

ThisAbility

Satya Special School's quarterly newsletter

Jobs galore

Seven youth with special needs get employment



The last quarter was really heartening for all of us at Satya, as we saw seven youth receiving jobs in open employment. Once again, it brought home the power of having positive partners who believe in inclusion.

Three of our students—Hemapriyan, Sharath, and Kamalesh—were employed at Writer's Cafe, and have received their first paycheck.

Their parents were overwhelmed to see their children be employed gainfully.

Listen in to one of the parents talk about this [here](#).

Two of our girl students, Bency Priya and Jegadeeshwari, are also employed at Vi Kare Dentistry. Dr. TL Vishnu Prasad has been a long-time supporter of Satya and we were thrilled that he decided to employ two of our students.

Two others are soon to start work at Leo Fasteners, and we look forward to many more such partnerships.

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Spotlight

Davakkodi

Mother and daughter lift each other up

When Davakkodi's mother and brother were sick, they did not think she would be useful at all, but she surprised them, and how! She approached the neighbours and asked them for help. Now, she has also learnt to make kanji (porridge) at home!

It wasn't always like this. When Davakkodi was four years old, she was not able to walk, had delayed development, and was a slow learner. Her mother, Valliammal, unaware of what the matter was, would punish her by making her kneel on sand thinking she was just being stubborn.

What's more, a doctor too told Valliammal there was nothing to worry about. Only when she joined school and was punished relentlessly, did she think something might be the matter. One of our parents suggested that Valliammal and Davakkodi visit Satya, and her rehabilitation journey began at the Villanur Village Rehabilitation Centre.

It took time for visible changes to occur, but eventually, Davakkodi turned a corner. She improved her communication skills, and also started walking independently.

Over time, Davakkodi and her mother got involved with organic farming training at the school, where Valliammal also took on the roles of trainer. Recently, by availing Satya's microcredit program, they started a small grocery store and with the profits from the shop they bought their own land! Davakkodi says that her mother is the reason for her success and her mother tells that Davakkodi has been her motivation!



Second inclusive classroom starts!



Our march toward inclusive education continues, as we inaugurated the second school where our inclusive classroom and inclusive infrastructure was set up at the Government High School in Thirubhuvanai.

During the inauguration, Mr. Dinakar, the State Project Director of Samagraha Shiksha Education Department delivered the special address and talked about the need for a project like ours. Mr. Saravanan, Co-ordinator, Samagraha Shiksha Education Department, encouraged children to ensure that any disabled child is registered in the school, and attends the school, even if only once a week. "This is important to experience the atmosphere of a school," he said.

The real heartening action happened off-stage, as children with disabilities enjoyed the inclusive playground and other children pledged to support them as well. All children loved walking on the sensory walkway as well!

This, our second inclusive classroom project, is supported by Wipro Foundation, with the inclusive playground sponsored by Manava Seva Dharma Samvardhani and Battle of the Buffet.



FROM THIS...

Livelihoods at Satya

Soolai: The Ceramics studio

TO THIS...



Soolai, a ceramics studio project spearheaded by Auroville artist Indrani Cassime and her daughter Hana Cassime, was started at our vocational training centre.

Through this project, youth from our vocational training centre make small ceramic

items that are functional and artistic. The first batch of products included a set of fridge magnets and agarbatti holders, and they are available for sale as well.

The second phase of the project will be to create a complete ceramic unit, including a kiln, at the vocational centre.

Second Thirankoodu starts operations

Our second Thirankoodu project was inaugurated, with the generous support of Mancikalalu Onlus, our longstanding supporter! The centre will be a place where women can come in on a flexible schedule and work on their own projects or on a work-for-hire basis.

Inaugurating the centre, Ms. Gaia Favaretti, president, Mancikalalu Onlus, said the team was very excited about the prospect of empowering women, especially mothers of children with special needs.

After the inauguration, the various livelihood options-- mat weaving, tailoring, crochet, and cup making-- were demonstrated and the women went around, getting an introduction about each opportunity.

The women have already started earning money, through orders generated locally, for making sustainable bags and other products.

We are actively looking for tailoring and floor mat orders to make Thirankoodu a sustainable project.



Celebrations at Satya!

VINAYAKA
CHATURTHI

It was the beginning of celebrations this quarter, as our centres celebrated various commemorative days and festivals!

For Vinayaga Chaturthi, our students made clay idols (and umbrellas) from scratch and sold them to the villages nearby! Look at that video here!

We also had a Navaratri Golu at our centre, and celebrated Ayutha Pooja across all our centres, celebrating and worshipping the tools that make it possible to do what we do: whether they be balance boards, computers, or vans.

GOLU

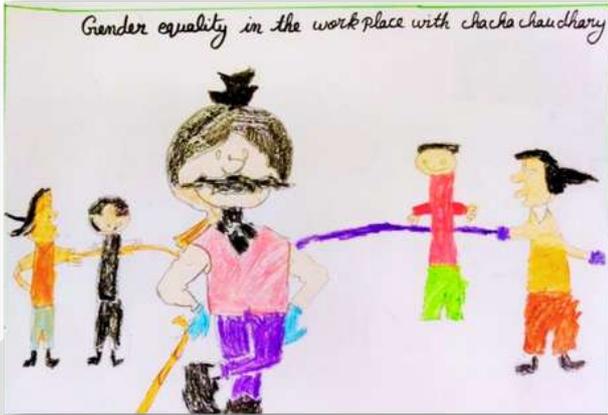
AYUDHA
POOJA



Students excel in drawing contest

Seven of our children won prizes in various categories, at the drawing competition held by the United Schools Organization.

Here are some of their creations.



Satya completes Niranthara programme with top honours



Satya Special School was part of the Niranthara Organizational Change Management Programme for NGOs, by Dhvani Foundation.

After a year-long engagement, which gave Satya Special School the tools and resources to create better compliance and other systems, we are happy that we were honoured as the top performer among the NGOs. We are also happy to have had the opportunity to meet and learn about some wonderful work happening with other NGOs.



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