

DR DATHU RAO MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST



ANNUAL REPORT 2017 – 2018

“PATHWAY” Centre For Rehabilitation & Education of Intellectual Disabled
&
“PATHWAY VOCATIONAL CENTRE”

E-76/1, 12th West Street, Kamaraj Nagar, Thiruvannamipur, Chennai – 600 041

Tel : 2448 3949 Tele Fax : 2448 8366

"HAVE THE POOR HELP THE POOR"



Pathway began in 1975 with just two children in a small, rented house in Chennai, India.

A D S N Prasad, an Audiologist and Speech Pathologist, sought to fill the void existing in the care and rehabilitation of mentally retarded children.

From these humble beginnings grew an organization that has served almost 31,700 children and adults in two city centers and a rural agricultural farm.

Prasad guides Pathway with the belief that

"EVERY INDIVIDUAL SHOULD BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO UTILIZE THEIR POTENTIAL IN ORDER TO LIVE WITH DIGNITY AND SELF-RESPECT, REGARDLESS OF MENTAL OR PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS."

Pathway is a voluntary, charitable, nonprofit and non - governmental organization which serves children and adults without any bias to religion, caste, creed, or any other consideration.



ORGANIZATION – GOVERNANCE

Pathway has a clearly defined Memorandum and Articles of Association which directs the working of the organisation. This society has a distinguished Board of Trustees

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MRS. SUDHA SUBRAMANIAM
PRESIDENT – *RESIGNED*

MRS. DHULI PATNAIK
PRESIDENT

MRS. CHANDRA PRASAD
GENERAL SECRETARY

MR. A. RAMAR
TREASURER

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Mr. Y. V. R. Rao
Mr. Shanth K Jain
Mrs Usha Rammohan

GENERAL BODY MEMBERS

Dr. Pradhan Ravindranath
Mr. Rajesh Ramana

AUDITOR

Sridhar Krishnamurthy & Associates



Pathway is run under the auspices of Dr. Dathu Rao Memorial Charitable Trust a Registered Society under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act.

❖ Recognized by the office of the Commissioner for the Differently Abled, Government of Tamil Nadu (Department of Differently Abled Welfare).

The organization receives an annual grant-in-aid from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.

The organization receives grant in aid from the office of Commissioner for the Differently Abled, Government of Tamil Nadu (Department of Differently Abled Welfare) for the project “Pathway -Sabin Home for persons with Mental Retardation and Associated Conditions”

Pathway is monitored and audited yearly by independent parties to ensure proper implementation of all finances and governance.

RECOGNITION AND GRANT-IN-AID

- ❖ Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India
- ❖ Office of the State Commissioner for the Differently Abled, Government of TN
- ❖ Department of Social Welfare as a recognized Orphanage.

REGISTRATION AND PERMISSION

- ❖ Director of Exemptions, Dept. of Income Tax, Govt. of India, Nungambakkam, Chennai U/S 80G of the Income Tax Act.
- ❖ Ministry of Home Affairs under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, Government of India, New Delhi
- ❖ Registered with The National Trust for Autism, under section 12(4) of the Act for the welfare of persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Multiple Disabilities and Mental Retardation, Government of India, New Delhi
- ❖ Registered under Section 53 of Justice Juvenile Act, 2015, Dept of Social Defence, Govt of TN
- ❖ Registered under Section 34(3) of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000, amended in 2006 and rules therein., The State Govt/Director of Social Welfare-Child Welfare .
- ❖ Registrar of Societies (South), Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Chennai
- ❖ Registered with Department of Social welfare, Govt of Tamil Nadu under Orphanages and other Charitable homes supervision and control act 1960

- ❖ Registered with Department of Social Welfare, govt. of Tamil Nadu under section 51(2) of the Rights of the Persons with Disability Act, 2016
- ❖ Registered under TamilNadu Recognized Private Schools (Regulations) Act, 1973 and Rules 1974
- ❖ Registered with Directorate of Matriculation Schools, Govt of Tamil Nadu
- ❖ Registered under NGO-Darpan Portal of NITI AAYOG, Govt of India

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ORGANIZATION BOARD

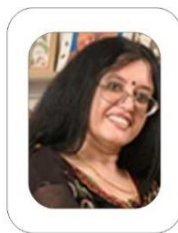
DR DATHU RAO MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST ORGANIZATION - BOARD

The board members meet at least four times a year to transact the business of the organization and meets every year to conduct the Annual General Body meeting to review the work of the organization and resolve various important issues, including: Acceptance and passage of yearly budget

- ❖ Reviews of audit accounts and balance sheet
- ❖ Appointment of auditors and lawyer
- ❖ Election of officers
- ❖ Long- range planning and development goals of the centres
- ❖ Offers general direction in the everyday operation of the organization.



DHULI PATNAIK
PRESIDENT



CHANDRA PRASAD
GEN SECRETARY



M A RAMAR
TREASURER



SHANTH JAIN
TRUSTEE



DR PRADHAN. R
TRUSTEE



Y V R RAO
TRUSTEE



USHA RAMMOHAN
TRUSTEE

PATHWAY

CENTRE FOR
REHABILITATION & EDUCATION
OF THE INTELLECTUAL DISABLED
&
PATHWAY VOCATIONAL
CENTRE



FROM THE HON. DIRECTOR'S DESK



As we welcome the New Year, we are indeed grateful for the many blessings we have received. This year saw new challenges in form of dengue which left a trail of disaster not just for us but the entire Tamil Nadu state which had been affected. Infections and injuries, measles and chickenpox and other skin problems were the biggest issues we were confronted with along with increase of snakes, scorpions etc during this period. We also face the monkey menace. It was heartening to realise that during this turbulent period we led a charmed life since all the kids, and staff at all the facilities were unharmed. We are grateful to have been blessed with courage, strength, and above all with mercy of God to overcome these daunting challenges.

We are indeed very grateful to Sabin Foundation, A Brighter Path, Judge William Sheffield, Mr and Mrs William P Benac and Mr John-Luc Butel who came forward to help during these challenging times for basic needs of the staff and children. The staff has pledged to intensify their efforts and serve more of His children with renewed zeal and enthusiasm. As member of the editorial board, I earnestly hope that you enjoy reading this annual report.

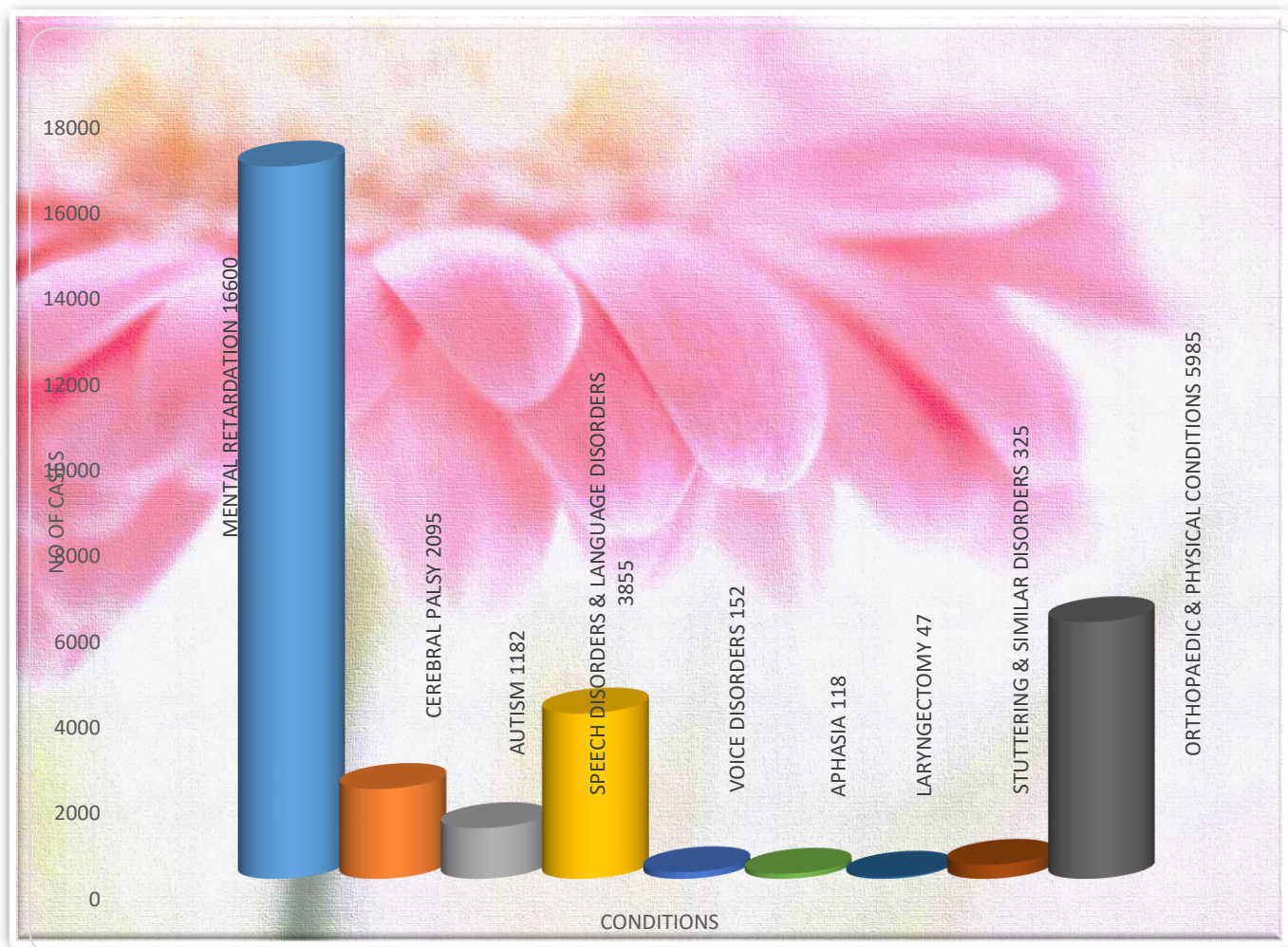
This year too we had visits from some very wonderful well wishers like Mr William Benac, Judge Sheffield, Mrs & Mr Michael Ang, Mr Tim Fewkes and family, Mr Spencer Plumb, Mr Daniel Haslam, students and faculty from Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech and Hearing Disabilities, from Odisha.

It is also our desire to magnify our endeavor to serve many more “poorest of the poor” through our outreach program in remote villages. We believe that every child is special and has been especially sent to us to be served. At this marvelous time I convey our continued gratitude to all our partners and benefactors and pray for their continued love, munificence, and association.

