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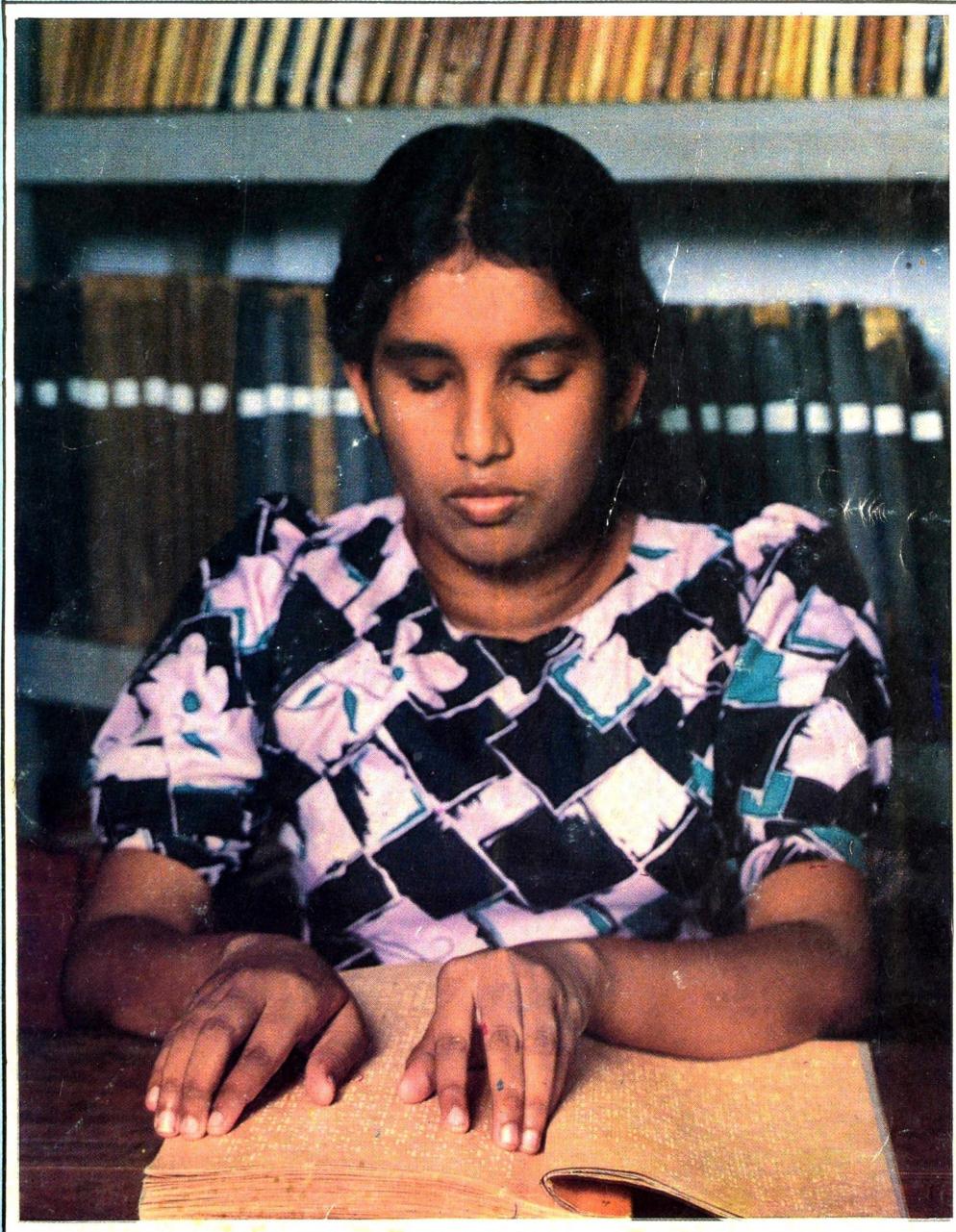
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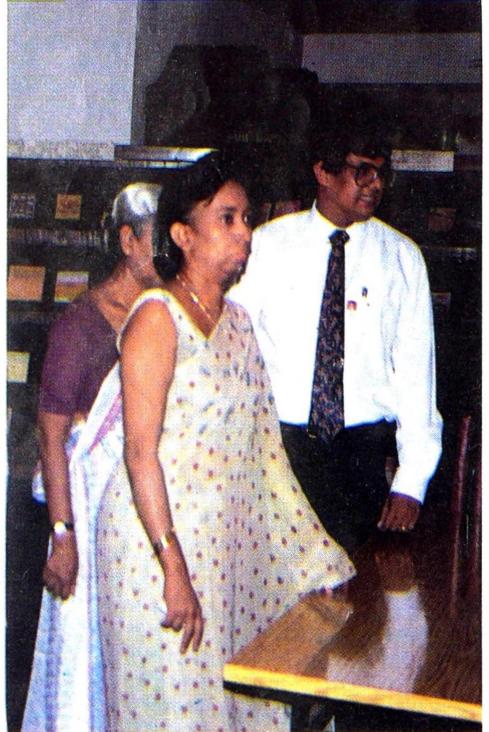
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SRI LANKA

13 වන බෙඳාම, දෙවන කළාපය/1992 අප්‍රේල් - ජූනි
තොසුත්‍රී 13, මූල්‍ය 2 / 1992 රුප්‍රල් - යුණ් / Vol: 13, No 2 / 1992 April - June



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දෙශ්‍රාවාධිත යෙතා වැඩෙන තුවාල
Special Issue for Visually Handicapped



↑ සියලු ආචාර පුද්තකාල සඳහා පුද්තකාල සේවා මණ්ඩලයේ පොත් සහ එම බඩු පරිත්‍යාගයේ විවිධ අවස්ථා
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Few events of the Donation of Books and Furniture to Self - help Libraries by the
Sri Lanka National Library Services Board

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Teacher Librarians Training Programme - Moneragala



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ඖෂේධීය වෙත "Information Development" තැමන්
යාරුව පිළිගුන්වීම.

Information Development නැවුම
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Presentation of the "Information
Development" Journal to Hon. Minister of
Education Services Mrs. Sunethra Ranasinghe



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The First IFLA Asian Seminar on Library Services to the Visually Handicapped in
Developing Countries January 25th - 31st 1991. University of Tokyo, Japan.

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(මොඩ්ඩයෝග්‍රයෝ: ක. කන්තපු)

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CYLIKE, Frank Kurt

"International Co-ordination of Library Services for blind and Physically handicapped individuals: an overview of IFLA activities"

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FERNANDO H.N.J.

"The Present situation and the Future Project of Library Services to the Visually Handicapped in Sri Lanka", Paper presented at the IFLA Asian Seminar on Library Services to the Visually Handicapped in developing countries, Tokyo University, Japan, 25th-31st January, 1991.

The First IFLA Asian Seminar on Library Services to the Visually Handicapped in Developing Countries.

January 25th - 31st 1991
University of Tokyo, Japan.

By

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Assistant Director (Actg.)

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The IFLA Asian Seminar on Library Services to the Visually Handicapped in Developing Countries, was held in Tokyo, Japan from 25th — 31st January, 1991. This seminar was organised by the standing committee of the section of libraries for the Blind of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and the Association of Libraries for the Blind in Japan.

The idea of having a seminar like this was based on the recognition of the following facts :—

1. 75% of the World's illiterate people live in Asia
2. Access to reading material in alternative media is severely limited in Asia
3. Many illiterate people are physically disabled and unable to read print
4. 1990 is International Literacy year
5. 1989 – 1999 is the United Nations "Decade of Cultural Development"

The purpose of this seminar was to promote Library Services and Literacy Programmes designed to meet the needs of the visually handicapped and to encourage and assist the Provision of Library Services for visually handicapped persons in Asian Developing Countries. More than hundred (100) participants from twenty five countries (Developed and Developing) attended the first Asian Seminar on Library Services to the Visually Handicapped. The countries are Algeria, Australia, Bangladesh, China, Denmark, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal,

Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, Uruguay, USA, USSR and Vietnam.

The official opening session of the Asian Seminar was held at the YASUDA AUDITORIUM, University of Tokyo. The opening address was delivered by the President of the Japan Library Association, titled — Literacy of the Visually Handicapped in Asian Developing Countries and the Role of Japan. The Keynote address was presented by Mrs. Winnie Vitzansky, Director of the Danish National Library for the blind, titled — Literacy and libraries for the Blind. Seventeen (17) Delegates from Asian developing countries were selected for the presentation of their Country Reports at the auditorium. I was selected for the presentation of our country report. I presented a ten page Country Report titled "THE PRESENT SITUATION AND THE FUTURE PROJECT OF LIBRARY SERVICES TO THE VISUALLY HANDICAPPED IN SRI LANKA."

An Exhibition on Technology for the Visually Handicapped was held at the Yasuda Auditorium. This Exhibition was named as "TENYAKU HIROBA," the most advanced braille transcription network for the blind which is supported by IBM Japan. IBM Braille Forum — Braille Translation Network System, Braille Editing Programme, Braille Dictionary System and Screen Reader were demonstrated at this exhibition.

The Asian Seminar was arranged as sessions and workshops. Four sessions and seven workshops were held on the following subjects.

Sessions

Session 1 : Introduction to Asian Seminar on Library Services to the Visually Handicapped in developing countries

- Intentions and Goals
- Participant's background and expectations by all participants

Session 2 : Production of Special Format Materials

- Braille
- Talking Book
- Other tactile materials

Session 3 : Dissemination of Special Format Materials

- Circulation
- Radio Reading Service
- Resource Sharing

Session 4 : User Needs

Workshops

Workshop 1 Braille Book Production

Workshop 2 Talking Book Production

Workshop 3 Circulation

Workshop 4 Radio Reading Service

Workshop 5 Resource Sharing

Workshop 6 Student Libraries

Workshop 7 New Access Technologies

International Cooperation—the Role of IFLA

A very brief introduction on the Asian Seminar was given by the Chairman, IFLA/SLB Mr. Hiroshi Kawamura. He mentioned the main objective of this seminar was to share experience and knowledge among the developing and developed countries in order to provide participants with a positive exchange of ideas.

Specially in developing countries, libraries wishing to serve the blind and Visually Handicapped readers, have often had to produce special format materials such as Braille, audio tapes, Large Print and other tactile material by themselves, as the publishing industry is not producing these material in large quantities. Production of Braille Books, Talking Books and other tactile material was explained very clearly during the sessions and discussed in depth at the workshops.

The braille writing devices, making of copies, computer controlled systems for creation of braille text, Proof-reading, Corrections, Paging and titling of braille books, gathering of pages, and Binding had been discussed. Participants from developing countries explained the problems they are facing in connection with the production of braille books. Several questions were raised on the use of uncontracted braille (each letter in print is represented by one cell of braille) and contracted braille (particular words of common groups of letters can be represented by a one — or two cell contraction.) It was emphasized that every country should establish a National braille code.

Guidelines were given as to how to set up and begin a talking book service. Setting up of a studio for recordings, Types of equipment that could be used, Tape formats, making of copies, Technical aspects which are relevant to the Production of talking books were discussed in detail at the workshop.

