



Chinmaya Organization for Rural Development Sri Lanka

NEWSLETTER

CORD activities conducted during the Second half of 2021

CHINMAYA MISSION IS A SPIRITUAL, SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION WITH A GLOBAL PRESENCE. THE SERVICE WING OF THE MISSION OPERATES UNDER THE ACRONYM CORD – CHINMAYA ORGANISATION OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT. FOLLOWING THE VISION OF ITS FOUNDER, SWAMI CHINMAYANANDA, IT HAS BEEN ACTIVELY SERVING CITIZENS OF RURAL AREAS FOR THE PAST SEVERAL

Proud Achievements by CORD sponsored children

CORD sponsored children produce excellent results despite many challenges

Career Guidance: Enabling motivated and positive career choices for the young students

CORD supports pandemic affected families

1. Proud Achievements by CORD sponsored children

Nelson Mandela, once emphasized that education is the most powerful weapon which can be used to change the world.



Ramkumar Kanesh Kumar
Electronics and computer science
University of Kelaniya



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CORD's 'Build -a-Future' program has always tried to support the deserving children to achieve their goals in education with the generous support of their sponsors who have joined hands with CORD in this unique endeavor. CORD is extremely honored to share the success of two brothers who managed to break all the barriers to achieve their ultimate dreams of entering universities.

Kanesh Kumar and Vinoth Kumar are twins who grew up together from Grade one. They always showed their passion for learning and completed their exams with high grades. Recognizing the talents of the two brothers, CORD came forward to support their studies. Mr. Ranjan Ramanathan from USA came forward to sponsor the two brothers to support the extremely competitive island wide Advanced Level examination. Based on the island-wide ranking they had obtained, the two brothers Kanesh Kumar and Vinoth Kumar were selected to follow Electronic and Computer Science and Physical science respectively.

CORD is extremely proud of the performance of the two brothers and wish them all the best for their future endeavors. They are extremely grateful to CORD and their sponsor, Mr. Ranjan Ramanathan for coming forward to help them at their critical moment.

2. CORD sponsored children produce excellent results despite many challenges

CORD Sri Lanka has been supporting the poor children from marginalized rural communities to continue their education with the help of donors to build their future careers. Many students during the Covid pandemic faced severe difficulties to attend classes with number of lockdowns. Despite these challenges, all our sponsored children who sat for the island wide public examination, General Certificate of Education (Ordinary Level) 2020, for the first time have done extremely well, and have qualified to continue their studies in the Advanced Level classes which is the gateway to enter the university. We express our heartfelt congratulations to all of them and offer our support for their future studies.

Of the total grades obtained by them for various subjects, 32.3% were 'A' grades while another 18.5% were 'B' grades and 26.2% were 'C' grades. Only 11% were of 'W' (weak) grades, mostly received for English.

CORD and these children are highly indebted to their sponsors, Mrs. Yvonne Jayasinghe, Mr. Anil Metha, Mrs. Shalini Arunanthi, Mr. Ananthan Sinnadurai and Mr. & Mrs. Nallainayagam for their continued support and encouragement given to these children. CORD also gave the 8 children Rupees 10,000/- each for their performances.



3. Career Guidance: Enabling motivated and positive career choices for the young students

Generally, the students follow the standard school curricula without much focus on the future professional prospects. Students receive most of the basic knowledge full covered in G.C.E (O/L). In this regard professional guidance is crucial to support and motivate them to select smart career-choices and prevent them from leaving the education early. Students and their families often give priority to general education though other vocational pathways might very well be the best fit for a students' preferences, attitudes, and learning style, allowing students to better explore their potential and take better advantage of career opportunities. Guidance avoids the usual biases about learning pathways, putting the focus on personal skills and interests. Considering the importance of this aspect CORD conducted a one-day career guidance workshop for fifty school children from Grade 9 to Advanced Level were conducted by Mr. N. Sajjiprasath & Mr. M. Arutkumaran at CORD office on 27 th October 2021.



The seminar commenced at 8.00 a.m. with the worship of the Lord. Although the initial enthusiasm and involvement of the students was low, due to the new way of sharing knowledge and the meticulous planning of the seminar the resource persons were able to attract and retain focus and attention of the students who attended. Motivational Stories and incidents were shared to create enthusiasm and brighten up the students. Small mathematical puzzles were also put forward so that the students do not become bored. The resource persons shared the full details on how to choose the higher education subjects, until lunch break.



Thereafter the career guidance discussion commenced. The information regarding the availability of Non-government organizations for education of students who fail to gain university admission was highlighted as such students are holding important positions. Even though there the student does not qualify to study advanced level, a 13-year guarantee scheme, can be pursued until gaining a degree. They explained that this scheme could be a continuum of the school / academic study or a technical college education, either with NIATA etc., through an NVQ systematic education completion.

Finally, the feedback of the students regarding the seminar was obtained. In the feed-back, the opinion of many students was that this seminar was found to be very useful for them. They further emphasized that they were not aware that there were such a wide range of subjects to be selected from in the university education.

Further a student stated that after this workshop her desire to study further was kindled, and that she will study and take care of her parents well. The students also stated that they look forward to such motivating seminars in the future too. The Seminar concluded well at 4.30p.m.

4. CORD supports pandemic affected families

Successive waves of COVID-19 pandemic have caused untold hardships to poor rural families and school children in Northern Sri Lanka. Frequent lockdowns not only hampered the income-earning opportunities of the poor, but also disrupted food supply chains driving the vulnerable families to near starvation. CORD Sri Lanka, following the emerging situation very closely, intervened to support its Self-Help Groups (SHG) and school children in October 2021 by providing dry rations and money. Each of the 219 SHG families and sponsored children received dry rations and Rs 2000 each to supplement their meager earnings.



Similarly, CORD also provides dry rations to 210 SHG members in Ramboda also.



Bank Remittance details

- Hatton National Bank Plc

Name: Chinmaya Organisation for Rural Development

Branch: Kollupitiya, Colombo 3, Sri Lanka

Account No: 115010123859

Swift Code: HBLILKLX

Bank Code: 7083

Branch Code: 115

- Western Union:

Full Name of CORD representative: Mrs.S. Kumarasamy

Address: No 32,10th Lane, Colombo 3, Sri Lanka

Identity Card No: 585823236V

Kindly send us a copy of the remittance.

UK Remittances

Chinmaya Mission (UK)

Sort Code: 60-08-20

Account No: 60122935

Contact Person: Shakthi Carthigesan

e-mail: shakthi_carthigesan@yahoo.co.uk

USA Remittances

Please forward the cheque written in favour of CORD USA to the following address;

Mrs.Meera Mahenthiran

947 North Wolcott Ave,

Chicago IL 60622

USA

Contact No: 312-622-3402

DO NOT FORGET

1. To mention CORD Sri Lanka in the memo at the bottom.
2. Please write your email address and mailing address on the reverse of the cheque in order to forward an electronic receipt for your tax purposes immediately.