



Global Rainbow Foundation

The Global Rainbow Foundation (GRF) is the brainchild of Mr Armoogum Parsuramen, former Minister of Education, Director and Representative of UNESCO. He has decided to set up a charitable trust to support those who are suffering from disabilities. He has chosen the name Rainbow because it symbolises the diversity of financial and psychological help provided to disabled persons to empower them and build their self-confidence.

The GRF was officially launched by Dr the Hon N. Ramgoolam, Prime Minister at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture on the 30th June 2012 in the presence of all the representatives of our rainbow nation and friends from India and Oman.

During the ceremony, congratulatory messages from past and present Director Generals of UNESCO were read. The GRF logo was unveiled and the GRF song played for the first time. The vision and mission statements and objectives were released and soon after, the GRF website was activated by the Prime Minister who also inaugurated a Painting Exhibition.

The GRF Vision is to become a key organisation to empower differently abled persons and vulnerable group through education and Training and to provide them the opportunity for holistic human development so that they can lead a happy and rewarding life with dignity and respect in the local and global community.

The GRF Mission is to mobilize all available resources from well wishers in Mauritius, Rodrigues and overseas, formulate and coordinate multifarious activities in order to unleash the hidden talents and unexplored potential of differently abled persons and vulnerable groups.

Seven action areas have been identified for consideration by the GRF. They are

- 1) Teacher training
- 2) Vocational Education and Industrial Training
- 3) Film festival on disability
- 4) Art and Disability
- 5) IT, Science and Disability
- 6) Sports and Disability
- 7) Health and Rehabilitation

Projects write-ups on each action area will be submitted to sponsors and voluntary organizations for implementation in the short and medium terms. A Master Plan will be drawn up in consultation with the Team Leaders of each action area.

The International network, gradually put in place by the GRF Founder Chairman, Mr Parsuramen has enabled the GRF to sign MOUs with several renowned institutions such as the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Bombay, the Vel University and Callidai (manufacturer of wheel chairs) in Tamil Nadu and the Dance Academy in Muscat. Vel University has agreed to grant two scholarships yearly for tertiary studies in Chennai to the Tamil League through GRF while Callidai has started the ball rolling for the setting up of a wheel chair factory in Mauritius, manned mostly by disabled persons.

With the help of an increasing number of enthusiastic volunteers, the GRF wheel is turning fast. You are kindly invited our website www.globalrainbowfoundation.org or send your suggestions by email to chairman@globalrainbowfoundation.org.

Do join us on this fantastic journey.

Krish Ponnusamy, CSK

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