

## **Report of the group discussions**

The participants were divided into eight groups. They were given the task to discuss on the objectives of ACRCI and give suggestions to realize the objectives in the Church today. Each group discussed the theme given to them. The proposals made by the groups are given below for each theme:

### **I.To bring to light the contributions of the Catholic Church in the society through this service.**

1. To produce Documentary videos
2. Create a website and give good presentation of our activities
3. Make use of the social media like, Face book, you tube etc.
4. Arrange programmes of our children during parish fest
5. Invite local leaders to our institutions
6. Publish articles on activities of our institutions and on disability in all catholic periodicals
7. Arrange awareness programmes for the public
8. Organize Christmas programme, sports etc. in public for our children, arrange exhibitions
9. Invite other people to celebrate birth days and special occasions with our children
10. Involve clubs like, Rotary, Lions etc. to be involved in such programmes
11. Organize some fests at the Diocesan level including all special institutions
12. Celebrate World Disability Day (Dec. 3) with the public
13. Regular documentation of all the activities and programmes
14. A PRO is good in every institution to contact the public regularly
15. Equip the staff with technical knowledge to make use of the media
16. Create awareness in the society so that they become active in matters regarding disability and institutions catering the cause of the disabled.
17. In order to counter the propaganda against the services of the church we should let others know what we are doing and we should involve others in our activities.
18. Publish the activities and the achievements of the institution
19. Lack of expertise in networking is a defect and we need to collaborate with all likeminded people and organizations.
20. Mutual support and collaboration is necessary

### **II. To help the individuals and institutions to find solutions to the problems faced by them in running the institutions.**

1. Conduct awareness programmes for the superiors of the institutions, teachers and parents.
2. ACRCI can organize some training programmes on legal provisions at the state/ regional/ national level
3. Some of us should become expertise to give intellectual contributions at the state or national level
4. Implement the system of planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation
5. Train more personnel in different branches of special education
6. Invite the Government officials to visit our institutions occasionally

7. Develop good and positive relationship with parents, local people and government officials
8. Update our knowledge and information regarding disability and rehabilitation, legal provisions, rules and regulations etc.

### **III. To enter into dialogue with various Government departments at the state and central level.**

1. We need to be in constant touch with different Govt. Departments. We have to be informed of the various schemes of the Govt., laws and regulations, policies etc. We should also be transparent in all our dealings, accounts and reporting.
2. We shall have good relations with the public leaders, invite them for our programmes etc.
3. We shall not try to bribe the officers or else we will be put in trouble, instead have good relation with them and regularly make follow ups.
4. We have to submit all files and documents in time
5. Proper awareness and training need to be given to the fathers and sisters working in the field regarding govt. policies, schemes rules etc.
6. It is good to invite some govt. officials for such conferences so that we will get more inputs regarding govt. policies and schemes.

### **IV. To work for the protection of the rights of the marginalized in an organized manner.**

1. It is good to substitute the word 'marginalized' to 'persons with disabilities'
2. Many of the priests and sisters do not update their knowledge. So we need to organize seminars and workshops on these issues.
3. The superiors often have a charity approach, instead of right based approach. Hence ACRCI may invite superiors also for such meetings.
4. ACRCI reports shall be sent to the major superiors also. This work must be discussed in CRI meetings
5. We need to have organized work in India. Hence more collaboration and networking is needed.
6. We need to start a website of ACRCI
7. The candidates to priesthood and religious life shall be exposed to the field of disability during the period of their formation.

### **V. To reflect the merciful love of Christ in the society through affirmative action.**

1. We should respect the feelings, emotions and aspirations of the child, parent and the family of the disabled child. Parents require our support and assistance. So we should work for full inclusion.
2. Sometimes we fail to get the support of the superiors in our work. In such situations we need to affirm our commitment to the cause.
3. We have to come out of our personal as well as congregational ego and support each other. ACRCI can be a platform for this
4. When we work with children with disabilities, we do not get immediate result. So we have to affirm ourselves that rehabilitation does not always mean high standard results but gradual change in the persons with disabilities.

5. As service providers we should ensure that the parents are the primary care takers and we assist them in their responsibilities.
6. We have to teach the parents about the value of life and equality of every child whether normal or special.

**VI. To foster mutual collaboration by coming together and forming an organized pressure group before the Government**

1. Proper guidelines and procedures to apply for Govt. schemes be made available to all our member units.
2. Create awareness among the superiors so that they accept and creatively support the work done by the members. This is needed for moral, social and financial support.
3. Coming together at the state level will help us to work in each state in a collective way and we can support each other.
4. At the national level also this collaborative work will function as a pressure group and we will get more strength.
5. Training programmes on different topics at the state and central level will enhance our knowledge and skills.

**VII. To help the catholic organizations / Institutions on important matters like Registration and Administration of our institutions, membership in national bodies like the National Trust, legal requirements, Rights and benefits, Grant-in-aid from Government, Fund raising etc.**

1. Regarding registration and administration- we have to maintain all records properly and ensure transparency in our dealings and transactions
2. We should have healthy relationship with govt. officials
3. We should know the policies and schemes in detail and the procedure to follow it up.
4. We should get all registrations done and renewed at the proper time, like, registration in National Trust etc. It will help us to negotiate with national level organizations or forums.
5. We can approach the corporate for funding, provided we have a very good track record, good relationship with them, we are transparent in dealings and we have a strong organizational structure.