

## **I FIORI DI ANNA – ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

### **I. INTRODUCTION:**

I FIORI DI ANNA is a project realized by the family, friends and parishioners of late Ms. Anna Grassi, Firenze, Italy through Fondazione Ada Cullino Marcori, Firenze, Italy. This project is realized in the district of Kanyakumari in the state of Tamilnadu, India. The main office of the project functions at Mamma Ada Centre, Azhagiamandapam, in the district of Kanyakumari in the state of Tamilnadu, India.

### **II. AUTISM AND MENTAL RETARDATION:**

Autism and mental retardation are the two major problems these children face in their childhood. The combination of these defects in the mentally retarded autistic child requires a specific therapeutic environment. This therapeutic environment must take full account of both the child's limited cognitive potentials and the specific needs and limitations on the basis of autism.

Such an integrated approach of the mentally retarded autistic child becomes possible when all the symptoms and behaviours of the children are organized in one coherent frame of reference organized according to the main axes of child development (biological, physical, cognitive and socio-emotional). Thanks to this project of I FIORI DI ANNA, we are able to provide a healthy and specific therapeutic environment to the following children.

### **III. THE OBJECTIVES**

- ❖ To develop appropriate models of care and habilitation for the mentally retarded persons suitable to Indian culture.
- ❖ To provide early stimulation training to children in the age group of 0-5 years to assist them for their speedy development.
- ❖ To create public awareness.
- ❖ To advise and help parents through counselling and training.
- ❖ To develop community based rehabilitation services in the rural and low income needy population.
- ❖ To undertake extension and outreach programmes in the field of mental retardation

## **IV. MAJOR ACTIVITIES**

Persons with Mental Retardation generally need a plethora of services to make them functionally as independent as possible and improve their quality of life. I FIORI DI ANNA provides a spectrum of service delivery systems for rehabilitation of persons with mental retardation. It is a common practice to use an eclectic approach incorporating combination of services best suited to individual needs. A wide range of service comprising of core and supporting services are used by multidisciplinary team at the institute for overall betterment of children with mental retardation.

### **1. General Services:**

The institute provides assessment and evaluation services ranging from case history taking, physical and medical examinations, intellectual and developmental assessment, special educational assessment, therapeutic assessment, vocational assessment. After a comprehensive assessment, management plan and intervention packages are developed. Parental counselling is done with emotional support explaining the nature of the child's condition and his/her level of functioning. A home based training programme and demonstration for the same are given to the parents for management and rehabilitation. 23 parents benefitted from this.

### **2. Medical Services:**

Children chosen by IFIORI DI ANNA are catered intervention programmes to meet individualized needs. Therapeutic interventions are of eclectic nature and include exercises. Correction of postures and movement disorders, gait training, enhancement of overall development, motor training and adaptation for vocational purposes. 20 of our children received this support.

### **3. Early Intervention Services:**

Early intervention services cater to children of 0-5 years who are at risk or have developmental delays. These services focus on prevention, remediation and treatment to foster all round development. The services offered are child centered and family oriented and provided by a multidisciplinary team of experts. The child receives individualized intervention consisting of physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, child development, medical, psycho-social and family interventions. Early intervention services also offer parent training

programmes, group therapy, play therapy, guidance and counselling. 6 of our children had the opportunity to obtain this support.

#### **4. Occupational Therapy:**

Occupational Therapy caters to the needs of the children with mental retardation, associated condition and other pervasive developmental disorders. This service mainly addresses issues such as developing performance components, improving specific sensory, motor, cognitive perceptual skills and promoting independent living. The combined effort of physiotherapy and occupational intervention can improve the quality of life of children. We do this with the support of LIMS Physiotherapy Clinic in the city Thiruvithamcode and Gerdi Gutperle Agasthiya Muni Children and Maternity Hospital, Vellamadam. Currently, 4 of our children undergo this therapy.



