

ThisAbility

Satya Special School's quarterly newsletter

Olympian Effort!

Satya team shines in Berlin Special Olympics



What a haul it was for India at the Berlin Summer Special Olympics! 202 medals: 76 gold, 75 silver and 51 bronze! The games, in the spirit of excellence without pressure, does not publish country medal tallies.

It was a proud moment for Satya, as all athletes from Pondicherry, including three Satya students, won medals.

The games were a culmination of many months of hard work and practice, as our three athletes—Ms Ravimathi, for mini javelin and sprint; Mr Dhanasekar, for basketball; and Mr Vishal, for powerlifting-- underwent three selection camps and many hours of training to excel. Apart from the physical training, they were also given mental health support, to help them achieve this success.

Our director, Chitra Shah, went to Berlin for the event, and here are some of her impressions of the event! Click [here](#) to read.



First taste of independent living



It was the first time they were away from home for such a long time!

However, from making chapatis to taking evening strolls, from playing games to learning new skills, the nine students enjoyed themselves at Satya's residential summer camp.

Held at the Mutrampet centre, the camp was aimed at fostering independent living skills for the children aged 15 and above. The children were selected based on the support required and ability to comprehend and follow instructions. The objective of the camp was to simulate a real-life experience, in preparation for future independent living.

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The young men took care of themselves and their things, and also helped in cooking and cleaning.

Parents who attended the camp at the end of nine days were emotional. "We always thought our child would suffer without us. But I am so happy to see that he is able to take care of himself, and is also very happy!" said a parent at the feedback session.



Dhanasekar

Shooting for the stars!



Dhanasekar is our champion basketball player! He was part of the gold-winning team at Berlin. His smiles on and off the court say it all.

It is tough to believe that just four years ago, he was sitting alone in the classroom, unkempt and uncared for, and isolated among his classmates in the government school.

Dhanasekar's parents are manual agricultural labourers. Until an aunt saw Dhanasekar, when he was in Class 9, and saw signs of intellectual disability, his parents were unaware of his condition.

After diagnosis, Dhanasekar joined Satya Special School. Academics was not smooth sailing for Dhanasekar, but he is very diligent in his work, and is able to follow instructions clearly. He is also very good in craft and other creative processes.

He took to the sports field naturally. He finds his purpose there and is a natural "Champion Cool" as he rarely gets ruffled.

He travelled to several cities for sports camps, meeting athletes, coaches and for talking about sports. The first time he flew to a camp, he was very excited. He participated in the ESPN virtual Basketball competition and frequently visited the Indra Gandhi Sports Stadium for practice. The coaches there trained him, making him feel very comfortable. He is under the mentorship of Coaches Ramji and Anandu.

Dhanasekar is also employed in an industrial trainee at a company that manufactures nuts and bolts, where he oversees quality checking. When he returned home from Berlin, he was very happy to see people waiting to receive him, and the congratulations he received.

He says he hopes to do well in his career and in sports.

Exciting News!

PARTNERSHIPS

Satya to partner with government for early intervention centre

Satya Special School has signed an MoU with the Pondicherry State Health Society to establish and run a District Early Intervention Centre at Rajiv Gandhi Government Women and Children Hospital with the following facilities: Physiotherapy, Speech Therapy, Early Stimulation & Sensory Integration.

This initiative will impact many more children as we can identify and intervene much earlier, and we can come closer to ensuring that no child is left out of the rehabilitation system.



Natural progression

Training for moms for caregiving and rehab careers



Two projects that aim to fill the gap in trained resources, while providing livelihoods to 30 people who need it most, were inaugurated this summer.

Uruthunai, supported by Les Enfants des Rueds de Pondicherry, will train mothers of children with special needs as caregivers, so they can work in rural areas of Pondicherry. This program follows a practice-heavy curriculum tailor-made for our mothers, so they can quickly ramp up to start their livelihoods.

The Community Rehabilitation Assistant project, supported by Australian Aid, is also aimed at creating a resource pool of 15 trained rehabilitation assistants, and was launched in June.

Glimpses of activities at Satya!

YOGA DAY



FATHER'S DAY!



INCLUSIVE RAMP WALK



AUTISM DAY



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