

Holy Cross Service Society, Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu, India

Annual Report : 2025– 2026

Holy Cross Service Society, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, India founded by Prof.Dr.S.Prabakar Immanuel, a professional in the field of Disability, is an NGO with focus on professional, Right Based, Inclusive, comprehensive and family and community involved assistance to all children with special needs as well as persons with Disabilities. The Services include Prevention, Early identification and Intervention, Education, Therapy, CBR, Vocational Training and Rehabilitation, Training to NGOs, workers of Disabled, Government Personnel, ICDS staff and Production of Books, Videos and Awareness Materials. To know more about Holy Cross Service Society log on to web site: hcsstrichy.in (or) [hcsstrichy](https://www.facebook.com/hcsstrichy) in face book.

Within the community and family we ensure gender equality and right based support through individual based intervention plans.

The focus of our efforts namely inclusion, social living , family participation, Individual based education assistance for successful living within community and family, all remain functional and could achieve the goals. The different dimension of services which Holy Cross Service Society focused could be implemented successfully. The inclusive education, early intervention, community based services, special need support to failing and dropout children, vocational training and rehabilitation and therapy support to the needy children, all continued.

Development in the organization: The Holy Cross Service Society is moving towards the next level of development. Prof.Prabakar had handed over the Secretary ship to the senior leader of the organization and continues to lead the team accepting the President ship of the organization so that the work will continue with his guidance and mentorship.

The Holy Cross Service Society, Trichy is gaining recognition and respect from different institutions. The Madras School of Social Work, Chennai a premier social work college affiliated to Madras University entered in to a MOU with Holy Cross Service Society to promote integrated farm training to Persons With Disabilities and green entrepreneurship through a six month certificate course. This course is a first time course in the country promoting skill development for rural PWDs in integrated farm skill development. The certification process will help the PWDs and families to get recognition and assistance from banks and government. The recent development in government of Tamil Nadu of promoting integrated farm as policy of government Augurs well for the future of PWDs. This year this course has gained an unique recognition from government of Tamil Nadu as the employment and training directorate of Govt. of Tamil Nadu recognize the course

and given National Code number which helps our students to enroll in the employment register of govt. of Tamil Nadu. This is the first ever recognition for PWDs from government for employment purpose in Green Agriculture.

Another important development relate to the interest of Tamil Nadu Open University, Chennai to discuss with us of the possibility of offering one year Diploma course in Early Childhood Education to support them in their efforts to produce trained professionals in the field of early intervention and early childhood education.

The Holy Cross Service Society is recognized by Tamil Nadu Open University Chennai to start Diploma course in General Duty Assistant / Nursing Assistant. Both one year diploma and two year diploma are approved. The Tamil Nadu Open University also recognized Holy Cross Service Society to conduct 6 months certificate course on Computer for children with disabilities. This is the first course of certificate to CWDs by Tamil Nadu Open University.

The Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) had identified and recognized Holy Cross Service Society as the only NGO in Tamil Nadu and one of the sixteen institutions in India to offer the Community Based Inclusive Development course (CBID) which is designed with the support of Melbourne University, Australia. All the successful candidates are getting RCI registration certificate which is a professional recognition to work in the field of PWDs.

The Holy cross Service Society is now supporting the pilot project of Govt. of Tamil Nadu namely Tamil Nadu Rights project as advisor and support team. Prof.S.Prabakar is also appointed as an honorary member of the Tamil Nadu Govt. in the higher power committee responsible for research activities in the state. Prof.Dr.S.Prabakar is invited by the education department of govt. of Tamil Nadu to train the writers of the books of Grade 1 to 10 to include concepts of persons with disabilities within the curriculum and also to promote inclusive education in the schools of Tamil Nadu.

The concepts of total development for children with development delays, transitional support to failing and drop out children, computer skill development to rural women, children and PWDs, entrepreneurship skill development for PWDs and preparation of PWDs for competitive examination of Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission are all new direction of our work.

This year, we are very happy to inform that the Holy Cross Service Society, Trichy after due analysis and discussion by Income tax authorities, received charitable status up to year 2036-37.