PATHWAY CENTRE FOR REHABILITATION & EDUCATION OF THE MENTALLY RETARDED CHENNAI



CONDITION	NO. OF CASES
MENTAL RETARDATION	16600
CEREBRAL PALSY	2095
AUTISM	1182
SPEECH DISORDERS & LANGUAGE DISORDERS	3855
VOICE DISORDERS	152
APHASIA	118
LARYNGECTOMY	47
STUTTERING & SIMILAR DISORDERS	325
ORTHOPAEDIC & PHYSICAL CONDITIONS	5985



**PATHWAY'S TEAM OF
SPECIALISTS INCLUDES**

**SPEECH PATHOLOGIST
AND AUDIOLOGIST
CON.PSYCHIATRIST
SURGEON
YOGA INSTRUCTOR
PSYCHOLOGIST
CREATIVE DRAMA AND
ART THERAPIST
PEDIATRICIAN
PHYSIOTHERAPIST
OCCUPATIONAL
THERAPIST
SPECIAL EDUCATORS
DENTISTS
NUTRITIONIST
VOCATIONAL
INSTRUCTOR
CON. NEUROLOGIST
PHYSICIANS etc**



Examples of successfully rehabilitated and integrated patients:

- ❖ Nearly 50% of children with Cerebral Palsy
- ❖ Almost 90% of children with speech and learning disabilities Includes language and voice disorders, stuttering, and others
- ❖ Adults with CVA or stroke with Hemiplegia and Aphasia
- ❖ Adults with Carcinoma Larynx 90% are accomplished esophageal speakers



The Intellectual Disabled pose a unique challenge toward rehabilitation, as cultural biases in India shun those with retardation, and jobs are scarce. The Indian government in 1977 had reserved jobs for the Disabled but had included only three categories like locomotor disability, blind and deaf. This continued for about 18 years. In 1995, reservation was extended to all categories and the definition of disability now was expanded to include people with low vision, hearing impaired and leprosy cured. The number of disabilities had risen to seven. It was only in 2016, the government introduced a bill increasing the number of disabilities from 7 to 21. After enactment in 2017 the government has worked out the specifics in January 2018. The reservation from 3% has now risen to 4% for jobs for the disabled.

Pathway has continued to successfully place many rehabilitated children and adults in workshops and small businesses and provides employment within its own centers.

More than 16,475 mentally retarded children served by Pathway

- ❖ 50% are considered “trainable”
- ❖ 35% have been placed in sheltered workshops and small businesses
- ❖ 10-15% are profoundly retarded

This unit caters to all disabled children regardless of their abilities and limitations. Each child is properly and comprehensively assessed with special educational tools. Base line scores are established for progress measurement. Parameters include:

- ❖ Intelligence
- ❖ Level of performance
- ❖ Specific behavioral problems



❖ Social integration

Data is used to formulate individual educational needs and programs. Once children have been thoroughly tested, they are classified according to degree of disability, and placed in the appropriate educational course for optimal rehabilitation.

CHILD ASSESSMENT CLASSIFICATIONS	SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASSES
PROFOUND	ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING I
SEVERE	ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING II
MODERATE	TRAINABLE GROUP I
MILD	TRAINABLE GROUP II
BORDERLINE	EDUCABLE-TRAINABLE GROUP I
	EDUCABLE-TRAINABLE GROUP II
	EDUCABLE GROUP I
	EDUCABLE GROUP II
	PRE-VOCATIONAL GROUP
	VOCATIONAL TRAINING

HOMEBOUND PROGRAM

In addition to comprehensive care at its centers, Pathway has developed an outreach program that enables a child's therapy to continue at home. This unique program was created to address the following needs:

- ❖ Pathway attracts many children from different parts of India
- ❖ These children need a place to live while receiving treatment at Pathway.
- ❖ No facility in India has the means or capacity to house every child in its care.

How it works:

- ❖ A parent or family representative is trained by a rehabilitation expert at the center with specific therapies for their child
- ❖ The parent give treatment to the child in their home
- ❖ The child must visit a Pathway center once every three months to be examined and monitored by an expert

Benefits:

- ❖ The family becomes involved in the child's care
- ❖ Family members attain a high level of proficiency in therapeutic treatment
- ❖ Housing costs are reduced for both the families and Pathway
- ❖ More children throughout India can be treated by Pathway professionals
- ❖ In 2017-2018 a total of 55 children participated in the Homebound Program



SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME SUPPORTED BY CHILDREN'S CARE EMMAUS

It has been a great blessing that Pathway has been continuously receiving support from Children's Care Emmaus, Berne. Currently 20 children are being sponsored by the esteemed organization. All the children are disabled. While some of them are destitute, the others are below poverty level.

VOCATIONAL JOB TRAINING & PLACEMENT

One of the key factors in helping people build self-esteem and self-sufficiency is having a job and earning an income. Pathway recognizes the unique challenges of training mentally and physically disabled children and adults with skills that will qualify them for some type of rudimentary employment. As such, they have developed a comprehensive vocational program that includes several levels of training and development, as well as internal income-generating activities and outside job placement.

Pre-vocational training includes utilizing teaching aids developed by the Pathway vocational staff, as no standardized tools exist in the ready market. These aids are specially designed to meet specific learning disabilities, determined by extensive testing and evaluation of each child.

All children above age 14 are evaluated for trainability, and taught key values necessary for successful integration and job placement:

TIME MANAGEMENT

HYGIENE

SOCIAL INTERACTION

RESPONSIBILITY

AGE-APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

HEALTHY SENSE OF COMPETITION

CLEANLINESS –PERSONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL

Pathway also requires each child to contribute to the cleaning and maintenance of each center. It is the goal of the organization to replace as many “normal” workers with the disabled in various household functions. These activities provide “on the job” training for many children. Additionally, the pre-Vocational Training methodology takes into consideration several aspects of a given task, such as:

TYPE OF JOB

PHYSICAL ENERGIES REQUIRED FOR A SPECIFIC JOB

MASTERING A PARTICULAR SKILL



TYPE OF VOCATION	NO. OF TRAINEES
WEAVING 1	10
GREETING CARD: HANDMADE	8
JEWELLERY MAKING /PAPER MACHE	16

SPECIAL ARTIFACTS WITH BEADS	15
BAKING	8
MAKING OF PRESENTATION ITEMS	10
GARDENING	12
SELLING VARIOUS PRODUCE	4
PACKAGING	2
CANDLE MAKING	6
CLEANING & BOOK BINDING	5

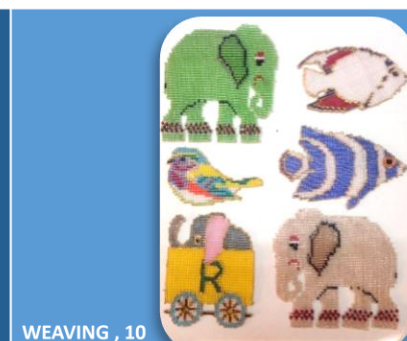
NO. OF TRAINEES



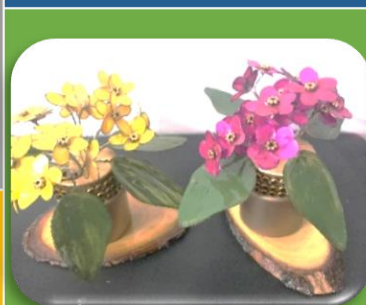
JEWELLERY MAKING / PAPER MACHE, 16



GARDENING , 12



WEAVING , 10



MAKING OF PRESENTATION ITEMS , 10



BAKING, 8



CANDLE MAKING , 6



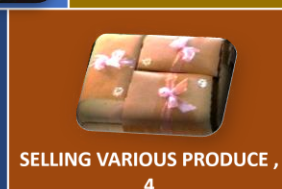
SPECIAL ARTIFACT WITH BEADS , 15



GREETING CARD: HANDMADE , 8



CLEANING & BOOK BINDING, 5



SELLING VARIOUS PRODUCE , 4



PACKAGING , 2

RIOT OF COLORS

It grows steadily darker outside the school, the classrooms having been vacated long since. As the silence stretches, the fevicol bottle sits in one corner of the empty room, amidst some papers and files, feeling lonely and very sorry for itself. 'The world is a dark and unfair place', it muses. 'People are quick to recognize and appreciate the surface, but no one thinks about what's beneath. I'm the one who binds and holds everything together, yet every material except for me is acknowledged, be it the newspaper that goes into making a clutch or the shining beads and glitter that decorate everything. Yet, people forget to remember me', sighs the fevicol, now having worked itself into a frenzy. A tear slowly rolls down its cheek and makes its descent downwards, forming a small drop on the desk, as the fevicol settles into yet another long night. The sun rises, giving way to a lovely morning, bringing the excited chatter of kids along with it. 'Ma'am! Ma'am! Look at this! It's so pretty! ', one of the students exclaims, pointing to the drop of fevicol, which had dried into a pearly, translucent blob.



'We can make so many shapes with this material, can't we? ', another student pipes up and soon they are all busy, starting with designing simple leaves and carefully balancing them on wires. Leaving these overnight to dry, the children return the next morning, to find perfectly lovely, translucent leaves. 'We should definitely paint these ma'am! ', a student suggests and a discussion ensues on what paint to use. 'Why don't we use Poster colours? ', one student proposes but the rest of the class boos the idea. 'Hey! What about nail polish?', the fashionista of the class speaks up and is cheered, as they start painting with the nail polish, resulting in some glossy leaves. 'Hey, if the leaves look this pretty, imagine how beautiful flowers would look! ', one student says, ideas blossoming like flowers indeed in the classroom. The fevicol is shaped into unique, lovely flowers and a dash of hues are used to paint the same, resulting in bunches and bunches of delightful flowers and leaves. The excitement is palpable, when suddenly a student screams, 'Ouch! The wire poked my finger! ' and the teacher says 'Oh we can't have that! We need to seal the wires with plastic tubes, so that these don't hurt anyone's fingers'. The students get busy with that and now, they have pretty little bouquets of flowers with them. 'But ma'am, where can we put these? ', one student questions. This time, the class artist speaks up, 'well, since my precious poster colours were booed, maybe my poster color bottles will be of some use here! ' Sure enough, the rows of empty poster color bottles are quickly raided and spray painted with golden hues and decorated with sparkly stones. Once the flowers are placed carefully in their stands and varnished, the incredible sight has the students laughing and cheering ecstatically, as the teachers look on with pride and joy. But no one, no one in the entire room, could be happier than the little fevicol bottle, the centre of attraction, sitting quietly and feeling significant and gratified.



THE WORLD YOGA DAY



Yoga is a 5,000-year-old physical, mental and spiritual practice Having its origin in India, Which Aims to transform both body and mind. On December 11 in 2014, the United Nations General Assembly declared June 21st as the International Day of Yoga. The declaration came after the call for the adoption of June 21st as International Day of Yoga by Hon'ble Indian Prime



Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi during his address to UN General Assembly on September 27, 2014 wherein he stated: "Yoga is an invaluable gift of India's ancient tradition . It embodies unity of mind and body; thought and action; restraint and fulfillment; harmony between man and nature; a holistic approach to health and well-being. It is not about exercise but to discover the sense of oneness with yourself, the world and the nature. " In Suggesting June 21, which is the Summer Solstice, as the International Day of Yoga, Mr. Narendra Modi had said that, "the date is the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and has special significance in many parts of the world.

