CHAPTER - 5

CHILDREN HOMES AND RESCUE CENTRES FOR SOLUTION OF NEWLY EMERGING SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN MIZORAM

Till lately there had been neither Home for destitute children nor Rescue centres or Homes for morally depressed people due to addiction of liquor or drugs in the Mizo society. Practically there were two (2) Motherless Babies Homes run by Hmeichhe Tangruail Pawl (Mizo Women Organisation) and the Salvation Army at Aizawl. But in recent past many Homes for children and Rescue centres for morally depressed persons came into being. The reasons of such increase number of Homes and Rescue centres could be traced during the last ten years or so. The Union Territory Government of Mizoram came into being on 21 Jan 1972. The Central Government financed the Union Territory Government of Mizoram. The budget as prepared by the Union Territory Government was approved and sanctioned. The Union Territory Mizoram Government first budget for the Financial Year of 1972-1973 was Rs.16.83 crores. And budget estimate for the subsequent years increased. Mizoram became
a full-fledged state but the Central Government continued to finance the new state as it did when it was a Union Territory. The budget for the year 1992 - 1993 increased to Rs.403.57 crores. ¹

The pumping of crores of rupees into Mizoram in a way has corrupted the people. Morality has also declined. Alcoholism among the Mizo is increasing, unkind acts under the influence of liquor between couples resulted in divorce between husband and wife. In the free and permissive Mizo society a number of cases of separation between husband and wife or both marrying another persons leaving young children desperately without proper care is also common. This kind of life resulted in the increase of a number of destitute children. Easy life through easy money could lead the society to dissipation. As it is found on the Bible, "For the love of money is the root of all evil; which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith and pierced themselves through with many sorrows". ²

The children in need of care and protection are on the increase due to mis-use of sex and the loose customary law of marriage in
the Mizo society. Therefore, the need for such protective homes for destitute children provoked the minds of their well wishers to build homes for them. This is how destitute children homes have come up in Mizoram. There are 13 destitute children homes in Mizoram which are run by the various voluntary organisations. They receive grant-in-aid from the Central and State Governments to manage and run the Homes. The total financial assistance to the 13 destitute children Homes as sanctioned by the State Government for the year 1991-1992 comes to Rs.9 crores. The details of the 13 destitute children homes including their capacity to function and the financial assistance allotted to each of them for the year 1991 - 1992 are as shown below :

1. Muanna In, Mualpui, Aizawl by Salvation Army :

(a) Maintenance of 25 inmates ₹Rs.225/-p.m.p.c i.e., 90% of Rs.250/- w.e.f. April 1991 to March 1992- 12 months- 67,500/-

(b) Home rent ₹Rs.16/-p.m.p.c-10%- 4,320/-
(c) Contingencies for purchase of medicines etc. 90% of Rs.2,000/- 1,800/-
73,620/-

2. **Motherless Babies Home, Aizawl by Salvation Army**:

(a) Maintenance of 32 inmates @Rs.225/- p.m. p.c. i.e., 90% of Rs.25/- w.e.f. April 1991 to March 1992. - 86,400/-

(b) House rent @Rs.10/- p.m. p.c.
10% - 5,530/-

(c) Contingencies for purchase of medicines etc. 90% of Rs.2,000/- 1,800/-
93,730/-

3. **Destitute Children's Home, Aizawl**

(a) Maintenance of 26 inmates @Rs.225/- p.m. p.c. i.e., 90% of Rs.250/- w.e.f. April 1991 to March 1992. - 70,200/-

(b) House rent @Rs.16/- p.m. p.c.
of 10% - 4,493/-
(c) Contingencies for purchase of medicines etc. @ Rs.90% of Rs.2,000/-  - 1,800/-

76,433/-

4. Hermon Children's Home, Durtlang by Zoram Evangelical Fellowship (Z.E.F.)

(a) Maintenance of 50 inmates @ Rs.225/- p.m. p.c. i.e., 90% of Rs.25/- w.e.f. April 1991 to March 1992. - 1,35,000/-

(b) Contingencies for purchase of medicines etc. @ Rs.90% of Rs.2,000/-  - 1,800/-

1,36,800/-

5. Enna In, Kolasib by Salvation Army

(a) Maintenance of 25 inmates @ Rs.225/- p.m. p.c. 90% of Rs.250/- w.e.f. April 1991 to March 1992. - 67,500/-