Production of Large Print books for partially sighted and those who have low vision, the main ways of producing large print such as photocopy enlarging, Scanning and Creating an Original large Print master were also discussed in depth at the workshop. Production of other tactile materials such as Country Maps, Tactual Graphics, Tactual Graphics for non-braille readers, Audio graphics and Soforth were explained in detail at the sessions as well as at the workshop.

Dissemination of special format materials was discussed under the Methods — Circulation, Radio Reading Service and Resource Sharing. It was emphasized that literacy is necessary to enable use of library materials, therefore efficient Circulation and distribution of library materials is essential for the spread of literacy. The main feature of this seminar was that nine delegates represented the "mainstream" Library Services of their country. These institutions are Danish National Library for the Blind, Delhi Public Library, National Library of Iran, Sabah State Library — Malaysia, Nepal National Library, Sri Lanka National Library, Srinakharinwirot University Library — Thailand, National Library for the Blind — U.K., and National University of Montevideo — Uruguay.

Session and Workshop Leader Mrs. Jan Smark Nilsson of the National Book Council, Australia, stated in her paper titled Circulation and Distribution of Materials — "The obvious, starting point for distribution and circulation of materials in other formats is, firstly, the National Library in your country, supported by — where it exists — a local public library network. Therefore, the presence of these delegates representing national and university libraries signals a very important fact — that these institutions can and should recognise their role in distribution of materials to visually impaired people in their country, and also, the promotion of and assistance towards people (whether visually impaired or not) acquiring literacy skills. There is a need to lobby the national library in each country to

ensure that visually impaired people are included in services and not relegated to private agencies. Where government supported agencies exist, a strong liaison should be fostered between them and the national library.”¹

A detailed description was given on Radio Reading Service which could be introduced in developing countries in order to provide their print — handicapped readers with the information they need. People who are unable to read print due to a visual or physical impairment, could obtain the information they need, with a combination of easy accessibility and inexpensively through a Radio Reading Service. Following guidelines were given as to how to establish a Radio Reading Service for visually handicaps : Building up of a Radio Reading Service, how to overcome copyright restrictions, allowing it to freely broadcast on an open channel, How to contact potential listeners (Blind and Visually handicaps) in order to obtain a sense of what materials should be broadcast on the Radio Reading Service, funding for this Service — Principally, how much will you need and from whom will it come ? What will be the “Start-up” Costs ? What will be the on going costs ? Further to these facts it has been mentioned that the governmental agency that administers the communications laws in one’s country be contacted initially to establish the viability of obtaining a frequency on which the Radio Reading Service may be broadcast. The rules for number of hours of broadcast is allowed and whether the service will be broadcast on the AM band or FM band.

Resource sharing was described as the various means necessary to give visually handicapped people access to existing special format material by interlending, coordination of production to avoid waste of resources, and exchange of information and knowledge to make sure that we use our resources in the most effective way.

Identification of the existing collections of special format material in a country is the very first step in the process of sharing resources. The organisations serving for the blind and visually handicapped should have the holdings of the collections of braille, largeprint and audio material in the country. Some of the most

important aspects of cooperation, such as common formats and Catalogues to make interlending possible, Copyright to make it legal, and Coordination of Production and information to make it as cheap as possible were discussed in depth. It was emphasize that the National Library of each country should have a National Union Catalogue of special format material in the country, and each country’s National Bibliography ought to include special format material.

User needs of visually impaired people were discussed at a session conducted by Mr. Bertil Smark Nilsson, Integration Co-ordinator of the Box Hill College of TAFE, Australia, who is totally without sight. This session was extremely valuable as he came out with all his experiences gained during the fifteen years of service. The following suggestions were made by him.

- To conduct a Survey on user needs of the visually handicapped in each country.
- Visually impaired Children be taught either braille or large print
- Acquiring audio reading skills is something that can be achieved later in life
- Visually handicapped people are literate in their first language
- Priority should be given to producing material in braille and large print in the local language
- Information such as Newspapers, Magazines, advertising material should readily be available for visually impaired people
- To keep in touch with the visually handicapped readers informing them of the developments within the library service

Resources and Transcription Services for students who are vision impaired were discussed at the workshop-student libraries. Access to Card Catalogues and online Catalogues Liaison with educational Institutions, Face to face Readers for students, Equipment and counselling are some of the aspects explained under the heading Resources. Transcription services were explained under the headings Braille, Large print, Audio, Machine Readable formats and Graphics in Alternate formats.

1. Nilsson, Jan Smark. *How to Reach the people who need the Service; circulation and Distribution of materials.* (Paper presented at the IFLA Asian Seminar on Library Services to the Visually Handicapped) (Tokyo, 1991) p. 3 - 4

New Access Technology to information of knowledge for the visually handicapped was discussed at the workshop on New Access Technologies. Libraries Serving for the Blind and Visually handicapped in developed and in some developing countries had installed the most advanced computer access system for the blind and visually handicapped. The component of the new access technologies may be broken into input devices, output devices, data-storage devices communication devices and central processing unit.

On-line information retrieval, optical character Recognition, CD-ROM, voice synthesizer (synthetic speech) pin-displays, braille printers and Laser Printers connected to computers will bring a new environment for information access system for the blind and visually handicapped. The computer access system for the visually handicapped can be the best example of a "true user friendly man-machine interface."

The following equipment had been demonstrated during the workshop :—

1. Xerox/Kurzwell Personal Reader

This Reader is a breakthrough in technology for people who are blind, or visually impaired. It is a portable system and a powerful tool for all applications at work, at school, at home or at the library. It is an optical scanner that reads typeset and typewritten material and turns it into synthetic speech.

2. Eureka A4

The Eureka A4 is a totally new concept in equipment for visually impaired people. This has been designed in consultation with potential users. It contains a unique combination of features to provide electronic secretarial assistance wherever required. Eureka A4 truly opens up a whole new world of opportunities in employment, education, and at home. The Standard Inbuilt Features of this equipment are Voice Output Disk Drive, Note Taker, Data Base, Word-processor, Diary, Scientific Calculator, Alarm Clock, Calendar, Telephone Modem, Braille and Qwerty Input, Computer, Telephone Directory, Communication Terminal and Music Composer.

3. Braille Note 40 A

4. Riso Screen Fax SP – 180

This is used for production of Maps and other tactile presentations.

5. Stereo Copying System

The Stereo Copying System represents a great advancement in the dissemination of information to the blind and to people with low vision. Through this system pictures, maps, graphs and the like could be easily raised, so that the blind would be able to feel them with their fingers. "The Stereo Copying System developed by Matsumoto Yushi Seiyaku Co. Ltd., Japan revolutionizes the life of the blind," and "The blind can now see pictures, maps, graphs and so forth." This system is used for reproduction of Braille text too.

The Role of IFLA was explained under the International Cooperation by IFLA's project manager for the Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World Programme, Bergitta Beigdahl. The following Core Programmes of IFLA were discussed at the Seminar.

- Universal Availability of Publications (UAP).
- Universal Bibliographic Control and International Marc (UBCIM)
- Preservation and Conservation (PAC)
- Universal Dataflow and Telecommunications (UDT)
- Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World (ALP)

Importance of the Third World membership in IFLA, IFLA's ALP Programme, its objectives, programme contents and priorities and the future plans were explained in detail. It was hoped that many of the developing countries participating in this Seminar would encourage their institutions to become IFLA members when they return to their respective countries.

Study Tour

Study Tour to the Japan Braille Library and the National Diet Library was arranged at the end of the Seminar.

Japan Braille Library

Japan Braille library is a national, non-profit volunteer service organisation, which provides braille books and cassette tapes free of charge to blind and visually impaired people. This library consists of approximately

140,000 volumes of braille books and 360,000 recorded cassette tapes. This is considered to be the oldest and largest library among braille libraries in Japan.

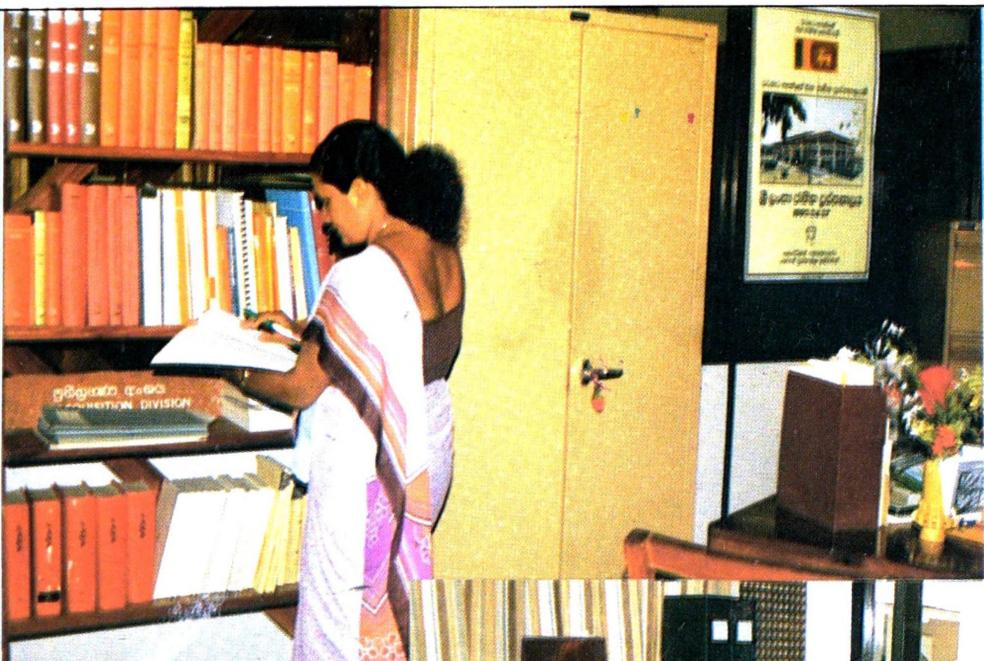
Services of the Japan Braille Library are : Lending Service, Reference Service, Production of Braille books, Production of Tapes, Braille classes for the newly blind, special Training Courses for further educating qualified transcribers and readers.

This library has a Supplies Division of aids and appliances which meets the unique needs of blind and visually impaired people. These aids and appliances include various items such as braille writing instruments, cassette tape recorders, tactual quartz dial watches, specially adopted games, scales etc. This division has succeeded in meeting the needs of the visually handicapped by developing new special materials, and adopting existing materials for special use.