Regarding the above logo for yoga it denotes that -

- Folding of both hands in the logo Symbolise Yoga, the union, which reflects the union of individual Consciousness with that of universal Consciousness, a perfect harmony between mind & body, man & nature; a holistic approach to health & well being.
- The brown leaves symbolise the Earth element, the green leaves symbolise the Nature, blue symbolises the Water element, brightness symbolises the Fire element and the Sun symbolise the source of energy and inspiration.
- The logo reflects harmony and peace for humanity, which is the essence of Yoga.

Understanding the above we at Pathway have embraced the world yoga day celebrations. Across all the centres we have introduced yoga. This was not a new concept to us since it has been a part of our curriculam. The benefits of the same is manifold.

The Myriad Benefits of Yoga are:

- Yoga is very necessary and beneficial for you if it is practiced on a daily basis in the morning. It is a combined workout of the mind and body which enhances your brain functions, reduces stress and rejuvenates your body and soul.



- Yoga is beneficial for the mental, physical and emotional development of children.
- In this world of fierce competition, yoga helps to reduce stress and tension.
- It helps you to gain flexibility, manage stress, improves posture, memory and concentration.
- Apart from these benefits, yoga also helps in flexibility of spine, induces relaxation and strengthens lower back.

Thus on a final note, yoga helps you to achieve the perfect harmony between your mind, body and soul. It drives away all negativity from your system and promotes in the achievement of a healthy and a happy life.

The children were made aware of the relevance of yoga in daily life. Different asanas were demonstrated under the guidance of the trained staff.

The pictures shown give you a glimpse of the different asanas performed by the children and the wonderful concentration with which they exhibited their learning.



ROTARY PARALYMPICS 2017

On 13th august which happened to be a Sunday, a group of 50 children of various age groups who were previously registered along with 8 staff and 6 helpers boarded the buses to enter the venue at Sri Sai Ram Engineering College at Kovur in Chennai. They had assembled around 7.30 in the morning. With loud applause and cheer the remaining students waved the participants and wished them the best.

EVENTS	FIRST PLACE	SECOND PLACE
RUNNING RACE-50MTS		ANITHA
RUNNING RACE-100MTS	VARTHARAJAN, HARISH	DEVI
CRICKET BALL THROW-SOFT BALL		MAHESH
CRICKET BALL THROW		
FROG RACE	MARIA	JOSEPH

There were three categories the children were divided into-namely- Mentally challenged, cerebral palsy and the



learning disabled. The further classification was based on age groups of 6-10 years, 11-14 years and 15-18 years. The children participated in the following events- Running race-50 mts, Running Race-100 mts, Frog race, Cricket ball throe-soft ball and



Cricket ball throw. The prize winners for the above event have been tabulated in the below table who along with certificates were also given gifts as prizes.

The entire group force were treated to sumptuous breakfast followed with lunch and every participant and staff member were honoured with small gifts



INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

The **Independence Day of India**, which is celebrated religiously throughout the Country on the 15th of August every year, holds tremendous ground in the list of national days, since it reminds every Indian about the dawn of a new beginning, the beginning of an era of deliverance from the clutches of British colonialism of more than 200 years. It was on 15th August 1947 that India was declared independent from British colonialism, and the reins of control were handed over to the leaders of the Country. India's gaining of independence was a tryst with destiny, as the struggle for freedom was a long and tiresome one, witnessing the sacrifices of many freedom fighters, who laid down their lives on the line.



It is observed every year in every Indian states and union territories with great enthusiasm. President of India gives a speech every year in order to “Address to the Nation” on the evening of a day before the Independence Day. It is celebrated with big passion in the Capital of country on 15th of August where the prime minister of India hoists the Indian flag on the Red Fort, Delhi. After the flag hoisting, National Anthem song is sung and twenty-one gun shots are fired to salute and honour the Indian flag and solemn occasion.

Delhi police is working hard to ensure incident-free Independence Day celebration at Red Fort. It is for the first time when 300 cameras (360 degree view with night vision) are getting installed at the Red Fort for the close surveillance purpose of every nook and corner near to the celebration point. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has invoked the Quit India Movement again (after Mahatma Gandhi) in order to encourage countrymen to use the same spirit to expel problems like corruption, communalism, terrorism, casteism, poverty, as well as dirt forever from the country by 2022. He requested people to take a pledge to throw these evil from root out of the country and create a “New India”.

A big celebration event is organized by the government of India at the Rajpath, India Gate in the National Capital, New Delhi where people of all religion, culture and tradition gather to listen the patriotic speech of our Prime Minister. By celebrating this event we commemorate those all great people who had sacrificed their lives and loved ones in making India an Independent country.

Flag hoisting, National Anthem song play and parade ceremonies including other cultural programmes takes place in almost all the governmental and non-governmental institutions, educational institutions, some of the private institutions all through the country. In the schools and colleges the national flag is hoisted by the school or college Principal and parade and cultural events are carried out by the students. At this day, government



offices, buildings, etc gets adorned with the electric lights, flowers and other decorative things. Different sizes of the national flags are used by the people to symbolize faithfulness and commitment to the country.

The guest invited by India for her Independence day this year was the Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan from United Arab Emirates.

At our Pathway centre the staff and the children were busy right from 6 am, Every child showed his /her keenness to give their best performance. Excitement feverishness had already paved its way. The past few months practice was going to be tested today. They were to demonstrated their new found learning in the form of a dance, drill, drama, and skit children were ready to present colourful programmes based on India's independence.

The co curricular activity in the special classes had submitted their skill by making tri colour bands using the appropriate ribbons to design our National Flag. The badges designed by them were given to students, staff and directors were equally worn with pride by the proud wearers of the same.

The children were raring to go and perform. The principal Mrs Jeyseeli took charge. Her one whistle brought every child to form a line and assemble near the flag mast area. They stood in attention waiting for her next order.

Our President Mrs Dhuli Patnaik was requested to unfurl the national flag. She and the General Secretary along with the Treasurer moved to the centre stage to do the honors. With rapt attention, every soul standing there watched with the greatest pride. The unfurling of the flag showered down the soft fresh petals of marigold, jasmine and ofcourse the rose. The gentle breeze spiraled the florets and petals gently down to the ground was a lovely sight to watch. The flag by right seemed to stand up to its full potential, gently swayed by the breeze, seemed to make a conversation with the bright clear blue sky. The bright blue sky with the flag trying to The assembled group sang the national anthem in unison. The unison and the emotion brings out the patriotism in every assembled person. By the time the national anthem ended the last of petal had rested on the ground causing a kaleidoscope of colors covering the earth.

The dignitaries took their seat to watch the kids performance. It started with a drill and followed by a dance presented by 6 children. The theme chosen this year was a popular song sung by Alisha known as Made in India. This song professes to say that though we have seen the entire world, its richness and poverty all I want is a heart which is made in India. Its interesting beat made everyone clap for more. This was followed by a drama depicting the freedom fighters. This was well presented by the children, choreographed by the special educators and others of Pathway. Children dressed as Mahatama Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Bhartiyar, and Kappalottiya Tamilzhan and other great



patriots. The narration of the same was beautifully executed by Harish.. The event came to close with distribution of sweets and special lunch for the day.

The trust board members immediately then drove down to the agro farm to oversee the celebrations at the farm.



The Independence day celebration at the Pathway Agro Farm for Children was a highly colourful feat this season. The grand display of talent were eye catching and awesome by the children of the Pathway-Pamela Martinez Matriculation School and adolescents of the Pathway-Sabin Centre for Education and Rehabilitation of Disabled. Over 200 children of the Pamela Martinez Matriculation School were seen to be rehearsing for this big day for almost a fortnight. They had prepared a long programme of nearly three hours

to be presented on the eve of the Independence Day. Similarly, boys of the Sabin Centre were also seen to be practising many programmes which they were planning to showcase on the D Day.

The Independence day celebration were planned fairly elaborately in the grounds of the school where a special flag mast is permanently installed. It is the rule of the organization that every day as all the children assemble for their morning assembly and morning prayers there should be hoisting of our national flag with the singing of national anthem; this was done to inject a sense of ownership and patriotism amongst the children right from the beginning of their lives.

On this special day the flag mast was well decorated with colourful paper and the entire area was decorated with colourful buntings and tiny flags. The area around the mast had ornamental variety plants and a tastefully decorated rangoli by the girl children added beauty to the entire background. Every child was found to sporting with a small Indian Flag that was affixed on the lapel of their shirts. All the staff and all invitees were encouraged to affix such flags. The entire show was well very choreographed and organized to the minute detail.

The show started with an impressive march past by nearly 230 children comprising of able and disabled children of the Farm. They marched with precision driven by a rhythmic band that was played by two senior boys. Even our youngest kindergarten children were a part of this march past. All the children in their neatly pressed clothes and neat footwear marched perfectly and went past the saluting base and the Flag mast where the Director was present with the principal to take the salute. Each class lead by its leader marched past the saluting base in perfection saluting the flag with reverence. The march past culminated in orderly assembly of all children in their slots and with this the day was set to unfurl the national flag. The Director was requested to unfurl the tri-colour by the principal and the leader of the school. As the flag was unfurled there was copious sprinkling of petals of roses, jasmines and various flowers



This signalled the singing of national anthem which was rendered with great poise and decorum.

The children of the Pamela Martinez Matriculation School and Orphanage



presented a huge variety of programmes consisting of drill which also had elements of yoga asanas, using hoops to emphasize the colours of our national flag. The boys showcased their talent using dumbbells and topping it with a pyramid show where the inner most circle of this human chain moved in a beautiful circular formation and the apex of the human pyramid depicting the national flag with a salute. Similar more different formations were displayed by the boys of various classes. The girls not willing to remain behind showed their prowess too in the separate drills they performed like a human pyramid taking the salute under their guidance of their teacher and guide- Ms Gunasundari. the exercises also involved using of lazems.

This was followed by a speech in Tamil by Haripriya of V standard, a Tamil poem explaining “before and after freedom” of India by Priya of Xth grade. A speech in English by S Archana of tenth grade and a description of our national leaders and their role in Independence was outlined by A Srimathi of VII standard. A fancy dress, that is, children dressed up like national leaders who were responsible to gain independence to our country was displayed by our very tiny tots which definitely brought a thunderous applause from their school mates and all others present. This was followed by a mime which was truly executed well by the senior boys depicting the theme- UNITY IN DIVERSITY The entire show was full of great educational value and truly delightful. The songs and dances presented by the children were particularly spectacular and grand. The tiny tots dance to the tune of –“ I LOVE MY INDIA”. IV and III std children performed a dance to the lyrics of a patriotic song penned down by Bharathiyar and finally the VIII and IX std children sang “ Vande Mataram “ to everybody’s delight.

The children with special needs from the Sabin Centre for Education and Rehabilitation of Disabled did not lag behind in any sphere. Apart from being a part of the main marchpast they also showcased highly enjoyable and loveable programmes comprising of songs and dances with the theme of independence. They also performed the different yoga postures and their benefits which drew great amount of appreciation. This three hour grand programme ended with a closing message by the Director followed by distribution of chocolates, pastries and a sumptuous lunch.