(b) House rent @ Rs.16/- p.m. p.c. of 10% - 4,320/-

(c) Contingencies for purchase of medicines etc. @ Rs.90% of Rs.2,000/- - 1,800/-

73,620/-
6. Motherless Babies Home, Khatla, Hmeichhe
   Tangrual Pwu (Mizo Women Organisation)
   (a) Maintenance of 10 inmates @ Rs.225/- p.m. p.c
      90% of Rs.250/- w.e.f. April
      1991 to March 1992. 27,000/-
   (b) House rent @ Rs.16/- p.m. p.c.
      10% 1,728/-
   (c) Contingencies for purchase of
      medicines @ Rs.90% of Rs.2000/- 1,800/-
      30,528/-

7. Hmangaihna In. Durtlang (Presbyterian Church)
   (a) Maintenance of 20 inmates @ Rs.225/-
      p.m. p.c. @ Rs.250/- w.e.f April
      1991 to March 1992. 54,000/-
   (b) House rent @ Rs.16/- p.m. p.c.
      10% 3,456/-
   (c) Contingencies @ Rs.90% of Rs.2000/- 1,800/-
      59,256/-

8. Hlimna In. Saiitual (Salvation Army)
   (a) Maintenance of 25 inmates @ Rs.225/- p.m.
      p.c. @Rs.90% of Rs.250/- w.e.f. April
      1991 to March 1992. 67,500/-
(b) House rent ₹Rs.16/- p.m. p.c

10%

4,320/-

(c) Contingencies ₹Rs.90% of Rs.2000/-

1,800/-

73,620/-

9. Girls Home, Durtlang (Salvation Army)

(a) Maintenance of 16 inmates ₹Rs.225/- p.m.
p.c. ₹Rs.90% of Rs.250/- w.e.f. April


43,200/-

(b) House rent ₹Rs.16/- p.m. p.c - 10%

6,912/-

(c) Contingencies ₹Rs.90% of Rs.2000/-

1,800/-

51,912/-

10. Jawlkhuma Children's Home, Lunglei

(a) Maintenance of 30 inmates ₹Rs.225/- p.m.
p.c. ₹Rs.90% of Rs.250/- w.e.f April 1991

81,000/-

(b) Contingencies ₹Rs.90% of Rs.2000/-

1,800/-

82,800/-
11. **Baptist Church Orphanage Home, Serkawn Lunglei**

(a) Maintenance of 25 inmates @Rs.225/- p.m. p.c. @Rs.250/- w.e.f April 1991. 67,500/-

(b) House rent @Rs.16/- p.m. p.c. @10% 4,320/-

(c) Contingencies @Rs.90% of Rs.2000/- 1,800/-

**Total:** 73,620/-

12. **Orphanage Home, Saiha**

(a) Maintenance of 10 inmates @Rs.225/- p.m. p.c. @Rs.90% of Rs.250/- w.e.f April 1991 to March 1992. 27,000/-

(b) House rent @Rs.90% p.m. - 10% 4,320/-

(c) Contingencies @Rs.90% of Rs.2000/- 1,800/-

**Total:** 33,120/-

13. **Hermon Children's Home, Durtlang by Zoram Evangelical Fellowship (Z.E.F)**

(a) Maintenance of 25 inmates @Rs.112.50 p.m. per child w.e.f April 1991 to March 1992. 45% of state share 33,750/-
(b) House rent @Rs. 16/- p.m. for 25 inmates for 12 months. 4,320/-

(c) Contingencies for purchase of medicines etc. 800/-

38,870/-

GRAND TOTAL - Rs. 8,97,989/-
Among all the destitute children Homes of Mizoram, Hermon Children's Home is the largest of all in Mizoram. It has a capacity of 75 children inmates and, next to it is the Motherless Babies Home run by the Salvation Army at Khatla, Aizawl which has a capacity of 32 inmates which is not even half capacity of Hermon Children's Home. It is, therefore, imperative on the Researcher to make a special study on the Hermon Children's Home. Not only that, this children's home had received the National Award of 1986 in Public recognition of the valuable services to the community rendered in the field of child welfare from the Government of India. Former President, Giani Zail Singh presented the award on 17 March 1987 at New Delhi. The National Award carried cash reward of Rs.2,00,000/- (Rupees two lakhs).

