

V-Excel Educational Trust  
10 Tiruvengadam Street  
R.A. Puram, Chennai 600 028

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# ACTIVITY REPORT 2022-23

(APR 2022 - MAR 2023)

# INTRODUCTION

The year 2022-23 marked an increased push towards getting all of V-Excel's centres and students back to normalcy and to regular schedules. Many new initiatives were implemented and some old ones revived. The special child continues to be the focus of all of V-Excel's programs and services.



GuideStar India Certifications: Gold FY 2014- 15, 2015- 16; Platinum FY 2016-17, 2018-19, 2019-20, FY 2021-22  
Subject to validity of registration under IT, FCRA and registration as NPO

# SUCCESS STORIES

V-Excel works with children and young adults with cognitive and developmental disabilities such as Autism Spectrum Disorder, Intellectual challenges, Attention Deficit, Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD/ADD), Behavioural and Emotional Disorders, and Learning Disabilities such as Dyslexia. Every success is achieved by overcoming challenges, backed by perseverant efforts from teachers, trainers, counsellors and administrators. These are some of the year's success stories:

- **Anagha Anantharaman** is currently studying in the 10th Std. in P.S. Senior Secondary school. She was referred to us with concerns of a lack of focus, concentration, interest in studies and reluctance to go to school. Ms. Lavanya Ashok - the Early Intervention Coordinator who is also an educator started working with the student on her self-esteem. She used different strategies to make concepts clear and on study skills and techniques. With patience and motivation, after three months, a marked change was noticed in Anagha which reflected in her behaviour and school performance. She coped well performed ably in her Term-1 exams. The combination of emotional support and study skills was a formula for success.
- **Balaji Ramesh**, a student of the Vocational Training Unit at Srirangam, joined V-Excel Educational Trust in 2019. Initially, he was in the pre-vocational training unit where teachers and skill Trainers gave him a lot of inputs in making areca-leaf plates with the goal of making him do it independently. With perseverance and adherence to a process flow, Balaji is now able to make these plates independently while adhering to high standards of quality.



- **Maadhesh Rajesh**, a 9-year old, from Ananda Karuna Vidyalayam, Ambattur, is a child with multiple disabilities and behavioural issues. He would run around and throw things on others, rushing, hitting others and indulging in self-harm. The staff could not control his behaviour. With the intervention of V-Excel's therapist Mujibur Rahman, the teachers were able to understand Maadhesh's strengths and weaknesses and how to handle him in the classroom. After a multi-disciplinary therapeutic approach, his behaviour was gradually controlled. He now sits in one place, does all given activities on the table and attends school full-time. He interacts with peers and responds to teachers. His mother is attends a caregiver course, leaving the child at the center until 5.30 p.m.

# SUCCESS STORIES

- After many trials, experiments, and failed attempts, V-Excel's Mylapore center embarked on bread-making in 2023. Under the guidance and tutelage Ms. Sonia, a home-baker, the kitchen staff at the center learned all aspects of the breadmaking process including purchase of ingredients, making of bread, choice of variants, packing and labelling and even marketing. The bread loaves came out very well and passed internal quality control. This holds a lot of promise and potential for the upcoming year and is a scalable vocation.



# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

*April/ 2022*

- To commemorate World Autism Awareness Day, V-Excel conducted a campaign at Express Avenue Mall, Chennai on Sunday 03 April 2022. This was part a 2-day Autism Awareness initiative involving all the Chennai centres. Products made by V-Excel's trainees were showcased and the process involved in making each product was explained by the trainees themselves. Staff members and parents were present to guide the trainees. A special badge was designed and printed inhouse and the same was distributed to the general public at the mall.



- The academic year 2021-2022 culminated with a well-attended Town Hall meeting on 25th April. Coordinators from all satellite centers attended too. Many stories were exchanged and all got to see videos of the variety of activities each center had to share.



- The trainees and staff from all the 3 centres in Chennai participated in the beach clean-up event at Thiruvanmiyur Beach. Despite the early hour, they came with full energy and enthusiasm. In spite of the heat and sweat, one full stretch of the beach was cleaned up. This event was organised by Bhumi NGO.



# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

*May & June 2022*

- On June 3rd, a Ganesh Puja was done in the new premises for BLA in Nashik. The new academic year began with a 3-day orientation program for the teachers of our center. On June 1st, Ms. Suvarna Kannadkar presented a seminar on Brain Gym Activities. Mrs. Anjali Marwah enlightened the teachers on Emotional Intelligence. On the last day, Ms. Sandhya Thorat enhanced the teachers knowledge by presenting new teaching methods and strategies employed in the education of intellectually challenged students. And Mrs. Pradnya Apte took a session on Self-evaluating Activities.



- V-Excel's Erode center celebrated World Environment Day on June 5th with an aim of raising awareness and celebrating environmental action. This year's theme "Only One Earth" focused on living sustainably in harmony with nature and highlighted the need to reset the balance with nature through transformational changes.



- A parent orientation program encapsulated the focus, objectives, and the child-centric approach that the EI unit will be adopting this year. Emphasis was placed on the individual attention that will be given to each child, in a nurturing environment, to ensure that his/her growth and progress is to the best of his/her potential. Parents were also sensitized on acceptance and support.





# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

*July 2022*

- V-Excel participated in the FIKA Marketplace, Adyar on 2nd July, 2022. The event was organized by *Pehnav* by Shubha Jagan and The Marketplace Chennai. Many of V-Excel's trainees participated and interacted with members of the public.



- Dr. Vasudha Prakash was invited to inaugurate and speak at a seminar "Women in Teaching Empowering with Values" on July 8. The event was organized by Dr. MGR Janaki College for Women. Dr. Vasudha spoke of the importance of a teacher's role in grooming students for a great future and a better India. She also encouraged teachers to be motivated, energetic and creative, so as to bring out the best in the students.

# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

*July 2022*

- V-Excel's Sibling Forum was revived at the Siblings Saturday on July 9 at YES. Nine siblings of YES's trainees participated in person and four more attended online through Zoom from different parts of the world. For trainees who were only children, their first cousins joined the meeting to show support and solidarity. This forum was intended to provide space to share experiences, ask for help and guidance and to understand situations in a better way. Following the introductions, there were games and sharing of experiences. The session ended with a chant for world peace and good health. Sincere gratitude to V-Excel's counsellor, Ms. Jayadevi Jayaprakash, for her active participation and insights.



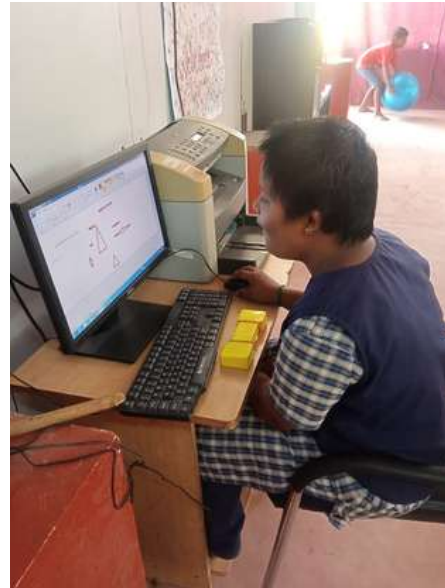
- On July 8, V-Excel was invited by Grundfos, Chennai to exhibit its products. The products were well-appreciated and very well-received! A team of 4 trainers, 5 trainees and 2 admin staff were present. The Grundfos employees interacted with V-Excel's trainees and joined them for the lunch that was offered. Almost all products were sold. V-Excel looks forward to similar future opportunities with Grundfos and other CSR partners.



# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

*July 2022*

- Under the guidance of V-Excel, the Anandam Learning Center started their academic year in July with 35 students with special needs. Students (29 boys and 6 girls) are in the age group of 5-16 years and with Specific Learning Disability (SLD), Intellectual Disability (ID), Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Down Syndrome. The staff consists of a Senior Special Educator as Coordinator, supported by 6 teachers, one therapist, two caregivers and few elders from the Anandam Old Age Home who serve as Shadow Teachers. All the students are from lower socioeconomic backgrounds and are provided free education and therapeutic rehabilitation services.



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# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

*August 2022*

- Thirty-five teachers and children from V-Excel Chennai participated in the Social Marathon, organised by the Velicham Foundation. For many, this was the first marathon after the pandemic. Special children as young as 3 participated and completed the 2 km. run. All the trainees from V-Excel's vocational training centres in Chennai completed the 5 km run. It was very encouraging to see siblings of trainees from the Youth Empowerment Services unit run with them to show their support and love. Heartfelt gratitude to **Redington** who supported with registrations, other arrangements and a full breakfast.