National Diet Library

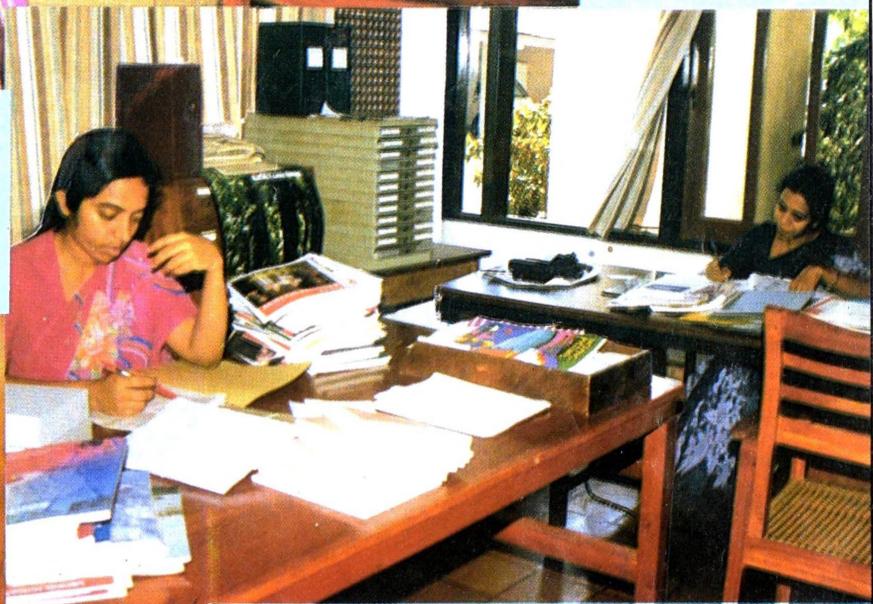
The National Diet Library belongs to the legislature in which resides the highest state power of Japan. It is the only National Library and provides services for the Diet, for the government and for the people in Japan. All publications in Japan are deposited in the Library, which produces the data bases of domestic publications. The National Diet Library is a large comprehensive library for the people with a combined function of research services for the Diet.

To meet the needs of the visually handicapped, the Library has been engaged in the production and loaning of recorded academic literature through the Japan Braille Library since 1975. The library has also published in series the "National Union Catalogue of Braille and recorded books" since 1981 and makes efforts to collect braille publications and large print books.



රාජීක ප්‍රස්තකාලයේ විවිධ ගෝවාලන

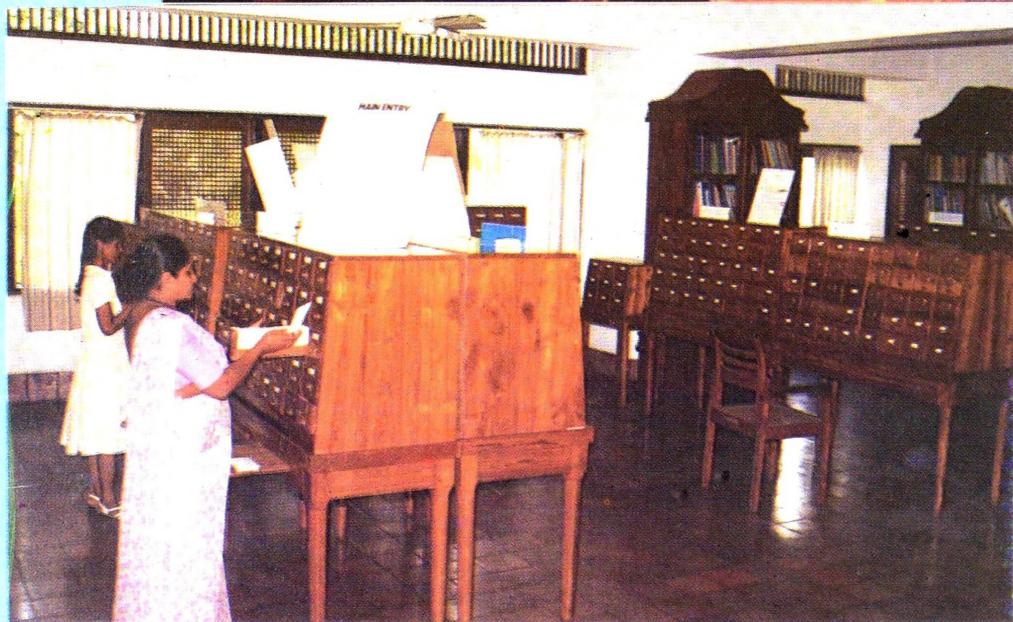
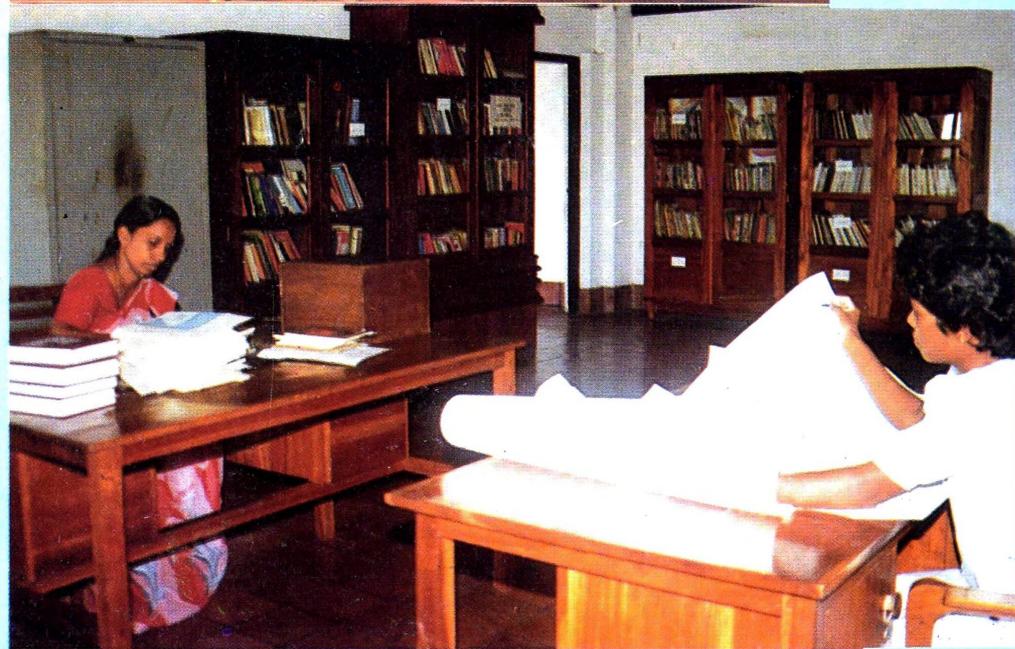
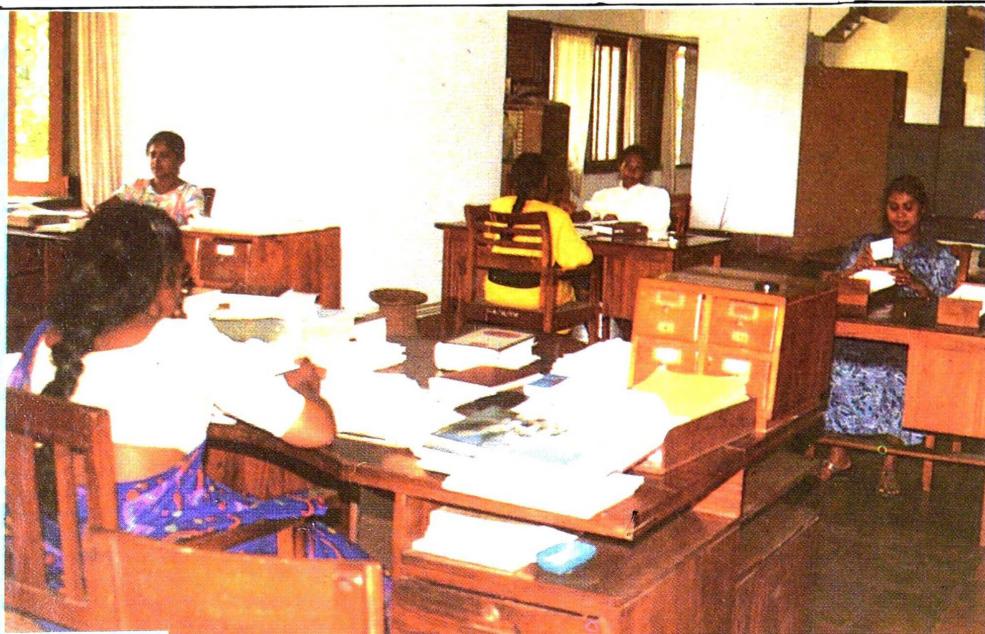
තෙසිය නුළකත්තිංපල වෙළු පට් සෙයර්පාඩුකள්
Various Services of the National Library



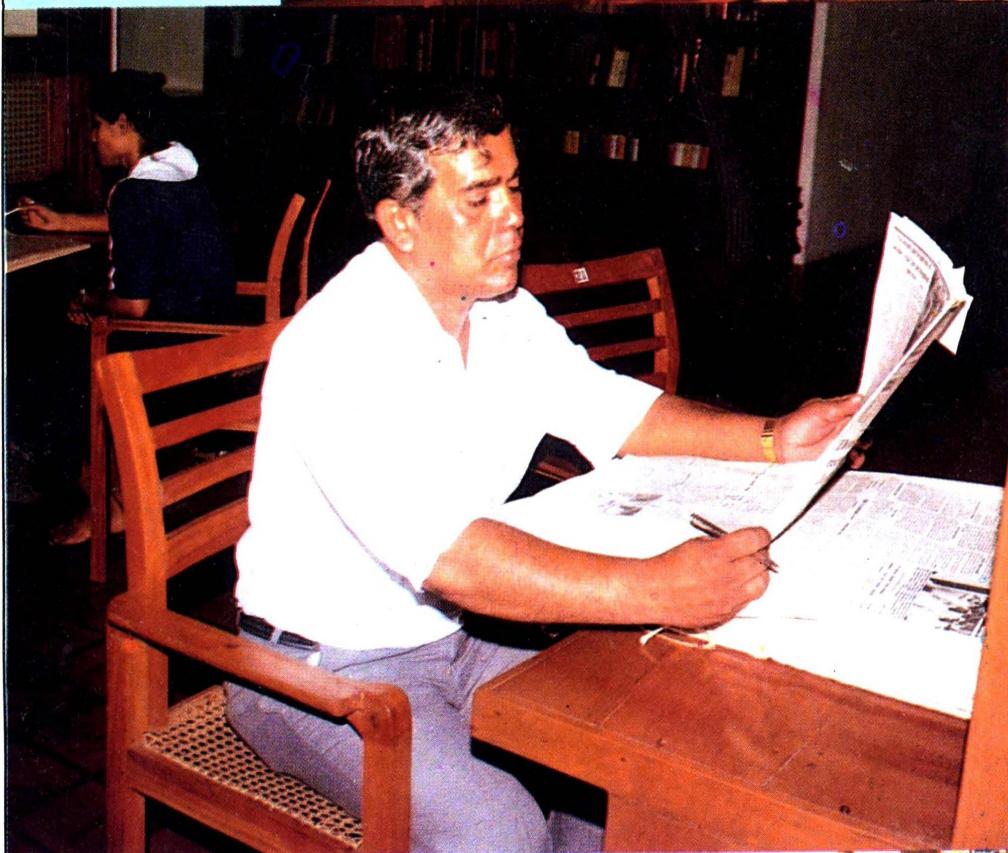
ප්‍රතිග්‍රහණ අංශයේ විවිධ කැපුණු

නාර්තෑස්‍රකාකකள් පිරිවින් පල්වෙළු සෙයර්පාඩුකள්
Various Activities of the Acquisitions Division