Early Intervention for speech and language and development delayed children: This year lots of efforts are taken to help medical doctors to understand concepts of early intervention for development delayed children. In Trichy we have a peculiar challenge as medical hospitals are now implementing early intervention to children with development delays through only therapists. They have appointed therapists in each hospital, so that most children are retained with them. Hence we have to make lots of efforts to create an understanding in the community so that the life of children can be gainfully supported when they have speech, language and development delays. This made us to create more awareness to community level workers, visiting doctors to create an understanding of the importance of referral, training diploma students of our programme to promote early identification and also motivating our parents to communicate to other parents for early intervention.

This had helped to find new children who need total development support. All these children had a full assessment of the total development needs so that they can get individual educational plan focusing on speech, language, cognition, communication, gross motor, fine motor, daily living skills, attention, concentration, behavior needs and social and emotional needs. This concept of total development helped many children to gain valuable skills so that they can move to 1st grade at the appropriate age. The first step of the intervention is help to children to gain daily living skills with the support of family. In order to achieve this parents are part of the intervention team. The support system includes therapy assistance and special need assistance.

The parents are partner in this programme and hence family member stay with the child to meet the total development needs both in the training unit and at home. The participation of parents / family is critical as the first six years of life are called golden period when neuro plasticity of the brain is highly functional. This year is a landmark year as parents group celebrated 25 years of parent association. This parent group called PASAM had brought out a book as a mark of silver jubilee celebration of parents network. Parents also get ongoing training. The training also focuses on fathers on a special way. This has made many fathers to participate in the training programme. More than hundred children gained individual based intervention services.

Promoting inclusive education: The concept of promoting education using general school curriculum/syllabus is now the right of the child with disability. Since our children with special needs have abilities to succeed in academic education using general school curriculum, if their special needs are met, we are supporting such children who can gain general school pass status if they can achieve academic skills. This type of intervention where children with special needs are admitted in the regular school but supported for special needs is called

integrated education. Here the child gains all skills for special needs and also gets education using the curriculum of the general school.

Children with disabilities have inherent capabilities and need supportive environment to succeed in education and life. Most of the children in our early intervention programme, due to our early intervention support can go to a general school system and get education using the same curriculum if their special needs are met in a professional way. These children are called children with special needs and when we have a system to give education meeting the special needs then these children can study using the same curriculum. There are different approaches in integrated education but the basic principle is special needs should be met through a special need educator so that children can succeed in general school curriculum. Our intervention plan follows all these principles and demonstrates that the children with disabilities when supported through a special need educator can indeed successfully study in the general school curriculum and prove their abilities.

This concept demonstrated the following:

- 1) children with disabilities can study using general school curriculum
- 2) for successful education, children with disability need individual support from a trained educator
- 3) the general educators are now seeing our children with disabilities as capable children
- 4) most of the children move to higher education and continue education without being dropped out
- 5) parents are very happy as their children can study like other children

This year two important information to be shared here: the first information relate to the govt. of Tamil Nadu wanted us to organize the workshop to train special educators who can now write in the text books of the special needs of children with disabilities and how to meet the same in the school system.

The other information relate to the govt. inviting Prof.S.Prabakar as an expert consultant to train the educators who are writing text books from Grade 1 to Grade 10 so that these books can have information on successful education of children within the general school system. A clear demonstration of the fact our efforts to promote integrated education is getting recognized both by the government and the community.

Assistance to severe children with disabilities: Challenges of parents can be multitude when they have children with disabilities. When the child has one disability, this itself can cause so much of stress to the family. But when the child has more than one disability which requires individual based one to one attention and also lots of support system, parents become more stressful and sometimes

choose to leave the child without giving much support. If the child is severe then the training can be more challenging and stressful.

Disability itself is a major challenge both to the child and to the family. But when the disability happens in more than one aspect or when it is severe and profound, parents become helpless and seek charity support from everybody. But the fact is, this group of children can also be supported to gain specific skills and live successfully in family and community. This concept is demonstrated through our efforts to help multi handicapped and severe disabled children.

