

MATARA CHILDREN'S CENTRE - (MCC), MATARA



Annual Report 2011

Supported by: Swedish Friends of Children in Sri Lanka
(SFCSL)



Implementer: Institute for Development of Community
Strengths (INDECOS)
194/6, Pathum Uyana, Pamburana, Matara, Sri Lanka
Tel: 041 2224800 / 2223900
E-mail: indecos@sltnet.lk



Matara Children Centre
No. 17, Siri Managala Road, Matara, Sri Lanka
Tel: 94 41 5678653 / 94 41 2234143
Web:<http://mcc.indecos.org>

Message from the Manager - MCC

We are very proud to announce the successful completion of the work undertaken for the neediest children in Matara district during the last Four years and moving ahead for the Fifth year of operation. At this successful moment, we are grateful to the **Swedish Friends of Children in Sri Lanka** who took the initiative to start it and render their excellent support to carry out tasks of the centre.

We are always beneficial the guidance of the Institute for Development of Community Strengths (INDECOS) Director, Board members, staff, etc. This intimate cooperation has helped the MCC to be one of the best service providers for children in the Matara District.

Dr. P. Ekanayaka's vital contribution also to be appreciated.

We are actually indebted to Ms Harshani Samarajeewa and Ms Christina Redebäck for the initiatives for establishing this Center and continues support extended by them and the management committee of the Swedish Friends of Children in Sri Lanka. The frequent visits of SFCSL members not only for evaluation and monitoring but also great encouragement and moral support for us to proceed.

Starting the pre-school is a remarkable achievement of the MCC and it has earned a good reputation in Matara area and the parents are really satisfied with their children received knowledge and discipline from our preschool. We are proud to start several programmes such as English, Computer Science, Music and Cookery classes for the benefit of the neediest children who cannot afford to get such knowledge on their own.

The **Scholarship Program** is also very productive and the most of the scholarship holders have taken good results proving the value for money spend by the SFCSL. Both parents and students are very happy and appreciate the opportunities provided through the scholarship program.

The **Star For Life** School Programme which is implemented as a pilot programme in Sri Lanka has gained a wider range of knowledge and moral support for education and earned appreciation from school teachers, principals, the students and the parents.

Once again I should thank Swedish friends for their immense support and encouragement for the development of our children. I would like to extend my appreciation to the Director and the staff of INDECOS, dedicated Resource Persons and the staff of the MCC. We extend our sincere thanks to the children, parents, government and non-governmental organization for their cooperation towards the success of our efforts

I frankly believe that with the help of Swedish Friends of Children in Sri Lanka our children will be brighter and they will be good citizens for the nation.

Thank you

**Pearl Perera - Centre Manager
Matara Children's Centre
Matara**

Matara Children's Centre (MCC)

The Matara Children's Centre (MCC) was officially established on March 17, 2007 to cater to under privileged children who need support in order to improve the quality of their lives. MCC has recognized the necessity of intervention for the children who lost their parents due to the natural disasters and health calamities or remain in the low income level due to various reasons. Almost all of them have no assets for economic development and the only hope is to get the education for their children.

Though there are several subsidy programmes implemented by the government, those programmes unable to make significant changes of their lives. Therefore, to address the needs of under-privileged groups, INDECOS made some efforts to cater the education aspects of the children of those families through MCC. As a results, academic and technical training and various education programmes were provided by MCC to ease the burden of under-privileged families.

Free courses for school going children

MCC was continued for providing free education facilities to the children who need some supplementary support for their education. The children studying from grade 7 to grade 10 at school were facilitated through this programme.

The Progress January –December 2011

Computer Course



There were two (2) separate groups registered for the Computer Basics course and each group consists of twenty (20) students. Other group is registered for computer Diploma course and majority of them were scholarship holders of Matara Scholarship Programme (MSP). Classes were commenced in January 2011. However due to school vacations, students were unable to complete the programmes continuously.

Therefore programmes had to be continued for more than six months to complete the whole course contents. All of the students who participate in this course are evaluated at the end of the course and a certificate of completion is awarded for successful completion of the course. There is a big demand for Computer lessons, but we had to limit due to lack of space.

English Course



There are four (4) separate groups registered for the English Course and each group consists of around twenty (20) students. Classes were commenced in January 2011. All of the students who participate in this course are evaluated on regular basis and certificate of completion is awarded for successful completion of the course. Due to the heavy demand, we had to continue the programme for whole year and continued the lessons in advanced forms.