The Researcher enquired from the Z.E.F.
This National Award is given to

Hermon Children's Home

Aizawl, Mizoram

in public recognition of the valuable services to the community rendered in the field of Child Welfare.

Min. Delhi
Dated 17 March, 1987

Secretary
To Government of India
Farmer President, Giani Zail Singh giving away the National Award for child welfare, being received by Mr. Besanga Superintendent of Herman Children Home (Z.E.F).

NATIONAL AWARDS FOR CHILD WELFARE
1986
17 MARCH 1987

Mr. Khuanga, the Executive Secretary (Z.E.F) with Jay, holding the award and the photo frame of Herman Children Home.
Executive Secretary Mr. Khuanga as to how the National Award has been given to the Hermon Children's Home and on whose recommendation the Award was given to the Home. The Z.E.F. Executive Secretary, Mr. Khuanga stated that Hermon Children's Home was found and established on 17 Feb 1979 on the day of International Year of Child Care. After only six years of its establishment the National Award bestowed upon it by the Central Government was the most pleasant surprise to the staff of Hermon Children's Home and all the members of Z.E.F. He further stated that the representatives of Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Women and Child Development, New Delhi visited the Home and later on, an intimation was received for the National Award of 1986.  

ORIGIN OF HERMON CHILDREN'S HOME

One of the four principle objectives of Zoram Evangelical Fellowship (Z.E.F) is to have a destitute children's home where they could be given care and protection with a view
to bring them up as God-fearing children and to become full time workers in the service of God. And finally to be the good citizen of the country.

Hermon Children's Home was opened with two children in a rented house at Electric Veng, Aizawl on 17 Feb 1979. Mr. Lairosanga, B.Th and his wife Smt. Lallianmawii, B.Th offered their services as the Superintendent and the House Mother respectively for the Home. They are continuing their services at the Home till today (10 July 1992).

Zoram Evangelical Fellowship (Z.E.F.) is the first indigenous para church organisation in Mizoram. The organisation came into being on 6 May 1972. The first meeting of Z.E.F. was conducted in the Vestry of Dawrpui Church, Aizawl in which formal organisation of Z.E.F. had taken place. It is an inter-denominational para church organisation in which any person belonging to any church or denomination could become the member of Z.E.F. Care and protection of destitute children being one of the four objectives of Z.E.F., the Executive Committee looked for a suitable place for the establishment of Home. Mr. Ch. Saprawnga
the then Treasurer of the committee donated 35 bighas of land to Z.E.P. at Durtlang, Aizawl for the establishment of children's home in 1979. A proposal for the construction of R.B.T. building of 160 ft x 36 ft for the accommodation of 75 children and few staff was made. Along with this proposal water reservoir of 60 ft diameter of 12 ft depth was planned for the supply of water to the children at the Home. Z.E.P. organisation was registered under the Society Registration Act of 1860 in May 1979. It had also been registered as Religious and Charitable Organisation in 1988 under Section 12A of the Income Tax Act 1961, for the care and protection of destitute children. On the basis of these registrations Z.E.P. sought financial helps from within India and abroad for the construction of the building and for the maintenance of Home.

Mr. Lalchuanliana, the Secretary, Emmanuel Hospital Administration, New Delhi was approached for help, who in turn sought help from the Pear Fund, England, S.R.E.K., Holland, World Vision and CAPART, New Delhi. Locally fund was raised and, with the public donations the construction of
the building and motorable approach road to the
site of Home was started, and the building
foundation was laid on 30 July 1981. Z.E.P.
Executive Committee worked out various schemes
without actually possessing money.

