Annual Report
2018-19
Including the excluded .....
Presidents Note

This year has been one of great achievement and stride. We were honored to receive international recognition with Satya’s Reaching the Unreached – Mobile Therapy Unit, winning the World Cerebral Palsy Award 2018 under the medical and therapeutic category. Nearer home we were also acknowledged for our efforts by the State Government where the Honorable Chief Minister V. Narayanasamy awarded us the State Award for the Best Institution working for the cause of the Differently Abled.

A memorable visit by the Honorable Lieutenant Governor Dr. Kiran Bedi gave us an actionable way forward. She showed keen interest in the work done and reiterated the need for institutions like ours to widen work with the government to include the Department of Health and Skill training in addition to the Department of Welfare to ensure meaningful results with PWDs.

To many the well-wishers and friends of Satya – the donors, philanthropists, entrepreneurs, funding agencies, and individuals who found it in their hearts to offer logistic, human and financial support to our various programs we extend our gratitude.

We thank the parents and CWSNs of Satya for being the inspiration for the young team of professionals to work ground up and achieve goals.

We were also saddened by the demise of our well-wisher and donor L. M. Shah, The Grace and Gratitude Trust, who was instrumental in his contributions towards our state-of-the-art infrastructure.

Our Journey towards an inclusive society continues!!!

~Bindu Modi
From the Director’s Desk

It was a joyous occasion when children from Satya broke barriers and scaled new heights not just nationally but internationally as well.

• Anil represented the country at the Leadership Summit, Abu Dhabi.
• Jegadeeswari won the Bronze Medal at the World Summer Games at Abu Dhabi.
• The 17 Adults from the NIOS stream who secured admissions for diploma programs.

These young adults are the torch bearers for social inclusion of CWSNs.

Awareness creation about social inclusion and the features of the RPWD act was given a thrust this year with street plays and FGD’s on various aspects of disabilities and inclusion. The awareness drive was created at the grassroot across 35 villages reaching 150 – 200 people in each village.

We at Satya look forward to building partnership with like-minded institutions both within and outside the country. The collaboration with Manodharma founded by Dr. Rajagopal, a long term well-wisher & champion of building an intellectual gateway to India from academia the world over in hope of mutual benefit and learning. We had 16 representatives from various American Universities visit Satya to explore possible joint projects. We were delighted when Akshay Sharma Associate Professor and Chair, Industrial Design Program, School of architecture and Design, Virginia Tech, USA expressed interest in conducting joint projects with the focus on the use of ICT (Information Communication Technology) to help CWSNs learn new skills.

With the aim of reaching the Unreached, the vision 2020 is to continue our work in a larger geography. This work will be done by (BOT) build, operate, transfer method.

Looking forward to the launch of centers in Pollachi, Tindivanam, Marakanam, Kallakurichi and Villupuram in the near future!!

~Chitra Shah
An Outside Perspective

It’s been a great honor to be considered one of the outstanding non-profit organizations by Bank of America in collaboration with Dasra in their thought leadership piece “Count Me In: Building an inclusive ecosystem for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities”. The report aims to change the way India perceives intellectual and developmental disabilities altogether.

A Step in the Future

17 of our CSWNs have secured admissions for various skill training courses in the Swami Vivekananda Rural Community College completing their 10th through the open education system. Children who were sent out of schools due to their special needs have scaled societal barriers and taboos to create history. They are rewriting their destiny through this wonderful opportunity.

Kudos to the torchbearers and pathbreakers for other CWSNs to emulate.