සූචිකරණ අංශයේ විවිධ කෙළුව
පට්ඩාලාක්කරු පිරිවින් පල්‌වෙළු ජෞර්ඩ්පාඩකන්
Various Activities of the Cataloguing Division



பாய்க் கெவ்வி அஃகர்
வாசகர் சேவைகள் பிரிவு
Reader Services Division



දැර පුස්තකාලාධාරීන් සඳහා පුහුණු පාසමාලාව
මොනරගල ඇසිරිය නාලකරුකාණ පෙරිඹි
වැළඩුක්කන් - මොනරාකළ ත්‍රෑනින්ගේ Training Programme
for Teacher Librarians Monaragala



ප්‍රාදේශීය සභා පුස්තකාල කම්ටු සාකච්ඡාව බඩුවුනුව
පිරිතේ සංඝ නාලකක් ක්‍රුෂ්ඩින් කරුත්තරංග - පාල්කුම්පාර
Provincial Council Library Committee Discussion at Badalkumbura

රංබාව මහජන පුස්තකාලයේ පැවති ප්‍රාදේශීය පුස්තකාල කම්ටු රැස්වීම
රංඩ්පාව පොතු නාලකත්තිල තැන පෙර්ර මාකාණ
නාලක ක්‍රුෂ්ඩින් කුට්ටම
Provincial Library Committee Meeting held at Rambawa
Public Library

පායිගාලාන්තර විවාද තරගය

ඉංගිරිය ලෙපන පුස්තකාල පායික සමාජය මහින් මෙහෙය වන ලද, රකිගම් කෝරල උප්පගහපත්තු පායිගාලාන්තර විවාද තරගයේ අවසාන තරහය ඉංගිරිය ගාමිණී මධ්‍ය මහා විද්‍යාලය හා මාපුවුලල මහා විද්‍යාලය අතර පැවුන්වා. විවාදයට මාත්‍යකාව වූයේ “අපරාධවලට හේතුව දිරිද්‍රාවය යි” හා “අපරාධවලට හේතුව දිරිද්‍රාවය නො ටේ” යන්නයි.

මෙම විවාදයේ දී ඉංගිරිය ගාමිණී මධ්‍ය මහා විද්‍යාලයේය කණ්ඩායම ජයග්‍රාහී කෘෂ්ඩායම වශයෙන් තේරුණු අතර, ජයග්‍රාහී ගුරතා ප්‍රාග්ධන හා එට අමතරව අනු ගුරතාව කසලාන හා සහතිකපත් ද ඉංගිරිය ලෙපන පුස්තකාල පායික සමාජය මහින් පිරිනමින ලදී.

දක්ෂම කළීකාව මලය ඉංගිරිය ගාමිණී මධ්‍ය මහා විද්‍යාලයේ සේපාලි වන්දිමා ශිෂ්‍යාව තේරුණු අතර, විනිශ්චය මණ්ඩලය

ලෙස කටයුතු කරන ලද්දේ සමස්ත ලංකා සාම්විනිසුරු මුතිදය සෙනරත් යාභා, ප්‍රවීන ටෙලිකා නළ හේමසිරි ලියනාගේ, ගුණසේම වන්තිඇරවිෂ් සහ සුන්න්ද මුලත්සිංහල යන මහත්වරුයි.

පුහුණු පායිමාලාවක්

දිවයින් පළාත් පාලන ආයතනයන්හි පුස්තකාල සේවක යන්ගේ වෘත්තීය දැනුම දියුණු කිරීමේ අරමුණින් ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජාතික පුස්තකාල සේවා මේවාලය හා අඩ්ලිපිටිය ග්‍රාමිය නායකයන් පුහුණු කිරීමේ ජාත්‍යන්තර මධ්‍යස්ථානය ඒකාබද්ධව පුස්තකාල විද්‍යා පුහුණු පායිමාලා දෙකක් 1992.01.25 සිට 29 දින දක්වා ඇඳුලිපිටිය යෝධගම ග්‍රාමිය නායකයන් පුහුණු කිරීමේ මධ්‍යස්ථානයේ දී පවත්වන ලදී. මේ සඳහා පුස්තකාලයාධිපතිවරුන් 30 ක් ද, පුස්තකාල සහකාරවරුන් 51 දෙනෙක් ද සහයාගි විය.

NEWS

INFORMATION DEVELOPMENT OCTOBER, 1991

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 4

Information Development is an International Journal for Librarians, Archivists and Information Specialists. Volume 7 Number 4 October 1991 — This issue is on Information Development in Sri Lanka. The Editor of this issue is Mr. J. Stephen Parker and the Guest Editor is Mrs. Ishvari Corea, Chairperson of the Sri Lanka National Library Services Board.

Seven articles in this issue were written by Sri Lankan Professionals in the field of Library and Information Science. These articles aim to illustrate wide range of activities currently being undertaken to promote library and information development in Sri Lanka.

The articles and the Authors are as follows :—

FEEDING HUNGRY MINDS : grassroots library services in Sri Lanka. by Ishvari Corea.

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SRI LANKA AND THE NATIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM. by M. S. U. Amarasiri.

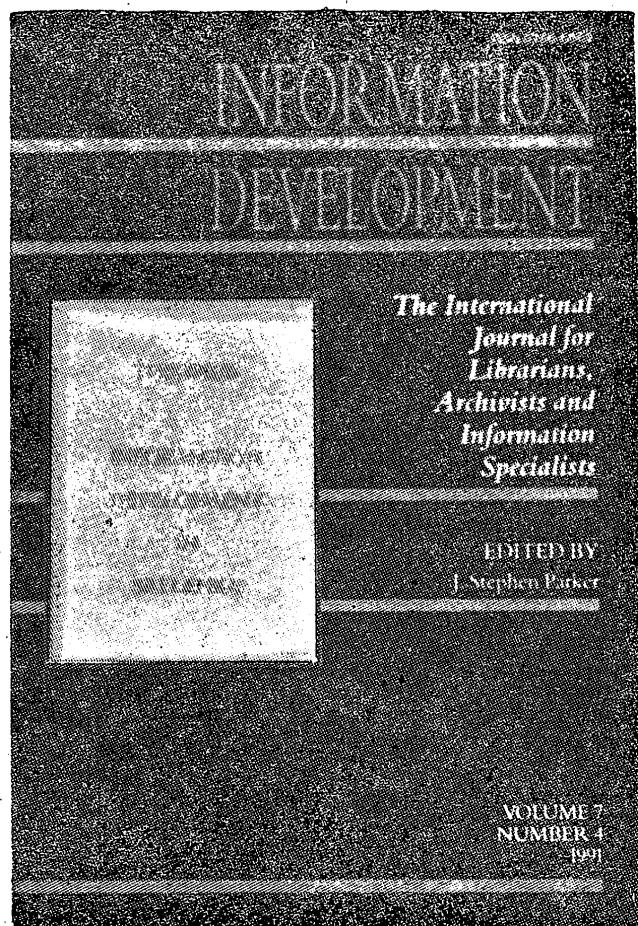
SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS OF SRI LANKA. by Nimala R. Amarasuriya.

MICROFILMING FOR THE SAFETY OF LIBRARY MATERIALS. by N. T. S. A. Senadeera.

LIBRARY EDUCATION IN SRI LANKA. by S. M. Kamaldeen.

NEWSLETTERS AND DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATION. by Vijitha Fernando.

SELECTING SOFTWARE FOR A DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION DATABASE. by Hemamalee Geethananda.



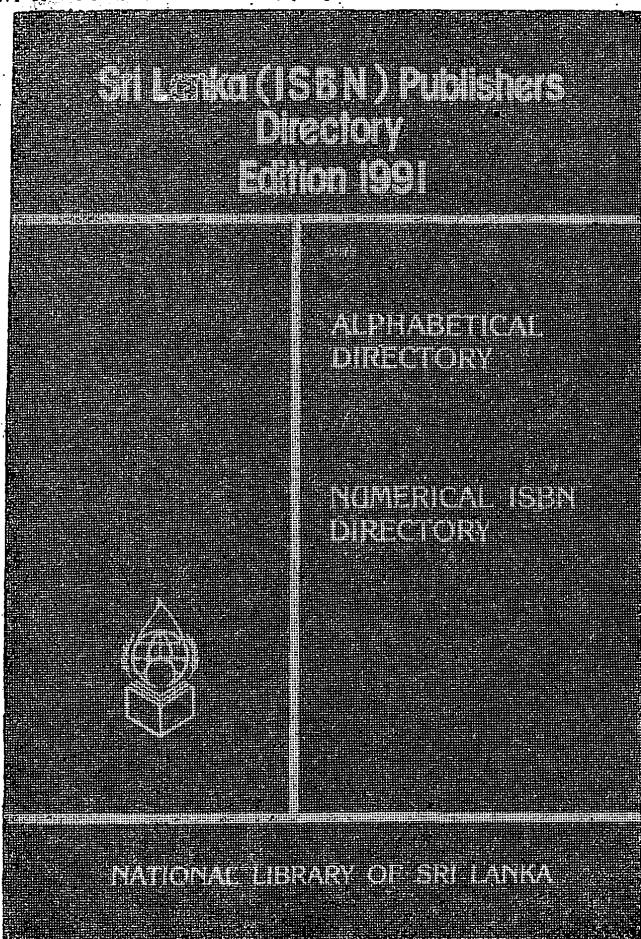
FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS OF THE BOARD

Sri Lanka (ISBN) Publishers Directory first Edition 1991

With the Introduction of the International Standard Book Numbering System in Sri Lanka, the ISBN Agency which is housed at the Sri Lanka National Library Services Board was able to collect most current information on varicus aspects of the publishing industry. Among other things this Directory of Publishers is one result of the ISBN Project in Sri Lanka. The first impression of the ISBN Publishers Directory which is the first of its kind, was published in this country in 1987. This is the first edition, which will be released within a few days.

The registration of publishers in the ISBN Agency and the compilation of the Directory was based on the information supplied by the publishers themselves. In comparison with the first impression of this Directory, the number of publishers included has also shown an increase of 50%. The Directory records 716 publishers who have been identified by the Sri Lanka ISBN Agency, and categorised into 3 groups.

The Sri Lanka (ISBN) Publishers Directory is a valuable reference source for those who are concerned with books or publishing in any way.



CONFERENCE INDEX

Generally conferences are more relevant to specific and limited groups and the proceedings remain mainly as grey literature. Therefore, an index to conferences is a useful access tool for non documentary information.

This index covers particularly the field of Social Sciences, a topic discussed and recommended at the APINESS meeting held in Bangkok in 1986, when the National Library of Sri Lanka was appointed as the national focal point for the APINESS network.

Information regarding Conferences, Seminars and Workshops held in Ministries, Government Departments, Corporations and many private Establishments in Sri Lanka during the period of 1987 - 1990 are included in this index. This contains 2,153 entries. The entries provide basic information such as title, date, venue, sponsor and organiser.

NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC SERVICE PUBLICATIONS

Sri Lanka National Bibliography 1991 1 - 6 (January - June) and 1991 7 - 12 (July - December). This is

the only authoritative record of books published in the country in Sinhala, Tamil and English Languages. It records the material received under the Legal Deposit Law of Sri Lanka and incorporated with a Catalogue of Forthcoming publications. It is also an indispensable aid for :

- Checking bibliographic details for selection and acquisition
 - Obtaining authoritative Catalogue records
 - Information retrieval especially to researchers, publishers, librarians to have an overview of local publishing industry
- Available on annual subscription local Rs. 180.00 (with postage) overseas US\$ 17.50 (with postage)

Sri Lanka National Bibliography : Cumulated Volume 1962. This is a unique record of books published in the country in 1962 in Sinhala, Tamil and English Languages. This records the material received by the National Archives Department during the respective year. It consists of three parts such as classified section, author title, series, index and subject index.

The classified section is enumerated under Dewey Decimal Classification system (18th ed) and catalogued under AACR 2 2nd edition, 1978.

Author, Title, Series Index Section and subject index is arranged alphabetically. This Bibliography is in great importance to :

- Information retrieval for researchers, publishers, Librarians on retrospective material in the country.

NEW ARRIVALS

Annual Reports of the Central Bank From 1950 to 1987, on Microfiche

As one of the most important sources of financial, economic and statistical information on Sri Lanka, these Central Bank Reports (MicroFiche edition) are invaluable both for reference and research. Annual reports from 1950 to 1987 are available on MicroFiche in the National Library of Sri Lanka for reference purposes.

Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society Ceylon Branch From 1845 - 1959 on MicroFiche

The old series from 1845 - 1949 and the new series from 1950 - 1959 of the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society Ceylon Branch are available on microfiche in the National Library of Sri Lanka for reference

purposes. There are 362 microfiches including the Journal Index.

AGRINET USER SEMINAR

The Agrinet group of libraries organised a one day user-seminar at the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, Peradeniya on 28th November, 1991. This seminar was sponsored by Council for Agricultural Research Policy (CARP) Sri Lanka and the Post graduate Institute of Agriculture.

The objective of the seminar was to create an awareness among Agricultural scientists in the Kandy region about Agrinet Services and to provide information about new technological developments in Agricultural information. More than 100 participants from six institutions namely the University of Peradeniya, Department of Agriculture, Peradeniya, Veterinary Research Institute, Department of Export Agriculture, Tea Research Institute, Institute of Fundamental Studies and eighteen librarians from the Agrinet group attended the seminar.

Professor Y. D. A. Senanayake in his key note address appreciated the services rendered by the Agrinet through Cooperative efforts of agricultural libraries in the country. Four speakers delivered talks on the following topics.

1. Impact of Agrinet Services on Agricultural Information in Sri Lanka — Mr. M. J. C. Perera, Coordinator/AGRINET
2. Agrinet Future Directions — Mrs. I. Mudanayake, Librarian/PGIA
3. Advanced Information Technologies of Agricultural Information Users in Sri Lanka — Mr. N. U. Yapa, Head Librarian/IIMI
4. Views from a user — Prof. J. M. R. S. Bandara, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya.

An exhibition on Agricultural Journals available at the Agricultural Libraries in Sri Lanka was held at the PGIA auditorium on this day.

IN DENMARK

Deaf - Blind People Read Television

New technology offers danish multi disabled access to more information.

Modern Information technology and word processing offer a wider range of information to deaf - blind people, who up to now had very poor access to any information.

Since early November 1990 a danish project, developed in a cooperation between Denmark Radio (The Danish Radio and TV Company) and Denmarks Blind Bibliotek (The Danish library for the Blind) has brought danish text - TV (telly text) news to deaf-blind. The project connects two sorts of information and word processing. The one used by Denmarks Radio in editing news from home and abroad — and the one used by the Denmarks blind bibliotek in connection with the data mastered production of writing in braille.

The output of the project is a somewhat special sort of newspaper : Eight pages in braille, containing telly text news, mailed five times a week to the deaf-blind, offering far more information and more current news to the braille readers than ever before.

SHIDOKUKYO IN JAPAN

Shidokukyo is a group striving for "the Right to Read" of the print handicapped. It consists of blind, low visual and sighted members who agree to the philosophy of the Right to Read.

This was founded in 1970 and were organised by a group of blind and partially sighted students, The Association for Protection of Visually Disabled person's life and rights in Tokyo, a volunteer group for braille transcription (AYUMINO - KAI) and another volunteer group making audiotapes.

Information on Shidokukyo could be obtained from the following persons.

01. Mr. Masaru Mochizuki,
President, Shidokukyo,
Hagiwara - SO 2F5,
1-17-13, Motomachi, Kiyose, Tokyo,
204 Japan.
02. Mr. Masaharu Ichihashi,
Executive Secretary,
Higashi - Naganuma, Inagi, Tokyo
206 Japan.

சிபிஆர் இன் பங்களிப்பு

- 1) மதிப்பீடுகளை நடத்துதல் (வீட்டுக்கு வீடு) குருடர்களையும், பார்வை மங்கியவர்களையும் கண்டு பட்டியற்படுத்தல். பின்தங்கிய கிராமங்களுக்குப்போய் மதிப்பீடுகளை நடத்துவதில் களத்தியோகத்தர்கள் அடிக்கடி கண்டங்களை எதிர்நோக்குகின்றனர். கிராமங்களில் உள்ள முதியவர்களுக்கு கேள்விக் கொத்துக்களை விநியோகித்து, அந்த பிரதேசத்தில் வாழும் குருடர்கள், பார்வை மங்கியவர்கள் பற்றிய விபரங்களை நிரப்புவித்து திரும்பப் பெறுவதற்கு அவர்கள் ஒழுங்கு செய்துள்ளார்கள். இந்த வகையில் நாம் நாட்டில் உள்ள அதிகமான பார்வையற்றோரை இனம் காண லாம் என நம்புகின்றோம்.
- 2) நிலைமையை மறுசீராய்வு செய்வதுடன் வாடிக்கையாளர் திட்டத்தின் கீழ் புனர்வாழ்வு வேலைகளுக்கு உதவுதல். பிஜியில் புனர்வாழ்வு வேலையானது மிகப் பெரிய அளவில் முன்னேற்றம் அடைந்துள்ளது. புதிய சேவைகள் அறிமுகப்படுத்தப்பட்டுள்ளன. அத்துடன் கள உத்தியோகத்தர்கள் தற்கால வேலைப் பழுவைச் சமாளிக்க தமது நேரத்தைப் பிரித்து வைத்துள்ளனர். ஆரம்பத்திலிருந்து சிபிஆர் பயிற்சியானது தொடர்ந்து நடத்தப்பட்டதுடன் வேறுபாடுகள் சமகால இடைவெளிகளில் மறுசீரமைக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. நாட்டின் சில பகுதிகளில் வெள்ளப்பெருக்கு வேலைசெய்வதற்குத் தடையாக இருந்த போதிலும் சேவைகள் வெற்றிகரமாக செய்துமுடிக்கப்பட்டன. கள உத்தியோகத்தர்கள் சிபிஆர் நெறியாளரினால் நடத்தப்பட்டதும் திட்ட அமைப்பை அடிப்படையாகக் கொண்டதுமான பாடநெறிகளில் பங்குபற்றினர். கண்பாதுகாப்பிற்கான ஆரம்பச்செயற் திட்டங்கள் பல்வேறு பிராந்தியங்களில் நடாத்தப்பட்டதுடன், பிஜியை குருட்டுத் தன்மையில் இருந்து பாதுகாத்தல் நன்கு எடுத்துக்காட்டியுட்டது. ஆரம்பகண்பாதுகாப்பு இணைப்பதிகாரியினதும், ஆரம்பகண்பாதுகாப்புத் தாதியினதும் உதவியுடன் செயற்திட்டங்கள் வெற்றிகரமாக நடத்தப்பட்டன.

வருமானத்தைக் கொடுக்கும் திட்டங்கள்.

வேலைவர்ய்ப்புக்கள் எங்கள் குருடர்களுக்கும், பார்வை மங்கியவர்களுக்கும் அரிதாகி வருகின்ற போதிலும் வருமானத்தைக் கொடுக்கும் திட்டங்களில் உதவிதேடி வரும் வாடிக்கையாளர்

களின் தொகை அதிகரித்துள்ளது. பல திட்டங்களுக்கான யோசனைகள் வாடிக்கையாளர் சேவைகள் குழுவின் அனுமதிக்காகக் காத்திருக்கின்றன. ஏற்கெனவே அனுமதிக்கப்பட்ட சில திட்டங்களாவன: சந்தை விற்பனையாளர், கமத்தொழில், மதுபான விற்பனை, கைப்பணிப்பொருட்கள் விற்பனை ஆகும்.

தொழில்: எமது வாடிக்கையாளரில் சிலர் சுயதொழிலில் ஈடுபட்டுள்ளனர். மற்றும் பலர் தொழில் வாய்ப்பின் திறந்த சந்தையில் தொழில் தேடுவதில் தமது பார்வையுள்ள சகபாடிகளுடன் போட்டியிடுகின்றனர்.

தொழிலின் வகைகள்

புதினத்தாள் விற்பனை, கடை நடத்துனர், கடை உதவியாளர், சந்தை வியாபாரி, அனுவலக உதவியாள், ஹோட்டல் வேலையாட்கள், பஸ்ஸி க்கற் கண்டக்டர், தோல் தொழிலாளர், பாடகர், வீடு ப்ராமரிப்போர், மீன் பிடிப்போர், தொழிற்சாலை வேலையாள், ஆழிப்பலகை இயக்குனர், பூசகர், ஆசிரியர், சட்ட ஆலோசகர் என்பன வாகும். தற்போது சுமார் 252 மக்கள் உதவி பெற்றுள்ளனர்.

ஆரம்ப கண் பராமரிப்பு

ஆரம்ப கண்பராமரிப்பானது, சமூகங்களிற்கான புனர்வாழ்வுக் கள உத்தியோகத்தர்களின் தும், சமூக சுகாதார உத்தியோகத்தர்களின் தும் மூலமாக தகுந்த கல்வியையும் பயிற்சியையும் அளிப்பதன் மூலம், குருட்டுத்தன்மையைத் தடுப்பதற்காக குருடர்களுக்கான பிஜியின் பொதுநல் ஸ்தாபனமும், சுகாதார அமைச்சம் எடுத்துள்ள கூட்டுமுயற்சியாகும். இந்த நிகழ்ச்சிக்கு, நிகழ்ச்சியின் இணைப்பாளரான டாக்டர் கய் ஹவிலே அவர்கள் தலைமை வகிக்கின்றார்.

ஆரம்பக் கண் பராமரிப்பின் வரைவிலக்கணம்

இவ்வொரு சமூகத்திற்கும் கிடைக்கக்கூடிய தும் இலகுவில் பெற்றுக்கொள்ளக்கூடியதுமான எளிமையான கண் பராமரிப்புச் சேவையை அளித்தல்.

