



Working towards securing the rights of persons with disability...

Neelan Tiruchelvam Trust

*Empowering communities;
building trust*

Vision

*The establishment of a just,
equitable and
peaceful society*

Mission

*To collectively promote
peace, reconciliation and
human rights, sharing
responsibility, resources and
risks through
strategic partnerships with
civil society, public sector,
business
community, diaspora, aca-
demia and donors*

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The Neelan Tiruchelvam Trust assisted the Ampara Special Needs Network (ASNN) in a project titled "Securing the rights of persons with disability by enhancing community participation". The aim of this project was to identify and address the problems faced by persons with disabilities in the rural areas of Ampara.

ASNN is a non-profit, non-governmental organization keen on working towards promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disability. It has been identified that communities lack the awareness on the importance of Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR). It was also learned that the support given by the relevant authorities and the resources allocated for special needs education units was grossly inadequate.

Prior to 2007, less than 5% of children with special needs in Ampara District had access to suitable schools. With the aim of absorbing them into the mainstream of society with dignity ASNN have established several special needs education units in government schools together with the Ministry of Education.

ASNN intends to achieve the objectives of establishing a mechanism to ensure the rights of persons with disability and enhancing the quality of services offered to them by the following:

- Action group meetings
- Training on community based rehabilitation for persons with disability, National Disability Policy and the practical application of the policy and the importance of special and inclusive education.
- Workshops on rights based approach and CBR
- Inclusive education training, sign language, gender based violence, carrier guidance and vocational training to special education teachers.
- Supplying teaching aids to special education units.
- Sensitization sessions and workshops for children and hospital staff in the region.
- Awareness programmes for parents of persons with disability on community based rehabilitation.

It is further intended by this project to strengthen community participation in safeguarding the rights of persons with disability and to strengthen the policies that support community based rehabilitation of persons with disability through enhancing the knowledge of stakeholders.



PHASE 3 PROGRAMME 3 ST WFP

The third phase of the Women Fellowship Programme (WFP) was held from 12th to 19th of November 2017 in Madurei in Ekta (Ekta- Resource Centre for Women) Recourse Centre. Among the nineteen participants of this programme, which was organized by Ekta, five were sent by Neelan Tiruchelvam Trust.



The content of the programme included feminism, globalization, women's rights, violence against women and children, religious identity, non-violent communication, Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against women (CEDAW), networking and gender training.

Awareness of the participants on gender equality, women empowerment, social justice, human rights, globalization, religious identity, peace building, non-violent communication, improved communication strategies and personality development could be enhanced through this programme.



Active engagement of the participants

STAFF CHANGES

NTT is pleased to welcome back Mr. **Ligory Kohilanath Rajanayagam**, as our Deputy Programme and Grants Manager. Having worked with us previously he returned in September this year. Kohilanath has worked in the NGO sector in Sri Lanka since 2000. His experience includes documentation & analysis, project & program management, grant management, proposal and report writing, program design and monitoring & evaluation amongst other areas.

NTT also welcomed a new programme assistant, **Ms Krithika Mylvaganam** in the month of October. Krithika holds a BA degree in International Relations from the University of Colombo and has been working for INGOs and NGOs for over a year.

Our Programme Officer, **Ms Myanthi Peiris**, left the Neelan Tiruchelvam Trust in October after having worked with us for the past 8 months

NTT welcomed two interns in October. **Mr Chinthaka Hemachandra** who holds a BA degree in International Relations from the University of Kelaniya has been involved in the development sector for the past year. **Ms Sushma Jayaprakash** is currently in the second year of her Bsc in International Development, University of London.

NTT takes Anne Frank Exhibition To the plantation sector...

In September the Neelan Tiruchelvam Trust had the opportunity to work together with the Anne Frank House (AFH) in organizing the travelling exhibition "Anne Frank- a history for today"

The exhibition consisted of 32 panels that walk viewers through the story of Anne Frank set in the backdrop of World War II, Nazi Germany and the Holocaust. A video documentary titled "A Short Life of Anne Frank" accompanies the exhibition, so that viewers also can visualize the exhibition through pictures and commentary. The panel notes were in Sinhala, Tamil and English. The documentary was also dubbed by NTT in both Sinhala and Tamil making the exhibition experience accessible to all communities in Sri Lanka.



Apart from partnering with the Anne Frank house, creating the initiative was made possible for NTT with the financial support provided from the Embassy of the Netherlands in Sri Lanka.