Satya – Special school was founded in 2003 by a group of like minded individuals with the aim to change the fragmented rehabilitation system into a more integrated and wholistic one. From humble beginnings of our work towards making Social inclusion a reality in one room on the third floor of a clinic to 10 units including a special disability park and a geographic coverage of 150 km radius, the Satya journey has been improving the lives of CWSNs through individualised learning plans and therapeutic intervention.
Although the staff growth curve is similar to that of the students, scaling up has built-in efficiencies with the student to staff ratio increasing steadily from 1:3 to 1:7, using optimal rotation of specialists leaving the quality of intervention untouched. The number of projects reflects the same growth with 1 project in 2003 to 12 projects in 2019.
Income has grown similarly to staff and students, after the first couple of years utilisation has been critically high with no margin. Extreme efficiency in usage of funds coupled with transparency and credibility has resulted in increase of funds raised thereby sustaining growth.
Financial Dynamics Per Child

The excluded often come from humble backgrounds, where the family has very low awareness. With no voice or financial support from home, lack of affordable inclusive infrastructure and social stigma associated with their conditions, education often eludes them.

Accessibility becomes key to rehabilitation. Transportation for the Satya CWSNs is essential to ensure access to services leading to social inclusion. Our buses today travel anywhere between 5 Km to 25 Km to ensure access to the nearest Satya Centre.

The Child’s Reality

- **Average Daily Family Income:** Rs. 100-150
- **No Earning in HH:** 1-2
- **Household size:** 3-4
- **Nearest Regular Govt. school:** 1-2 Km
- **Existing inclusive affordable/ free infrastructure nearby:** Nil
- **Family’s capacity to educate the child:** Low

### Direct expenses on children

- **Therapy:** 34%
- **Education:** 25%
- **Transportation:** 18%
- **Nutrition:** 12%
- **Aids and Appliances:** 5%
- **Recreation:** 2%
- **Admin Expenses:** 4%

**Avg. Rs. 120/day per Child**

**Max distances by children**

**Avg. Rs. 20/day**
A Day at Satya

The classroom with a difference where sensory perceptions of the child are key to learning. The pedagogy makes learning comes to life with the use of taste, smell flavors, touch and sometimes visually larger than life charts to aid learning. When one sense fails the other takes over and learning continues. All children learn at their own pace and the learning plans are tailored to their aptitude.
Activities at Satya

Activities at Satya are planned with focus on one or more of the key stakeholders around CWSNs. Every month 8 – 10 activities are conducted at Satya in the form of workshops, seminars, collaborations and skill sharing by volunteers. The focus is different for each of the stakeholders.

Although many activities were conducted, the next few pages will highlight some activities that were new, unique, or impactful for CWSNs and the stakeholder - Parents, Staff and finally the community.
Unique Initiatives

Osteopathy workshop

A team of 7 Osteopaths from Italy, France and Belgium came to Satya for a two-week therapy intervention program. They worked on the children as well as taught 45 physiotherapist practical ways to help CWSNs. Osteopathy is a system of complementary medicine involving the treatment of medical disorders through the manipulation and massage of the skeletal and musculature. CWSNs benefitted from this therapy as it helped them relax muscles, that tend to get strained due to postural issues driven by their conditions, and aided blood circulation.

International conference

Satya organized a three day International Conference on "Reflecting on Successes and Barriers in Implementing Inclusive Education for CWSNs in India" in Collaboration with Pondicherry University & NIEPMD. The objective of the Conference was to assess the quality of Inclusive education imparted to differently abled children by regular schools, to evaluate the existing services, state policies and measures to serve the differently abled and assess impact of these on social, economic and political status of the differently abled in India. With over 300 participants the conference brought academia from several countries together for discussions and paper presentations on the subject. Our director Chitra Shah also presented the impact of sports on education and inclusion.
Unique Initiatives

Posters on salient features of RPWD Act 2016

Another milestone in Satya’s strive for social awareness and a memorable day. It was a privilege to have Honorable Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry Dr. Kiran Bedi, release the one of a kind awareness posters made based on the RPWD Act 2016. A joint collaboration between TYCL and Satya Special School SNAC National Trust, Puducherry, the posters will be distributed to various stakeholders including government departments, NGOs, associations, educational institutions and hospitals.

Appropriate paper based technology

A team of physiotherapist from UK gave us practical training on assistive devices and furniture for children. This furniture was made using locally available material such as paper, cardboard and was easily customizable to the postural needs of individual children. This intensive 5 day workshop gave hands on experience to our team in developing furniture which is light, stowable, easy to maintain and cheap, making it ideal for the needs of our children.