The various schemes were as under :-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Building construction</th>
<th>Rs.6,52,150/-</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a)</td>
<td>160' x 36'</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(b)</td>
<td>Approach road</td>
<td>Rs.1,00,000/-</td>
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<tr>
<td>(c)</td>
<td>Water Reservoir</td>
<td>Rs.1,00,000/-</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>60' dia 12' deep</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(d)</td>
<td>Vocational Training</td>
<td>Rs.1,00,000/-</td>
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<tr>
<td>(e)</td>
<td>Model-cum-</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Demonstration Farm</td>
<td>Rs. 50,000/-</td>
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<td>(f)</td>
<td>Staff Quarters - 2</td>
<td>Rs.1,45,400/-</td>
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<tr>
<td>(g)</td>
<td>Diary &amp; Poultry Farm</td>
<td>Rs. 25,000/-</td>
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<tr>
<td>(h)</td>
<td>Play Ground</td>
<td>Rs. 75,000/-</td>
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<tr>
<td>(i)</td>
<td>Furnitures</td>
<td>Rs. 75,000/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(j)</td>
<td>Contingencies</td>
<td>Rs. 66,157/-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL**  -  **Rs.13,89,307/-**

Of all the schemes, concerted efforts
were made for the construction of the main
building. As the approach road was constructed the work of the building with whatever financial help received made satisfactory progress. It was completed with a capacity for 75 children including the basement during Jan 1985. The building was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Education Minister, Mizoram on 31 Jan 1985. While the construction of the building was completed, the levelling of the ground for the construction of water reservoir was also simultaneously completed at the cost of Rs.9,24,522/-.}

Financial assistance received from the various sources was as follows :-

(a) Local public contribution − Rs.1,35,922/-  
(b) Grant-in-aids from the Government of Mizoram − Rs.2,03,000/-  
(c) SRBK, Holand − Rs.3,80,000/-  
(d) Tear Fund, England − Rs.1,00,600/-  
(e) EPICOR India, New Delhi − Rs.1,05,000/-  

TOTAL − Rs.9,24,522/-

The activities that the institution had undertaken are as follows :-

(a) Maintaining the destitute children to
bring them up as law-abiding, self-reliant and God-fearing citizens of the country.

(b) Giving vocational training according to their aptitude for future settlement.

(c) Giving them General Education as well as Training in accordance with their capacity to fit them in the modern society. 9

No Reservation on Sex nor Caste and Creed at the Home

Hermon Children's Home makes no reservation of seats for any, nor does it make any distinction on the basis of Caste and Creed for admission. There are 27 girls and 48 boys at the Home, out of them 6 are mixed Nepalis, 4 are mixed Biharis (Santhalis), 2 are Manipuris (Meitei). The children of Bru tribe living in the Western part of Mizoram are also admitted in the Home. Of course, the majority of them are of Mizo origin. And they all study Mizo language and have Mizo Christian names. A large number of P.W.D. labourers Santhalis from Bihar State are employed on road constructions in Mizoram.
even before and after political disturbance. Few of them have temporary marital life with local Mizo girls and these girls are mostly from rural poor and some of them are even mentally abnormal. When such women give birth to a child, care and maintenance of the children falls on the poor relatives of such women; in some cases the father of the child is not identified. Besides these, the Mizo children admitted in the Home are mostly from the broken homes. Broken families due to misfortune are comparatively lesser than the number of broken homes due to divorce between husband and wife. The husband and the wife, after divorce married another person left their children uncared for. One can easily imagine the pathetic condition of such children at an early stage of life. The near and dear ones being poor are unable to give support to them. Children of these categories belonging to the age group of 3 to 8 years are admitted in the Hermon Children's Home.

Establishment of Primary School at the Home

Hermon Children's Home is located in
the outskirt of Durtlang Village and small children could not be sent to school outside Home. The need and urgency of establishing a Primary School was felt by the management Board of Z.E.P. A separate building was built in 1989 for the establishment of a Primary School. The Education Minister of Mizoram, Dr. H. Thansanga was requested to provide 4 (four) teachers by the Government of Mizoram. In the same year, four teachers were appointed in the Primary School of Hermon Children's Home. Prior to the opening of the Primary School at the Home only the grown up children were sent to the school for studies at Durtlang; by the time the Primary school came up at the Home some of the grown up children studied in the Middle School and High School of Durtlang village. It was a real elevation and blessing for the Home to have a Primary School of its own. All the children of the Home, young and old are provided with basic education like those of the children under the care and love of their parents. The position of children in their studies on 3rd August 1992 was very encouraging to note. One girl namely Laltanpuii is studying.
in Pre-University at Durtlang Private College who would be joining Dehradun Seminary Theological College in U.P. very soon. There are 8 students studying at the Durtlang High School, 20 students are studying in the Middle School and the remaining younger children 46 of them are in the Hermon Children's Home's Primary School. 10

Besides the Primary School, there are various vocational training facilities provided to the children according to their aptitude. There are four grown up children studying in the High School who are learning typing under a qualified instructress, three children are being trained in tailoring and three others are being trained in weaving. Among the grown ups, one has become a Missionary in the Cachar District of Assam, and some of them are Vehicle Mechanics and drivers. They manage well in their lives.

