parents.

8. Dissemination Projects/Workshops/Conferences/Seminars

- The National Workshop organized by MNC was the 17th in the series and MNC has all along been conducting its National Workshops on Early Intervention in Intellectual Disability and Associated Conditions with focus both on medical and early intervention training aspects. The theme of the Workshop this year was “Early Intervention with Parental Involvement – A continuous Learning Experience.”The Importance of Early Intervention for Disabilities which encompasses early detection, Identification and programming has been well established over the past 6 decades, more so since the 60’s of the 20th century. Several studies have been undertaken on the efficacy of early identification and providing services at the earliest as also on the feasibility of involving parents in the training of their children. Madhuram Narayanan Centre for Exceptional Children (MNC) has been providing early intervention services to children with intellectual disability over the past 34 years, with zero rejection and with total parental involvement and continues to be committed to the cause. In the deliberations of sessions at the Workshop, MNC presented a sharing of experiences by experts who, with their immense repertoire of expertise in the area of multiple aspects of development, provided hands on experience for all the delegates, and, in particular, to all service providers.
- Madhuram Narayanan Centre for Exceptional Children has been assigned by the Office of the State Commissioner for the Differently Abled to conduct the Refresher Course for the year (2023-2024) by their order **PROC. No 01/4/2024/GRH 2/2024 dated 20.1.2024** issued from the Office of the State Commissioner for the Differently Abled, Chennai. The Refresher course started on the **5.2.2024**. 5 batches attended the course one every week starting from the **5th of Feb**. A total of about 150 special educators/therapists attended the course.

9. In-house training programmes:

- 30.5.2023 – All staff members attended a in-house refresher programme on implementation of Upanayan EIP.
- 14.7.2023 – Dr. Yashoda Thanikachalam conducted a session on Nutrition and balanced diet for all mothers.
- 3.3.2024 – A lecture on organic composting was conducted at the centre.

10. Visits by Government Officials and other VIPs

- 22.6.2023 – Visitors from World Bank and Tamil Nadu Right Program visited along with the District Rehabilitation officer.
- 12.7.2023 – Dr. R Anandakumar, Secretary to the Government of Tamilnadu and Mr. Kamal Kishore – Director, Department of Welfare of Differently Abled visited the centre.
- Mr. Kaushik Ganguly, Social Policy Specialist (Child survival) Dr. Pooja Sanghvi of UNICEF visited the centre to discuss about a new capacity building project for Anganwadis and other centers for children.

11. Blood test and dental camps/ Donation of aids and appliances

- 6.7.2023 - Blood test camp was conducted for all children at the centre to include them in Annapoorna Project 10.8.2022
- The Rotary Club of Adyar donated CP Chairs and Gaitors and splints to 13 children.
- A dental camp was organized by Total Oro Care, Chennai for all children. 29 children attend the camp and received assessment and advise.

12. Workshops attended by MNC Staff

- MNC Staff attended various CRE programmes conducted by National Institute of Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disability (NIEPMD), ECR Road, Muttukadu, Chennai from time to time.

13. Other Events

Participation in competitions

- 15.7.2023 – Children attended the Carnival conducted by Lady Andal Therapy Centre. 21 children from EIC participated in various events.
- 21.8.2023 – Special Children Sports Academy, Perambur conducted their 15th Sports meet for special children at their Railway Stadium. 26 schools participated. Our children won 9 gold, 5 silver and 15 bronze medals.
- 1.10.2023 – Real Heros Sports Meet – Kama Yogi Trust conducted the 5th Real Heros Sports Event at Jawahar Lal Stadium, Chennai 600003. Nine children participated and won 2 gold medals, 6 silver medals and 1 bronze medal.
- 22.11.2023 The rotary Club of Madras T Nagar conducted their 31st Rota Talent Competition for children . 9 children participated and all of them got participation certificates.
- 10.1.2024 - Javate 2024 – Sir Mutha School and Lady Andal house of children, conducted their 8th edition of JAVATE – special cultural. 15 children participated and received participation certificates.
- 22.11.2023 – The Rotary club of T Nagar organized their 1st Rota Talent Contest for special children. Children participated in Singing/dancing/group dance and received 2 special performance awards.
- The 34th Annual Day was celebrated on 12.12.2023.
- 19.12.2023 – A Carnival for the children was conducted at the centre for the children. Stalls were opened for games and eatables. The mothers and children manned the stalls and the experience was good for the children.
- 22.12.2023 – Santa came visiting to MNC on the 22nd December. Christmas was celebrated. The children performed a tableau of the birth of Jesus which was appreciated by all present.

- 12.1.2024 – Pongal was celebrated in a very novel way at the centre this year. Children were taken to the market and made to purchase the ingredients for the Pongal – Rice, dhal, ghee, jaggery, firewood, oil etc and they made their own hearths at the front yard and cooked the pongal. It was an experiential training for the children in shopping and cooking.
- 24.1.2024- Republic day was celebrated at the centre.
- 21.3.2024 – World Down Syndrome day was observed.
- 2.4.2024 – World Autism awareness day was observed.
- 5.4.2024 – Ramzan was celebrated.
- 12.4.2024 – The graduation ceremony of the tiny tots was conducted on the 12th. 13 children moved ahead to mainstream/specials schools.

14. Website for the Centre

The website on the Centre www.mncindia.org launched in October 2004 and is being updated periodically.

15. . Accommodation:

The Centre has been functioning at the present premises of Bala Mandir with a covered area of nearly 7250 sq.ft from June 2011. An open area adjacent to the building is used for games and sports.

16. Financial support

During the year the Centre received donations /contributions from corporate bodies and the Madhuram Narayanan Trust, Chennai and a number of well wishers. The Centre is grateful to all of them for their support but for which the Centre would not have been able to continue to provide the much needed early intervention services to children with disability in their crucial early years of the lives. **The centre looks forward to the Grant in Aid through the Deen Dayal Divangjan Rehabilitation Scheme and requests Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to sanction the grant and help us.**

**Sd-
Bharath Natarajan
Member In Charge**