- V-Excel Educational Trust recently got into an agreement with the **Kandivali Recycling Group** in Mumbai to recycle and put to use used paper bags. The group's goal is to promote use of recycled stuff, save trees from falling and to stop usage of plastics. We received our first instalment of used paperbags and will be using these in our next public event.

# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## September 2022

- Thanks to **Inner Wheel Symphony** for giving V-Excel an opportunity to participate in their bazaar on September 1. It was a great opportunity for V-Excel to showcase products made by the special trainees. The trainees proudly spoke to shoppers about their work and received a lot of appreciation. Looking forward to more such opportunities.
- A day to celebrate teachers. At V-Excel, all the units came together as one big happy family and had a relaxed day out at the Golden Sun Beach Resort in Mahabalipuram. Great leaders with a fab team ... all with the same mission - to do good meaningful work, support special people and make a difference.



- Inkle Weave conducted a Business Communication Training Program for Paques Environmental Technology India Pvt. Ltd., a growing global company focusing on sustainable environment. Their management is keen to enhance capabilities of its managers for building stronger client and staff relationships. While communication is one of the most vital elements for any interaction, professional or personal, in business, it is instrumental in facilitating smooth effective working towards set goals. The training program has already laid its foundation online and face-to-face sessions will be spread over the next three months.

# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

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# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

October 2022



- Youth Empowerment Services (YES) celebrated its ninth birthday on October 11. The Guest of Honor was Mr. V. Nandakumar IRS, Additional Commissioner, Income Tax Department. He shared his experiences as a remedial instructor and also interacted with the trainees and answered all their questions with patience. To further mark the occasion, the first edition of YES's newsletter was released. This was put together by the Newsletter Club consisting of 7 trainees and 2 staff members. Mr. Nandakumar was gifted the first print issue and he shared his appreciation and wishes to the team.

- The Early Intervention unit of V-Excel, has been providing services for children with special needs for the last twenty years. The unit has extended its volunteer services by setting up a help desk for Therapeutic Rehabilitation in DEIC (District Early Intervention Center) of Stanley Hospital. Therapist Vasanth Raj and Sr. Special Educator Mary Stella Arulraj provide weekly therapeutic and remedial services for children with ASD and other developmental disabilities. The initiative was covered in the October issue of the Ananda Vikatan magazine.





October 2022

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- PRESENTS  
ART EXHIBITION  
BY AND FOR  
SPECIAL ARTISTS**
- TATTVA - 2022**  
FREEDOM OF EXPRESSIONS
- AT**  
**MUSEUM OF POSSIBILITIES**  
STATE COMMISSIONERATE FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED  
5 KAMARAJAR ROAD  
TRIPLICANE  
CHENNAI - 600005
- ON**  
**OCTOBER**  
**SATURDAY 29 3 PM - 8 PM**  
**2022**
- FREE ENTRY!**
- ALL ARE WELCOME**
- 
- 
- சாத்தனத்தால் சாத்திதல்  
Museum of Possibilities  
A World Where Differences are Welcomed



# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

*October 2022*

- Thematic classroom decorations were prepared for the inauguration of the new building of Ananda Karuna Vidyalyam. The grand inauguration was done by Honorable Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitaraman during which our children chanted vedas and sang the school prayer songs.



- The Outreach Remedial Center, in Pollachi conducted a Dyslexia awareness rally on October 19. Sixty students and staff participated. They carried placards about Dyslexia. Mrs. Shymala Navaneetha Krishnan, Municipal Chairman, Pollachi flagged off the rally. Ms. Selvi, Headmistress, VSRA Middle School, Mr. Bala Murugan, Trustee and Dr. Manju, Trustee, staff of the school adoption program and remedial center were present.
- On 15th of October, the V-Excel team in Solapur was invited by the trustees of Siddheshwar Devasthan to spread awareness about disabilities, in pre-primary and primary sections in mainstream schools for their teachers. 65 teachers and principals from different branches of Siddheshwar School participated in this awareness program. Mrs. Sunita Vaidya and Dr Radhika Manchanda addressed the teachers on Autism, ADHD and LD. They mainly focused on symptoms, screening, red flags and how teachers could help children in their schools. An educative and interactive session followed.

# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

*November 2022*

- On November 4, eight female trainees from V-Excel (5 from YES and 3 from VTU) had a phenomenal experience at the KAY-EM Spectra Banuqet Hall in Vanagaram, Chennai. They were included in the ramp walk of the Master Class Graduation Ceremony organized by Ms. Santhoshi Srikar, owner of the PLUSH Boutique and Beauty Lounge. The most touching moment of the evening was when she called the trainees' parents present there and made them walk on the ramp along their daughter(s). This was a new, unique and wonderful experience all around and V-Excel is grateful to Ms. Sirkar and all the staff at PLUSH for affording us this unforgettable opportunity.



- The Walk4Dyslexia was organised by Rotary Club of Chennai, Utsav at Beasant Nagar on November 6. This was well attended by many. V-Excel participated in the walk with full enthusiasm, lots of posters and felt very proud to be a part of the cause.

# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

*November 2022*

- V-Excel has signed an MoU with Madhuvan Sai Vidyashram Trust, Trivandrum, Kerala to set up a resource room to provide remedial services for children with specific learning difficulties. Teacher training workshop was organised by senior special educators from V-Excel on 12th November at Madhuvan Sai Vidyashram School.



- Archery training at YES are held under the guidance of Mr. Balakrishnan of Theatre Nisha. 11 YES trainees enrolled for this program. A demo session for the staff members was held in June and following that the materials needed for the sessions were made ready in the month of July. Trainees and the parents show great interest in this program as this has multiple benefits, both physical and mental.



# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## December 2022

- On December 3, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. was celebrated in V-Excel. Trainees and teachers put in a lot of hard work to plan the event, create products, and ensure the day was meaningful. Visitors interacted with V-Excel's trainees and children. There was joy, love, fun and games, emotions, music, chatter and a lot of positivity all around. V-Excel is very grateful to all who attended, supported and spent time with our special people on this very special day.



- Our center in Srirangam is already involved in making spice mixes like *rasam* powder and *koottu* powder that have been well-accepted by customers. The center has now embarked on making *sambhar* powder involving the trainees and using a recipe shared by the mother of one of our trainees. A trial run was made using a hand grinder. This was tested and approved by few friends and staff. It was then added to our production list. The process was clearly demonstrated and taught to the trainees. The *sambhar* powder is now being supplied to Sankara Mutt and also sent to V-Excel's Head Office regularly. The Srirangam center produces 30 kgs. of *sambhar* powder and 30 kgs of *rasam* powder monthly. The trainees are fruitfully engaged and are very happy to do this.



# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

*January 2023*

- Hexaware, provides CSR help to V-Excel and invited us for their Annual Program called YUVA 2023, as part of their inauguration, on January 7th, It was a different experience for the students, with a crowd of 900 strong audience, loud music and a sensory loaded environment. But they adjusted to this and sang with joy when the time came for them to perform. The employees joined in and appreciated the performance.



- The Solapur center celebrated its Annual Day on January 7. 60 students participated in this event. Children performed dances. The pre-vocational students presented a skit and gave a message to the audience that everyone has differing abilities which should be identified and encouraged. One group sang a song on cleanliness, segregation of dry and wet garbage, and in helping to keep the environment clean. Some children performed dances on patriotic songs.

# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

*February 2023*

- V-Excel Educational Trust specialises in customising workshops for corporates, schools (teachers, parents, students), hospitals, police academy, and any organisation that needs to enhance the knowledge and skills of their team.
- **A Class Apart**, a three module-based training for teachers from different schools was curated by trainers who have rich and varied experience for many years in the respective fields.
- On 2, 3, & 4 February, Module 1 was held in Vidya Mandir and was very well received by the attendees. The other two modules will follow in due course.



- On 11 February, 2023, a musical event named The Elixir Beats was organized at Vani Mahal, Chennai, to support V-Excel Educational Trust. The evening consisted of performances by well-established singers who sang Tamil and Hindi film songs.

# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

*February 2023*

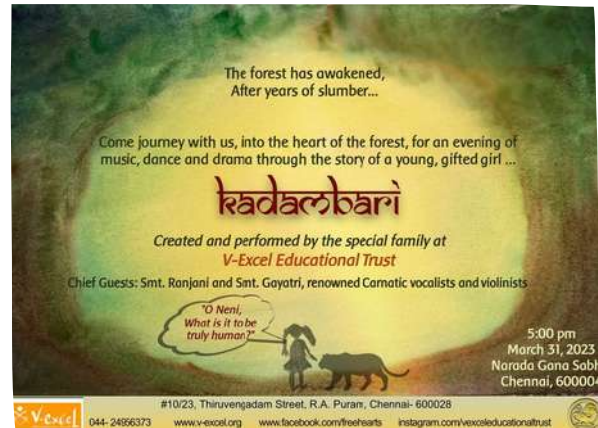
- V-Excel Educational Trust has once again been awarded GuideStar India's Platinum Seal for Financial Transparency.
- GuideStar India is India's largest and most reliable NGO information repository. GuideStar India Platinum is a seal issued after thorough due diligence of an organization for legal & financial compliances and a certification that the organization is transparent and holds itself accountable to not just its stakeholders but also to the general public. It is a review based on facts presented by the NGO and verified against documents issued by regulatory authorities, statutory auditors, past donors and key visitors or memberships/accreditations with philanthropic intermediaries.



# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

March 2023

- The much awaited Annual play, Kadambari, was staged at the Narada Gana Sabha, Chennai on March 31. The storyline, props, ideas and thoughts, suggestions and actions were inspired by our special trainees. The program was well-attended and received a lot of acclaim from several well-wishers. The Chief Guests for the evening were renowned Carnatic vocalists and violinists, Smt. Ranjani and Smt. Gayatri.



*All in all, a lovely 90 minutes, that sped past winding through that wondrous jungle with trees, waterfalls, caverns and the hoot of owls, Sinuous slithering snakes, peacocks that dance while monkeys jump, and tigers and cubs move freely.*

*The finale was awesome as the animals left the hall in a procession of sorts led by the heroine who finally accepts that forgiveness itself is an act of Love!*

*My heart simply was tugged at by the exemplary messages of love, care, concern, the nuances were there, layer upon layer!*

*Ah! That is an emotion one feels witnessing Kadambari! for your heart strings are tugged and how!*

*Emotional moments, unshed tears are what the audience gets.*

# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

*March 2023*

- The Yes Unit of V-Excel, upon an invitation from the Accor Group of Hotels, we conducted a Disability Awareness Session at Novotel Chennai Chamiers Road, on March 13. The session was attended by 35 employees of the hotel including the GM and HoDs. Ms. Gayathri Suryanarayanan spoke about social inclusion and covered the "whys", "hows" and other FAQs of inclusion. Counselor, Ms. Jayadevi Jayaprakash, explained about disability, the types of disabilities, how to support individuals with disabilities at the workplace and strategies to handle situations. They were assisted by Ms. Sujanya Thangavelu of the Mylapore centre.



- V-Excel conducted another successful workshop on 15th March on "Team Building" for all at Monexo Fintech Ltd. in Chennai.
- The session was conducted by Dr. Vasudha Prakash and Mr. Natarajan, well received by everyone at Monexo and they gave us positive feedback. The movement and activities got the whole office, from the CEO to the office boy on their feet, dancing, energized and doing everything that was not usual for them. Monexo, was very grateful to V-Excel for getting their team together and help the employees to think differently. They look forward to more sessions with V-Excel.



# CELEBRATIONS

- There were lots of festivity and celebrations across the various V- Excel Units. In keeping with the spirit of the times, Janmashtami, Navratri, Ganesh Chaturthi, Golu, Diwali, Christmas and Eid were all celebrated in their own unique way. The common message that resonated in all this was happiness, prosperity, peace, meaningful work, growth and good wishes for V- Excel and all stakeholders of the organization.
- On April 14, the Nashik center celebrated **Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Jayanti** in which teachers gave information about Dr. Ambedkar's work and a few students spoke about the Father of the Indian Constitution.
- On April 14, the trainees and staff of YES in Chennai, **Tamil New Year** by performing a small puja at the Vinayagar temple on the premises. Trainees sang devotional songs and took the blessings of Lord Vinayaga for healthy and happy days in the future.
- **World Environment Day** is celebrated every year on the 5th of June and aims at raising awareness and celebrating environmental action. This year's campaign was celebrated under the theme "Only One Earth" with the focus on living sustainably in harmony with nature. It highlighted the need to reset the balance with nature through transformative changes.
- **International Yoga Day 2022** was celebrated on June 21 at all the units of V-Excel in their own way and style. Yoga is an integral part of our training program. Our children, across all ages enjoy and appreciate yoga as it helps them relax, rejuvenate and rejoice.



# CELEBRATIONS



- **Ashad Ekadashi** was celebrated on July 8 with renewed enthusiasm amidst music (abhangs) and spirituality. The women trainees of our centers in Nashik and Solapur carried a sapling of *tulsi* (holy basil) on their heads and went around the place like the *vaarkaris* who walk to the Vittal temple at Pandharpur.
- **Guru Poornima** was celebrated on July 13 at our centers in Maharashtra where all the students greeted and paid respect to their teachers by presenting roses to them.

- **Independence Day** celebrations were held in all centers of V-Excel on August 15. All programs carried a single uplifting message of Unity.
- **Krishna Jayanthi** was celebrated on August 19 at all centers. Trainees, assisted by teachers, drew the footsteps of Lord Krishna. Pujas were performed Krishna bhajans were sung.
- **Vinayagar Chaturthi** was celebrated on August 29. Trainees and staff members chanted slokas and aartis were performed.
- September 5 was **Teacher's Day** and at V-Excel all the Units came together as one big happy family and had a relaxed day out. Great leaders with a fab team all with the same mission – to do good meaningful work, support the special people and make a difference.



# CELEBRATIONS

- **Onam**, the visit of King Bali to Earth, celebrated with Pookalam, Music, and Dance. Onam commemorates Vamana, the incarnation of Vishnu and Mahabali who ruled Kerala. Every student took turns decorating the pookalam with different coloured flowers with the help of the teachers.
- **Dussehra** and its beginning, was celebrated on 23rd September. The "Golus" in all centers were arranged beautifully, songs sung, dances were arranged and performed by the students and teachers. Poojas were performed and visitors were welcomed.
- As always, **Diwali** was celebrated with great enthusiasm and energy on October 21. Trainees and the staff members had a great time bursting crackers and lighting colourful sparklers.
- **Christmas** was celebrated with lot of fun, dance, music, singing and gifts from their Secret Santa. Santa's entry brought cheer everywhere. Gifts were distributed and there were dances by children.
- **Karthigai**, the festival of lamps, was celebrated in December. Students sang sitting around the kolam with the lamps and each student lit a candle diya made by the vocational students.



# CELEBRATIONS

- **Pongal**, the harvest festival, was celebrated on January 13 in a very traditional manner, with calm, joy and with lot of cheer. There was sweet Pongal made in the foyer under the bouquet of sugarcane, on mud bricks with wooden logs to cook it. Songs on the essence of Pongal were sung and danced to by the students and staff, all dressed in shades of yellow and orange.





# FIELD TRIPS

- VTU along with the Sreyes Farm group had their monthly field trip yesterday, in July 22, to the **Vijay Sekar Temple Architecture and Sculpture Center**, (Manufacturer and Exporter), Mahabalipuram. Trainees were oriented on the architecture and sculpture of the temples and saw how the idols were made.
- They also tried their hand at chipping stones. While returning, the group visited the Arjuna cave, Butter Rock and Tiger Caves.



- The YES team spent the July 15-16 weekend at the **Blue Lagoon Resort**. 25 participants (16 trainees and 9 staff members) spent the weekend at the resort playing in the pool and on the shore and indulging in fun and frolic.



- On 24 September, all the teachers and staff from the Nashik unit went on an excursion to **Shivaneri Hill Fort**, which is about 135 km. from Nashik. This fort is a 17th-century military fortification located near Junnar and is the birthplace of Chattrapati Shivaji, the emperor and founder of Maratha Empire. Inside the fort is a small temple dedicated to the goddess Shivai Devi, after whom Shivaji was named. In the afternoon, the staff visited the picturesque Malshej Ghat. This Ghat is a spectacular mountain pass in the Western Ghats. It had numerous lakes, waterfalls, mountains, and flourishing flora and fauna.





# FIELD TRIPS

- Eight selected trainees who could relate to this along with 7 staff from VTU and 10 trainees and 5 staff from YES visited **Grundfos** on December 1, 2022. There was a grand welcome by the management, HR and Denmark team. A demo regarding factory safety aspects was given and everyone was given safety jackets while touring the factory. The shopfloor also had an assisted work space setup for facilitating work for persons with special needs. Delicious vegetarian lunch and gift hampers were presented to everyone of us.



- There now are more initiatives supporting individuals with Special Needs. In Srirangam, the staff and trainees spent World Disability Day at a nearby **Butterfly Park**. The park has a garden, fountain, artificial ponds, suspended bridges, butterfly houses and many play areas.



- On 24 January, the students of KLC's Junior School along with their teachers visited the **Kotturpuram Urban Forest** in the morning. They spent time walking through the park, some being adventurous under the supervision of the teachers, had their snack and came back happy and tired before lunch.



# FIELD TRIPS

- YES trainees began 2023 with an outstation trip to **Kanyakumari**. 24 staff and trainees from YES boarded the Kanyakumari Express on January 3. At Kanyakumari, they were received by 2 liaison officers who took them to the TTDC hotel. Local visits were made to the Bhagavathy Amman temple, Vivekananda Memorial and a ferry service to the Thiruvalluvar Statue. They also visited the Vattakottai Fort, Sunset Point, Sunrise Point, Tiruveni Sangamam, Padmanabhapuram Palace, Mathur Aqueduct, Thiruparappu Falls, Sangudurai Beach and Our Lady of Ransom Church. Mr. Hari Kiran Prasad, IPS, hosted the group at the district police office.



- Charumathi Sriram, Usha Rajagopal and Manivannan C. P. coordinated and planned with officials at Anamalai Tiger Reserve and place of stay for the VTU Annual trip to **Pollachi**. The group left for the experiential learning annual trip to Pollachi and Coimbatore for 4 days.



# AWARDS & ACCOLADES

- Four teachers from V-Excel were selected for the teacher's day award organised by The International Association of Lion's club, Dist 324 M. Special congratulations to Ms. Uma Swaminathan, Ms. Nitya Venkatesh, Ms. Stella Mary and Ms. Latha Kannan.



- The Inner Wheel Club of Madras recognized KLC teacher, Ms. Usha Suresh, for her dedication and efforts.



- On the occasion of the 33rd Anniversary of Sri. V. Narayana Iyer Memorial Trust "Gitalaya", scholars from the field of art and wellness were honoured with awards. Dr. Vasudha Prakash was presented the Sri. G.K. Subramaniya Iyer award for Excellence in the field of wellness.



# AWARDS & ACCOLADES

- As part of the Navratri celebrations, the Golu at YES was one among 10 winners chosen in the golu contest. YES received gift vouchers, one quilling doll and a photo frame as gifts. The event was organized by Mylapore Times.



- An article on Akshad aged 21, a trainee in V-Excel's Nashik center and has Down Syndrome, was published in the papers on Down Syndrome Day. He plays the tabla and synthesizer. His mother mentioned that Akshadh made and sold envelopes and diyas in Indore and bought himself a mobile from that money. He has even written a letter for Prime Minister Modi which they will soon post to him. Akshadh was felicitated by the Indore Collector on Down Syndrome Day.



# PAPERS & CONFERENCES

- Gayathri Suryanarayanan, the Center Coordinator of Mylapore unit of V-Excel Educational Trust, presented a paper at the National Conference on Self-Advocacy on the theme of "Vocational Training of PwIDs and Current Trends", held in NIEPID, Secunderabad, in February 2023. She presented "Case Studies in Effective Transitional Planning from Structured Vocational Training to Open Employment" and her insights covered successes and challenges faced in placing trainees. Participants at the conference included other NGOs, parents, professionals from NIEPID and many individuals with cognitive challenges.



- Ms. Lavanya Ashok, our coordinator for Early Intervention services in Chennai, gave a poster presentation entitled "Runway to Takeoff - An Odyssey of a Special Mother" at the conference on 'Best Practices in the Rehabilitation for Individuals with Special Needs', organized by Vasantham Residential Special School. The conference was held on 17th & 18th of March 2023 at Mogappair, Chennai. The program was conducted in Tamil (predominantly) and English. Ms. Ashok traced the journey, thus far, of her son Arpith, who is a trainee at V-Excel's Mylapore center.



# COMMUNITY IMPACT

- Ms. Gayathri Suryanarayanan's experiences as the Center Coordinator of the Youth Empowerment Services unit in Chennai was covered in the Mylapore Times issue of April 16, 2022.



- The *golu* celebrations at the YES unit in Chennai were covered in the Mylapore Times issue of October 7, 2022.

- The art exhibit at the Museum of Possibilities was covered in the Indian Express issue of October 31, 2022. The event was also covered in five different TV channels.



# LOCATIONS

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