ஆரம்பக் கண்பராமரிப்பின் நோக்கங்கள்

- 1) ஏற்கெனவே ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கும் தேசிய ஆரம்பச் செலக்கிய பராமரிப்பு அமைப்புடன், ஆரம்பக் கண் பராமரிப்பைச் சாதுரியமாக ஒன்றிணைத்தல்.
- 2) கண்ணில் பூப்படர்தல் (cataracts) 'ரச சோமா' (trachoma) போன்ற குருட்டுத்தன்மையைத் தரக்கூடிய கண் வருத்தங்களை ஒழுங்காகவும், சாதுரியமாகவும் கட்டுப்படுத்துதலுக்கான வழிமுறைகளை வழங்குதல்.

3) பார்வைக் குறைவிற்கான காரணங்களைக் கண்டுபிடித்தலுக்கும், அவற்றை நிவர்த்தி செய்வதற்குமான ஒரு இயற்கை பார்வை அபிவிருத்தி திட்டத்தை (Natural Screening System) ஏற்படுத்துதல்.

சமூகங்களிற்கான புனர்வாழ்வின் வரைவிலக்கணம்

ஆரம்ப கண் பராமரிப்பு நிலையத்தின் தொழிற்பாடுகள்: சமூகங்களுக்கான புனர்வாழ்வு உத்தியோகத்தர்கள் சமூக சுகாதார உத்தியோகத்தர்களையும், ஆரம்பக் கண்பராமரிப்பில் உள்ள வைத்தியத்துறை சாராதவர்களையும் பயிற்றுவிப்பர்.

சமூகங்களுக்கான புனர்வாழ்வு உத்தியோகத்தர்கள் சமூகங்களுக்கிடையே இச்சேவைகளை விஸ்தரிப்பார்கள்.

சமூகங்களுக்கான புனர்வாழ்வு உத்தியோகத்தர்கள், சுவாவின் குருடர்களுக்கான பிஜியின் பொதுநல் ஸ்தாபனத்தின் மேற்பார்வையாளருக்கு பதிலிறுக்க வேண்டியவராவர்.

விளக்கம்

சமூகங்களிற்கான புனர்வாழ்வு உத்தியோகத்தர்கள் தத்தமது சமூகங்களில் ஆரம்பக் கண்பாதுகாப்பு வேலைத்திட்டங்களை ஏற்படுத்தி அவற்றை இணைத்துச் செயற்படுவர். அவர்கள் கிராமச்காதார உத்தியோகத்தர்களை, பாடசாலைகளில் உள்ள பிராந்திய (Zone) தாதுமார்க்களுடன் இணைந்து செயற்படவைப்பதன் மூலம் கண்பார்வையை அபிவிருத்தி செய்வர். அத்துடன் அவர்கள் கண்பேணல், மற்றும் துப்பரவு சம்பந்தமான நிகழ்ச்சிகளை தமது பிராந்தியப்பாடசாலைகளில் அபிவிருத்தி செய்வர்.

சென்றடையவேண்டிய இலக்குகள்

இந்த வேலைத்திட்டமானது கிராம சுகாதார உத்தியோகத்தர்களுக்கும், மற்றும் ஆசிரியர்கள், பெண்களுக்கான குழுக்கள், ஆலயங்களிற்கான குழுக்கள் போன்ற சமுதாயத்தின் முக்கியஸ்தர்களுக்கும் அளிக்கப்படும்.

வேலைத்திட்டம்

இந்த வேலைத்திட்டமானது எந்தவொரு குழுவிற்கும் ஆரம்பம்முதல் அளிக்கப்படக் கூடியதும், ஆரம்பக்கண் பராமரிப்பிற்கான முழுப்பாடத்திட்டமும் ஒருநாளில் முடிக்கப்படக்கூடியதுமாகும்.

ஆரம்பக்கண் பராமரிப்பிற்கான பாடத்திட்டம்

- (1) அறிமுகமும் பின்பற்றவேண்டிய வழிமுறை களும்
- (2) கண்ணின் அமைப்பும் செயற்பாடும்
- (3) கண் பரிசோதனை
- (4) பொதுவான கண் வருத்தங்கள்
- (5) கண் அரிப்பு நோய் (Trachoma)
- (6) கட்டுல உதவுகளுக்கும் கற்பித்தல் சாதனங்களும்.

சமூகத்திற்கான புனர்வாழ்வு அமைப்பானது, ஒரே வேலைத்திட்டக்குழுவிற்கு, பாடத்திட்டத்தில் இருந்த ஓவ்வொரு விடயமாக அளித்துக் கொண்டிருக்கும், குழுக்களுக்கு இவ்வேலைத்திட்டமானது வருடம் முழுவதும் அளிக்கப்படும்.

பிரதியாக்கல் திணைக்களம்

எமது பிரதியாக்கல் திணைக்களமானது 1987 ஆம் ஆண்டில் நியூசிலாந்தின் ஹோமாய்கல்லூரியின் 'பிரெயில்' நிபுணர் செல்வி. லோர்ஜா வெல் அவர்களினால் ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்டது.

இத்திணைக்களமானது பிரெயில் அச்ச முறையில் பாண்டித்தியம் பெற்ற செல்வி நயோமிரபெலே அவர்களால் தலைமை தாங்கப்படுகிறது. எமது மாணவர்களுக்கான பிரெயில் நூல்களில் ஏற்படும் தேவையைச் சமாளிக்க தொண்டர் குழு ஒன்று அவருக்கு உதவுகிறது.

திணைக்களம் தொடர்ந்தும் பிரெயில் பாடசாலை நூல்களை குருடர்களுக்கான பிஜியின் பொதுநல்ஸ்தாபனத்தின் மாணவர்களுக்கும், ஒன்றிணைந்த கல்வி நிகழ்ச்சிகளில் உள்ள மாணவர்களுக்கும் வழங்குகிறது. பிரெயில் பாடசாலையின் நூலக சாதனங்கள் தொடர்ந்து வளர்ச்சியடைகின்றது.

குருடர்களும் பார்வை மங்கியவர்களும் எழுத்தறிவு பெறுவதற்கான ஒரே திறவுகோல் பிரெயில் தான் என்பதை நாம் திணைமாக நம்புகின்றோம். பிரெயிலானது தேவையானவர்களுக்கு உடனுக்குடன் கிடைக்கக்கூடியதையில் வழிசெய்யப்பட்டுள்ளதுடன், பார்வையற்றோர் பிரெயிலை வாசிப்பதற்கு இயலுமானவரை அறிமுகப்படுத்தப்படுகின்றனர். எமது நாட்டில் உள்ள முன்னணி அறிஞர்களும், அதேபோல் உலகைச் சுற்றியுள்ள அறிஞர்களும் பிரெயில் இங்கு நிலைத்திருக்கும் என நம்புகின்றார்கள். ஆகவே ஆசிரியர்களும் மற்றைய தொழில் விற்பன்னர்களும், இளம் பாடசாலைச் சிறார்களுக்கு பிரெயிலை அறிமுகம்செய்து வைப்பதில் காலம் தாழ்த்தக்கூடாது என வற்புறுத்துகின்றனர்.

பார்வை குறைந்த சிறுவர்களுக்குக்கூட பிரெயில் கற்பிக்கப்படவேண்டுமென்று நாம் நம்புகின்றோம். அத்துடன் அவர்களிடம் இல்லாத பார்வையை அவர்கள் பிரயோகிக்க வேண்டும் என்று நிர்ப்பந்திக்கப்படக்கூடாது.

பெரிய எழுத்தினாலான நூல்கள் எளிதில் கிடைக்கக்கூடியதாக இல்லை. அப்படிக்கிடைப்பதாகினும் அவை மிக விலையுயர்ந்தவையாகும். ஆகவே பெரிய எழுத்துக்களைவிட நாம் பிரெயிலை விரும்புகின்றோம்.

பிரெயில் தொண்டர்கள் வருட முடிவில் நியூசிலாந்தின் பிரெயில் சான்றிதழ்களைப் பெறுவார்கள்: நாம் நியூசிலாந்தில் உள்ள ஹோமாய் கல்லூரியின் பிரதியாக்கல் நிறுவனத்தில் இருந்து உதவி பெறுகின்றோம்.

பாடசாலை

பிஜியின் பார்வையற்றோருக்கான பாடசாலையானது, இந்நாட்டிலுள்ள பாடசாலை போகும் வயதினையுடைய மாணவர்களுக்கான எல்லா கல்வி நிகழ்ச்சிகளையும் தொடர்ந்து நடத்துகின்றது. வட்டுவாக பாடசாலைக்கட்டிடத்தில் 26 மாணவர்கள் அறிவுரைகளைப்பெற்றதுடன், வழையான பாடசாலைகளில் 18 மாணவர்கள் பிரதான அறிவுரைகளைப்பெற்றுள்ளனர். ஆகக்கூடியளவு சிறுவர்கள் வழையான பாடசாலைகளில் வழங்கப்படும் அறிவுறுத்தல்களிலிருந்து பயன்பெறுவார்கள் என நாம் நம்புகின்றோம். அத்துடன் அவர்களின் பார்வையுள்ள நண்பர்கள், சகோதரர்கள், சகோதரிகள், பாடசாலை உத்தியோகத்தர்கள் ஆகியோர் பெற்றோரை தமது பார்வையற்ற பிள்ளைகளின் கல்வியில் ஈடுபடுத்துவதை தமது கடமையாகக் கொள்வார். பார்வையற்ற சிறுவர்கள் கட்டுப்பாடற்ற சூழலில் அவர்களுடைய மன, சமூதாய, உடல் முன்னேற்றத்திற்காக அவசியமான அறிவுறுத்தல்களைப் பெறுதல் அவசியமாகும். அன்றேல் பார்வையற்ற சிறார்கள் தொடர்ந்தும் வழையான பாடசாலைகளில் கஷ்டப்பட்டுள்ளனர்.

ஒன்றினைக்கப்பட்ட மூன்றாவது விழுது ஆண்கள் பாடசாலையில் இருந்து ஒரு மாணவன் ‘பி’ தரத்தில் சித்தியடைந்துள்ளான். அந்தப் பாடசாலையில் ஒன்றினைக்கப்பட்ட நிகழ்ச்சிகளை நடத்துவதற்கு மேலும் ஆசிரியர்கள் தேவைப்படுகின்றார்கள்.

மேலும் இரு ஆசிரியர்களை இந்தப்பாடசாலைக்கு நியமித்து ஒருங்கிணைக்கப்பட்ட கல்வித் திட்டத்தை மேலும் பயனளிக்கக்கூடியதாக செய்யும்படி அமைச்சானது தாண்டப்பட்டுள்ளது.

இந்தவருடமானது அலுவலர்களுக்கு ஒரு நல்ல வருடமாகும். எமது பாடசாலைக்கு இரு அலுவலர்கள் நியமிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளார்கள். ஒருவர் வருட ஆரம்பத்திலும் மற்றவர் வருடக்கடைசியிலும் நியமிக்கப்பட்டார்.