We are happy to say that ten students sat the KET examination-(Key English Test) of the University of Cambridge through the British Council – Sri Lanka. These students got the opportunity to participate in the seminars for the KET examination conducted by the British English Centre, Matara. The half of the examination fees for each child was also given by the INDECOS, the managing body of MCC. We are happy to note that nine students of them got through the exam, where as only one student was just short of one mark. Students are improving rapidly in terms of spoken English. This is a great achievement. Receiving an employment is very easy with speaking skills in English.

Dancing course

This comprised with two categories. One of which is based on school syllabus & the other on the Traditional dancing tradition. The course, as usually conducted in the previous years, lasts for 6 months, and it focuses on practical & theoretical aspects. It should be noted that we, the MCC have formed a dancing group representing the students following the course in recognition of the importance. At any function conducted at the MCC where dancing is needed, that team plays a significant role, and it is results of hard work of teachers who

usually pays her traditional attention to each student. MCC is planning to construct a separate hut outside the main building for dancing lessons. President of SFCSL was able to see a few dancing items during her visits.



Music course

This course has been designed taking the school syllabus in to account. But the practical knowledge of the subject is very important. At school, students get theoretical knowledge but there, they don't have much time for practice. So, at the MCC they have more time to practice. As a result, we, the MCC have a very good music group. Not only that they have the chance to practice all the musical instruments.

Mr. Ken Wennerholm of Triple & Touch visited MCC under Star For Life project and had some practical lessons. MCC music students, Music Teacher actively participated Mr. Ken Wennerholm, President Mrs. Christina and students were able to visit the local broadcasting center for recording the Theme Song of **Star For Life** Project. Mr. Ken Wennerholm visit made a great contribution to the field of at MCC music.



Cookery course

This has only one group and the students are given the knowledge of preparing local & foreign food items. In addition, good habit of taking food, table manners and the table decoration are taught. After 6 months' time, the students are required to sit for an examination based on practical knowledge & theory. Parents appreciate the process of cooking.



Course Time Table:

The courses and time table remains the same except for some minor addition/adjustments for the successful placing of students according to levels. This is explained in details below.

Course Time Table:

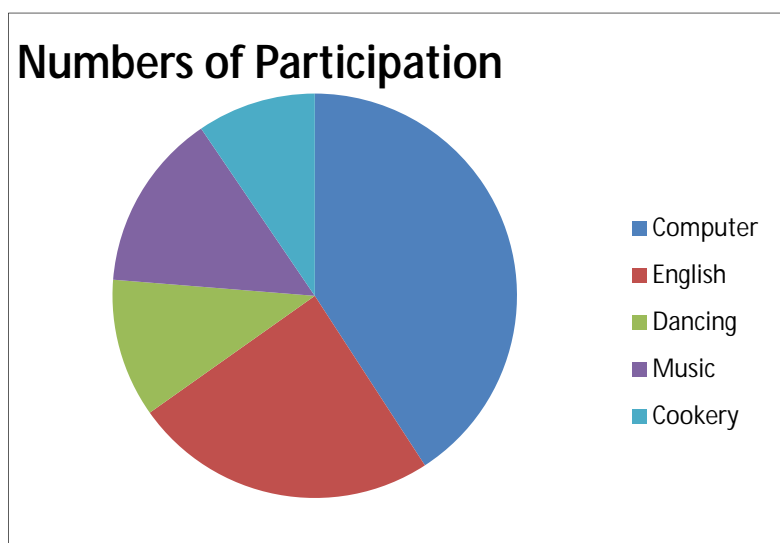
Subject	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Computer	✓		✓		✓
English	✓	✓		✓	✓
Dancing			✓		
Music		✓			
Cookery		✓			

Available students for each class:

The number of students enrolled for each and every course is illustrated on below table. The total of participation was 360 students.