ANNAI THERESA 107TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

“I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things.”
— Mother Teresa

Last year we had been to celebrate Mother Theresa’s birthday when 25 participants from Chennai centre were their guests and they had the honor of witnessing some dance and drama events performed by prominent personalities from the cinema field. They were entertained for a good two hour period and then escorted for dinner. The children came home armed with gifts.





This celebration was slightly different in the month of September dated 1st when we were invited for the birthday celebrations of the legendary Mother Teresa (1910–1997) who was a Roman Catholic nun who devoted her life to serving the poor and destitute around the world. She spent many years in Calcutta, India where she founded the Missionaries of Charity, a religious congregation devoted to helping those in great need. In 1979, Mother Teresa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize and became



a symbol of charitable, selfless work. In 2016, Mother Teresa was canonized by the Roman Catholic Church as Saint Teresa.

The Hon. Director/Gen. Secretary of Pathway – Chandra Prasad was honored at the 107th birthday anniversary of Mother Teresa held at Raja Annamalai Mandram on the first of September. She received this award from Justice S Rajeswaran and Justice M V Muralidharan of Madras High Court. The children who had accompanied her were thrilled and happy. Seeing them so happy I remember Mother Teresa's quote saying—

I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.

Mother Teresa

SWATCH BHARAT

Swachh Bharat Mission or Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is a campaign run by the government of India as a massive mass movement to initiate the theme of cleanliness all through the India. This campaign was launched in seeking the way to create a Clean India target by 2019, 2nd of October means 150th birthday anniversary of the Mahatma Gandhi. The father of nation, Mahatma Gandhi was dreamed to make India a clean India and always put his hard efforts towards swachhta in India. This is the reason, why Swachh Bharat Abhiyan was launched on 2nd of October (the birthday of the Mahatma Gandhi). To complete the vision of the father of the nation, Indian government has decided to launch this campaign.

The aim of the mission is to cover all the rural and urban areas of the country to present this country as an ideal country before the world.





The mission has targeted aims like eliminating the open defecation, converting insanitary toilets into pour flush toilets, eradicating manual scavenging, complete disposal and reuse of solid and liquid wastes, bringing behavioural changes to people and motivate health practices, spreading cleanliness awareness among people, strengthening the cleanliness systems in the urban and rural areas as well as creating user friendly environment for all private sectors interested for investing in India for cleanliness maintenance.

This mission has an interesting theme of inviting nine new people by each and every involved people in the campaign and continuing this chain until the each and every citizen of India gets involved in this campaign. Pathway has always believed in cleanliness and has tried to inculcate this habit among the children from all ages. We make it a point to take a pledge every year to continue this great work.

TEACHERS DAY

Teachers Day holds immense importance for every individual throughout the country. Teachers impart knowledge and motivate the students in the right direction, enlighten them and create responsible citizens and good human beings. They are the cornerstone of our future. Teachers Day is an occasion to pay reverence to the teachers and convey them that they hold special respect in our hearts. Celebrating Teachers Day is acknowledged by UNESCO and fairly popular in several countries across the globe.



Students look forward to Teacher's day with great enthusiasm and zeal due to the sheer spirit of the occasion. On this



day students realize what it means to be a teacher and what responsibilities a teacher bears when it means to control the future of several students. Teachers on this day are reminded of their school days when they were at the student's desk and feel nostalgic. It is an equally

special day for them. They get to know how much they are liked and appreciated by the students. Teachers Day is another way to provide encouragement and support to the teachers to make them feel their devotion towards students is appreciated. The celebration is enjoyed by both students and teachers with great zeal and enthusiasm. Some schools also reward the teachers for their priceless efforts towards the student's betterment. All of us have been students someday and have benefitted from our teachers. Celebration of teacher's day is a wonderful opportunity to show our gratitude to our teachers. Apart from the fun-filled activities Teachers Day is also to remember and get inspired by Dr. Radhakrishnan, who showed immense love for the teaching position.

5th September is the birth anniversary of a great teacher Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, who was a staunch believer of education, and was a well-known diplomat, scholar, the President of India and above all, a teacher.

When some of his students and friends approached him and requested him to allow them to celebrate his birthday, he said, “instead of celebrating my birthday separately, it would be my proud privilege, if 5th September is observed as Teachers’ day”. From then onwards, the 5th of September has been observed as Teachers Day, in India.

In all the centres this event has been given importance and the day has been celebrated by children honouring their teachers. A fun event filled with games, skits and cultural events conducted by both the groups mark the occasion. Children are absolutely delighted to see their educators enjoy their hospitality for a change.



DENGUE: CAUSES, SYMPTOMS & PREVENTION



Dengue is caused by the bite of one of the many types of mosquitoes in the genus *Aedes Aegypti*, which has white stripes on their bodies and legs. It is caused when the mosquito has previously bitten a person who was infected. The pathway which is followed in case of the incidence of dengue is 'infected person to mosquito to another person'.



The mosquito-borne viral disease dengue has become one of the worst nightmares of the country. Also called 'breakbone fever' or 'dandy fever', it is caused by a family of viruses and is transmitted via *aedes* mosquitoes. Dengue begins suddenly, with more benign symptoms at first but which may get severe with time. The symptoms of the disease show in three to seven, and sometimes fifteen, days. They include fever, headache, joint and muscle pain, swollen lymph nodes and rashes. Recovery from dengue does not take over a week unless the condition gets severe. Mostly asymptomatic, if the condition gets critical, dengue can be life-threatening. The fever of dengue can attack anyone but those with weaker immunity are more prone to the disease getting severe when they are attacked. As it is caused by any of the five serotypes of the *aedes aegypti*, also called the yellow fever mosquito, dengue can happen multiple times to the same person. However, the person acquires immunity to the particular viral serotype which has already attacked him. A more severe form of dengue is dengue hemorrhagic fever. The symptoms of dengue hemorrhagic fever include headache, rashes and fever besides bleeding in the body (haemorrhage), formation of red splotches on the skin, black coloured stool, bleeding in gums or nose and a weakened immunity. Dengue hemorrhagic fever is life threatening and can lead to dengue shock syndrome, which is as severe and fatal.

Hearing about this dreaded condition we at Pathway immediately set out on war footing. Basically everybody was educated on the type of mosquito which cause this deadly viral infection which when not treated could lead to death. The dengue mosquito (dengue Machar) *Aedes aegypti* is one of the only few type of mosquitoes that spread dengue disease. *Aedes* mosquitoes are visually distinctive because they have noticeable black and white markings on their body and legs. Unlike most other mosquitoes, they are



active and bite only during the daytime. The peak biting periods are early in the morning and in the evening before dusk.

Aedes aegypti have a complex life-cycle with dramatic

changes in shape, function, and habitat. Female mosquitoes lay their eggs on the inner, wet walls of containers with water.

Every adult staff was briefed to report any warning signs of children like –

- Refusing to accept oral fluids or vomiting
- Sleepy or restless
- Bleeding of the nose and gums, especially gastro-intestinal bleeding with fresh or old blood in the vomit or stool. Old blood in the vomit looks like ground coffee ground; in the stool may be black like coal tar.
- Abdominal pain
- Skin mottling, cold sweating skin or cold hands and feet.
- Absence of urine in the last 6 hours

They were also informed about the basic treatment though there is no specific treatment like most viral infections, , only simple supportive care with fluids. No antibiotics are needed to treat this viral infection.



They were advised to Bring the temperature down since a very high temperature can be dangerous and can

DENGUE CASES AND DEATHS: 5 WORST AFFECTED STATES IN 2017

	2014		2015		2016		2017	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Kerala	2575	11	4075	25	7439	13	18,727	35
Karnataka	3358	2	5077	9	6083	8	13,016	5
Tamil Nadu	2804	3	4535	12	2531	5	11,552	18*
West Bengal	3934	4	8516	14	22,865	45	5389	13
Delhi	995	3	15,867	60	4431	10	4545	1

*Data available with the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) till 8 October, 2017. However, the Tamil Nadu state health department has confirmed that 80 have died since January.

cause fits in young children known as febrile convulsions. To bring down high fever to below 39 deg C, gently sponge the child with cloth soaked in water and give paracetamol was suggested.. Avoid certain drugs, for example, aspirin, NSAIDs (not steroidal inflammatory drugs such as ibuprofen) which can worsen platelet problems and also cause gastritis leading to bleeds.

The mainstay of treatment is timely supportive therapy with fluids, oral or Intravenous route. Shock can be detected

clinically by the degree of rise in hemoglobin as the fluid leaks into body spaces. Increased oral fluid intake is recommended. Always use oral fluids if one is able to drink. Supplementation with intravenous fluids may be necessary if the patient is unable to maintain oral intake and / or is in shock.



Close monitoring in this critical period is crucial. Blood products will be needed only if the patient is bleeding, usual site of bleed is the gut.

Our doctors were consulted and they all agreed that tests of platelets, hemoglobin, coagulation profile, liver enzymes. and some specific tests to detect Dengue can be taken for safety reasons.

Every member of Pathway was educated on keeping their environment clean, any open storage of water was discouraged. We also took upon ourselves to install steel mosquito meshes throughout all the centres to avoid any casualty.

We are proud to report

that except for high temperatures that we witnessed in many children, we were able to contain this dreaded viral infection and apart from a few staff who needed hospitalization everybody scathed out without any serious damage. Keeping our childrens health priority we also got the government to fumigate our centres along with educating our kids through skits, talks and animation clips. Our children were also educated on identifying this mosquito by way of pictures and models. During this season light color clothes with full sleeves was one more precaution taken. Early diagnosis Early treatment with fluids and Close monitoring became our motto.



CHILDRENS DAY CELEBERATION

Children are like buds in a garden and should be carefully and lovingly nurtured, as they are the future of the nation and citizens of tomorrow ----- Jawaharlal Nehru



Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was a great person, leader, politician, writer and speaker. He loved children so much and was a great friend of the poor people. He always understood himself as the true servant of the people of India. He worked hard all through the day and night for making this country a successful country. He became the first Prime Minister of the Independent India and thus called as the architect of modern India. In India, many people born great and Chacha Nehru was one of them. He was the person having great vision, honesty, hard labour, sincerity, patriotism and intellectual powers.

He was the giver of a famous slogan as “Aram Haram Hai.” He became the first chairman of the National Planning Commission and two years later he started a National Development Council in order to improve the living standard of the Indian people to make better quality of life. The first Five Year Plan was launched and implemented in 1951 under his guidance. He was very fond of the children so has created many ways for the growth and development of them. Later Children’s Day



was declared by the Indian government to be celebrated every year for the wellness of the children on his birthday anniversary. Currently, another programme named Bal Swachhta Abhiyan has been launched by the Indian government to be celebrated on his birthday anniversary. He always gave the priority to the improvement of the untouchables, people of weaker sections of society, right of women and children welfare. “Panchayati Raj” system was launched throughout the country in order to take great step in the right direction for the welfare of the Indian people. He publicized the “Panch Sheel” system in order to maintain the international peace and harmony with India and made India as one of the leading countries of the world. The children at the main centre

enjoy every bit of opportunity given to them. They took charge this time and decided to surprise their educators.

