



Highlights of the activities
during the year
April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020

2019-20 ACTIVITY REPORT

WWW.V-EXCEL.ORG
CHENNAI, INDIA

V-EXCEL EDUCATIONAL TRUST
A UNIT OF SRINGERI SRI SHARADA PEETHAM CHARITABLE TRUST

A WORD OF GRATITUDE



OUR ORGANIZATION

Going strong after 18 years, this activity report contains a sampling of V-Excel's activities in preceding year. It gives our donor-partners and other interested people information about our activities.

WE ARE GRATEFUL

Extending special thanks to:

- Everyone who donated so generously
- Anyone who invited friends to participate or attend our events
- Our generous and loyal friends and supports

We could not have come this far without you

SUCCESS STORIES

DINESH

Dinesh joined our remedial program in June 2019. When he came he was rigid, unwilling to mingle with his classmates and refused to eat without his grandma. He was not toilet-trained, and was reluctant to participate in any activity. Through a focused plan, consistent efforts and unconditional support from the staff, Dinesh blossomed into a new person. In about a month's time he started to greet other children and teachers. He learned to acknowledge teachers with a nod of his head, smile or a short sound. He now wants to take the lead when he sees other children playing and enjoys being in a group and does the activities, and is able to indicate when he wants to use the toilet.

MONIKA

Monika's journey in V-Excel began in June 2018. She had difficulty in coping with the pressure and expectations of regular school. The school could not understand her individual needs to help her manage. Her struggles worsened and she eventually dropped out while in Class XI. Her self-esteem plummeted and she bore no hope for the future. The team at V-Excel welcomed her on a promising note. She was counselled, and art therapy was introduced to improve her self-confidence and motivation.

She was admitted in NIOS training centre Bridges Learning Academy where she started preparing for her 12th NIOS Exams. With one-to-one training, she regained her self-confidence and completed her Board exams in the first attempt. She is now studying first year BBA in a college at Chennai. Monika is now a confident, cheerful and a motivated student.

HARIHARAN

Hariharan of Bridges Learning Academy passed his NIOS Senior Secondary Exams with flying colours. He joined BLA in 2014 and came to us with diffidence, low self-esteem and lacking clarity about his future. He was unable to cope in a normal school. At BLA, the staff integrated him in the NIOS curriculum, worked on his self-esteem and helped him gain confidence. Slowly, with sustained motivation, he began to bloom and passed his X exams first and this year his XII. Hariharan benefited from motivation, the congenial atmosphere in BLA, not to mention hard work. He is a source of inspiration for children who wish to achieve but do not know how to achieve.

RECOGNITION

V-Excel was awarded the "Champion Level - GuideStar India Platinum" award. This certifies our transparency until the end of 2020. GuideStar India launched the GuideStar India NGO Transparency Awards to recognize organizations that practice and voluntarily demonstrate their transparency and accountability in the public domain. GuideStar believes that there is a need to have awards to illuminate the transparency level of civil society organizations to inspire greater trust in their work and garner support for their cause.



GuideStar India Platinum (Champion Level) is a Seal issued after thorough due diligence of an organisation for legal and financial compliances and a certification that the organisation 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. It is additionally based on the organisation making detailed disclosures in the GuideStar India template for disclosures in the public domain based on Credibility Alliance norms.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

The National conference on Inclusive Education was held in Shimla from September 23-25, 2019. The overall aim of this conference was to get an opportunity to share and disseminate ideas, research findings, academic, field-level experiences on Inclusive Education, evidence- based practices and innovation in inclusive education from different parts of India and to create a sharing community to make all children feel safe and secure in the classroom.

From V-Excel, three abstracts were submitted and accepted for presentation at the conference. Dr. Vasudha Prakash, our Founder-Trustee, was the Guest of Honour at the conference.



EnAble India along with Disabilities NGOs Alliance (DNA) held an event called "Manthan 4.0" on October 15, 2019 at Ecumenical Christian Centre (ECC), Whitefield, Bangalore. It aimed to bring leaders in the disability sector together as part of the larger Mission1000: Scaling Livelihoods for Persons with Severe, Developmental and Multiple Disabilities.