This programme is very unique as it helps severe handicap condition children like autism, multi handicap and severely cognitively delayed. This programme is very specific to the individual need of the child. Hence based on functional needs an individual intervention plan is developed and implemented. The focus of intervention is communication skills, social behavior skills, daily living skills, family living skills, cognitive skills and pre-vocational skills. Functional academics are added based on the need of the children.

Life oriented education including leisure time activity, play, art, craft work, sports and family living needs are the core of the training plan. The life skills gained by the children to live independently as well as participate socially in the home situation are highly appreciated by the parents. Most children gained confidence and move independently. They listen to the parents and assist in small domestic activities. This is the best achievement of our effort since these children are considered severe and need to be taken care for the entire life, about which parents get worried of the future. But now they see the abilities of the children who are supporting in family life.

Concept of multi handicap is now gaining more interest as many children with multi handicap condition survive due to medical developments. Hence services this group of children is gaining more importance. But these children are severe and need a structured one to one support in many situations. Our model demonstrating the ability of the children is now gaining acceptance both among parents and professionals. Our efforts to support children with multi handicapping condition and deafblindness are reaching many children in villages and our special educators visited the houses and support the children as well as families. This includes assistance for health needs by providing nutritious powder to support children.

Community based services: We have assisted many NGOs in South India to promote community based services. Today those NGOs in South India are implementing community based rehabilitation services in their states and recently one of them recognized our contribution to the organization in a national meeting where the organization received an award. This is a clear message of the need of

promoting community based rehabilitation services to reach rural poor and rural community.

The community based programme because of its nature of supporting children within the family and community, is a model programme now seen as a concept by government.

The community based workers can visit the children on a regular basis and support them for their needs. The effort of our community based workers to assist children with disabilities had helped them to gain valuable skills in communication, language, behaviour, daily living and academic learning. The parents are very happy as many of them in the villages have to go out to earn money and our coworkers in the villages assist the children and help them to be safe and healthy. This is a great advantage of community based service as we are not only supporting children in this difficult period but also assisting parents to gain confidence.

The programme focuses on upgrading individual based skills, experience learning, life oriented skills and educational skills through admission in the regular local schools. Children from different types of disabilities from rural locations are supported in this concept and enrolled in the local schools to gain all benefits and support from government. Preparing the family, developing an individual intervention plan, getting all the benefits for the child with disability, assisting children for special needs including support for behavior, communication, social interaction and living skills are part of this effort. This programme follows a structure in which communication, language processing, behavior, reading and possible writing as well as social participatory activities such as games are implemented. The acceptance of the child with disability by the family, school teachers and neighbours and inclusion of the child with disability in family functions and social events like village festivals are all the success of this effort. Benefits and assistance from government related programme are organized and made available to the children as a right.

Special need services to children who are challenges of education and dropped out of schools: The efforts of government to promote admission to all children as right of education had helped children with disabilities in every village to have admission in a local school. The children get charity assistance of admission and do not get adequate individual based support for their special needs. This situation can be seen both as a positive effort, as admission is assured and negative, as individual based needs of not met. In areas where we are assisting children with disabilities, we are also able to assist children for their special needs. But the fact is, large number of these children, who remained in the school without any support have become failures. Alternately there are few special schools, where children with disabilities receive charity assistance, and

hence no one see their abilities. In general schools not much support is available to meet the special needs and hence most of the children fail and get dropped out of the schools. But the fact is, most of these children have abilities and when supported for their special needs, they can also succeed. This is the principle of our concept of transitional services to failing and drop out children. Ours is the only programme for assisting children for education and life needs when children with special needs failing and drop out in school system.

This belief of assisting failing and drop out children through individual based intervention plan is an innovative approach of Holy Cross Service Society. This concept need to be promoted as children with disabilities have inherent abilities and need assistance.

In this concept these children will go through appropriate assessment so that we know the level of the child. This assessment helps us to design the goals for intervention for to the individual child. These goals help us to develop the individual intervention plan.

The programme is specifically designed for different needs and different groups of levels of functioning of children. The concept of supporting children through preparatory programme helped the children to move in their own speed of learning accommodating their special behavior needs. Many children with low self confidence because of the attitude of teachers and parents that they are failures remained initially non communicative and showing behavior challenges. But once they realized, they have abilities, which when supported can make them successful, these children become self confident and interact in family and community.