The pre vocation and vocational group children pooled their resources and bought balloons and festoons to decorate their school. Childrens day paper caps were distributed to all. They requested finally their teachers and other peer group to witness a small programme. Childrens day paper caps were distributed to all. They requested finally their teachers and other peer group to witness a small programme organized by them this included a dance, skit and a drama. Choosing our late prime ministers favourite flower rose they showed their love for him by handing it to every staff. Dance group was led by Maria Priya, Madhavan and . Leander chose to play the role of chacha Nehru and Mani played the role of this favourite flower the rose. There was also a drawing competition along with musical chair



event After the end of session, prizes were distributed and the entire group was given snacks and sweets along with a gift which they cherished.

It was time for fun and frolic, a day of celebration, as the staff and children of Pamela Martinez School and the Sabin centre prepared for Children's Day, a day to remember Jawaharlal Nehru, free India's first prime minister, with love and fondness. The excitement grew as the enthusiastic children all assembled to celebrate the event. Ably led by principal Annadurai and a team of dedicated teachers, great treats were prepared for the children. The faces of the tiny tots from kindergarten beamed as they saw their favourite snacks dangling before their eyes. The favourite snack was tied with a thread and the winner would be the one who could eat the entire piece of the treat.. loud cheering and claps urged the tiny tots to give their best shot. The next game was the balloon game game where the contestant had to blow them till they burst and variation of the game was to sit on the blown balloon till it bursts. A mix of shyness, curiosity and every other expression was evident on their faces. After the girl babies it was the turn of the boys. Their younger peers watched with amazement the beautiful colors of the balloons blooming into greens, purple, yellow and pink with a dash of white too. There were some surprise extempore too from these tiny tots. The mike seemed to be larger than the speaker. The next interesting activity was standing at a distance and throwing the ball into the basket. The one with the maximum number was the winner.

There was another fun game added to this event. A play activity involving the paper cups where the contestants had to blow the balloon in a paper cup and then the paper cup along with the balloon had to be placed into another paper cup. This process was to go on and the winner would be the one who could make the biggest pile of the papercups in tower formation. The next very interesting activity was pinning or drawing a tail of the donkey drawn on the blackboard being blindfolded. The entire group would break into tingling laughter when their peer fixed the tail other than the correct space.. Some of the kids cheered and some just enjoyed the experience. The girls not to be left behind took part in the same activity. This followed by a group dance Children took part in various games, mime shows, puzzles, painting, and singing. Children from Sabin centre - Srinivasan and Zahir presented a short but sweet play. At the end of the day the children appeared to be exhausted from their activities while thoroughly enjoying their cakes and traditional Indian sweets. Such childhood delight made the adults realize that children are indeed precious gems and are divine gifts from above!



25TH ROTARY TALENT COMPETITION

The silver jubilee celebration of this cultural programme was held on 22nd November 2017 along with their co-sponsor "Neeta Memorial Charitable Trust" at Kamarj Hall in Chennai. The main objective of this programme was to discover and promote the hidden talent in children. This would encourage integration and sense of belongingness in them. As per the rules of the event we registered all the participants for different events like- Group Dance, individual or solo Dance, Talent competition, Group and Individual singing and last but not the least the drawing competition. The children were also treated to various entertainments of which the magic show, candy stall stole their heart.

On this day a total of 32 kids along 11 staff members reported at the venue by 8.00 in the morning.



As imagined they were ready before the deadline and waited for their transport service to take them to their destination. The bigger children as per the rules seated the younger kids along with some extra napkins, snacks, and not to forget their First Aid Box. After the initial round of seating arrangement they waited for their instructors and then boarded the buses. Their other peer group cheered them on and wished them with smiles. Its so heartening to see these innocent and pure hearts which bear no shred of selfishness. Everytime we witness this scene my heart and soul get humbled.



The excitement of the bus doors closing brought a twinkle to their eyes and spontaneous music filled the air. Each child was looking forward to the event and wanted to give their best. The buses weaved through the city roads and were in time for the event. It was definitely hard to control the childrens excitement who on seeing the venue were already on their toes to rush out. The staff always has a hard time to rein this excitement but their assuring confidence brings a calming effect and the kids are easier to control. Once out of the buses, the children were escorted by a group of volunteers for a light breakfast and then led into the venue for participation.



Around ten children were led by their special educators Bindhu and Pavithra for group dance. They got busy with their costumes and make up. They were to enact a beautiful folk dance. In the other designated area Sivagami their special educator drew them to the place where Rangoli competition was to be held.

A pinch of rangoli powder is taken using the index finger and thumb. As the rangoli is a coarse powder of special soft white stone, it can flow freely when slowly released from the pinch of index finger and thumb. To make a rangoli on floor, following steps are used –

The surface on which the rangoli is to be drawn is prepared by cleaning it thoroughly. Traditionally, the surface was smeared with cow dung, and after it dried, rangoli was drawn on it at specific locations. In the ancient times it was a practice to daily sweep and sprinkle every doorstep with cow dung and draw rangoli. A design or auspicious symbols or signs are selected for drawing. After the selection, the required numbers of points are created on the floor using the Rangoli. Then these



points are joined with the appropriate design shapes, lines, curves, etc. Lastly, colours are filled in the rangoli as per the design recommendations.

Neelavathi and Bhavani took their group of 8 children for the skit that they had prepared. Sindhuja another special educator collected her group of 4 children to participate in the drawing and painting competition and also the special talent competition. Our solo dance enthusiast- Madhavan could be seen practising his steps for the final call. Some children who had come as helpers to this group of participants helped and aided the staff. Every nook and corner of the venue was bustling with activity. Their concentration and the urge to do their best brought sincere applause from the volunteers and the organising committee. We are proud to announce that Anitha won the first place in Special Talent

DISTRICT LEVEL SPORTS MEET 23.11.2017

The district level sports meet on 23rd November 2017 was conducted in the grounds of St Louis school working with the deaf -mute.

Twenty four children and nine staff members from Pathway participated in all the events with great enthusiasm and excitement. The march past being the first event was the highlight of the show since participants and non participants of all organisations get a chance to walk in perfect march in front of so many dignitaries and their friends and parents alike. This year saw Bharath from Pathway carry the Olympic torch along with three more children. After the march past the signal was flagged for the events to take place. Each staff member with their wards rushed to various areas of the stadium to ensure that they were in time for their event. They won several prizes in individual and group events Keerthana, and Devi were the recipient of first prize in ball throw, Mariya and Bharath bagged the first prize in running long jump category and Harish and Joseph bagged the first category in Running Race. The second prize winners in different events like ball throw, running and standing long jump were bagged by Lokesh, and Beena. The third prize winner was Udayabhaskar in obstacle race. The Special educators took great interest in each child's performance and encouraged them to perform and win. It was indeed a gala event enjoyed by all the children.

They were given a sumptuous lunch and participating parting gifts too. At the end of the events the overall state level sports winners were announced. Pathway is proud to reveal that Mariya and Devi have been selected for the same. We applaud these children who show that courage and determination are the only two words which prove that irrespective of any disability the motto WE CAN is possible. Even the word possible is hidden in impossible. We salute them.

EVENTS	FIRST PLACE	SECOND PLACE	THIRD PLACE
LONG JUMP	MARIYA, BHARATH		
POTATO GATHERING	ANITHA, DEVI		
BALL THROW	DEVI, KEERTHANA	LOKESH	
OBSTACLE RACE			UDAYA BHASKAR
RUNNING RACE	HARISH, JOSEPH	BEENA	

WORLD DAY OF THE DISABLED

December 3rd of every year is celebrated as the World day of the Disabled all over country and the entire world. India at the national level and Tamil Nadu at the state level celebrates this day appropriately honouring the differently abled who excel in various walks of life and honour those who serve the disabled. Pathway joined the festivities in several ways, in participating in the events organized by the state government as well as many organizations, such as Chennai Special Olympics. Sports and various cultural events and competitions marked the occasion. Pathway participated this year by sending a large contingent of 33 children and 9 adults from Pathway Centre, Chennai as well as 30 adults from Sabin Centre, Agili, to partake in the grand march past, sports, dance and musical events. This event was conducted at Anna University. Pathway received special appreciation for its dance depicting a popular folk dance known as dandiya.



They came home receiving a trophy and certificates for the same.





CAKES

Every year during the sports day for the disabled our children not only look forward for the sports event but also to share their bakery skills with the entire state. This year the sports event was to be held in Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram where our Sabin group were to be the participants. Refreshments were to be provided to all the participants along with their guardians. The bakery group at Chennai were eagerly waiting for the order to come their way. Every ring of the telephone alerted the ears of this group. Each one hoping that this would be the special call they were waiting for. Finally as the day dawned closer, we did receive the call. The order was for a whopping 800 pastries to be made and supplied individually in a pack to be distributed to the participants. The children with pride set out to do their work. As usual the group gets to interact with their educators to confirm the quantum of ingredients and the number of trays required to make these numbers.



It is interesting to note that all that is taught during the special education class it comes into test during these periods. Each child tries to outdo the other in work. Its remarkable to watch them work with unity keeping the time frame in mind and not compromising on quality.

Rani and Vani – the twins were incharge of greasing the trays, Poongodi was incharge of cleaning and maintain the bakery area, Tamilmani and Prasanna were to help in buying the ingredients, beena was to do the baking and Maria and Bharath were to help in the sealing unit. Once the job description was given the supervisors made sure of the hygiene, the aprons, the nails, and the head gear. it is normally drilled everyday regarding the cleanliness in the bakery area along with the other precautions.

With a beautiful smile and a happy heart they set out to do what they were allotted to do. The recipes were followed and the batches turned out beautiful spongy, light cake bases. Around



34
trays
were
made
and

then came the most precision job of cutting into perfect pieces. Each piece of cake was sealed lovingly, thus packing a freshness and softness of the cake.

After making sure that the count was right the cakes were transported a 100 kms from here to the sports arena.

The feedback was very positive which added another feather to the bakery group hat.

AN IMPRESSIONABLE NOTE FROM A VISITOR

– as written by Mr Michael Ang from Singapore

On the 7 Dec a Thursday at 3pm, we were privileged to be referred by our good friend Mr Jean-Luc Butel to visit Pathway's Centre for Rehabilitation & Education of the Mentally Retarded and also their Vocational Centre

We were warmly greeted at the centre entrance by Chandra Prasad and Dhuli. The school staff and a few children were also there to greet us.

We were shown the classroom for various age groups. The class room size were kept small ie not more than 10 students which allows the children to focus on the children better. I saw and meet highly disciplined and well mannered children. I am impressed the kids are taught on only subject and content that are only relevant for life skills. They are developing skills that are necessary for communication and being independent. We see very happy, cheerful and enthusiastic children responding to their teachers and ayahs. We witnessed the love and patience the teachers and ayahs extended to children and how the kids reciprocated with love and attachment. We went to their dormitory and are amazed at the rows of neatly made beds and careful folded linens and bed covers. Nothing was out of place.