Dr. Vasudha Prakash, Ms. Ajita Panshikar (Executive Director) and V-Excel's vocational and placement coordinators from Chennai, Ms. Gayathri Suryanarayanan and Ms. Charumathi Sriram attended the event.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Dr. Vasudha Prakash was conferred the prestigious Women Economic Forum (WEF) award of “Iconic Women Creating a Better World for All” in Madurai on January 26, 2020. At the 2-day 32nd Women Economic Forum Global Edition, Dr. Vasudha also spoke on the topic "From CSR to ALL Social Responsibility". The theme was “Women Sculpting & Restructuring the World”.

WEF is a global forum of the ALL Ladies League (ALL) to foster empowering conversations, connections, community and collaborations among women entrepreneurs and leaders from all walks of life from across the world.



Dr. Vasudha Prakash featured on a Live chat show called “Hello Ungaludan” telecast on DD Podhigai, on Friday, February 21, 2020. She was interviewed and answered questions on Special Education



CONFERENCES & PUBLICATIONS

The National Conference on 'Addressing Environmental Barriers and Universal Design' was organized by the Department of Special Education, SNDT Women's University in collaboration with National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD) and was held from February 27-29, 2020 at the SNDT Juhu Campus in Mumbai. Dr. Vasudha Prakash was an invited speaker and she spoke on the theme of "Environmental Barriers"

Ms. Parimal Pandit, Program Director - Counseling and Assessment, had a paper published in the Voices of Teachers and Teacher Educators (Vol. VIII, Issue II, Dec. 2019). She had written extensively on children with ADHD and her paper was titled, "Round & Round...A Peak into the World of a Restless Child – Demystifying ADHD".

- Ms. Puja Bhalla, our Art Therapist, completed her 4 years Waldorf Teacher Training course at the IRA Institute of Learning. She and Ms. Parimal Pandit attended a two-day Eurythmy workshop by Ms. Patricia Orange, IRA faculty.
- From June 10-12, Ms. Parimal Pandit and Mrs. Lekshmi Ramesh attended the WIPRO meet of their South Zone partners in Pondicherry.
- Out of 17 candidates who appeared for Annamalai University's P. G. Diploma in Multiple Disabilities, 16 secured First Class.
- On 17 November 2019, Ms. Gayathri Suryanarayanan, the vocational coordinator of YES, represented V-Excel at the Inclusive India Conclave 2019. Many celebrities were ready to lend a hand to make the society more receptive to the disabled sector and to make social inclusion easier.
- Ms. Gayathri Suryanarayanan, our Vocational Coordinator in YES, attended a 3-day workshop in New Delhi, in September 2019. The workshop was called "Solutions for Success in School, Home and Community" and was conducted by Dr. Brenda Smith Myles of the University of Kansas.



ACCOLADES & AWARDS

The first batch of seven students completed the Ability Enhancement Multimedia Program (AEMP) offered by AIMS Media. A simple graduation ceremony was held in our Mylapore center and was presided by Dr. Maria Kapasi, Consulting Director of AIMS Media who made the trip from New Delhi specifically for this ceremony.



On 14 September 2019, two of our trainers from our Mylapore center, Ms. Divya Venkatesh and Mr. John Bosco Louduraj, received the Sir C. V. Raman Award in recognition of their *Extraordinary Commitment to Special Education*.

On 15 October 2019, Ms. Rekha Vijaykumar one of our senior students was awarded the 'Sadhana Award' by the Inner Wheel Club of Madras Central Adithya, for her progress and achievements.

She has independently been cooking at V-Excel Educational Trust, and acts as the Master Chef for our mobile food truck, *Tiffin Times*. She also went to the Institute of Hotel Management and exhibited her cooking prowess to trained chefs.



ANNUAL DAY 2020 THE LAST LEAF OF LORIEN

Our spectacular Annual Day celebrations 2020 featuring the musical 'Last leaf of Lorien' held on March 6, at Narada Gana Sabha, was a rocking success. We were happy to see the hall packed with a cheering audience. A special thanks to all our Special Guests who graced the occasion. It was a very enriching experience for the trainees as well as the teachers who also took to stage with them.

And they said:

"Thank you so much for having me. Last evening was one of the most special evenings of my life. I feel really privileged for being there. All of you are champions."