**Plan for Expansion**

Hermon Children's Home could
accommodate only 75 children. Many applications have been received for admission of the unpreviledged children which the Home Authority, with deep pain, had to refuse for want of accommodation in the Home. This had further put pressure on the Home management Board of Z.E.F. to expand the Hermon Children's Home to its maximum possible strength. The managing Board decided to plan for 200 inmates in total which requires constructions of an additional building for 125 children and a central kitchen. All possible sources within the state, the Nation and abroad were approached for the new project. Tremendous progress had been made in the construction of building during the last two years. The central kitchen of double storey building of 50' x 20' had been completed and the construction of building for 125 children's accommodation is also progressing quite well. The aspiration of the Managing Board of Hermon Children's Home of Z.E.F. would soon be fulfilled.

As regards the placement of educated
grown up boys and girls the authority gives liberty to work independently and be self-dependent in life. And above all, the aim and objective of the Home is to guide them to be good citizens of the Nation and to do the work of God Almighty in serving mankind.

SOCIETY FOR REHABILITATION OF SPASTIC CHILDREN IN MIZORAM

In the semi primitive Mizo society, in almost all villages there were spastic children who never get proper care due to lack of knowledge of therapeutic services and medical care, leaving them to lead a life of pathetic condition. They would have been actually more useful if they had been given proper care at the proper time to their life. The poor and ignorant parents could not afford to give attention and care to their spastic children for obvious reason that they had no means to do it; and above all, they had to struggle with life for their survival. A spastic child grows up without physio-therapist advice and exercises
which resulted in deformity and abnormality of a person who later on became a burden to the family. In the past Mizo society, a deformed or abnormal physically or mentally was mocked rather than giving sympathetic and kind attention to them by some. The hearts of the helpless parents were often hurt. This insane act is still noticed in modern society too. However, the young and educated parents of spastic children of today particularly in Aizawl town realised the humanistic need of improving the quality of life of spastic persons. To initiate the constructive move of such activities, only five parents of handicapped children assembled to discuss the great need of some kind of body either a society or any voluntary body to look into the possible means to extend help to such poor and needy children through their parents. The young experienced and educated five parents of handicapped children decided to form a body which was called a 'Society for Rehabilitation of Spastic Children'. It is purely a voluntary organisation. On 10th April 1989, a committee of the Society was formed as below.
The newly founded society for rehabilitation of spastic children was registered under the Society Registration Act XXI of 1860 in the State Government on 4 July 1989. Subsequently, the Society was affiliated to the Spastic Society of Eastern India, Calcutta, West Bengal by remitting affiliating fee of Rs.100/- (Rupees one hundred) only to the Society in the same year.

The newly founded Society for rehabilitation of spastic children at Aizawl
CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION OF SOCIETIES ACT XXI OF 1860

No SR-13...of 1989....1990............

I hereby Certify that .SOCIETY FOR REHABILITATION...OF SPASTIC CHILDREN

has this day been registered under the Societies Registration Act, XXI of 1860.

Given under my hand at Aizawl ..........................
this .fourth ........... day of July ..................

one thousand nine hundred eighty nine paid vide Treasury Registration fee of Rs. 50/-
Challan 702/A...dt. 16-5-89 ....... at Aizawl .......

MEMO No. RSR+9/89/10 Dated Aizawl the 16-7-89
forwarded to Chairman, Society for Rehabilitation of Spastic Children, Aizawl.
NOTIFICATION

: Dated Aizawl, the...4.7.89.

No.____RSR. 9/89/10___________: It is hereby notified for general information that in pursuance to the provision of the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (Act XXI of 1860) as in force in Mizoram "SOCIETY FOR REHABILITATION OF SPASTIC CHILDREN
AIZAWL" has been registered on 4.7.89 and numbered as SR 13 of 19.89.