We went to the nursery on the building roof top. It is lovely nursery and kept very clean, neat and tidy. This truly reflect the good nature of the children and the careful grooming by their educators in cultivating a habit of being tidy, being part of a team and working to a schedule. There is also a vocational classroom. Children indulged with art and craft. Their finished works are of a quality that individuals or companies can purchased them for gifts or resell them. There is a bakery and they make their own breads and pastry. Some of their workers in the kitchen are children that grown up with the centre and are now working for the centre. They are definitely very independent and are good and productive workers.

On the 10 Dec, a Sunday, we visited the agro farm where they also run the matriculation school. Here the children with disability also studied and work alongside those who are abled. A wonderful approach to help the children integration with the outside world. Again, I saw the hallmarks quality of thrift, tidiness, discipline and following rules and regulations. This is an amazing social enterprise that Pathway had embarked. The planning of the farm, buildings and products are all well thought out and executed. The happiness from the children radiated clearly from their eyes and faces. We rejoices with them.

Madam Chandra sit with us and went through with us how Dr. ADSN Prasad who could had a very comfortable and luxurious life, chose instead to take up this calling to fill the void in the care and rehabilitation of the mentally disadvantaged children. Chandra, who is Prasad's wife, saw the same vision and together they embarked into this remarkable journey. Although he had passed away for almost 2 years now, the centre, the farms and everything we come in touch with still have the influence



and spirit of Prasad. Chandra is doing the incredible job walking in his footsteps. We also learnt about the challenges and support the centers needs.

We witnessed joy, cheerfulness, happiness, thrift, from all the children and workers within the Pathway community. All the children that Pathway adopted would had a hellish existence but Pathway changes that for them. My wife, Kogen and myself walked away with tears in our eyes, feeling edified and hope the world would have more Prasad and Chandra.

CULTURAL PERFORMANCE – KALAMANJARI

The 3d International Conference on “Challenging Exclusion” was conducted by NIEPMD on 30th January to 2nd February 2018 at SRM Institute of Science and Technology. Pathway was invited to participate in the cultural extravaganza under the heading KALAMANJARI.

The children performed different folk dance forms. From the rich, cultural history of Tamil Nadu, have emerged many spectacular folk dances that are both vibrant and skillful. These dances are mainly religious and ritualistic performances enacted in rural regions of the state. At times they are popularly performed in urban locales as well.



Folk dances are also performed to enliven family occasions and in marriages, family reunions etc. Some of the famous traditional folk dances belonging to the state of Tamil Nadu include Bharatnatyam, Chakkai Attam, Devaraattam, Kolattam, Kummi, Oyilattam Paampu Attam, Theru Koothu etc. Folk dance form, Karagattam or Karagam though less popular but nevertheless a colorful and exotic dance form enacted to praise certain Hindu deities.

The first programme was based on Karagattam. Karagattam which is also known as Karagam is an ancient dance form containing rich history behind its origin. According to history, the dance was practiced by the villagers to appease the rain goddess Mari Amman and river goddess Gangai Amman. Karagattam dance is performed

by both male and female dancers balancing vertically arranged pots on their head. This is the best feature of this dance —just a position of balancing act and simultaneously executing intricate body and foot movement. The dance is a delicate balance of these subtle skills practiced by the dancers since an early age to master them. The other form being the Oyilattam. Oyilattam literally means elegant dance since the term ‘oyil’ means beauty or elegance and ‘attam’ stands for dance. The graceful dance Oyilattam has emerged from the southern districts and is still considered a popular folk dance in the region.





Initially men were the sole performers of Odissi dance as they practiced standing in line performing steps of the dance along with the rhythm of the music. Gradually women started participating in this folk performance since the number of Odissi dancers started rising. These two beautiful



forms of folk dance fusion was enacted by a group of children namely- Mariya, Vani, Priya, Tamilmani, Madhavan and Joseph.

The other performance was given by Harish, Leander, Chandru, Sivachander, Prathap and Lokesh who performed the Mayilattam. Mayilattam also known as 'mayilnritam' is an artistic and religious form of dance performed in the Hindu temples of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Mayilattam is practiced in admiration and respect to Lord Subrahmanya. Mayilattam dance was first originated in Tamil Nadu region and executed usually by the rural women in honour of Lord Subrahmanya. This traditional South Indian dance is hard and requires extensive training and practise. Mayilattam dance is incomplete without its proper costume. Along with the performance, the charm also lies in its dress code. In this art form, the performer wears costumes from head to toe that resembles that of a peacock with beak as Lord Subrahmanya used to travel on his most beloved animal that is peacock.



In this type of dance, mostly professionals are seen performing as it demands strength as well as the capability to balance the attire while dancing. Here, the dancers are dressed as peacocks and even wear peacock feathers with beak in front. The beak is movable as it is tied with a thread and it can be manipulated from within the dress. The dress is all seen in glittering form from head to toe. The dancers also attach a tall piece of wood at the end of their feet as they do not wear any other foot accessory. Their performance was applauded by the audience and children came back with a shield as their prize along with gifts from the organising committee.



KREEDA-IX

On the 26th January children from pathway centers Chennai participated in KREEDA-IX- A Sports Event conducted by Inner Wheel Club of Madras Fort for the Differently Abled. at Nehru Stadium, Periyamet, Chennai. International Inner Wheel is an organisation consisting of women world over, doing various projects for underprivileged especially women and children. This was conducted In collaboration with National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD)

The number of participants who went from pathway were 40, and escorted by 11 staff members which included helpers.

This was a full day event. The children under different age groups participated in running and Throw ball events. They bagged the following medal tally as depicted below –

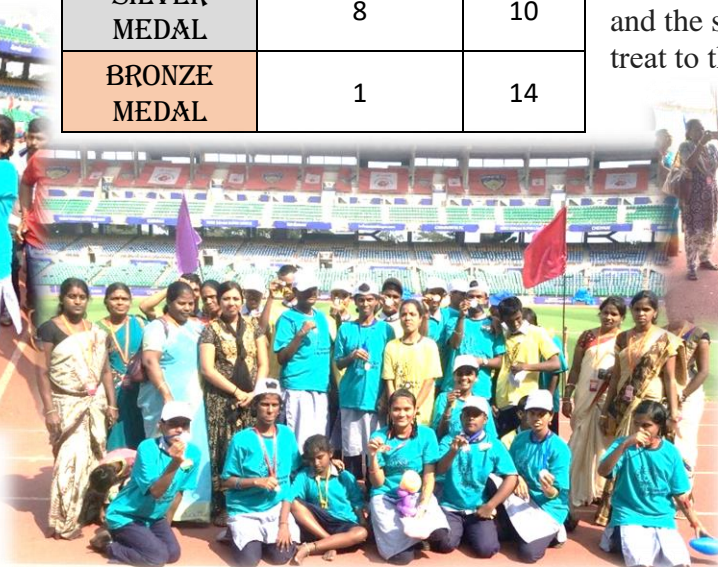
Snacks and lunch were enjoyed the day. The sportive them. The gold and silver them, their actions were more was evident in the way they

EVENTS	RUNNING RACE	BALL THROW
GOLD MEDAL	16	2
SILVER MEDAL	8	10
BRONZE MEDAL	1	14

provided at the venue. Children attitude was very evident in medals were just a color for valuable and treasured which carried themselves. The care and the selfless attitude was a treat to the spectator's eye.



championship in the form was very respectfully educators.



They bagged the overall of a trophy which handed to their



OATMEAL COOKIES

It was the 15th feb 2018. Children at the bakery section were getting ready for their usual chores of making special wheat bread and buns for the day.. these were being made to supply all our centres. Not just our special bakers but the entire group of children would wait eagerly to consume the fresh bread coming out from the oven. It was always a treat for both.

As they were getting ready with their aprons and caps they had a surprise visitor from St Louis Institute for the deaf and the blind. Having enjoyed their first order with us regarding pastries for their birthday party , this time they came forward to give us a trial for oatmeal cookies.

The joy was definitely evident on the childrens faces. The tried and tested recipe was pulled out and a batch was made immediately to the astonishment of the guest. Having tested the quality and presentation of the same



an order for 3000 cookies was procured from them for their 55th annual day celebration. I am sure you can realise the thrill and excitement to receive this acknowledgement of their hard work. The deadlines were given and the cookies were to be packed as three's in a box.

The flurry of activity started the minute the GO signal was given. The educators along with children had to work out first the quantum of ingredients required for the same. After an animated discussion they did arrive at

their shopping list which included oats, butter, white or refined sugar, eggs, baking powder, cinnamon powder, salt and refined white flour. The senior batch of kids had to shop first for these ingredients. The first day was spent on assembling everything including the packaging material.



The next day they set out to make the batches. The senior leaders decided to complete the job in two days making 1500 per day. They mixed the sugar and butter and kneaded it in the kneader along with eggs and then adding all the other ingredients. Every instruction was followed precisely .

The next batch of kids in the meantime prepared the baking trays by lining it with butter paper and set the cookies at



equidistant. The timing for baking also had been decided . the third group of children took up the responsibility of cleaning up the bakery area and left it spic and span for the next day batch.

It was indeed gratifying to watch them work so diligently and sincerely. Their pure dash of love added special taste to the cookies.

Once all the cookies were ready and packed it was sent out for delivery. The children's journey didn't end here. They are always eager to know how their cookies were accepted by public and waited eagerly to know the result. After the event the incharge from the institution called to say that they were impressed by not just the quality, taste but the packing too . the best compliment had been paid to these wonderful special kids whose smiles broadened for the day. Their hard work had paid. We are proud to work with such a wonderful band of workers.



DIWALI CELEBRATIONS

This year Diwali fell on the 26th October 2016. Diwali, or Deepawali, is India's biggest and most important holiday of the year. The festival gets its name from the row(*avali*) of clay lamps (*deepa*) that Indians light outside their homes to symbolize the inner light that protects us from spiritual darkness. This festival is as important to Hindus as the Christmas holiday is to Christians. In northern India they celebrate the story of King Rama's return to Ayodhya after he defeated Ravana by lighting rows of clay lamps.



Southern India celebrates it as the day that Lord Krishna defeated the demon Narakasura. In western India the festival marks the day that Lord Vishnu, the Preserver (one of the main gods of the Hindu trinity) sent the demon King Bali to rule the nether world. In all interpretations, one common thread rings true—the festival marks the victory of good over evil.

Diwali, celebrated in October or November each year, originated as a harvest festival that marked the last harvest of the year before winter. India was an agricultural society where people would seek the divine blessing of Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth, as they closed their accounting books and prayed for success at the outset of a new financial year. Today this practice extends to businesses all over the Indian subcontinent, which mark the day after Diwali as the first day of the new financial year.