Training on drama therapy techniques

Many aspects of drama therapy make it an ideal technique to use with students with special learning needs. A three-day teacher education program under the thematic area of dramatherapy with a focus on experiential dynamics for special educators was held for our staff. This program offered the special educators an opportunity to learn the therapeutic usage of drama while working with CWSNs. The area covered were dramatic projection, therapeutic performance process, empathy, distancing, personification and impersonation among others. Playing has an important and primary role in childhood. Special Instructors understood how to use Playing – Playfulness – Play and Dramatic Projection.
Accessible Elections

The Lok Sabha Elections in 2019 brought with its the usual fervour, dining rooms and office canteens turned into debate centres, and its impact was felt nationwide. PWDs looked on from side-lines watching the drama unfold, but with very little or no say in it.

Starting April 2018, several meetings were held by different stakeholders such as NIEPMD with SNAC, CRC, Polling Officers, NGOs and other Government departments / officials.

By mid November 2018 the Election commission started working towards the goal of making the Lok Sabha elections 2019 truly inclusive by enabling a barrier free environment and increased accessibility for PWDs.

The landmark announcement was made during the National Voters Day 2019.

Satya participated and aided this process from inception to execution by being selected first as the civil representatives for leveraging their experience with PWDs, and then as the Local Non-Government Organization to monitor implementation of this process in Pondicherry.

Riding up to the elections, as a First phase enrolment of PWDs in various urban, semi urban and rural areas of Puducherry started. Further awareness drives covering around 250 students from 17 special schools through events such as drawing & painting competition, slogan writing & quiz on Elections was organised.

Mock drills of the use of EVMs gave the PWDs an opportunity to experience the election process in a practical manner.
Satya Highlights - Children

Inclusive summer camp

With the onset of Summer our children from various centers got a break from their routine, but to keep them mentally and emotionally engaged Summer activities were planned.

Two different Summer Camps were organized. The urban one in partnership with the TYCL, while the rural one with the Joy of Being Charitable & Educational Trust. Both these were inclusive and children from Satya as well as children from the neighborhood participated. CWSNs from Satya interacted with children their own age from mainstream backgrounds. Together they participated in activities such as Yoga, drawing, hand writing, sports crafts work making it a platform for mainstream children to understand and accept CWSN.

Starting acceptance at a young age was truly a step towards social inclusion.
Satya Highlights - Children

Boccia at Satya

We have started to have Boccia, a precision ball sport originally designed for people with Cerebral Palsy, but now played widely among those with Disability. 15 Children with Cerebral Palsy at Satya have started training for the game and participating in events.

Sustainable Livelihood

As part of the skill development training leading towards a dignified livelihood, our students above 14 years of age were given training on various aspects and activities of House Keeping at Vivekananda Rural Community College.
Satya Highlights - Parents

Home care of CWSNs

A session was held to teach parents some simple movements that they can make their CWSN do at home, to ensure muscles are stretched, to relax them and ensure the CSWN’s maintains the right posture. They were also taught gait training and proper usage of assistive devices. Around 35 Early intervention parents and care givers participated in the session conducted by our Physiotherapy team.

AVAZ - Ideation and requirement gathering

Parents participated and shared their perspectives with the AVAZ team. AVAZ is an iOS and android app in the space of AAC that uses picture and text as a medium for communication. The app is useful for children and adults with communication challenges. The session was a three way conversation between parents, Satya special educators and the AVAZ team for ideation and requirement gathering. The session lead to a possibility for a continuous mutually beneficial partnership with AVAZ. In addition teachers and parents from the Multiple Disability Center were trained on the usage of this app.