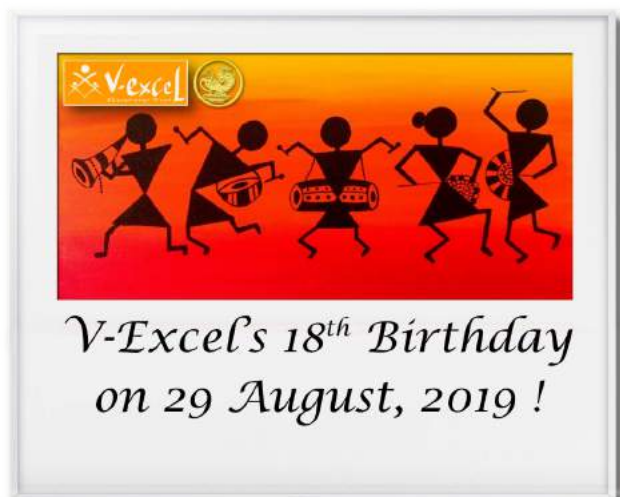
"Kudos to the V Excel team for putting up a great show at Narada Gana Sabha!! The Last Leaf of Lorien - an original story written and scripted by the students of V- Excel. Narrated from the heart, a heart warming tale of goodness; a special special story by the special children. To say, "It was Spectacular!", would be an understatement.

"In a nutshell we never knew, when we transitioned from being a sceptical audience to a spellbound one yearning for more. The production was grandeur to say the least, the performances were top notch, the flow of sequences were seamless. But the highlight was the background score, songs and the narration. If we ourselves felt so moved I can imagine what a gratifying experience it would have been for the children and the parents."



SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

On June 4, 2019, our new school van arrived and a small inauguration ceremony was organized to welcome the van! We would like to express our deepest gratitude to our Germany-based donor, Yoga Vereinigung Rajagopalan E.V. (YVR), for donating a 25-seater school bus to us. The inauguration of the bus was held on June 4, 2019 at our R.A. Puram centre and Mr. D. Suresh, AGM, CSR, Ashok Leyland along with Ms. Lakshmi of Yoga Vereinigung Rajagopalan were present on the occasion. After the flag-off, students and teachers of our school went for a short ride in the bus and enjoyed it.



August 29, 2019 marked 18 years of V-Excel Educational Trust – an organisation striving to bring meaning and abundance in the lives of persons with special needs. With the student at the center, the organisation promises a warm, sensitive and caring atmosphere and a commitment to work with clarity, compassion and creativity.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

All the units in Chennai celebrated Teacher's Day at the Coco Retreat Farm, Manamai, near Mahabhalipuram on Thursday, September 12, 2019.

110 teachers, staff, therapists, counselors, support staff and the management team participated. There were lots of games, dances and songs where the staff showcased their talents. It was a day filled with fun and frolic and there were many fond memories to take back.



For Teacher's Day, teachers, staff and volunteers from VTU had a surprise party at their trainee Anandhi's workplace – Writer's Cafe. Anandhi took care of the team like any professional would. Our senior trainer, Ms. Margaret Buch, was moved to see her favorite trainee working. Ms. Buch cut a cake sponsored by Writer's Cafe.

KLC celebrated Father's Day on 15 October. We had 22 interested fathers and the children were most excited to share school space with them. The fathers were celebrated, made to play games, entertain their wards and talk about their experiences. It was very heartening to note that the face of the father tribe is changing and we see more involvement in the upbringing of the children.



OTHER EVENTS



A Science Expo Day was held on 29 November. It covered hand-on activities on air pressure, water cycles, the power of magnets, living and non-living things.



On World Disability Day we expressed solidarity with the community of persons with special needs and we joined the Walkathon on Marina Beach and later participated in the games and awareness walks organised by *Nandavanam*, another special needs centre.



Open Day in KLC was held in the second week of December. Parents attended various activities in the classes and spent time watching their children learn. Senior school parents accompanied the students and teachers to the Sreyes Farm where they spent the whole day.



Eight trainees from YES participated in the 12th Annual Dance Recital of Leo's Dance Academy and performed a medley mix on-stage for a medley mix. They performed so well that they got a standing ovation and more than that the sense of achievement and accomplishment was so visible on their faces. All the participants were presented with a medal.



Mother's Day was celebrated on the 12 December. There was a Secret Santa Surprise workshop, where Ms. Sowmya Sarathy taught 22 mothers to make buttons out of waste cloth and stitch them on shopping bags.



30 students from AMM Matriculation School, Kotturpuram visited us to interact and have a community lunch. The school is focusing on value education by giving their students exposure to various special schools and to inculcate in them the need to accept and help the differently-abled.

OTHER EVENTS



On 22 January 2020, 16 trainees and 5 staff visited the Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology, Taramani. Prof. Mohan, of the Housekeeping Department took us on a guided tour and explained the activities and processes.



Erode Trip : In March 2020, 17 trainees from VTU and staff members embarked on a 3-day trip to Erode . They visited the Nattatishwara Temple, a government mill, the Bhavanishwara Temple, a power loom factory, our center in Erode and the Aavin Dairy.



The annual outstation trip of the YES Unit took them to Coimbatore and Salem on a 3-day trip. The trip was planned in such a way to make sure it covers all the aspects like experiential learning, observing, social inclusion, nature and fun in the same. Trainees had a splendid time and a great experience while the trainers had a very good opportunity to observe them from close quarters.



We displayed our products at a conference conducted by ISACA, Chennai Chapter for two days on September 13 -14, 2019 at Crowne Plaza. We set up a kiosk at Grundfos Pumps Pvt Ltd on October 16, 2019. where we displayed a variety of bags, candles, file folders, paper products, jewelry, CD coasters, bangle boxes, block printed duppatas, assorted chocolate boxes and ready-to-cook food items. The response from the public was extremely positive and sales were brisk. On December 22-23, 2019, a 2-day mela was organised at Vidya Sagar. Products from YES were exhibited there for sale along with the products from other centres.

CELEBRATIONS



December came ringing in on reindeer sleigh bells and the school turning into the festive colours of green, red and white. Year after year the school wears the **Christmas** spirit in its class rooms, corridors and most importantly in the children's hearts. Christmas remains a time to love bond and be jolly. The week-long celebrations included a Tiffin Times on Christmas theme, a concert for the children and for children of Indradhanu School who came on the day of Tiffin times! For the first time the trainees from VTU performed a small play entitled 'The first day of Christmas'

Grand celebration with interesting games, beautiful traditional dances, delicious Chakkara Pongal and loving wishes marked the occasion of **Pongal** festival at YES. The theme of the celebration was about those many games and activities which are forgotten these days. It was a fun-filled day with each of one of them trying their hands on the games and other activities. It was indeed a feast to eyes to see all the staff and the trainees in their traditional wear.



VTU celebrated Pongal at Sreyes Farm, Pongal was prepared in the traditional way, trainees decorated the place and drew *kolam*. Cows were decorated with flowers and balloons on their head. Traditional games like hitting 7 stones and Tug of war were organised followed with music and dance by teachers and trainees. They learnt to make *varrati* using cow dung and also plucked spinach and some vegetables.



CELEBRATIONS



Diwali the Festival of Lights was celebrated noiselessly in every class in KLC with lighting lamps after painting them. A full school celebration followed on the 1st where families and other units gathered in the foyer and each person lit their own lamp and placed it around a flower rangoli. The spirit of each lighting their own lamps within and lending their light to a community space was well understood by the students, parents and other visitors who had gathered in the foyer.

In September, Ganesh Chaturthi and the flavours of the festival were remarkable in their common enjoyment and colour but very different in their form of worship. Ganesha is first made with hands that work with clay and life is then infused into it with the students and teachers collecting in the foyer and collecting all the mud Ganeshas to worship. Krishna this year, was met in the outdoors and in nature. Every class made their own Ganesha and these were brought down and ceremoniously worshiped amidst songs and dances.



October started with Ayudha Puja, and the students also celebrated Vijayadashmi and the month ended with the Diwali celebrations. Vijayadashmi puja was organized at Sreyes. Our Founder Trustee, and other unit heads attended the puja along with trainees, and teachers of VTU and EI. Post-lunch, Sudharshan, a medical student performed classical dance. Trainees enjoyed the dance and interacted with him.

TIFFIN TIMES

V-Excel's Tiffin Times, a food truck manned by young adults with special needs, completed operations for the last academic year with an evening at the Prime Terrace Apartments in Indira Nagar on May 24th. The truck continues to serve healthy snacks and beverages and is manned by our trainees.



