

To

The Chairman,
C B C I,
At Bangaluru Meeting,
Bangaluru

Subject: An appeal for official approval and encouragement for the Association of Catholic Rehabilitation Centres of India(ACRCI) engaged in the rehabilitation ministry of the Church for the welfare of persons with disabilities in India

Dear and Most Reverend Cardinals, Major Archbishops, Archbishops and Bishops,

We, the members of Association of Catholic Rehabilitation Centres of India (ACRCI), gathered at Dharmaram College Bangalore for the third national conference of the association humbly seek your permission to place before you the Situation Report on Catholic rehabilitation ministry in India, and an Appeal to consider the work done through the member units as an integral part of the Church's ministry today:

- 1) That rehabilitation ministry for the welfare of the persons with disabilities has been an essential part of Church's mission throughout her history, even before the society at large realized that disability is a condition born with and not an illness to be treated.
- 2) That the lame, the deaf, the mentally challenged and the physically deformed always attracted the special attention of the Church. A number of religious congregations, both men and women, came forward to commit their lives at the service of the persons with disabilities.
- 3) That very often the healthy and mentally well-endowed find it hard to understand the hardships the disabled face in their day-to-day life till they themselves enter the autumn of their lives when they find how difficult it is climbing the stairs of the homes they built for themselves.
- 4) That the lack of coordination among the Catholic rehabilitation centres prevented the Church from playing a leading role in developing new methodology and techniques to deal with the disabilities people suffered from.
- 5) That new and simple techniques developed by the individual centres could go a long way to alleviate the challenges faced by the persons with disabilities. The success of rehabilitation work depends on effective net-working among the member units in the field. Though the Church run units have begun to build up networking, it has always been localized or region wise. Its impact was very limited.
- 6) That the ACRCI was established in 2013 to develop effective networking among the Catholic Rehabilitation centres at the national level so that with a coordinated approach to the problems faced by the persons with disabilities, a better service could be provided, and share the information with member units about latest techniques in the field of rehabilitation and government policies both at the state and central level.
- 7) That today (the nos.) Catholic Rehabilitations Centres have registered with ACRCI. These member units are carrying out the rehabilitation ministry of the Church throughout India and giving witness to the compassionate love of Jesus Christ to the lame, the maimed the deaf, the dumb, the blind, the retarded and the physically deformed.
- 8) That unlike other ministries, the success of the work done in the field of rehabilitation is very imperceptible and slow. The people who work in the field of rehabilitation need the support of the Church so that they may not give up the work because of the lack any perceptible or dramatic change or success in the people they work for.

So the Association of Catholic Rehabilitation Centres humbly requests the CBCI Standing Committee to approve the ACRCI as an organization working under the directions of the Church for the welfare of the persons with disabilities and recommend it to the CBCI General Body to grant recognition. True the Church cannot deal with the over 26810557 persons with disabilities in India as per the Census 2011 report. But with proper networking and guidance, the Catholic Rehabilitation Centres can play a leading role in the field of rehabilitation and provide succor to people with disabilities.

We the below named members present at the National Conference of the Association of Catholic Rehabilitation Centres of India, Bangaluru, affix our signatures as parties to the above appeal on the 21st day of April in the Year of Our Lord 2015: