

AWARDS & ACCOLADES

- K. Dhanush Ram of SPASTN Royapuram school won 2nd Place in Slogan Writing Competition held by Satish Dhawan Space Centre, ISRO, Sriharikota on 6th Oct 2021.
- S. Muthaiah of Vocational Training Centre SPASTN won 1st place in District and National Level Skating Championship held on 8th Oct 2021 and 5th March 2022 respectively. The completion was conducted by Speed Skating Federation of India, Chennai.
- Dinesh Kumar, alumnus of SPASTN secured 1st in 100 mts butterfly, back stroke and 200 mts free style in the 7th State Para Senior Swimming Championship 2022 held on 02-03 March.
- 8 students from NIOS won cash prizes and certificates in Essay Writing Competition held under "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" and Felicitation of Winners of Essay Writing Competition -Republic Day Award Function under 'AKAM' conducted virtually on zoom platform.

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SCAN & PAY



SPASTN

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2022



"Don't Worry, I am there Sistaa"

My brother is just two years younger than me. When I was young, I didn't know about his disability and thought that all brothers would be like him crying. It took me ten years to realize that he is autistic. My parents were getting many complaints about him from school, neighbors and family. So, initially, I was hesitant to talk about my brother to my friends. I used to play with and care for him but won't share anything about him with my friends. Whenever anyone talks about spending time with their siblings, I used to feel that my family was different. My parents and I hoped that he would become normal one day. It took me many years to realize that my brother needed a different type of support to reach his potential. So, I started to accept him as he was. Acceptance of Dinesh opened a new perspective about him. Whenever I was sad, I never express it but my brother had this very amazing ability to sense my emotions and console me saying, " Don't worry! I am there". There are so many examples like this that made me feel that he is a noble soul. Slowly, I started to respect him. He had so many talents but could not express them. Till then my brother was studying in inclusive schools. Later, we got him admitted to the SPASTN. That was the time that I met several children with disabilities and their families. I was able to relate my parent's experience with many other parents. After joining the school, both my mother and brother were at peace as if they reached their home. He met and interacted with so many parents. Now, he is 21. He showed the maturity of someone about 15 years of age. I wish to have him by my side after my marriage and be there for him. He loves going to temples and hearing bhajans. In future, I wish him to be with me and ensure he reaches his fullest potential. After all these experiences with him, I have a goal in my life. It is building an organization that serves families with specially-disabled children in all possible ways. At last, my brother whom I was hesitating to even talk about has turned out to be a role model and inspiration for me to be a good human being. He is now representing Tamil Nadu State in Swimming and setting the pools on fire with his strokes. I thank God for giving me a wonderful journey of knowing my brother who is so kind and caring. Written by: Aishwarya—I.T Specialist.



**Dinesh Kumar bonding with his sister
Aishwarya**



Dinesh Kumar with his Team and Medals

STAFF ENRICHMENT

- Child Safeguard and Protection Policy was oriented to all the heads of SPASTN during Managers Meet held on 15th February 2022 and subsequently all the staff was oriented on the policy by Center Heads.
- SPASTN Centre Managers attended virtually through zoom platform workshop on Providing Skill training and Placement to the differently abled Persons organized by State Commissionerate for the Differently Abled on 7th Jan 2022.
- Staff Enrichment on Storytelling was conducted by Kathalaya International Academy founder Mrs. Geetha Ramanujam for Tech Mahindra staff and partners on 10th and 11th March 2022
- 5 therapist attended International Conference on Early Childhood by experts from CanChild Canada organized by Giftabled Foundation on 19th and 20th February 2022.
- Mental Health Training conducted by Sense India was organized at SPASTN Royapsuram for teachers and parents on 21st, 22nd and 23rd March 2022. Psychologists, Ms. Priya Gupta and Ms. Harshita facilitated and trained the staff.

PLACEMENTS

- Vishnu Ram Pandi (21 yrs), is placed with Vijay Pharmacy, Adambakkam
- Ronak Thakkar (27yrs), is placed with Sri Collections, Royapurram
- Dhanalaxmi, (26yrs) is currently volunteering as teaching assistant with SPASTN Aynawaram

Dancing Excites me!

Loshika was born with Down's syndrome and was referred to SPASTN Ayanavaram when she was 11 months old. With timely intervention Loshika started walking and talking by the age of four. She started showing interest in dance when as a three year old and was encouraged to participate in various dance events by her teachers and parents. Though flat footed she confidently dances to any rhythm as dancing makes her feel joyful. Her love for dance has helped her balance her body and move gracefully to any music. Seeing Loshika's interest in dance her mother did not give up and enrolled her into classical Dance form.

Loshika is a trained Bharathanatyam dancer. She is undergoing training at Chitralaya Kalai Koodam dance school under the able guidance of her aunt and teacher Mrs. Chitra Vadivel. Her teacher fondly calls her "Loshi" and believes that Loshi is "God's child". Her teacher notes that "She overcame her challenges with constant hard work and now can perform mudras and foot movements with ease"

Loshika has performed on stage along with her normal peers at Ekambareshwara Temple festival, Parry's corner and Narayana Mandir, Doveton. With this confidence Loshika gushes "Dancing excites me"!



Loshika (center) performing at Ekambareshwar Temple

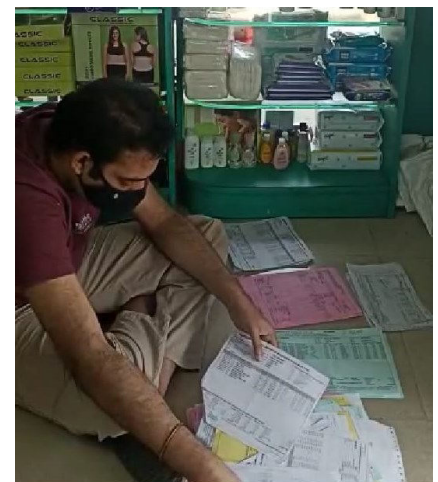


Loshika practicing her moves at her Dance School

"My son find a purpose —In Life"

"My son Vishnu Ram Pandian works in a pharmacy and it gives him a purpose in his life to lead a life of dignity."

As a nine month old baby Vishnu Ram Pandian frequently visited hospitals to get treated for epileptic seizures. He was on medication for a very long time. Entering SPASTN at the age of 15 was a turning point in his life. Vishnu enjoyed coming to SPASTN as he found a space to interact, learn and grow with peers who were as old as him. Vishnu was very sincere and, taking up leadership roles among the student community gave him great joy. Under his leadership he ensured that the students assigned to him transited to various activities and did not miss the Gym and the playground. Wishing you all the best for your new assignment!



Vishnu Ram Pandian sorting bills

EVENTS

- 4th edition of Chennai Quizabled online finals was held on 25th January 2022. A total of 423 students from 30 schools across Tamil Nadu registered for the event. Students with Visual Impairment, Hearing Impairment, Autism, Intellectual Disability and Cerebral Palsy participated in the four categories they were designated. The names of the winners were announced virtually in the Quizabled Award Ceremony held on 12th February 2022.

SPASTN TRAINING

- Sensitization training on deafblindness for 50 grade supervisors from 25 districts of Tamil Nadu was held at Intergrated Child Development Services Office, Taramani on 11th February 2022 in between 10:30 A. M to 1:40 P.M.

CHATTEL

- Inner Wheel Club of Madras donated two Shaft Handloom [SAORI] and inaugurated the loom on 25th February 2022
- Logitech Engineering & Design India Pvt. Ltd. Donated play equipments to SPASTN and inaugurated the play area on 22nd February 2022
- SPASTN Ayanavaram moved to new premises in Villivakkam on 11th March 2022.

Awareness to Empowerment

During one of the visits from Padianallur to Avadi by our team for an awareness campaign, we met a group of people sitting under the banyan tree after completing the days work. Further quizzing them, we found that they were employed under The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme initiative of the Govt. of India. Our discussions led to one of them quickly leading and introducing us to a couple among them whose son had difficulties in speech.

Vennila, mother of 5 year old Tamilselvan narrated her ordeal of raising him with no support or intervention from anyone. As Vennila started pouring out her fears and anxieties she knew her child had delayed milestones but did not know how and who to turn to. Her husband Baskar brought their son to us to see. Our staff reassured and gave some early guidance in working with their child. The family was encouraged to come to Padianallur CBR.

At Padianallur CBR, Tamilselvan was assessed and was given intervention. He showed significant improvement after undergoing speech therapy, motor training and special education at our centre. Today Vennila warmly reflects the times when family members were not kind in their observations regarding Tamilselvan and now they are very happy to observe the changes in him. Tamilselvan dreams to become a Policeman one day. SPASTN wishes to be part of his dreams!



SPASTN GALLERY

Members of Inner Wheel Club of Madras during the inauguration of SAORI loom on 25th February 2022



Dancing duo Dhananjayans visited SPASTN—the first distinguished visitors to SPASTN after the pandemic

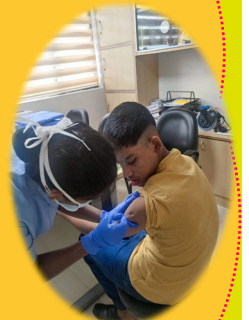
SPASTN Ayanavaram moved to new premises in Villivakkam on 11th March 2022.

Inauguration of play equipments by representatives from Logitech Engineering & Design India Pvt. Ltd. On 22nd February 2022.



INCLUSIVE CORNER:

We are Vaccinated



A Tech Mahindra Foundation sponsored training on Story telling by Ms. Geetha Ramanujam of Kathalaya was held on 10th and 11th March 2022

We exercised our franchise