Our Tiffin Times trainees had an amazing experience at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, on 07 July 2019, at their event Chennai Runners Nitros Track Attack. It was extremely wonderful to see our trainees interact with the runners so comfortably and with ease. We are very proud and happy to have served many happy customers and take this opportunity to thank Chennai Runners and the organisers for this support and patronage. On 29 November 2019, Tiffin Times participated at the Project day event at Vidya Sagar. Three of our YES trainees were there the whole day serving all the visitors, staff and students of Vidya Sagar. On 14 December 2019, Tiffin Times participated in the musical evening organised by SCAN in association with Vidya Sagar in their auditorium.

Many thanks to the Management of Akshar Arbol International School, Injambakkam for making Tiffin Times part of their cultural 'Thiran'. The entire team had a great time getting ready for the event. This was a different experience and challenging too as we had to cater lunch. This event was even more special as the school management had shared the menu with the students and had things pre-ordered. It was another special day where we saw social inclusion at its best!

Our Tiffin Times participated in the Women's Day carnival organised by Redington at their Guindy campus. Trainees from VTU enthusiastically participated in the hospitality part. The initiative and the cause were very much appreciated by the audience.

VOCATIONAL SERVICES

Special mention is to be made of two new activities that were introduced this year - Carpentry and Automobile Repairs. Four trainees from VTU go to the carpentry unit at the CSI Higher Secondary School For The Hearing Impaired in Mylapore, Chennai for training in carpentry. Three other trainees from VTU go to an automobile garage for training in car mechanics. Teachers accompanied them daily during the first month of training away from their main classroom.

The year saw sustained production in the Sanitary Napkin Unit at VTU and training continued in block printing and tailoring. In YES, the laundry services, chocolate making and printing & documentation services continued to see an increase in client base.

Placements & Internships

On 11 December 2019, two of our trainees from YES, Balambiga Rajan and Vishal Kirthik Veerappan formally started their internship at Kocoatrait, Gopalapuram. They went for a couple of hours, thrice a week understanding the process and the work. This gave them the opportunity to get used to the place and the people. They were given tasks of sorting cocoa beans according to size and folding wrappers.

Sriram Srinivasan and S.K. Saravana Prabhu, our trainees in VTU, joined Blue Lagoon Resort as interns in January, 2020.


In February 2020 two of our trainees from YES Gokulakrishnan Subramani and T. A. Hari were placed at Hotel Savera and Blue Lagoon Resort respectively. They have settled well and have got their first month pay as well.



TARANG

Tarang, a cultural initiative for persons with special needs and their caregivers was launched by V-Excel Educational Trust, a not-for-profit organization for children, in collaboration with Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (Chennai) on 3rd December, 2013 to commemorate the occasion of World Disability Day. The idea was to bind those with special needs into an inclusive society, to give them the joy of experiencing the beauty and harmony of the creative arts, besides promoting healing and therapeutic effects of the performing arts in special education.

The program has been graced by several leading artistes who have performed for our childre.



V-Excel Educational Trust & Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan
(A Unit of Sringeri Shri Sharada Peetham Charitable Trust)

presents
Vinaya
(Vocal)

accompanied by
Rangapriya (Violin)
Arjun Ganesh (Mridangam)

Tuesday, 25th February, 2020
2.00 pm to 3.00 pm
Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Mylapore
Chennai—600004
ALL ARE WELCOME!



V-Excel Educational Trust & Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan
(A Unit of Sringeri Shri Sharada Peetham Charitable Trust)

presents
Sathishna Veeravalli
(Vocal)

accompanied by
Mantha Narayanan (Violin)
Govathi Shankar (Mridangam)

Thursday, 25th July, 2019
2.00 pm to 3.00 pm
Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Mylapore
Chennai—600004
ALL ARE WELCOME!



V-Excel Educational Trust & Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan
(A Unit of Sringeri Shri Sharada Peetham Charitable Trust)

presents
"Devi Krithi's"

by
Uthara Venkateshwaran, Tejaramini Sriharhar
Dikshu Krishnan & Uthara P
(Vocal)

accompanied by
Arunabh (Violin)
Anuradh (Mridangam)

Thursday, 26th September, 2019
2.00 pm to 3.00 pm
Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Mylapore
Chennai—600004
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Concert by auspices of
Dr. Sudha Kala and SARGAM CHOIR



V-Excel Educational Trust & Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan
(A Unit of Sringeri Shri Sharada Peetham Charitable Trust)

presents
Kalaimamani R. Suryaprakash
(Vocal)

accompanied by
Deepika Venkatraman (Violin)
Akshay Ram (Mridangam)

Thursday, 27th June, 2019
2.00 pm to 3.00 pm
Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Mylapore
Chennai—600004
ALL ARE WELCOME!