Name of the Course	Number of participants
Computer	129
English	77
Dancing	65
Music	45
Cookery	44
Total	360

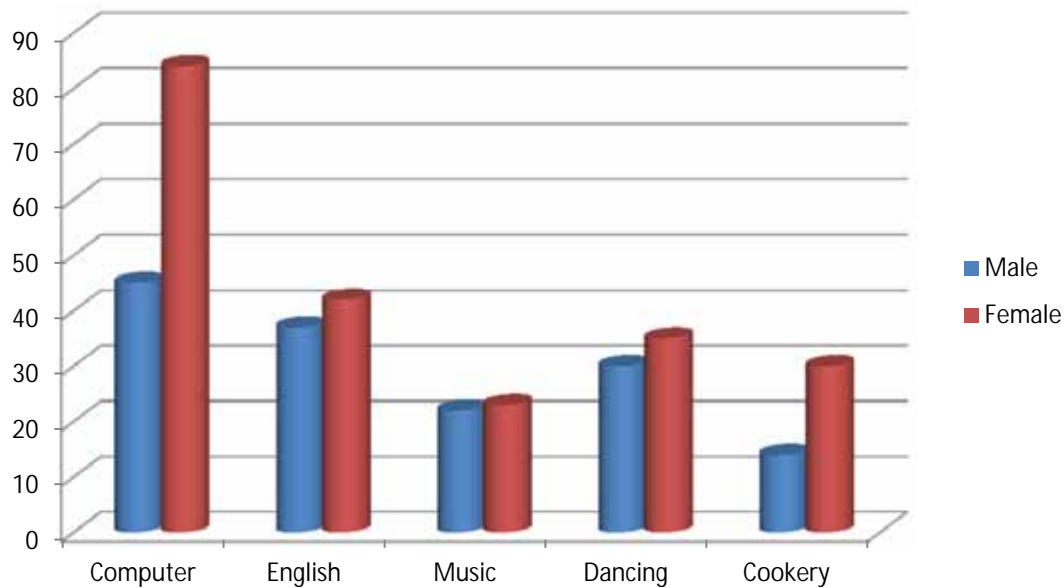
The graphical representation of children's attendants



Gender representation for each class

Course	Male	Female	Total
Computer	45	84	129
English	35	42	77
Music	22	23	45
Dancing	30	35	65
Cookery	14	30	44
Total	146	214	360

The graphical representation of gender variation



Library

The students have the opportunity to read the books in the library. Books in both English & Sinhala are available. The students who are following the English course find the books on English language. Most of the books were donated by the Swedish friends of children in Sri Lanka. Now students can refer to the relevant books on computer & cooking. Space is the only problem and this should be expanded.

The center purchases most appropriate news papers in Sinhala & English for the benefit of children.



Lottery draw

The Lottery draw, which was organized to raise the fund of the MCC, was held on January 15 2011. The first three winners were awarded a washing Machine, a Television and Gas cooker respectively and the other winners were given fifteen awards. Mrs. W.K.K. Athukorala, District Secretary and the members of the executive board of INDECOS Participated in this event. We were able to collect Rs.142, 600.00 for the fund.



Winner received the washing Machine

Profit deposited in the MCC account.

1st Prize - Washing Machine

2nd Prize - Television

3rd Prize - Gas Cooker

Consolidated prizes were given.

Independence Day

February 04. Every year, Sri Lankans celebrate the Independence day. The MCC with the preschool children celebrated this event on February 07.2011. At the event, the children were dressed in such a way that their clothes represent every ethnic group, which symbolizes harmony peace among communities as a nation. Then they sang the national anthem. This helps generate about our Independence.



Health Program

This was conducted by Dr. Ekanayake and he checked the health condition of all students. Height and weight of all the students were checked and given advice on health. Dr. Ekanayake advised the parents on their children's meals, particularly of those whose weight was not enough for the age. Advice on nutrition for were very valuable the parents.



The Field Trip of the Preschool

This year, the parents and then teachers opinion was to visit “Kerala kele”(Mangroves Resource Centre and Biological Garden). The children of preschool, Parents, teachers and staff of the MCC went on the trip. The purpose of the trip was to give the children some knowledge on fauna and flora. They spend nearly four hours there and it gives them an opportunity to observe various types of birds, fish, trees and animals.

We treat this and a nature exploration tour. While walking inside the teachers explained about the environment. In the main time they enjoyed.



New Year Celebration April - 2011

Matara Children Centre decided to celebrate Sinhala and Tamil New Year this year with the participation of children. Sinhala and Tamil New year is the most important cultural event in Sri Lanka. In Pre School syllabus too there is a lesson on the New Year, Sri Lankan Customs and traditions.

April is a month of festivals. Sinhala and Tamil New year generally falls on the 13th or 14th. This is one of the key national and cultural events for Sinhala and Tamil people in Sri Lanka. A series of cultural events are practiced by both Buddhists and Hindus during these

two days. The New Year is indeed a national festival. It generates fellow-feeling and national cohesion. The children should know what it is. That is why the MCC allocated 3 days for the event as they could learn and enjoy Sri Lankan traditions.