Skill development

In order to improve and support the livelihood of the families of our Children, training was given to mothers on pickle and jam making at our Center in Seliamedu. Sanitary Napkins become unaffable for the families of our children. To ensure that they maintain their own hygiene and that of their girl children, a six day Sanitary Napkin Making Workshop was arranged for the mothers with the support of world bank. This could also be a possible way to improve the financial conditions of the parents.
Satya Highlights - Parents

Cardio respiratory awareness and assessment camp

As part of the World Heart day celebration. A Cardio Respiratory Awareness & Assessment Camp was held at Satya for Children & parents, by a team of professionals headed by Prof. Dr. Supriya K Vinod, Head Department of Physiotherapy, Mother Theresa Post Graduate & Research Institute of Health Sciences. The camp included the testing of Pulse and respiratory rate, the body mass index, body fat composition, hip waist circumference ratio, blood glucose level, test of blood pressure before & after walking on a treadmill of around 50 parents and children of Satya.

Ergonomics and postural assessment

Mothers of CWSNs often are so ridden with responsibility as the primary care givers carrying and helping their children, and often chief wage earners well. Self care does not come easily to them. A workshop was held by a team of experts from with Indian Association of Physiotherapist. Women cell Puducherry spoke on postural impact on well-being and taught them the importance of breathing, hugging and laughter to deal with stressful situations. This was followed by postural assessment of the mothers by a team of Physiotherapy students.

‘The session was an eye opener, and brought out the need to love oneself by breaking the myth that self-sacrifice is synonymous to motherhood.’
~ Participant
Satya Highlights - Staff

Child protection - manual preparation for CWSN

Staff from the village and urban centres of Satya came together to prepare the child protection manual. The discussions were moderated and aided by Stegna Jency & Pushpavalli from CCRD (Centre for Child Rights Development), with both organisations working jointly towards creating a manual with key focus on child protection for special needs.

Skilled Angel - training

Skilled Angels, developed By Edsix Brain Lab Pvt Ltd., is a technology based learning tool, which gamifies cognitive skills learning for children. Kalvina, the Researcher, from the company the teaching staff at Satya in using the tool. An important tool to ensure ‘No Child is Left Behind’.

ToT on assistive technologies for PWDs

Sessions were conducted on training of special educators on assistive technologies for person with disabilities to enhance their communication, vocational and business skills. The session was conducted by Leonard Cheshire, Project Nagapattinam.

‘Comfort zone- school based occupational therapy’ workshop

Naresh Babu an occupational therapist conducted a workshop on ‘Comfort Zone-School based occupational Therapy’ for our staff. He spoke about various uses of occupational therapy and sensory integration techniques in the classroom.
Satya Highlights - Staff

Training the special educator by University of Iowa

In line with Satya’s knowledge sharing partnership with the Department of Education, University of IOWA, experts from there conducted the first of a series of training modules for special educators on classroom management. This was the first time the training module has been used, and in return experts were able to use the on ground knowledge of the Satya staff to make the module more robust.

Access Audit - training

As mandated by the State Resource Training Centre, SPASTN, Chennai hosted a one day training program on conducting ‘access audit’ of buildings ensuring access to all, rating accessibility using the benchmarking framework by them.

Embracing and understanding dyslexia

Azim Premji Foundation in collaboration with Madras Dyslexia Association organized a workshop on Embracing and Understanding Dyslexia. The workshop highlighted the causes of dyslexia, identification and how it affects learning among children. The learning would serve as a ready reckoner for the special educators to catch issues early on. Around 15 special educators from Satya Special School participated in the program.
Satya Highlights - Volunteers

Strategies for teaching science

Volunteers from France taught our students an interactive visual method of identifying internal organs, where they are located and their function. They used fun ways to teach children about how blood circulates in the body, the role of the heart and lungs. The team went on to teach our trainers similar methods to teach concepts of science.

Expressions through art

Staff from our school learned a series of short relaxation techniques which consists of a series of exercises that builds a better relation between oneself and his/her environment or surroundings. Through this method, one also develops vocabulary especially emotional vocabulary. It is a close study of nature in order to understand oneself and as this work is mostly done in a group, it is a way of feeling, developing and understanding one’s place in the group/world and their relation with all.