V-Excel Educational Trust & Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan
(A Unit of Sringeri Shri Sharada Peetham Charitable Trust)

presents
"SHAGATHAM RESIDENCY"

by
poet Sri/Heavenly Pranasli
(Vocal)

accompanied by
Karattil's Jambhavanthramurugesan (Violin)
M. Akhila Bharan (Tabla)
X J. Arjun Ganesh (Mridangam)

Thursday, 29th August, 2019
2.00 pm to 3.00 pm
Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Mylapore
Chennai—600004



V-Excel Educational Trust & Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan
(A Unit of Sringeri Shri Sharada Peetham Charitable Trust)

presents
K. Deepika
(Vocal)

accompanied by
Madhavi N. Vijaya Ganesh (Violin)
Suresh Joshi (Tabla)

Thursday, 28th November, 2019
2.00 pm to 3.00 pm
Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Mylapore
Chennai—600004
ALL ARE WELCOME!

COLLABORATIONS

V-Excel has joined hands with Isha Foundation, Coimbatore to help children with disabilities. The program involves a holistic approach towards special education. This will be a short-term program ranging from a few days to weeks. Three children have benefited by this program this month.

On 19 December 2019, the staff and trainees at YES played host to teams from other special schools and organizations like Sankalp, Arunodhayam, Swaabhiman, and Sarva Mangala Vihar Trust. YES hosted a meeting for the initiative SNEH, a market hub for products made by individuals with special needs. All guests were taken on a tour of the YES premises and were very happy seeing all the trainees actively involved in vocational activities.

Many of our trainees go to Sreyes Farms for exercises in experiential living. During their stay at the farm, the young adults go through a structured programme which focuses on equipping them with as much independence as feasible in their activities of daily living while simultaneously training them in essential life skills. The programme is designed to improve peer group interaction, facilitating group learning and activities. At the same time, individual focus is given with a clear IEP, to further hone the strengths and work on areas of improvement of each person as an individual and as a member in a group. This apart, the special persons will have the opportunity to work with soil, plants and animals, which is therapeutic in nature. They can roam around in the sprawling space, breathe fresh air and be one with nature.



SATELLITE CENTERS NASHIK

On 1st August, 2019, V-Excel Educational Trust established a New Academy for children with learning difficulties, as an Exclusive Service Unit of their Nashik Branch. The new Academy called Bridges Learning Academy was formally inaugurated today by Prof. Jayant Bhatambrekar, Proprietor of Bhatambrekar Construction Company in the august presence of Shri Y. Krishnakumar Rao of Kumarao Builders, the Regional Director of the V-Excel Educational Trust Mrs. Jayanthi Vishwanath, parents, teachers and well-wishers of the Trust.



In the first week of September, children and their teachers made small idols of eco-friendly models of Lord Ganesha with clay, to mark the Ganesh Chaturthi festival. Later all the idols were assembled together, beautifully decorated and the children sang devotional songs and bhajans and performed aarti and distributed Prashad to all.



On 21st October, a few volunteers from Glenmark Pharmaceuticals (Global team) visited our Learning Center and painted some of the walls of the Center. We take this opportunity to thank Ms. Hema Ganachari of IDOBRO - Mumbai for coordinating and organizing this event, which transformed the Center into a colourful place.



On 14th December, 18 students from our all the 3 Centers participated in a program organized by a NGO "Colours Unseen". They presented an original musical skit, written and directed by our teachers. The theme of the skit depicted that "There is only One God", who is worshiped in different forms in different sects and that we need to respect all religions.

SATELLITE CENTERS NASHIK

On 7 January 2020, our students participated in the Regional conference of Saksham foundation and presented a skit with a Social message *Hum Sab Ek Hain*, which depicted the importance of religious tolerance and the need for peaceful coexistence between the followers of different religions and cultures. The skit was well-received by the audience. Our Regional Director Mrs. Jayanthi Vishwanath by Saksham Foundation was felicitated for the exemplary work carried out by her for the disabled.