#### **5. Parent Training Programmes**

The objective of this program is to involve parents in care, management and training of their children. The program also encourages mutual support among parents and exchange of ideas and information. During this year various programmes were conducted in the form of educator-parents meeting. Emphasis is always on importance of parents / family / siblings / relatives involvement to improve the life of their special child. They are educated about special

intervention in home setting which can promote the educational as well as rehabilitation programme. An average of 150 persons participate in the awareness programmes.

## **6. Parents Counselling Services**

Parent counselling is done by providing emotional support and empathetic understanding to deal with their distress and guilt feelings arising due to their mentally retarded child. Apart from tackling misconceptions of parents, guidance is also given to understand the nature of mental retardation and needs of the children at different stages of life so as to promote harmonious development of the child in family setting. All the parents of our 23 children eagerly participate in this programme.

## **7. Healthy Life Programme:**

Eating a healthy balanced diet can help to prevent diet-related illness in the mentally retarded children and will give you all of the energy and nutrients you need keep active and maintain a healthy weight. Hence I FIORI DI ANNA supplies to the selected children (23 of them) a number of nutritious food items that would enhance the living quality of the children. Even during the lockdown period of Covid 19, we supplied all necessary food and medicine to face the pandemic tragedies.

## **8. Happy Living Programme:**

The mentally retarded children need to sleep well and spend their time in a joyful mood. Good sleep and joyfulness contribute to their growth and wellbeing. Hence I FIORI DI ANNA supplies to the selected children (23 of them) necessary bed material and recreational items.

## **9. Ambulance Service: (A separate report will be sent to you soon)**

### **i) To Support the Children of Fiori di Anna**

Notwithstanding the extreme pandemic situation, we reached out to the children and carried out our mission vigorously. We protected and saved all our children from the attack of Covid 19. The major hurdle we face is transportation. As the district of Kanyakumari is vast and has a peculiar geographic nature, we find it hard to do our service effectively without an own vehicle of transportation. Hence we propose to procure an ambulance for the program of Fiori di Anna.

## ii). To Help the Deserving Patients



An ambulance is a vehicle equipped to provide emergency care to sick and disable people and to get them to hospital. Ambulances can also be used to transport patients between hospitals. Ambulances contain the equipment needed to stabilize someone who is ill or injured and to get them to hospital. That includes stretchers, defibrillators, spine boards, oxygen and oxygen masks, cervical (neck) collars, splints, bandages and a range of drugs and intravenous fluids. They can rapidly transport paramedics and other first responders to the scene, carry equipment for administering emergency care and transport patients to hospital or other definitive care. In this manner we can render our service to the poor patients other than the children of Fiori di Anna.

## iii). Health Camps and Hygiene Awareness Programmes

Many of our villages are situated near the Western Ghats which do not have hospital facilities. If we have an ambulance we can visit the villages and conduct health camps to give preventive awareness on diseases and disabilities.



**V. LIST OF THE BENEFICIARY CHILDREN 2021: KINDLY SEE ANNEXURE 1.**

**VI. OUR COLLABORATORS:**

1. Kuzhithurai Integral Development Social Services (KIDSS) - The Social Service Organization of the Diocese of Kuzhithurai.
2. LIMS Physiotherapy Clinic, Thiruvithamcode, Kanyakumari District, India.
3. Gerdi Gutperle Agasthiya Muni Children and Maternity Hospital, Vellamadam. Kanyakumari District, India.

**VII. OUR GRATITUDE:**

I take this opportunity to extend my humble sentiments of gratitude towards the honorable personalities of Mr. Lorenzo Grassi, Mrs. Francesca and their friends and family members, don Fabio Masi and his parishioners and Dr. Roberto Marcori, the founder and benefactor of Mamma Ada Centre, all the office bearers and members of Fondazione Ada Cullino Marcori, Most Rev. Jeromedhas Varuvel – the former bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Kuzhithurai, Rev.Fr. Augustin Ponnaian- the Financial Administrator of the Catholic Diocese of Kuzhithurai, the staff of Mamma Ada Centre and all those who have collaborated in this noble project.

Azhagiamandapam,

10.02.2022

Fr. Jose Robinson

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'F.S.K. Jose Rob'.

Director