The travelling exhibition on Anne Frank is held at over 300 venues annually. This exhibition has been shown in 3,000 locations in more than 40 countries worldwide.

Having covered Colombo, Jaffna, Galle and Batticaloa last year, the exhibitions held this year were taken across the estate areas like Dickoya, Deniyaya and Hatton. The exhibitions were conducted during school hours and were visited by students and staff of the respective schools.

The first exhibition was held on the 20th of September 2017 at the Puliyawatte Tamil Maha Vidyalayam, Dickoya with the participation of approximately 228 students and 10 teachers.

The second exhibition was held on the 21st of September 2017 at the Maara Beverly Tamil Maha Vidyalayam, Deniyaya and approximately 267 students and 5 teachers visited. With the participation of over 820 students and 9 teachers the last exhibition took place on the 22nd of September 2017 at the Punduloya Tamil Maha Vidyalayam, Hatton.

Apart from giving a picture about the life of Anne Frank, an event like this further gives the viewers an idea about the journey she took through life, creating a platform for them to look at life from a different angle encouraging them to face challenges with courage and confidence.

Students enjoying the exhibition



Contact the Neelan Tiruchelvam Trust if you wish to hold Anne Frank Exhibition in your community or school!



WINGS is a network of about 100 philanthropy associations and support organizations in 40 countries around the world whose purpose is to strengthen, promote and provide leadership in the development of philanthropy and social investment. They stress upon the widespread belief that access to readily available high-quality data will improve philanthropy's efficiency, influence, and impact, and further highlight its role and contribution to society alongside other stakeholders such as governments, multilateral organizations, civil society, academia, the private sector individuals, communities, and beneficiaries.

Given how philanthropy is now operating in a space where data or knowledge is no longer optional, if it wants to work effectively, and now more than ever, build trust among different sectors of society is critical to achieve transformation towards sustainable development.

To realize the vision of the need for improved data for deeper philanthropic impact and transparency, in October WINGS along with Foundation Center, CENTRIS, and partners from around the world created and refined the *Global Philanthropy Data Charter*.

The main objective of this revision is to make the document more accessible and to provide concrete guidance on how to successfully engage in data-sharing processes. With the purpose of the Charter intending to act as a framework to guide organizations in the sector they came up with a vision that reads "Good data for greater impact " and to do so they have envisaged and promoted 7 key ideas together with 4 values.

With the aim of achieving their vision they have set 3 goals and also documented some strategic principles for data sharing.

If you wish to read the entire charter, understand the global impact it carries and how they wish to proceed with their vision and also what you can do to contribute, please do visit their site at : <http://wings.issuelab.org/resource/global-philanthropy-data-charter-2017-second-edition.html>

'Why disability rights are central to social justice

work—and what we're doing about it'

The Latest
Ideas from the Ford Foundation



This article by Ford Foundation's Noorain Khan, spurred by Ford Foundation President Darren Walker's own essay on personal bias and how it drives injustice and inequality, says that the Foundation itself had a lot to learn and reflect on in relation to its focus on inequality. She writes: "... It quickly became clear that our focus on inequality demands that we think seriously about disability issues. It became equally clear that across all our programs, the specific outcomes and goals we are working to achieve simply cannot be accomplished without addressing the needs, concerns, and priorities of people with disabilities. And so, guided by the disability movement's mantra, "Nothing about us without us," we've been working to confront ableism and expand participation and inclusion on both the institutional and the individual levels...." Khan acknowledges it is not easy and that a lot of reflection and change needs to be made, including attention to what might be considered as minor details, but which engenders exclusion. Finally, while tools are necessary to navigate this universe, Khan says "...Spending time with people with disabilities—listening to their experiences, their criticisms, their ideas—has been the single most important part of our journey so far. Everything I've described here was done based on conversations with people who have been doing this work for far longer than we have. For anyone wanting to join us in this effort, that's the place to start."

To read this article and get in depth with their views and ideas visit their page at:

https://www.fordfoundation.org/ideas/equals-change-blog/posts/why-disability-rights-are-central-to-social-justice-work-and-what-we-re-doing-about-it/?utm_source=Ford+Foundation&utm_campaign=3e819e7901-The+Latest+-+No.+31+November+2017&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_4b4b67ddba-3e819e7901-105700657&goal=0_4b4b67ddba-3e819e7901-105700657&mc_cid=3e819e7901&mc_eid=595f40779d