1988 ஆம் ஆண்டு உத்தியோகத்தர் பயிற்சி அபிவிருத்தி என்பவற்றிற்கு ஒரு நல்ல ஆண்டென் நிறுபித்துள்ளது. நாட்டின் முதலாவதும், உள்நாட்டிலேயே பயிற்றப்பட்ட கண்பார்வையற்ற ஆசிரியருமான திரு. சேரு அவர்கள் ஓக்லாந்தின் கொலிஜ் ஒப் எடியூகேஷனில் (College of Education) கண்பார்வை மங்கியவர்களுக்கான கல்வியில் நிபுணத்துவம் பெறுவதற்கான விசேட கல்வியில் பட்டப்பின்படிப்பிற்காக அனுமதி பெற்றார். திரு. சேரு ஆசிரியராகவும், கல்விமானாகவும் தன்னை மேம்படுத்தியுள்ளார் என்பதைக் கூறத்தேவையில்லை. அவர் பாடசாலைக்கு 1988 ஆம் ஆண்டின் கடைசிப்பகுதியில் திரும்பினார்.

எமது புனர்வாழ்வுசேவைகளின் நெறியாளர் திரு. நெநோகா அவர்கள் ஏடாபீ (ADAB) புலமைப்பரிசில்பெற்று மெல்போனில் உள்ள கொலிஜ் ஒப் எடியூகேஷனில் (College of Education) பார்வைமங்கியவர்களுக்கான கல்வியில் விசேட கல்விபெற்று பட்டப்பின்படிப்பு டிப்ளோமாவைப் பெற்றார்.

பூச்சிகால பூஷாந்தி

தலைமை ஆசிரியரான திரு. கெற்றேகா பப்புவா நியூகினியாவின் கோறோகாவில் நடைபெற்ற மனித சேவைகள் நிறுவனங்களின் முகாமைத்துவப் பாடநெறியில் பங்குபற்றினார். திரு. கெற்றேகா அவர்கள் தான் எதை கோறோகாவில் கற்றாரோ அதை பாடசாலையில் செயற்படுத்துவதனால் உத்தியோகத்தர்களும், மாணவர்களும் பயனடைகின்றனர்.

விடுதி

நாசரேத்தின் கட்டளையைச் சேர்ந்த கண்ணி கால்திரிகள் தொடர்ந்தும் 18 விடுதி மாணவர்களுக்கு வருடம் முழுவதும் விடுதிவசதியை செய்து கொடுத்துள்ளனர். அவர்களின் சேவைக்கான ஈடுபாடு, அன்பு, நல்லெண்ணம் என்பவற்றுடன் அவர்கள் சிறுவர்களை விடுதியில் பராமரித்துவருவது சிறுவர்களின் இல்லங்களுக்கு வெளியே ஒரு இல்லத்தைக் கொடுத்துதவுவதுபோலாகும். விடுதியின் நலனை விரும்புவோர் குடிமக்கள் போன்றோர் அடிக்கடி விஜயம் செய்து சிறுவர்களுக்கு உடை, உணவு, இனிப்புவகை, பொழுதுபோக்கு என்பவற்றை அளித்துள்ளனர்.

பேசும் நூல் நூலகம்

பேசும் நூல்களாலான நூலகமானது ஆங்கிலம், ஹிந்தி, பிஜியமோழி ஆகியவற்றில் உள்நாட்டு உற்பத்திகளையும், மேலும் நியூசிலாந்து, அவஸ்திரேலியா, இங்கிலாந்து (உலகைச்சுற்றி வரும் குரல்கள்) ஆகிய நாடுகளிலிருந்தும் பெறும் புதிய நாடாக்கள் (tapes) ஆகியவற்றுடன் தொடர்ந்தும் சிராக வளர்ந்து வருகிறது.

சில தாய்மார்களால் வாசித்தறியமுடியாதிருப்பதனால், பார்வையற்ற சிறுவர்களின் தாய்மாருக்கான அறிவுறுத்தல்கள், மிகவும் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளக்கூடியதாகவும் பயயுட்டாததாகவும் இருப்பதற்கு பயிற்சி அறிவுறுத்தல்களாவன, நாடாக்களில் பதிவு செய்யப்படுதல் நன்று என்பது உணரப்பட்டது. ஆகவே இதற்கான வேலை ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்டு பதிவுகள் பிஜிமொழியிலும் ஹிந்துஸ்தானியிலும் செய்யப்பட்டன.

பிஜியில் பேசும் நூல்கள் தொடர்பாக ஏற்பட்டிருக்கும் பிரச்சனை என்னவெனில் பதிவுநாடாக்களைப் பகிர்ந்தனிப்பதும் மீளப்பெறுவதுமாகும். எமது கள் ஜாழியர்கள் மூலமாக பேசும் நாற்களுக்கான பதிவுநாடாக்களை பகிர்ந்தனிப்பதற்கும் மீளப்பெறுவதற்குமான திட்டமொன்றை நாம் தயாரித்துக்கொண்டிருக்கின்றோம். குவாவின் ரோட்டறிக்களிப்பானது பேசும் நூலகத்திற்காக ஒரு கட்டிடத்தை மனமுவந்து கட்டிடத்தந்துள்ளது. சிறுதொகையினராக இருந்தபோதிலும் கடமையுணர்வுள்ள எமது வாசிக்கும் தொண்டர்களுக்கு நரம் நன்றியுடையவர்களாவோம். “எம்மைசு சுற்றியுள்ள உலகம்” என்பதை அடிப்படையாகக் கொண்டு ஒரு நூலகத்தை அமைக்க பாடசாலை திட்டமிட்டுள்ளது. இது உலகைப் பற்றியும், மக்களைப்பற்றியும், அவர்களின் பழக்க வழக்கங்கள் பற்றியும், கலாசாரம் பற்றியும், பருவ காலங்கள், காலநிலை, உணவு, மற்றும் தொடர்புடைய விடயங்கள் பற்றியும் மாணவர்கள் மேலும் அறிந்து கொள்வதற்கு உதவுவதற்காகும்.

Here is a Problem that Needs a Solution

By

M. C. Jayasiri

To get to the subject straight away, I would like to say, that the problem I have in mind is mass-illiteracy among the blind and the visually-impaired people in this country, and the immediate solution is to set up a network of library services for the blind.

Sri Lanka can be proud of a very high literacy rate. Statistics reveal, that over 85 percent of the population can read and write. However, if we breakdown this figure and compare it with the literacy rate of the blind and the visually-impaired community, in this country; — though it is only about two percent of the whole population — indications are that it is a crisis situation.

A literacy expert at the United Nations says : "undoubtedly, sight impairment is a major factor in causing illiteracy." And, illiteracy is causing many serious problems within the blind and the visually-impaired community in this country. "Most definitions of functional illiteracy" says the illiteracy expert, "define it as the inability to read and write in order to be gainfully employed and live successfully in an independent manner." In the case of the blind, this means inability to read and write braille. As the literacy expert suggests, one would have to substitute the term "communicate" for the ability to read and write. Therefore, along with reading and writing, a blind person must be able to communicate in other ways such as listening and typing. Blind persons can express themselves by learning to type. But to read, blind people must learn braille. Braille is the only medium of literacy available to the blind, and there is

no substitute to it. Inability to read and write is just as detrimental to the blind as it is to the sighted. However, due to various factors, over 90 percent of the blind in this country including both children and adults have practically little or nothing to read at all. Whether it be in Sinhala, in Tamil or for that matter, in English braille. As such, are functionally illiterate. This is a major concern for those of us who are involved in the blind welfare movement. If over 90 percent of the sighted population have practically little or nothing to read in print, it would be considered a national catastrophe. There is much food for thought in this argument for the so-called media and literacy experts grappling with the problems of development in this country.

Education of the blind in Sri Lanka began in the year 1912. And today, after nearly eighty years of blind education — but without adequate rehabilitation and training facilities, the blind and the visually-impaired in this country are still struggling to feel their way out from darkness into light. The task that faces our organisation today is how to accommodate the blind and the visually-impaired people in a changing society and become relevant to them.

The fact that I was prompted to get into this whole issue of braille literacy is that because I find that blind people are not close to the norm in terms of measuring the literacy of the population. Literacy in the dictionary is defined as the ability to communicate effectively in terms of both reading and writing. The fact is, that by that definition, the majority of blind and visually-impaired people in this are not able to communicate very well either in print or in braille, in reading or in writing. Some of our blind readers no doubt are using talking books and they read at a considerably higher rate of books than does the average citizen. Reading recorded material is fine. But no country estimates its literacy rate on the basis of how many people can understand recorded material. Literacy depends upon the individual's ability to read and write for himself. There is no argument that braille, like print, is a communication medium, with specific advantages. There is, in fact, no real substitute for it. When all else fails, braille still works. Therefore, everything possible must be done to raise the level of

awareness in our community of the importance of braille, to engender a sense of urgency in solving the problems that limit both its availability and the reading ability of those who should be realising its benefits, and to solicit support for effective promotion of braille.

At this juncture, I would like to quote Mr. Nicholas Scott, Hon. Minister for Social Security and the disabled people in the United Kingdom. Announcing an initiative to improve information services for the disabled people, the Hon. Minister said : "people with disabilities including the blind, have a special need for information to maximise their opportunities for independence." In like manner, there is an urgent need for a national effort to be made in Sri Lanka to improve the information services for the blind by requesting the social service providers to create organisations or agencies to provide social access to national information resources for the benefit of the blind.

The year 1990 had been proclaimed by the United Nations as the International Literacy Year. But unfortunately, for the blind in this country, the year 1990 passed off without any comment or action on the part of the authorities.

We have received requests, recommendations and resolutions from students, teachers, organisations and interested individuals throughout the country requesting the setting up of a national library service for the blind. The purpose of this exercise would obviously be to encourage the production, teaching and use of braille as the primary medium of literacy for all blind persons who are physically and mentally able to make practical use of it.

The so-called welfare and literacy experts in the country often maintain that such an exercise, or for that matter such legislation, would require great expenditures on the part of the Provincial Councils and the State. Many people say this, and most people believe this. But according to a literacy expert at the United Nations : "in assessing the cost of braille literacy, it is necessary to bear in mind two costs associated with the status quo. First, there is the recognised cost of illiteracy. Today's world of work requires no less to the blind than the sighted the ability to read and write fluently and with precision. Illiteracy

tends to equate low-paying jobs with consequent lessened tax revenue, lower purchasing power, and thus low living standards leading to poverty and frustration." And sometimes, no jobs at all, with the attendant burden on the family, community and the country as a whole. This means that with a good education, the ability to read and write is absolutely essential. For anyone, to get a good job, and to integrate one-self into the society literacy is most important.

Secondly, the literacy expert says, that over and above the tangible cost of braille illiteracy, there is the "intangible cost of wasted lives, and talents lost to the society." At a time when unemployment is rampant can our society and the country bear these costs ? Everyone of us, blind or sighted deserve the right to live a full-fledged literate and a happy life.