Sd/- K.N. SRIVASTAVA
Registrar,
Firms & Societies, Mizoram

Memo No.____RSR. 9/89/10___________: Dated Aizawl, the...4.7.89.

Copy to:-

1. Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of Mizoram, Finance Excise & Taxation Department.

2. The Director, Education Department, Govt. of Mizoram, Aizawl for information. It is requested that any Aid or Grant given to this Association may be intimated to this office for record and verification from time to time.

3. Shri/Smt. CHAIRMAN, SOCIETY FOR REHABILITATION OF SPASTIC CHILDREN, AIZAWL.


5. Guard File.

(K.N. SRIVASTAVA)
Registrar,
Firms & Societies, Mizoram, Aizawl
called for a special meeting of the parents of spastic children at Aizawl Club on 15 April 1989. The members present in the meeting resolved to apprise the public about the Society and its purpose specially to the parents of the spastic children in their respective villages or localities and to arrange a special free clinic at Aizawl on 27th and 28th June 1989. This information was given wide publicity through the local newspapers. The experts from the Spastic Society of Eastern India, Calcutta were accordingly invited to conduct a Special Clinic in Aizawl town.

The first Special clinic of its kind in Mizoram was opened on 27th and 28th June 1989 at Aizawl which was conducted by Mrs. Sujata Pare h, Head of Social Services Division and a Social Worker and Mr. M.B. Chhetri, Physiotherapist, Head of Out Patient Department of the Spastic Society of Eastern India, Calcutta. To the surprise of the team and the society, they had clinically examined over 122 patients in two days. During the two days clinic, it was experienced that the clinic could not be
exclusively confined to the spastic children but more number of children of other disabilities attended the clinic. The disabled children were mostly of deaf and dumb and mentally retarded. This has necessitated to widen the scope of the newly founded society and extend its services to multiple-handicapped children.

The second free clinic was organised by the Society on 16 and 17 May 1990 at Saron Veng, Aizawl after a gap of almost a year with the backing of professional team from Spastic Society of Eastern India, Calcutta. The team consisting of Mrs. Reena Sen, Deputy Director, Mrs. N.B. Chhetri, Physio-therapist, Head of the Out Patient Department and Mrs. Sheela Bose, Training Co-ordinator of Ali Yavar June National Institute for Hearing Handicapped, Calcutta. For two days, the team assisted by local helpers examined and screened 150 cases. They worked from morn to night on the two days clinic.

The Society for Rehabilitation of Spastic children decided to extend its voluntary services and clinical assistance to the needy and poor
parents of spastic children living in the interior villages could not avail the services of previous two clinics conducted in the Aizawl town, for various reasons, mainly of financial and transport difficulties. The out-reach free clinic was organised on 19 and 20 May 1990 at Serchhip which is 112 kms away from Aizawl on the way to Lunglei. In this outreach, free clinic 33 cases were screened; out of which 11 of them were spastic cases, 12 were hearing handicapped and 10 were mentally handicapped.16

As a matter of fact, the system adopted for screening-cum-clinic is a very time consuming, for obvious reasons that communication problem between experts and the clients. And also counselling the parents and demonstrating various necessary exercises of the handicapped children. In other words, counselling and the function of clinic is a training ground as well, for both the parents and the handicapped children.
GILEAD SPECIAL SCHOOL FOR MULTIPLE HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

Gilead Special School was opened in September, 1990 by the Society for Rehabilitation of Spastic initially for spastic children. But the need of the Mizo society compelled the society to open the school for multiple handicapped children such as deaf and dumb and mentally retarded. And as such, the name of the school was also changed to 'Gilead Special School for Multiple Handicapped Children'. Presently, the school is held in a rented building of the former Chief Minister, Mizoram, Ch. Chhunga at Saron Veng, Aizawl. The Society members were very glad to have Miss Malika B. Choudhury, a trained and qualified teacher to assist them in 1991 session who had come from Calcutta on deputation for one year only. During the year, local resource persons were sent to various institutions for training. As the session of 1992 began, the Gilead Special School was better staffed than in the previous year. The School functions in three different sections
according to the cases of the children's problems. The three sections are the Spastic Section, mentally retarded section and hearing handicapped section. In each of the sections qualified staff are working duly assisted by helpers. Above all, the School has two dedicated Honorary Principals namely Mrs. Zosangi, w/o Rev. Dr. R.K. Nghakliana (L) and Mrs. Zokhumi, w/o Brig. Vankunga (L). The school has also opened parent's counselling section under the special care of Miss. R. Lalnunmawii M.S.W., who is assisted by the Society Committee members particularly the Chairperson Mrs. Chhingpuii. The counselling of the parents in the school is never found adequate. They often go to the houses of handicapped children and see how the children are given care at home by the parents. Differences of opinion between the parents are noticed on how a handicapped child is to be given care and training.