Training relaxation technique for Ericksonian’s Hypnosis

Dr. Sylvie conducted sessions on the relaxation technique for mothers with autistic children. With a focus on Ericksonian’s Hypnosis with the goal of finding each special child the perfect technique of calming them down when they are emotionally distraught. This approach can also manage sleeping time for autistic children.
Highlights – Community Awareness

Animators training

Field animators along with Community based Rehabilitation team members participated in a training to understand disability. The session created awareness on Disability and Inclusion. They also received training on (ADL) Activities of Daily Living skills learnt about government schemes meant for CWSNs/PWD, and the roles and responsibility as a member of the community.

Training of anganwadi workers

A two-day training was conducted by Gopikrishnan from NIEPMD in collaboration with Satya for Anganwadi Workers on prevention & early Identification of disabilities. 50 Anganwadi workers from Muthialpet area learnt various aspects of disability, such as causes, prevention and different methods of early identification of disabilities in children and methods of interventions by Gopikrishnan, the resource person from NIEPMD.

Street play

A training was conducted by Rakhi, a street theatre entity, on the aspects of performing street plays. The team went on to conduct street plays on awareness in 35 villages around Pondicherry. They reached an audience of around 150-200 people in each village.
Collaborations - Academic, Government and Corporate

Satya is always open to collaborations and partnerships with both the government and businesses. Over year different collaborations and partnerships have proven to be a rich resource base of learning and sharing. This year our credibility and the impact of our work resulted in attracting corporate funding.

MOU

Satya Special School in presence of the Director of Health Sciences Services Dr. KV Raman signed an MOU with Mother Theresa Post graduate and Research Institute of Health Sciences to facilitate clinical training for bachelors degree physiotherapy students. Satya will gain from the detailed evaluation of Children while the Students of the college get hands on experience of working with CWSNs.

CSR – General Insurance Corporation , Mumbai

General Insurance Corporation (GIC) supported Satya’s vision of providing transportation to reach the unreached population. The two 25 seater busses donated by GIC will increase our reach and help us expand our coverage to more children.

CSR – DP world, Chennai

DP world collaborated with Satya to help add to the infrastructure in two of our rural centers by building 2 disability friendly toilets and install solar panels in our centers. Additionally their sponsorship would help support the rehabilitation needs of 20 deserving children.

CSR – Fives India, Chennai

Accessibility at Satya was strengthen with support from Fives India donating us a 15 seater van. The van will go a long way in helping the younger children access our services.
Changing Lives – A Timely Intervention

Bright eyes, legs kicking in excitement, the right arm reaching out but the left almost lifeless.

Complications at birth and an injury to the brachial plexus, Sanjita had lost the use of her left arm in a state of paralysis. Experts from a large hospital diagnosed the child untreatable. The parents, Ramki, a laborer and Guna a housewife had lost hope and were beginning to reconcile with a future of disability for their child. As a last resort they brought Sanjita to the early intervention center at Satya Special School, on recommendation of a neighbor when the child was just 10 days old.

On thorough evaluation the team of therapists pinpointed the problem to complete lack of mobility in her left shoulder, arm and fingers. Sanjita’s treatment plan included positioning, stretching, taping exercises and movement therapy 5 days a week with physiotherapists and occupational therapists.

After 4 months of intensive therapy she has regained most of her gross motor skills in the arm and is now able to move her shoulders, her arm and flex her fingers and bring her arm to her mouth and hold objects.

Sanjita’s case is an example of how timely diagnosis and intervention go a long way in treating some disabilities.
Changing Lives – Pride of Satya

**Sripathy** started his education in a special school. At six he was integrated unsuccessfully in a mainstream school. After coming to Satya Special School he has completed 12th standard under NIOS board. He went to pursue his interests mad become a voluntary photographer in TYCL.

**Jegadeeswari** after struggling in a mainstream school till the 9th Std, came to Satya Special School in 2016. She has completed 10th std under NIOS board. She is now a Special Athlete, part of the Indian Football team which won the Bronze Medal at the World Summer Games at Abu Dhabi.