Broadly looking at our rights and privileges, we find that the sighted have an unfair advantage over the blind where reading and writing is concerned. The sighted person can at random walk into a bookshop at any time of the day and pick up a book of his choice to read and enjoy. He could buy a pen or a pencil from any simple store. He can also walk up to a news-stand to pick up the newspaper of his liking. But this right and this privilege is not for the blind. The bookshops and the news-stands have something for everyone. Their topics vary : on travel, cooking, health, ageing, exercise, employment, self-employment, education, autobiographies, inspirational material, religion, resource, directories, products, aids, equipment etc. We pay lip-service in saying that blind people need help to stand on their feet. True. Blind people need education, they need rehabilitation and training facilities, employment opportunities and independence and every thing sighted people wish to have, but the question is how can we achieve these ? Still we are not masters of our destinies. Blind people have the right to keep abreast of current events, to enjoy a good book as any other group. We have the same right of independence. But without braille literacy, the blind will be kept forever on the edges of life. For the schoolgoing blind children, for the young blind seeking employment, and for those blind people in employment and for those adults, they need the provision of braille to keep them in touch, and keep them alive.

Every time we speak, every time we write, at every forum, in every conversation, the blind are calling for acceptance and equality. However, there can be no acceptance, and no equality without literacy. Without the working knowledge of the written language, full integration into society is little more than a pipe-dream. His excellency the President notes : "In a free society, a fuller life for the affluent will have no meaning if the poor and the under-privileged are excluded."

Therefore, I humbly appeal to the authorities concerned to walk in our direction, to rescue us from illiteracy, poverty and frustration. We need a hand-up, not a hand-out. Our priorities are : equal opportunities and total independence through braille literacy.

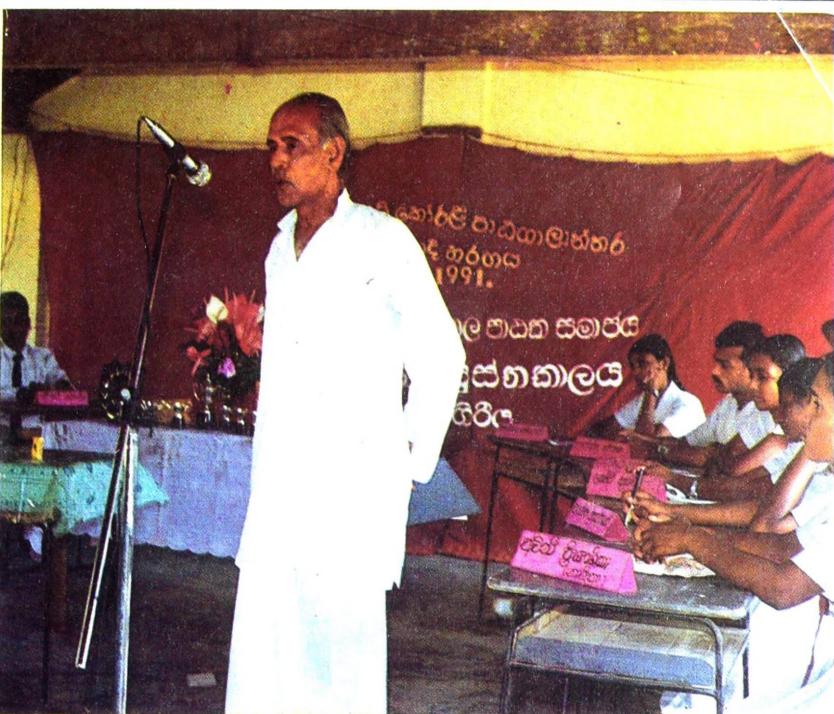
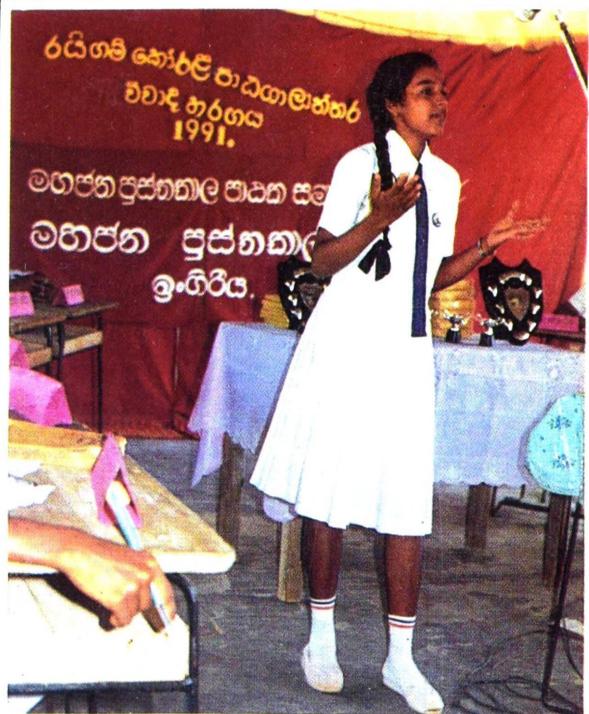
Coming back to the discussion once again, one may ask other than reading books, what are other ways in which braille can be put to use ? For instance, braille bank statements to keep at home. Make a personal bank register. After cheques are typed, braille information on them so they can be identified when they are cancelled and returned in the bank statement. Braille all receipts you want to keep. When your bills arrive, and someone reads them to you, immediately braille the part of the stub that you will keep for your records. Do not detach the other part of the stub until you have prepared the cheque and are ready to mail the payment. Have some papers on which you don't wish to write braille ? Write the information on a large envelope ; then keep the papers in that envelope. Make labels for foods. Cut the paper into label-sized pieces, write in braille and attach them to the packages, tins, bottles, etc. Have trouble in keeping the colour of shoes in mind; staple label with colour of shoes in shoe box. Braille the name of the

sender on the flaps of envelopes of letters you want to keep. These are some of the many ways you can put braille into use. So, braille literacy is absolutely essential for the blind and the visually-impaired.

In Japan, braille libraries handle all matters concerning the blind and visually-impaired people and their culture. Following are some of the activities handled by the libraries of the blind in Japan : Educating volunteers in braille transcription, voice recording, and publishing or servicing books in braille. Publishing and servicing in large print for the partially-sighted. Preparing textbooks for blind children who go under the integrated education. Braille transcription and voice recording of textbooks for blind university students. Transcribing examination papers into braille also answer sheets into Japanese language. Also : Transcribing and publishing the advertisements of private companies into braille. Transcribing various information regarding public and private facilities or local areas. Counselling people who have gone blind and teaching them the art of reading braille, and typing, developing, selling and servicing various devices for the blind etc.

Literacy is the key to development. Everyone of us must learn to read and write for himself. Without literacy there can be no development.

Finally, I appeal to all well-wishers of the blind the sympathisers of the cause of blind welfare, and to all our many friends who work and understand the blind to genuinely support our cause for braille literacy to be achieved in the shortest possible time. I wish to remind you of that great philosopher Sir Bertrand Russel when he rightly said : "remember your humanity, forget the rest."



ஒக்டோபர் 1991 இல் நூலகத்தில் நடாத்தப்பட்ட விவாத அரங்கின் சில சந்தர்ப்பங்கள்.

Some events of a debate held at the Ingiriya Public Library

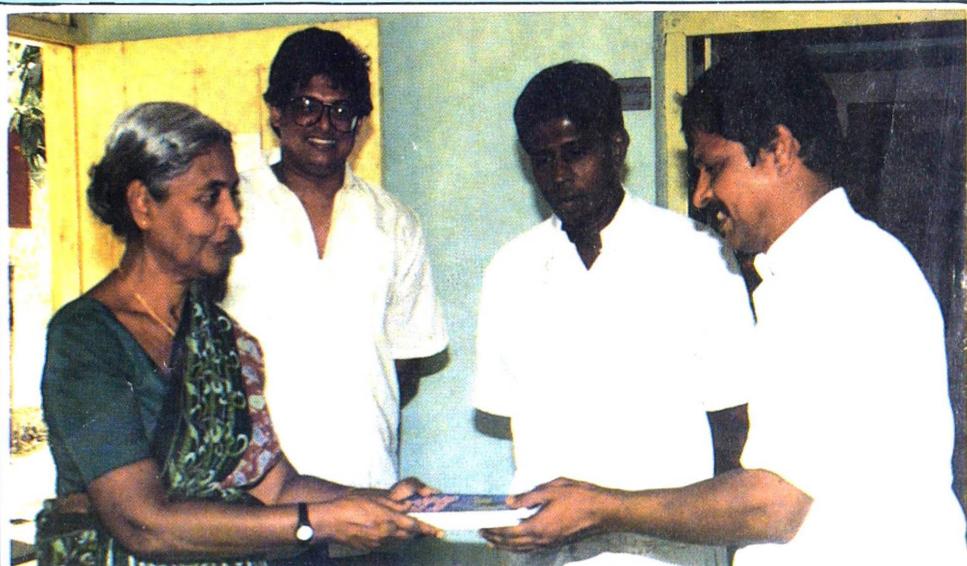


ராதீக் பூஷ்ணகாலையென்ற முறையில் போது பரிநையென்ற அவசியம். தேசிய நூலகத்திற்கு சர்வோதயவினால் பிரெயில் நூல்கள் அன்பளிப்பு செய்யப்பட்ட சந்தர்ப்பம்.

Donation of Braille books to the National Library by Sarvodaya

சாக் கலூரில் தீமின்னேந் அனுராධபூர் மஹரந் பூஷ்ணகாலையென்ற பரிநையென்ற அவசியம் பொறுத்து அனுராதபூர் பொது நூலகத்தில் நடைபெற்ற கட்டுரைப் போட்டிக்கான சாண்றிதழ்கள் வழங்குதல். Awarding of certificates for the SAARC essay Competition at the Public Library Anuradhapura

ஏதாவது மஹரந் பூஷ்ணகாலை பெற ராதீக் பூஷ்ணகாலை என்ற மன்றிலே மஹரந் கேரென் போது பரிநையென்ற அம்பகல்ல பொது நூலகத்திற்கு தேசிய நூலக சேவைகள் சபையினால் நூல் அன்பளிப்பு செய்தல். Donation of Books to Dambagalle Public Library by the National Library Services Board



රත්මලාන අන්ධ විද්‍යාල.
ඩිරෑත්මලාන කුරුතාර් පාට්සාලව
School for the Blind Ratmalana.

1. පුද්ගලික නාලකම
Library
2. බෛල මාධ්‍යයන් ලියන සිපුන්
පිරෙයිල් මුහුර්‍යීල් උගුණුම්
මාණවර්ක්ස්.
- Students writing in Braille
3. පංති කාමරයක ඉගෙනුම ලබන
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වගුව්පාන ඉන්ත්‍රිල් පයිතුම්
පාර්ශවයාර්ථ මාණවර්ක්ස්
Blind children studying in
a classroom



වාර්ෂික දෙස මුදල රු. 30.00 ඩී. කළුපයක මිල රු. 7.50 ඩී

ශ්‍රී ලංකා රාජීක පුද්ගලික දෙස මැණ්ඩල විසින් තුළේගොඩ, ගැඹෙබිලු, දිපාන් මූල්‍යාලයේ මූල්‍යාලය කරවා පළ කරන ලදී.

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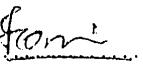
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