

## **Visit to SRI CHITRA HOME– A Report** (Prepared by Sobha Ganesh, Communication Officer, PHTS, Tvpm)



1<sup>st</sup> DHI students along with the Co-ordinator Smt.Sobha Ganesh, Communication Officer visited Sri Chitra Home, Thiruvananthapuram at 2 P.M on 26/03/2013. The objective of the visit was to enable the students to get an understanding of realities of life of the poor and to instill a favourable attitude and behaviour towards them.

Sri.Binu Kumar, Staff of the institution explained the history, activities and administrative set up of the institution. This is an institution rendering service for the poor for the last 79 years. The Home was started by Sri Chithira Thirunal Balarama Varma in November 1934. Elderly, handicapped, women and children, of age group 6-60 from the poorest sections of community were eligible for admission here. When the Home was started management board was headed by Diwan of Travancore. In the beginning it was under the control of central jail, Tvpm.

In 1984, the then Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare Smt.Gauri Amma brought its control under Social Welfare Department. Then the elderly were shifted to Home for the Aged and women to Mahila Mandiram, Thiruvananthapuram and retained children in the home. At present there are 265 children among which 58 are boys and 207 are girls in the age group 5-24.The inmates are given food, clothes, medical aid, education and training in tailoring, binding and printing units. Children in the Home are not given for adoption. The boys above 18 years are accommodated in the Juvenile Home. The food provided is according to the food chart prepared. No food items are permitted from outside. Those who would like to sponsor food for inmates have to remit the required amount for the purpose.

There is an Orphanage Control Board. The Administrative Board is headed by District Collector, Thiruvananthapuram. The Adhoc committee consists of Director, Social Welfare Board,6 official members and 5 non- official members. District Collector is the chairman. Superintendent is the convenor. Applications for admission are to be submitted to Child Welfare Committee. 25% seats are reserved for orphans.

Staff Pattern: Superintendent is the Head of the institution. Smt.Aleyamma Varghese, Dist. Social Welfare Officer on deputation from Social Welfare Dept. is the superintendent. Warders look after the inmates from 8 A.M. - 5 P.M. The medical officer Dr. Remani from the nearby Health Centre conducts weekly medical check-up of inmates. There are 10 permanent and 11 daily wages staff.

Education of children: There is a Govt. School, the SCP Home LPS where children are given education up to Upper Primary Classes. After this, they are sent to the nearby Govt. School.



The DHIC students conducted health education to pupils of the school. Pupils of the school and DHIC students together sang songs. Public can offer sponsorship for educating inmates. The education sponsorship for children up to Std.V is Rs.5000/-,



Std. VII, VIII & IX is Rs.6000/- and X,XI &XII is Rs.7500/-  
Kerala Sports Authority gives Karate training.



Job placement: Some inmates are working in Tailoring and Printing Units. Some are working outside.

Marriage of inmates: Any person can offer to marry a girl from Poor Home. The bridegroom should be a bachelor and less than 30 years. On accepting an application, enquiry will be conducted by probationary officer. The Poor Home provides 1 Sovereign and 1 Sewing Machine to the bride.

Parents' Day: Second Saturday is Parents' Day.  
Funds: Govt. grants, interest from Endowments, Public donations, income from cultural programmes, Printing Units and Tailoring Units constitute the fund for running the Home. 20% of funds is from Social Welfare Dept and 80% is from public donations. Salary of staff is met from this. Public Health Training School Team also contributed donation .



Sri Chitra Home enjoys special concern from the state government in case of school and college admission, employment and other privileges.



Benas, a DHIC student proposed vote of thanks. The DHIC students opined that the experience with inmates of Home was touching. The visit facilitated the students to understand the need to share the fortunes with fellow beings. Sri Chitra Home is a blessing for orphans and poor children. It is a hope for several unfortunate persons. The Lesson learned from the Half Day Sree Chitra Experience is **'DO NOT MISS ANY CHANCE TO HELP OTHERS'**

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