- 1st day - Visited INDECOS office as a way of symbolizing visiting relatives during the new year period
- 2nd day - Preschool children with the parents practiced the New Year traditions (Costoms)
- 3rd day - Children Celebrated New Year - Different competitions and events were organized.



Parents also attended the event. MCC provided gifts for the children.



4th Anniversary (Blood donation programme)

The main purpose of the programme was to hand over blood to the blood bank of the Matara hospital. For that Dr. Ekanayaka took permission from the hospital. Firstly, a handbill on the programme was prepared and distributed among the children and the members of INDECOS to convey the message get the participation of blood donors. And also the hospital provided some posters on the theme to be displayed in the town and two banners were also displayed to inform the public about the programme.

As arranged, a doctor, three nurses and an assistant from the hospital came to the MCC with required beds and other equipments. The Director, Chairman, secretary of MCC, Staff of the INDECOS, the staff of the MCC and Scholarship holders joined this occasion.



MCC will continue this program annually. Ultimately this blood goes to the poor innocent patients. More than 50 pints of blood were donated to the hospital through this one day program. The Medical team worked entirely free.

Vesak festival

Vesak is the most sacred religious festival for Buddhists as they celebrate the birth, enlightenment and passing away of the lord Buddha all over the world. For this very special occasion we too organized a Bakthi Gee (Recital) programme on May 19, 2011, with religious songs that praise the Buddha and his doctrine. The Preschool children of the MCC and the children of INDECOS participated in this programme. Under the guidance of the music teacher of the MCC. MCC Students parents provided vesak lanterns MCC became a colorful centre during week days.



Program commenced in the evening near at the MCC. Parents of preschool children made the stage and prepared decorations. A large number of people gathered to witness the event.

Meetings with Parents

We hold meetings with parents on regular basis to discuss the progress of children and organize different programs.

The main purpose of parents' meeting is to discuss the progress of the students with them. We usually have a meeting for the parents of the preschool children once a month and for the other parents, a meeting is held every six months. We use this occasion to discuss the progress of each child in relation to their education and nutrition condition.



Parents forward their valuable ideas when having meetings in respect of extra activities and events. Parents decide and take over responsibilities. As parents they contribute money to fulfill certain responsibilities. MCC never collect money from parents or children for any kind of extra activities. Since 2007 the parents have contributed immensely to have successful programs.

A group of Swedish Friends' visit MCC

A group of SFCSL visited the MCC on January 05th to 12th, 2011. During this time Mr. Ken Wennerholm visited the centre and joined to record the music for the Star for life program. Mr. Ken Wennerholm presented a music program and the dancing group of the MCC showed their talents as well. In addition, the scholarship program - MSP I and MSP II were concluded during this time.



Mr. Johan Juffermans of Forum syd from Sweden came to the centre on March 11, 2011 and the purpose of the visit was to see the progress of the HIV/AIDS programme for the school children, teachers, army personnel and police officers.

This was an Evaluation. He met different groups and gained direct views. According procedures were observed.



Ms Christina visited the MCC on June 7, 13, 14 2011 and end of the December spent a couple of hours with our children.

She visits the centre frequently to meet INDECOS Board members, Staff, Parents, children and relevant authorities. She behaves like a mother to the children.



Visit of Rachel Maddock

On February 21, 2011, Mrs. Rachel Maddock visited the MCC in order to observe the progress of the Australian scholarship programme.

Rachel was an Australian volunteer. Who served over three years in our organization. she likes the MCC and helping the ASP programme.



Dasun visit to Sweden. This is also an achievement gained by the MCC through SFL Program. As a musician he had lots of talents. Was able to visit Sweden and perform with the famous group triple and though.

ANNUAL CONCERT OF THE MATARA CHILDREN'S CENTRE

With the participation of the president of SFCSL and its members, Additional District Secretary Mr. Soisa , Zonal Director of Education Mr. W.R. Weerakoon were the government guest.

Talents of the MCC Children and Pre School Children were showcased at the event. Everybody, especially the children, enjoyed this event very much as the concert was colorful and wonderful.

The Pre School Children collected their certificates from Ms. Christina Reddeback, the President of the SFCSL. Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and other board members of INDECOS attended.