The Gilead Special School has a motto of 'Help the handicapped children to help themselves'. In order to keep up the motto the school has aims and objectives as follows :-
(a) To train handicapped children for the basic human functions and teach the skills that will provide emotional and physical independence as far as possible and look at the future with hope and courage.

(b) To teach the parents that the handicapped children have potential which can be fully developed through proper training and guidance.

(c) To teach the parents that for the treatment of their children they should not depend only on the medical institutions. It depends to a great extent on their proper care at home.

(d) To emphasise upon the fact that co-operation of other family members to the parents in the care of a handicapped child is important and is a great need.

(e) To impress upon the parents that a handicapped child requires love, care and affection equal to the normal
children if not more but certainly not less.

(f) To invite and seek professional help and guidance in this field of work and to train and mobilise local resources.

(g) To bring home awareness of this fact in the society through Radio and Press media that handicapped persons can be helped to become a useful citizen.

(h) To open and establish centre manned by professionals which will provide educational as well as vocational training facilities for handicapped children.

PARENTS' PROBLEMS IN ACCEPTING A HANDICAPPED CHILD

No one wants a handicapped child. Everyone looks for fit, handsome and intelligent child. Parents worry during the end of pregnancy about what kind of baby would be born to them. Parents become acutely distressed if a child born to them is imperfect. The parents' distress
can be usually very severe. It could be severe to the extent of ending the baby's life one's own life. If the distress is intolerable there may be total rejection of the child. Suspicion over the child if he belongs to someone else. Several questions strike their mind such like, why did it happen to them, what was wrong with them and what wrong things that they have done to have a handicapped child. The initial commotion gives way to sadness, a feeling of desolation and isolation and longing for the loss of normal baby. The situation gets crucial and dark not only to the new born child but of the whole family. Parents who suffer severe guilt may attempt to relieve their distress by realising that the child is not given care would further become handicapped causing total destruction of family's happiness. Adjustment could be achieved by accepting the fact and give due care to the child with the help of skilled persons which would gradually reduce their distress; knowing that the child needs to be loved and accepted as a normal child. It is of the highest importance that both husband and
wife should accept their full share of responsibility for the care of the child. The biggest problem of the parent is shame, embarrassment and even social isolation due to the handicapped child. If the people are straight away informed the truth at an early date, it minimises such problems and that is the natural and normal behaviour of parents of handicapped children in the society. And it is probably the greatest force that we have for informing the public of their needs and dispelling the prejudice and ignorance of which is still exist in modern society. Any tendency for one to blame the other or to less involved can be disastrous. Ideally both the parents should draw closer together and support each other by resolving to share fully the sorrow and sufferings of the handicapped. They should continuously live a happy couple, they need each other's companionship more than before such a child is born to them. Otherwise the family may eventually disintegrate under the strain.  

There are fifty handicapped children admitted in the Gilead Special School for
Handicapped children. Out of fifty families, 25 of them are disintegrated. The reasons of their separation are mainly the rejection of handicapped child by a father, alcoholism and abnormal sex behaviour in the permissive society.

Miss Lalnunmawii M.S.W., Parents Counsellor of the School expressed her opinion on the basis of contact established with the parents that the mothers of the handicapped children are overburdened mentally and physically at home, thereby unable to give attention to their husbands who actually refused to accept any additional responsibility on the birth of handicapped children. 18

The distressing parents of handicapped children in the Mizo society are helpless to confront with this kind of life-problems for they lack knowledge and experience. Due to which a little deformity uncared for, has resulted in permanent disability to a person which otherwise could have outgrown and be an asset to the family and to the society. Smt. Chhingpuii, the Chairperson of the Society for Rehabilitation of Spastics stated that there are on an average 10
handicapped children in each of the villages in Mizoram. There are 720 villages and the total number of handicapped children in the whole of Mizoram would be 7200 in a total population of 6,86,217, who are neglected by the parents, families and by the society as a whole. She further stated that many distressed and helpless parents leave their handicapped children unattended not only that some are kept in a separate closed rooms and locked them inside not allowing them to come out while the rest of the family members are out for works. Whatever little effort made by the Gilead Special School is to help 50 handicapped children to enable them to help themselves. The children are responding to the teaching and training quite well. The only point of regret, the Chairperson said is, the limited capacity of the school.