We are very happy to share with you that our YES trainee Mr. Rishikesh Shindekar has received placement at Press-metal Industries situated at Satpur Industrial Estate in Nashik. He is working in the packaging unit of Nashik Metal Dust Factory. Simultaneously, he is being trained in material labels printing also. He is working in the last stages of an assembly line operation.



In February, our staff Mrs. Pradnya Apte (Counsellor) and Mrs. Sandhya Thorat (Special Educator) attended the BMI conference in Hyderabad. It is the first interdisciplinary conference in India which identifies the most renowned experts from both the diagnosis team and intervention teams.



On 21st December, our Nashik Center's Annual Day was celebrated. Altogether 70 children came on stage to perform a 20-scenes musical dram called "*Balkrishna Leela*". It was a powerful and endearing performance by the children, which lasted for 2 hours. It was lovely to see the children dance in colourful costumes and they received a lot of cheering and ovation from the audience.

SATELLITE CENTERS SOLAPUR

On 3rd December, International Day of Persons with Disabilities was celebrated as sports day at our center. All the school and vocational students enthusiastically participated in running, musical chair, lemon and spoon race, bucket ball and various such games. The President, secretary and other group members distributed prizes to the winners.



On 11th January 2020, the unit organized Annual Day function where the children performed a welcome song, Ganesh Vandana and patriotic songs which respect different cultures, costumes, language and promote unity. Vocational students gave a powerful message "Save Animals Save Nature" through a skit. Everyone enjoyed the show to the fullest.

On 7th March, we started a Teaching Learning Material (TLM) library for parents. We exhibited level-wise teaching material and have requested parents to avail membership with a minimum deposit and monthly fees. The parents can borrow and use these material for their kids at home by rotation. It was inaugurated by Mrs. Roy - Branch Manager SBI.



SATELLITE CENTERS SRIRANGAM

The Centre started the tuck shop training from July 2019, where trainees are taught to prepare healthy snacks. The trainees are involved in various kitchen activities like vegetables and spinach cutting, snacks and juice making and are very enthusiastic and excited. Every Friday the tuck shop is open for sales. Parents and neighbours are the main customers showing a great interest. The trainees are also involved in garland making as part of a new vocation.



Abhyasa Kendra celebrated Pongal festival with all students at Kumarakudi village. It was a daylong event Pongal was celebrated in traditional way. All the students participated in traditional games. Students performed different folk dances. Trainees exhibited the various vocational skills they are trained for by participating in cooking, drawing kolam and decorating the place.



A workshop was conducted in October 2019 on silk thread jewellery making for staff. The staff were taught how to make earrings, neck chains and bangles for hand. It involved eye hand co-ordination and use of both hands to complete the product. Apart from learning a skill, it was also therapeutic for the staff. The staff will train the students in making silk thread jewellery.



SATELLITE CENTERS ERODE - POLLACHI

Ms. Deepa, coordinator of our Erode center was invited to give a presentation on "Skills for Counselling Parents and Children with Special needs" in a CRE programme held at Vidya Vikashini Institute, Coimbatore. Around 35 special educators from all over Tamil Nadu participated in the same. The talk was given from the perspective of journey of a parent with a special needs child.



Mrs. Lekshmi Ramesh, Unit Head, V-Excel Remedial Center, Chennai visited OutReach Remedial Center, Pollachi on 24 and 25 Feb 2020. She visited seven Government Municipal Middle Schools adopted for the ongoing school adoption program at Pollachi and inspected the remedial classes for children with Specific Learning Disabilities from under privileged families. Nearly 151 students are benefitted from this remedial education program.



In December and the end of the calendar year, we witnessed annular solar eclipse this year. Children at OutReach Remedial Centre, Pollachi, were sensitized about solar eclipse, as few children enacted about solar eclipse to their fellow classmates using properties. We also celebrated Christmas and New Year with our students, staffs and had a winter break for 3 days.

CONTACT US

Head Office

10/23 Tiruvengadam Street
R.A. Puram, Chennai 600 028
(044) 24956373
www.v-excel.org

Other locations in Chennai

50 Sreyes
M.G. Road, Shastri Nagar
Chennai 600 041
(044) 24522061

90 Luz Church Road
Mylapore
Chennai 600 004
(044) 24983638

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