**Anil** started out at Satya Special School, with encouragement from the team at Satya, went on to participate in Special Olympics activities. He represent the country as an Athlete Youth Leader at the Leadership Summit, Abu Dhabi.

**Murali** after struggling in a mainstream school till the 8th Std, came to Satya Special School in 2016. Satya encouraged his interest in chess and today participates in various in district and national level chess tournaments.
Overtime the team at Satya realized the need for a separate intervention for autistic children. We are proud to collaborate with Nandini Santhanam and her team at Lotus Foundation as our technical partners to help ensure the autistic program meets the needs of the children in the spectrum.

The Sensory pathway cum play ground is accessible, inclusive, and welcoming for children of varied abilities, and which offers opportunities for supporting sensory and motor development, as well as facilitating positive social communication and active participation.

Over a coffee discussion came the realization that there were children who were able and yet socially excluded because of disadvantageous background. AICE was born in 2017 as a mainstreams school that includes the excluded.
Satya Executive Committee and Legal Status 18-19

**Bindu Modi**  
President

**Sita Ram Kumar**  
Vice President

**Nallam Krishna Babu**  
General Secretary

**Chitra Shah**  
Treasurer and Director

**Dr. Nalini Ranganathan**  
EC Member

**B Narayanaswamy**  
EC Member & Parent of PWD

**Aroquia Radje Ceaser**  
EC Member & Parent of PWD

**Paul Sundar Singh**  
Akkarai Foundation USA  
Special invitee

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**Full Legal Name**  
Satya Special School

**Official Address**  
6, 7, 8 ECR Road Karuvadikuppam, Pondicherry,

**Telephone Number**  
0413 2263592

**Email Address**  
admin@satyaspecialschool.org

**Website**  
www.satyaspecialschool.org

**Registered under the societies registration act 1860**  
Reg No 521/2002

**Registered under Section 52 of the PWD Act**  
Valid up to 31.06.2020

**Registered under National Trust Act**  
Valid up to 15.01.2022

**12 AA & 80 G**  
Registered under section 12 AA of the Income Tax Act and Exemption certificate granted under section 80 G of the Income Tax Act

**FCRA Registration No**  
285130094

**Income - Tax PAN No**  
AAGAS1322L

**Bankers**  
Andhra Bank, Pondicherry (FCRA Designated A/C)  
HDFC Bank, Pondicherry (Local)
Testimonials

Thank you for the visit. I shall start create an eco system for your NGO’s to help expand ~ Hon’ble. Dr. Kiran Bedi, Lieutenant Governor, Puducherry

A fantastic experience visiting and interacting with the team and parents, really inspired by all the effort and passion here! This will keep pushing us to do more and excel! ~ Ramachandran, Avaz, Chennai

Radiant experience with marvelous people and wonderful children. We would like to return. ~ Bruno Villaubere et Sylvie

I am so happy to see how Satya has grown, congratulations to all the team and to dynamic and wonderful Chitra – Love. ~ Marie Roussel- ADAM

Great soul touching work! I am feeling blessed to witness work by Chitra Madam and her team. It is true service to HUMANITY. ~ Dr. Amol Dongre, SMVMCH

Excellent Place to visit and support. Every child and teachers are so energetic and working towards their goals. Our good wishes and Blessings to Satya Special School. Impressed, Impressed, Impressed – excellent Program– a truly Impressive Program! ~ Chris & Ranji Stubbs, Sri Lanka

Amazing experience to see children doing vocational work. The children seems so happy. Keep continuing the good work and gods grace will always be there. Thank you all for the good work and allowing me to experience this. ~ Shalini Kesava, USA

Contact Us

1. Satya Vocational Training Centre, Kuilapalayam
2. Satya Special School Early Intervention, Karuvadikuppam
3. Autism Centre, Karuvadikuppam
4. Satya Centre for Unique Learners, Rainbow Nagar
5. Satya Village Rehabilitation Centre, Mutrampattu
6. High Risk New Born Clinic, JIPMER campus
7. Satya Village Rehabilitation Centre, Villianur
9. Satya Village Rehabilitation Centre, Seliamedu

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