The focus of this programme is to give individual based intervention to the failing and drop out children. Parents are concerned about the future of the children and cooperate with us in our efforts to train the children. Many of the children have the capability to gain academic skills through short term transitional plans, based on the need of the child we could design an intervention plan and support the child also. The process includes basic skill development, and preparation for academic learning and skills for life. Many of the children could gain appropriate academic skills and could reach 8th grade, 10th grade, 11th grade and 12th grade.

This programme in addition to focusing on academic skills and life oriented skills also gave the children opportunity to gain pre-vocational skills. The children gained skills in farm, preparation for govt. examination, catering and life oriented needs. More than 110 children get support through this concept.

Assistance to children with special needs to gain Computer skills: Children with disabilities in today's situation need skills in using technology. The need of information technology and computer skill development is now the primary need of all people. But generally persons with disabilities are not getting much opportunity to gain computer skills needed for today's job requirement and life requirement. We have developed a curriculum which can be taught to persons with disabilities, women from rural areas and rural Tamil medium children. This experience and expertise helped us to move forward and get recognition from Tamil Nadu Open University to offer certificate course on computer skill development. This course Office automation and computer skills are a certificate course of Tamil Nadu Open University and is recognized by Government as well as employment exchange.

This training programme has multi benefits which include positive attitude of children, interaction with our special need children, and participation in the activities of children with special needs, personality development of rural children and belief in self of their success in life. The need of the persons with disabilities to gain skills in computer related aspects was met through a structured certificate course. The course is evaluated by the university and the students passing out will be receiving certificate of success. 20 persons with disabilities participated in this course. It has both theory and practical components. All the 20 children with disabilities have passed with high grades and received certificate from the university.

Training facility for persons with disabilities in green entrepreneurship skills: The new development of training persons with disabilities in integrated farm skills is now providing jobs to the PWDs with family support at their villages. This concept of integrated farm of giving valuable skills to the children with disabilities is now helped CWDs not only to gain skills but also successfully rehabilitated. Three batches of 30 PWDs successfully completed the course and training and also received certificate of merit from Madras School of Social Work. The parents and PWDs are very proud to receive the certificate of merit. This year we have achieved a great milestone in this effort. For the first time in the Tamil Nadu history, green entrepreneurship skill development programme of Holy Cross Service Society is now recognized by the government of Tamil Nadu department of employment training as a training programme which can be registered in a separate number in the employment exchange of Tamil Nadu for job purposes. This means our trained students are recognized for employment in the different sectors of govt. in the field of farm and green entrepreneurship. This is a great blessing as this is the first training programme for PWDs separately registered in the employment exchange of govt. with separate number. All the 30 PWDs are followed up for rehabilitation and successfully rehabilitated with family support.

The concept of integrated farm emerges from the fact agricultural work situation is connected to gaining skills in multi dimension so that the agricultural job can be profitable. In order to achieve this in the integrated farm infra structural facilities developed. Fish farm including tank was completed and water flow was regulated. We have installed solar facility to demonstrate to the people with disabilities the value of solar energy and green energy. We have also developed drip irrigation concept in the farm so that PWDs can be trained in the water management. Farm shed is completed with EB, water connection, motor, bore well, etc. are done. Duck, chicken and other livestock initiated. Flower garden was completed. Space allocation and training facilities are completed. Vegetation plants were planted and proper care was given.

Holy Cross CBR Model:

- A. **Direct Services:** Services to the CWDs with specific goal oriented Individual Intervention plans.
- B. **Direct Services through partner NGOs:** Services to the CWDs with specific goal oriented Individual Intervention plans through partner NGOs who network with us to promote quality of services to children with disabilities. NGOs desirous of promoting IEPs can contact us for participating in our networking concept of promoting individual based intervention services to children with disabilities.
- C. **Other services offered in CBR :**
 - New client identification
 - Prevention / Awareness campaigns
 - Medical camps / Screening camps.
 - Surgical support
 - Scholarship
 - Loans from Banks / Government.
 - Orthotic appliances , Spectacles , Hearing Aids and Ear Moulds
 - Old age Pension – Family Pension
 - Houses for Poor – rural disabled (from Government resources)
 - Tricycles (from Government sources)
 - Bus pass
 - Mother and child care assistance
 - ID cards
 - Government concessions for examinations.
 - Vocational Assistance.

