

MENCAFEP
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Mentally Handicapped Children & Families Educational Project

A Programme for Children / Young People with Learning Disabilities

[Areas of Work](#) | [Our History](#) | [Disability in Sri Lanka](#) | [MENCAFEP Training](#) | [How MENCAFEP is Run](#)



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[<< Previous](#) | [Next >>](#)

Sharing Smiles

A SEMI ANNUAL PUBLICATION FOR FRIENDS OF MENCAFEP

Number 28

On the 19th of January I was placed with the young adults at the vocational training and sheltered workshop. This was totally different from the children of the Educational unit, although some of the people were older than me, they acted like little children. This unit is aimed at creating employment, self-employment opportunities and fundraising. The young people are very serious with the work they are given. The young people do sewing, carpet making, some of the young people were making envelopes, with people in the vegetable garden tending their crops, in reality everybody seemed to be very busy. One young lady has been taught to sew on a sewing machine. As I had a liking for sewing and handwork, I really liked working with these adults and it was a day to remember.

On the third day I was back at the Educational unit, this time I felt as though I had worked for weeks with these children. While working with them I noticed that some children remembered what I taught, but the others had forgotten everything and I had to start from the beginning. These children love to sing and be happy, it is quite an amazing experience.

On the fourth day, a Saturday, the children were not at the centre. All the staff cleaned their work area and came to the staff room at 10.a.m. On this particular Saturday, MENCAFEP was having a training programme for the day organised by the coordinators. A resource person had come from Kandy to talk to the staff about the work they do and how they should go about planning and recording it. It was a very good day where we shared our ideas and learnt a lot of good things about what we do in our working lives. We finished the day with games and sang some songs to think about the importance of our life and what we could do in it... "the times, they are a changing".

I personally would like to thank the founders and the staff of the project for giving a life to the Special Needs Children in our community. I will always admire the devoted staff, who have given so much. Their service at MENCAFEP is very greatly appreciated by everyone. God Bless them.

By: Champika Udayangani
(Translated from the original Sinhala script)



Staff training on record keeping

This Newsletter is sponsored by Bairdwear Inter Fashion, Nuwara Eliya Sri Lanka.

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A programme for children/young people with learning disabilities.
The special child/young person has the right to live & be part of their community.

[<< Previous](#) | [Next >>](#)

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