

# A QUICK Rewind

***A dream comes true for Satya!***

**Inclusive classroom project takes off in govt school**



We recently took our first steps toward our long-time dream—that of a truly inclusive school system where children with disabilities can study, play, and grow along with other children.

Satya Special School's Inclusive Classrooms project—the first of its kind in the country—was inaugurated recently. The classroom, situated within the Colacara Arangasamy Govt. Middle School, will provide children with special needs, children with learning disabilities, and slow learners with the tools and resources required to work in an inclusive classroom setting including physiotherapy, remedial education, and speech therapy, based on the students' requirements.

It has been a great learning experience and we can't wait to see what lies ahead on this journey.



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 Spotlight

## Shopper's Stop

### Vengatesh, for the change!

These days, you will likely find 18-year-old S. Vengatesh, of our Muttrampet Village Resource Centre, in his shop, talking to his customers and counting out change. He has been successfully running the shop since April, with the help of his mother and siblings. Vengatesh has been a student at Satya for the past ten years, and his father, the sole breadwinner (until the petty shop), works at a jewellery store.

He was inspired by the centre's program on World Consumer Rights Day (March 23), which featured a model petty shop to help students understand the concept of MRP, expiry date, etc.

That night, he went home and told his parents he wanted to open a petty shop. His family set up a shop for him. He loves his new business and his father, Shanmugam, says that apart from certain physical fine motor activities like handing over eggs to customers, he is able to do everything on his own. The community too, supports Vengatesh's shop!

R. Kalaiyarasan, in charge of the Muttrampet centre, says that Vengatesh was always good in maths. "We are so proud of him. In fact, his shop is modelled similar to our mock shop," he says.

Vengatesh also comes to the centre thrice a week, and is preparing to write his Class 10 exams!



## ***A nest of skills for Satya's mothers***



A co-working space for disabled women and mothers of children with disabilities.

That is how we describe Thirankoodu, our latest project, launched with the support of US-based Akkarai Foundation. A unique concept for women whose availability varies, Thirankoodu helps both women entrepreneurs, and women who would like to work flexible hours.

Thirankoodu currently has mat weaving and tailoring machines, with spaces for other operations. A computer unit, attached to a printer and the internet, is available for the women's use.

The eventual goal is to hand over the project to the women, who can operate it on a cost per use model.



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## *The power of partnerships*

### *Community Living with Sristi*



"I will take care,  
you don't worry!"

Woman with disability in the  
group home, to her mother

When Krishnaveni's mother left her daughter in the independent group home, the mother cried. "I have never been apart from her even for one day," she sobbed. Krishnaveni, on the other hand, told her mother, "I will take care, you don't worry, go!"

This might be the scene in many hostels when college starts, but this scene was different: It was the first taste of independence for Krishnaveni and seven other girls at **Sristi Foundation's** "Community Living for Adult Women with Developmental Disabilities." Satya Special School provides therapeutic and other support, with The Banyan the knowledge partner.

It is this dignity and inclusion that the project aims to promote, as G Karthikeyan, founder of Sristi, says of the pioneering project. Moving away from the gated community concept, this project aims to include the women in society, by living in one house in a 'regular' neighbourhood.

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### *Menstrual hygiene with Pennies4Pads*

Satya Special School has partnered with **Pennies 4 Pads USA**, in order to help girls from vulnerable backgrounds with their menstrual hygiene, so that they do not miss classes during their periods.

With the help of our staff, every month, nearly 500 girls and women are provided with a month's supply of sanitary pads. This has led to reduced absenteeism in many of these schools.



All of Satya's menstruating girls receive the pads, including the girls served by the Mobile Therapy Unit. Girls from Udavi Karangal, three other schools in Pondicherry and Tamil Nadu, and women supported by Zwilling Foundation also receive the pads. The initiative is part of Satya's projects that help uplift all vulnerable populations, in the spirit of inclusion and solidarity.





### **Award for Chitra Shah**

Our director, Chitra Shah, won a Sarakku Kadai award, for her contribution to the field of disability. Sarakku Kadai is a YouTube channel covering Puducherry life.



### **Satya students shine in cookery contest**



Satya Special School's students participated and received high praise for their dishes at "Our State Our Taste" a cookery contest from The Hindu. Judge Chef Damu enjoyed the dishes our students made and appreciated their efforts!

We find that the more our children participate in such activities, the more confident they are, of their skills.



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