Assessment facilities for the following are available:

- psychological assessment (IQ)
- developmental assessment

- PDD / Autism assessment
- learning disability assessment
- educational assessment for children studying in English medium schools
- language cognitive skill assessment for UKG / I grade children
- behaviour assessment
- vision assessment
- hearing assessment
- speech assessment
- language assessment
- new born screening tool

Production of Books continued this year also. The books printed this year are

- 1) New dimensions of services to PWDs – A comprehensive information manual
- 2) Activity book for Community Based workers and parents of special need children
- 3) Play activities and Development related activities for parents and educators
- 4) A guide for identifying children with speech, language and development delays for early intervention.

This year is a special year of networking of parents and promoting parent's participation in services to children with speech, language and development delayed children, as the parent network celebrated 25 years of parents network programme. As part of the celebration the parents network (PASAM) brought out a book written by parents of their experiences and professionals of the needs of children with development delays.

Appeal: If you want to join the efforts of HCSS Trichy to reach more disabled in rural areas, you can support us visit our website hcsstrichy.in

Some additional information:

The following covers the other areas of support in our work

- Screening / Identification
- Assistance from Government & other resources
- Hearing Aids / Appliances
- Ear moulds
- Sign Language
- World Disabled Day
- Awareness campaigns
- Medical camps
- Food support for Residential Children
- Dresses

- Assessment support (Audio logical , Psychological,Vision, Speech Language)
- Brief Information on workshops / Seminars / Training Programmes.**

16.4.25	Parents training on Behaviour modification training prog.	23
18.4.25	Parents training on Behaviour modification training prog.	20
21.4.25	Parents training on Behaviour modification training prog.	32
13.5.25	Parents training on Language Development Training	25 parents 40 children 14 teachers
27.6.25	Parents training on Training on Enhance Education at home	38
6.8.25	Parents training on Importance of Early Intervention	35
12.8.25	Parents training on Training on Enhance emotional IQ	31
15.8.25	Parents training on Language Development Training / Independence day celebration	23
25.8.25	Parents training on Experience learning on language - Vinayagarchathurthi celebration	31
26.8.25	Parents training on Training on Preparation of paper bags	33
1.9.25	Parents training on Thread bangles & stone hair clips making training	27
22.9.25	Parents training on Children's Improvement level evaluation meeting and guidance training	24
25.9.25	Parents training on Experience learning on language - Pooja celebration	27
14.10.25	Parents training on Awareness meeting on Cancer	22
16.10.25	Parents training on Experience learning on language - Deepavali celebration	36
14.11.25	State level network meet (Sense)	36
14.11.25	Parents training on Experience learning on language - Children's day celebration	38
14.11.25	Parents training on Experience learning on language - Christmas celebration	43
15.11.25	State level Advocacy meet (Sense)	29
15.12.25	Parents training on Training on DLS at home environment	43
	Children's Improvement level evaluation meeting and guidance training	39

18.12.26	Celebration on Christmas function	
10.1.26	Celebration on Pongal	128 (children, Parents, Teachers)
26.1.26	Celebration on Republic day	74 (children, parents & teachers)
12.2.26	Tamil Nadu State-Level Training for SamagraShiksha Educators	30
14.2.26	Father's meeting	33
6.3.26	26th PASAM Annual Day & Women's day celebration	37
16.3.26	Science Exhibition	45 Parents, Children and Teachers
19.3.26	Celebration on Ramzan	45 Parents, Children and Teachers
25.3.26	Parents training on Craft work training	24

The Holy cross Service Society is moving forward with new ideas and plans. We seek the support of parents, doctors, educators and the community at large to identify children at a very young age with development delays and refer to us so that together we can reduce impact of disability and help in the long term needs of children with development delays. Only through a participatory team work we can achieve this.