**FUND RAISING SYSTEM**

The society for rehabilitation of Spastic children is a voluntary organisation without regular source of income but depending on donations by public and grants from the Government
of Mizoram. Initially the founder five (5) parents donated Rs.250/- each and started publishing a monthly magazine called 'Genesis' with effect from the month of May 1989. They published 1500 copies @Rs.5/- each. This was the main source of their fund. The Gilead School also levies fees as any other school does as below :-

(a) Out Patient Duty (OPD) fee - Rs.25/-p.m.
(b) School fees - Rs.15/-p.m.
(c) Transport fee - Rs.30/-p.a.

If any student is attending O.P.D. class and the school, a concession of Rs.10/- is shown.

Some of the interesting and a variable sources of fund as reported by the General Secretary of the Society on the celebration of the Society Founder's Day are as under :-

(a) The members of the Society along with children and any other volunteer swept and cleaned 205 shops and houses of the main street of Dawrpui and Zarkawt, Aizawl 17th Feb 1990 and 10th March 1990.
Donations received on these two days was Rs.11,148/-.

(b) There had been Christmas Carol Services conducted twice on the night of 21 and 22 Dec'1989 and on 18 and 19 Dec'1990 where donations were received Rs.16,000/- and Rs.10,700/- respectively.

(c) Sale profit of Christmas Greeting Cards made by the spastic children of Eastern India, Calcutta which came to Rs.6,000/-.

(d) A musical concert was organised on 25 and 26 July 1990 in which total donation comes to Rs.29,000/-.

(e) Charity Dinner was organised by the Society on 14th March 1991 at Tourist Lodge in which Rs.14,700/- was donated to the Society.

GRANTS AND GIFT FROM GOVERNMENT HIGH OFFICIALS

(a) Grants of Rs.9,600/- for Medical Welfare Services to handicapped children was received from Mizoram Social Welfare Advisory Board.
(b) Grants of Rs.1,91,400/- had been received from the Department of Social Welfare, Government of Mizoram during the financial year 1990 - 1991.

(c) Former Governor of Mizoram Capt. W. A. Sangma (L) donated Rs.5,000/- to the society.

(d) The Chief Minister Shri. Lalthanhawla donated Rs.15,000/- to the Society on 25th May 1990.

(e) The Chief Minister Shri. Lalthanhawla donated a Maruti Gypsy to the Society on 17th Dec' 1990 for the conveyance of Gilead Special School handicapped children.

This fund received from the well-wishers are utilised for meeting expenditure of experts coming from Spastic Society of Eastern India, Calcutta and also sending local resources for training outside Mizoram. Gilead Special School being run in a rented building and the teachers with the special helpers are given minimum salary for what welfare services they have rendered to the needy children. The two Honorary Principals are on voluntary basis rendering their services
to the Gilead Special School on the principles of 'Service to mankind is service to God'.

The Society for Rehabilitation for spastic in Mizoram is on a serious look out for permanent location for opening and establishing school and centre to be manned by professionals which will provide educational as well as vocational training facilities for much more handicapped children who would help themselves in life.
NOTES & REFERENCES ON CHAPTER - 5


2. Holy Bible, I Timothy, Chapter 6 Verse 10


8. Report by the Executive Secretary, Z.E.F on the day of inauguration of the building on 31st Jan 1985.


12. Researcher interview to General Secretary, Mr. R. Zodingliana, Society for Rehabilitation of Spastic Children at his residence, New Market, Aizawl on 19 Aug'1992.

Certificate displayed in the Gilead School at Saron Veng, Aizawl

15. ibid

16. ibid

17. Ms. Nancie R. Finnie - Handling the Young Cerebral Palsied Child at Home, Publisher - Heinemann Medical Book Ltd. 22 Bedford Square, London.

