

RANAVIRU FAMILY COUNSELLING AND SUPPORT SERVICE OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FLAG RANK OFFICERS

BY

Major General. Dr. KDP PERERA. USP

Project Chairman of Ranaviru Family Counseling and Support Service

The year 2017 had been filled with an educational field visit, one major awareness workshop and Scholarship awarding ceremony and women's day programme for the Ranaviru Family Counseling and Support Service (RFCSS). Over 250 war widows and their children participated in the Maadu Gaga Islands field visit in the Galle District. The Main women's day programme in Colombo was attended by 50 selected war widows on the invitation of Sanasa Development Bank (SDB). Other women's organizations members also participated.

Training programs on self-employment projects were conducted at district level with the assistance of local area well-wishers.

This year **women day celebrations** held at Sri Lanka Film Cooperation Auditorium on 2nd March 2017, organized by Sanasa Development Bank. Invitation extended to chairman RFCSS and 50 war widows. They actively participated in the programme. All were given gifts and refreshment at the function. The chairman & Board members of Sanasa Development Bank grace the occasion.



Women's day celebrations



Chairman RFCSS & SDB Directors



Audience at the function



Canadian High Commissioner
awarding certificates

Sinhala & Tamil new year celebrations this year held on 6th May 2017 at Mihindu Seth Medura, Athidiya. Over 150 war widows and their children were present. Many Sinhala New Year games conducted with the participation of Seth Madura inmates and war widows. The

function concluded with wheelchair dancing, joined by war widows. ARFRO Chairman, Secretary & Treasurer with project chairman RFCSS grace the occasion. SDB Marketing executive gave away gifts to all inmates at rehabilitation centre.



Inmates at Mihindu Seth Medura



Banna at the Seth Medura



Balloon blowing game - wheel chair inmates



Yogurt feeding competition



Different Costumes dancing



ARFRO members enjoying the event



Musical Chairs



Ranuviru Army Band

Educational tour visit to 21 Islands in Maadu River, in Galle District with the participation of war widows, from Anuradhapura, Kandy, Kurunagala, Colombo, Galle & Matara, arranged on 21st October 2017. Over 250 War widows & children were taken in 20 motored boats to the different islands.

Fish Farm, Prawn farming, Maadu lagoon, and temple island, Sathapahe Island, Cinnamon Island, Animal Island and Birds Island are some of the islands visited. Army Navy & Air Force provided transport for them to come to Galle from other districts. The Galle RFCSS committee did all the arrangements. ARFRO provided the meals for the war widows and children.

Group visited Benthota Turtle hatchery and Vherahena Temple before returning.



Madu River excursion



War widows enjoying boat ride



Cinnamon Island



Fish Therapy



Temple in an island



Turtle Hatchery Benthota



Visit to Vherahana temple before departure

On 25th November 2017, **Buddhist sermon** telecast over the Buddhist channel arranged by the Colombo branch at the Buddhist Congress. 40 war widows participated in the recording at Buddhist Congress.

Scholarships award ceremony sponsored by Analytical Equipment {Pvt} Ltd was held on 18th December at their auditorium in Colombo. Three university qualified students and two ordinary level qualified students received financial assistance for their education from the Chairman and members of the organization. This is the fifth year they are contributing for this worthy cause.



Scholarships award ceremony – Analytical Equipments (Pvt) Ltd

Concluding Remarks

The logistic support for RFCSS activities provided by the Army Navy & Air Force and we are very thankful to the commanders of the three forces for their continuous support and assistance. All these years the financial assistance for the workshops and training programmes on self-employment projects are conducted with contributions from well-wishers and ARFRO. We welcome assistance from our members & well-wishers to extend our programmes and also, in improving RFCSS office, which also, could be used for small ARFRO meetings.

RFCSS project proposal submitted to the Secretary Defense through ARFRO had been approved and the financial assistance released for the project, from year 2018, to conduct following projects. Scholarships to children, workshops in self-employment projects,

and educational visits for war widows and children. We thank the ministry for arranging funds from “අපි වෙනුවෙන් අපි” Project.

Finally, we thank the Chairman and executive committee members for their presence & support in RFCSS activities.

Our Mission - To make the war widows aware of their potential and show them ways and means of enhancing it by learning new skills in keeping with current trends to enable them to be independent and also an asset to the society