Indians celebrate with family gatherings, glittering clay lamps, festive fireworks, strings of electric lights, bonfires, flowers, sharing of sweets, and worship to Lakshmi. Some believe that Lakshmi wanders the Earth looking for homes where she will be welcomed. People open their doors and windows and light lamps to invite Lakshmi in. Over the centuries, Diwali has become a national festival that is enjoyed by most Indians regardless of faith: Hindus, Jains, Buddhists, and Sikhs.

All the centres from Pathway were a part of this festival. Children donned new colourful dresses and they looked forward for the special meals and sweets which would follow for the day. Crackers being a part of this festival it was kept minimal to sparklers and safe flower pots with a few display of fancy fireworks. Children had been busy from morning. They had very tastefully produced colourful rangoli patterns in front of their building entrances with each group trying to outdo the others. All the simple rituals of Diwali have a

significance and a story to tell. The illumination of homes with lights illuminate our homes and hearts, that this simple truth finds new reason and hope. From darkness unto light — the light that empowers us to commit ourselves to good deeds, that which brings us closer to divinity. and the skies with firecrackers is an expression of obeisance to the heavens for the attainment of health, wealth, knowledge, peace and prosperity. According to one belief, the sound of fire-crackers are an indication of the joy of the people living on earth, making the



gods aware of their plentiful state.

In all this joyous festival is always welcomed by not just the kids but adults too.

Every special educator as well as other educators for normal children prepare their wards a month earlier to the history and significance of this festival in form of varied activities.



CHRISTMAS DAY CELEBRATION



It was a glorious Christmas celebrated with fervour and prayer in the heart. There was great excitement in the air as children from Pathway, Chennai, the Pamela Martinez



Matriculation School and Orphanage and the Sabin centre for the disabled joined together to showcase a grand show on the 22.12.2018 at the agro farm. Children from the Pathway Chennai centre travelled by bus to the farm for this event. It was a very joyous group which arrived the venue in the afternoon. The programme was due to start only in the evening. To add to the festivities the Pathway Alumini too joined to be a part of this wonderful festive occasion. It was indeed a sight to watch the entire family of pathway meeting at one area. though each one was from different walks of life today but their mingling with each other only showed that they were bounded to each other by being

a Pathwayian at heart. The sound of laughter, joy, animated talk and chatter filled the air.

It was indeed a sight to see hundreds of children

dressed in colourful attire especially gifted to them to celebrate the birth of our Saviour. This special event was attended not just by students of the entire pathway family but also included the children from community rehabilitation group and their parents and care givers.





the World”.

The director of pathway gave a welcome speech and read out some excerpts from our

Dear Children of Pathway,

When the child Jesus came to the world more than 2,000 years ago he came from very humble circumstances. His father was a carpenter, like many men used to do in these days. Jesus was a child like any other children but he soon understood what His divine destiny was. His destiny was to change the world and offer all, men, women and children eternal life. He told us that He would be with us along the way, that he would carry us through our trials and challenges and that he would bring us peace. We believe this be true. We also believe that each one of you has a beautiful destiny ahead. We wish you much joy, peace and health.

The Butel

Jean-Luc Butel

benefactors who so graciously sent the Christmas message as follows in their words.

The children from the Pamela Martinez Matriculation School presented a bouquet of a beautiful programme that included a welcome dance by the 3rd and 4th grader students. They also enacted a skit ON THE Parable of the prodigal son known as “THE LOST SON” which was finely executed by the children.

The stage preparation was done with the help of the Pathway alumini which fixed the beautiful background banner painted by the children to the back of the stage. The evening started with a prayer by Jayapressi from the tenth grade and Pathway choir sang “Joy to

My dear children:

Grandma and I want you to know how much we love you and miss you. We regret that we are unable to be with you during this season of the year when we celebrate the birth of our Savior the Lord Jesus Christ. It was over 2,000 years ago that baby Jesus came into the world in the village of Bethlehem. His mother was Mary. Think how Mary must have felt to know that she was selected by Heavenly Father out of all the girls in the world to be the Mother of the Son of God. How blessed she was. I think of Jesus often and hope that my life pleases him.

It has been over two years now that our great friend Dr. Prasad was taken home to be with Jesus and Heavenly Father. My dear friend and sister Chandra and I think of Prasad every day. He was a great man. Had it not been for him there would have been no Pathway. Each of you would have had a different life than you have now. As you live your life think of Prasad and all he has given you. I think so often of all he gave to me. I miss him so much.

I hope to see you sometime during 2018. My best advice to you is to never let a day go by without saying your prayers. Be grateful for all you’ve been given.

We love you so much.

Grandma and Grandpa Sheffield

The audience got to witness Jingle bells by the special children of Pathway Chennai centre. Their smiles and cute expressions brought in heart.

A tamil version of the song Vandachi, Vandachi was performed by students of 8th and 9th standard who with help of beautifully prepared props transported the viewers to a Christmas land.

The 5th and 6th standard children performed a dance whose tune made viewer tap their feet in unison.

Not to be outdone the special Children and adults of the Sabin Centre presented well choreographed dance and music that sang praises of the Lord.

The final show was on Nativity. This year it was special because the characters were chosen from all the centres which was executed in a very befitting manner depicting the birth of baby Jesus.

The closing hymn and prayer ended the days programme which would be another leaf in Pathway's memorable moments.



The
show
ended
with

sumptuous dinner and gifts to all the children and bonus to staff so generously contributed by our good Judge..We are also grateful to other magnanimous supporters who shared their love and compassion We are humbled by their generosity in true christmas spirit .

Dhuli Patnaik proposed a vote of thanks.

PONGAL



Mid January is an important time in Tamil Nadu, so also for Pathway. The harvest festival falls typically on 14 January. This time the harvest brought great cheer in the hearts of everybody at the Pathway Agro Farm as plenty of rice and vegetables were harvested. This three day long Pongal festival was celebrated with great fun and frolic by the children and staff of Pathway, Chennai, the Pamela Martinez Matriculation School and the Sabin Centre for the differently abled. The wardens, special school staff, Farm staff, Supervisor, Electrician, Plumber, Driver and Hostel staff, teachers are called to participate in the event with their Tools All the children are involved in the spring cleaning of the entire campuses. The drivers are incharge of cleaning their vehicles. In general every body is involved in the above activity.

Though this practice is in everyday life here but this gives a start for a new year ringing in freshness and beauty all round. Special prayer was said by Archana, and there after the Principal explained about the meaning and concept of these three days significance.



A small joint prayer or pooja is organized and the blessings are given in form of puffed rice, fruits, sweets and ofcourse the inevitable goodness of sweetness- the sugarcane. this community act brings people closer and friendships and ties get stronger. Worshipping the tools which offer one's livelihood makes them respect these aids.

Pongal is celebrated by the Indian state of Tamil Nadu as well as Tamils worldwide, including those in Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Mauritius, South Africa, USA, Canada and

Singapore. The festival is at least 1000 years old although some believe that the festival is more than 2000 years old. As per epigraphic evidence, it used to be celebrated as Puthiyeedu during Medieval Chola empire days. It is thought that Puthiyeedu meant the first harvest of the year. People of all religions celebrate the pongal festival. This is a harvest festival - the Tamil equivalent of Thanksgiving.

Once the pongal is ready a Padayal (the offering) is first made. Sharing of the



Pongal with friends and relatives follows a few minutes of



meditation or a prayer. The children were absolutely excited about this day. The excitement of a festival is always writ with pleasure on their face and this showed in their eagerness to follow any ritual rules like getting up early in the morning and having a shower and donning new clothes. The previous night the kids had collected their old clothes and each one had made their own bundles since the first day, Bhogi, is celebrated by throwing away and destroying old clothes and materials, by setting them on fire, marking the end of the old Thai and the emergence of

the new Thai. The excitement was definitely on high since they receive new clothes and toys to mark the occasion. The day set off by the girl children drawing kolam decorations in front of their school and dormitory buildings. Everywhere colorful buntings were installed. The buntings waved along with the breeze matching the childrens smiles. Their enthusiasm brought a renewed energy in the adults who thought less of their everyday worries and became a part of the scenario by joining the kids in the festivities.



The second day, Pongal, is the main day, falling on the first day of the Tamil month Thai (January 14 — 15). Also known as Sarkarai Pongal or Veetu Pongal, it is celebrated by boiling rice with fresh milk and jaggery in new pots, which are later topped with brown sugar, cashew nuts and raisins early in the morning and allowing it to boil over the vessel. This tradition gives Pongal its name. The moment the rice boils over and bubbles out of the vessel, the tradition is to shout of "Ponggallo Ponggal!" and blowing the sangu (a conch), a custom practiced during the festival to announce it was going to be a year blessed with good tidings. All the children from all the centres joined along with their staff watched setting up of the clay pot on bricks with wood as the fuel. The sugarcane was a part of their decoration which was used in the form a stand . The children were dressed in their new clothes and the entire farm was dotted with a riot of colors. A bystander could watch the



kids bobbing their heads and chatting gleefully waiting for their principal to say the prayers. Once done all the pair of eyes were focused on the pot waiting for the rice to boil over. The sight of the rice boiling over immediately brought a chorus from children who shouted "Ponggallo Ponggal!" The happy faces smiled gleefully and waited with bated breath to receive the offerings made and ofcourse the best loved sugarcane. Children were busy seated in and around the playground area with their sugarcane pieces in their mouth and their strong teeth skillfully tearing the top layer and enjoying sucking the fresh juice. The excitement was hard to contain. Many a times

watching them send an adult back to his memory lane where he or she relives their childhood

The third day, Maattu Pongal, is for offering thanks to cattle, as they help farmer in different ways for agriculture. On this day the cattle are decorated with paint, flowers and bells. They are allowed to roam free and fed sweet rice and sugar cane.

Some people decorate the horns with gold or other metallic covers. In some places, Jallikattu, or taming the wild bull contest, is the main event of this day and this is mostly seen in the villages.

The staff had organized a wonderful fun day programme for children . Some children were dressed in their traditional costumes. The older girl children danced a classical number in front of their peers to mark the day's festivity. This was followed by a popular game known as Tug of war. The air was filled with happiness and joy and cheering sounds from the crowds who egged their groups to pull harder to win the contest. This was displayed by the tiny tots, middle school kids, special children, and ofcourse the lady staff members who were pitted against the male staff members. The boys were thrilled that their gender won. The adult special children weren't going to be left behind and they showed their skill in musical chair which was won by Armugham followed by Zair. The last but not the least was the blindfold game which challenged the participant to hit a pot which is hung eight to nine feet above the ground and try to smash it and carry the prize housed in it. It seems like another version of piñata. Tired and exhausted the kids trooped in for their special food which they enjoyed and welcomed the nap after it. During the final day, Kaanum Pongal (the word kaanum means "to view") people visit beaches and theme parks. The children in batches were taken out to visit the nearby bird sanctuary. They were delighted.



This day is a day to thank relatives and friends for their support in the harvest. Although it started as a farmers festival, today it has become a national festival for all Tamils irrespective of their origins, caste or even religion. It is as popular in urban areas as is in rural areas.

REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS

Republic day in India is celebrated every year with great pride on 26th of January to honour the Constitution of India as it came into force on the same day in the year 1950. It had replaced the Government of India Act, 1935 into the governing document of India. On this day, national holiday is declared by the Indian Government. The new Indian Constitution was sketched and approved by the Indian Constituent Assembly and decided to celebrate it on 26th of January every year as India became a republic country.

The chief guests on Republic Day of India 2018 were 10 Leaders of 10 nations of the world (Heads of ASEAN states). Below is the list of names of all Chief Guests and their Nations:



Sultan and incumbent Prime Minister *Hassanal Bolkiah* – Brunei

Prime Minister *Hun Sen* – Cambodia

President *Joko Widodo* – Indonesia

Prime Minister *Thongloun Sisoulith* – Laos

Prime Minister *Najib Razak* – Malaysia

President *Htin Kyaw* – Myanmar

President *Rodrigo Roa Duterte* – Philippines

President *Halimah Yacob* – Singapore

Prime Minister *Prayuth Chan-ocha* – Thailand

Prime Minister *Nguyễn Xuân Phúc* – Vietnam

Following was special on 2018 Republic Day of India in New Delhi:

India celebrated its Republic Day 2018 with the great leaders of 10 Asean countries (Association of South East Asian Nations). This year in 2018, it happened for the first time in Indian history that 10 chief guests graced the Republic Day of India. It was very special because the Southeast Asian bloc completed its 50 years of formation (created on 8 August 1967) and India completed its 25 years of partnership (started in 1992) with the grouping in 2017.

It was for the first time that ASEAN Flags were displayed through fly in the sky over Rajpath.

It was for the first time that one of the floats showed “All India Radio” to display Prime Minister’s monthly address “Mann Ki Baat”.

One of the floats from Income Tax Department displayed anti-black money drive (swachh dhan abhiyan).

113 BSF women performed motorcycle stunts such as pyramid, shaktiman, fish riding, seema prahari, bull fighting, etc.

Aircraft Carrier (IAC) Vikrant was displayed by the Indian Navy which will be commissioned in 2020.

“Nirbhay missile” and the “Ashwini radar system” from The Defence Development and Research Organization were displayed.

“Airborne Early Warning and Control System (Netra) flown over the Rajpath.

Group of students from Delhi school performed to represent Indo-ASEAN ties.

Around 700 students from the guest countries performed in the parade other than the Indian Army, Air Force, and Navy.

A float by Punjab displayed under the theme “Sangat and Pangat” (Sangat means communal harmony; Pangat means community kitchen) representing love for humanity.





Kathak and folk dances of many countries like Malaysia, Cambodia, Thailand, etc were also displayed.

Around 61 tribal guests were invited to participate in the Republic Day celebration.

100-odd government agencies were involved in the preparations for Republic Day parade 2018.

State capitals celebrated republic day in the presence of governors of the state.

Like Independence Day is celebrated to enjoy the hard won freedom of India from the British Rule, Republic Day in India is celebrated to commemorate the coming of its own constitution into force. It is officially celebrated every year in the national capital of India (New Delhi) at Rajpath in the presence of the Indian

President. Besides, celebrations in various other states also take place in the presence of their respective state governors by hoisting the National Flag of the country.

India is a country where people from different cultures, societies, religions and languages live in harmony with each other. The freedom of our country is indeed a matter of great pride because needless to say it was obtained after many years of struggle and great sacrifice. Therefore, this day is celebrated every year in order to make Indian people feel proud of having taken birth on this multi-cultural land. Republic Day is celebrated in a very colorful fashion in order to make celebrations memorable and special for every Indian Citizen. National Anthem is sung by the people who take part in the celebration. This celebration brings all the Indian people together and instills a feeling of national pride as well as love for our country.

Republic day was celebrated at Pathway, Chennai in a grand manner. There was feverish excitement in the children as many of them were ready to present a colorful program. Since they were to participate in a competition held by Kreedha they were ready and assembled near the flag mast. Every visitor, parent, student and staff were greeted at the main gate by a colorful Rangoli which welcomed and ushered everyone in. As the children were called to attention, Dhuli Patnaik our President was requested to unfurl the national flag. With this the children, staff and everyone assembled sang the national anthem in unison. Every spectator and residents were treated to a lovely muffin bearing the tri color of our national pride which was so longingly made by the bakers of Pathway vocation group.

Children were eager to board the buses to get to their next destination where their talents were to be tapped for the day. Every year these special moments are captured on camera and they get embedded in the special album of our special children achievements.

Completing this formality the trust members drove down to the farm to partake in the event there. Children at Pamela Martinez and the Sabin Centre group were not to be left out. They showed their prowess in the different drill and exercises like pyramid formation which was followed by resounding applause from their peer groups.



In all the children practised their best to win the hearts of their trainers and audience alike. The march past was followed by a wonderful beat of the band. The band leader had made sure that all his counterparts were in their best attire which caught envy of many. This year the salute was taken by the President of our Trust. The children put up a show which showed their expertise in drill, lazem, dumb bells, hoops having our national flag color, followed by a pyramid construction which had many variations. And finally followed by a circular wheel which depicted the angle of progress in all spheres of life as a nation.

The girls were not far behind. They too showed a display of their skills in pyramids followed by variations in their techniques. They left the arena after saluting the flag and taking a bow.

It was indeed a sight to watch that the Sabin Centre was not left far behind. When they took the stage to perform the entire students and their peer and every person present there cheered and welcomed them. A very confident group walked up and displayed their prowess. They too did the pyramids and added a special touch with yoga poses and a skit

to go by. Which brought about the unity concept. They depicted the fusion of all religions in our national flag hence bringing out the concept of -that all Indians are our brothers and sisters.

Speeches carefully prepared by students in local and English language were read out by Nivetha, Srimathi, Murugeswari, Priya and Haripriya. The older students kept the audience enchanted by a mime show depicting our Indian army who guard our nation to their best. A special dance by the little ones who depicted our national symbols in the form of bird- the peacock, our national animal – the tiger etc. Their cuteness brought a loud applause and cheer from everyone present.

This was followed by a group of dancers from VII and IX standard kids who depicted in their performance the different states of India.

The Director gave the vote of thanks and children were treated with the wonderful muffins fresh from pathway bakery along with chocolates. The children were also treated to a wonderful feast for the afternoon with a TV show of the day's event being telecasted from the national capital.



S'PAEDOFEST 2018

The department of politics and public organised an inter-school cultural Chennai. Various events like drawing,

administration, university of madras competition for special children in craft making, quiz, extempore,



cultural competition was organised on 04.03.2018. This event was organised with an aim to give an opportunity to





interact with university students and gain experience. Pathway was geared for this event. Children from all age groups were selected to be a part of the competition of which 35 were residential and five were from day care unit.. The various competitions selected were- solo dance, solo song, group dance, craft making, drawing and extempore speech.

We are proud to announce that the first prize was won by a group of 6 children who performed a group dance based on a folk song. The second prize in extempore speech was bagged by Maria who spoke on Women Empowerment, Solo dance performed by Madhavan bagged the second place and lastly the third prize for drawing was won by Harish who drew the portraits of our national leaders. Though the event for fancy dress didn't get any place in the winning list but the children- Chandru and Sandhya did their best. Anitha and Prathap too had exhibited their talent in craft work but failed to impress their judges.



It was definitely a proud moment for the educators and trainers who work so hard to bring a smile on their ward faces. The children at the end of the day brought their gifts, medals and certificates and proudly displayed it the next day to their other peer groups. All the participants were given certificates along with gifts.

PATHWAY EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR 2017

Another memorable day was etched in Pathways diary in the form of Pathway Excellence Award on the 9th Feb 2018 for the year 2017. Preparations were made way ahead for this prestigious function. We were looking forward to receive our august guests from the united states namely- the Fewkes family, Mr David Haslem and Mr Spencer Plumb. Mr Plumb serves as President & CEO of Sabin Holdings and Mr David Haslem being the Chief Investment Officer for Sabin Holdings. Mr Tim Fewkes who had volunteered way back in 1995 made a pleasant surprise trip with his family. Today he is the founder of a company known as EverOps which he started in 2011. We definitely missed our other wonderful supporters who though were absent physically were



in true spirits with us. This programme was attended by children and staff of all our centres, The Community Based Rehabilitation group, parents, well wishers and ofcourse the Pathway Alumini group.

The Pathway Excellence award was conferred in an impressive but a simple function recently at Pamela Martinez-Pathway Agro farm for children, Kancheepuram district. The venue was tastefully decorated with colorful 'Shamiana' with a large stage. These awards were conferred on meritorious poorest rural children of Tamil Nadu selected from all over the

district. This concept of bestowing awards on such children was conceived seven years ago. Pathway being an organization serving the disabled and the poor wanted to focus on the needy children who show promise in their scholastic performance. The mandate of the organization has been to serve the most needy and deserving children without any bias to their religion, caste or any other consideration.

It is the aim of the organization to discover the unsung heroes who live in the dusty rural areas of the state without being recognized. The aim of Pathway also has been to uncover the potential of highly deserving children who are generally neglected or marginalized by the society because of their obvious problems, such as, poverty, lack of opportunities, poor facilities in the rural areas, etc. The panel also studied the performance of each short listed student from the 50 applications received in his/ her scholastic achievement as well as in their all round achievement. The specialty of this award was to allocate a mentor to each of the selected awardees. Pathway has selected a panel of highly successful professionals drawn from different walks of life for the mentorship program. The panel consisted of doctors, engineers, captains of industry, marketing and business management experts, scientists, administrators, etc. Nelson Mandela has said that

" Education Is The Most Powerful Weapon Which You Can Use To Change The World" this is exactly what Pathway is trying to do. Pathway is dedicated to serve the poorest of the poor and as Prasad says

" CONVERTING THE LIABILITY IN TO ASSET". Pathway strongly believes in the famous Chinese saying *" Give a bowl of rice to a man and you will feed him for a day. Teach him how to grow his own rice and you will save his life"* this is exactly what Pathway is doing, educating children so that they can become independent.

It is indeed a great day for Pathway and me. Pathway after it's inception in the year 1975,





with just two children has touched the lives of more than 40,000 children and adults with various needs. Our organization has been working with children and adults with mental retardation, cerebral Palsy, autism and related dysfunctions with great zeal from the past 42 years.

The Pathway Agro Farm for Children was packed with invitees, a large section was earmarked for children, their parents, there were rows of seats that was reserved for principals of schools from the rural areas. The faces of children were beaming with smiles of



great expectation. They were all seated as per their awards. All together 7 meritorious awardees were present to receive the honours. It was really interesting and overwhelming to listen to the parents of the some of the children who hailed from remote rural areas. They expressed their glee and delight in participating in a such an event and thanked Pathway for this great opportunity. The principals of village schools were equally delighted with the honour bestowed on their wards.

Excellence award was given for three categories of high performers. During this event 7 meritorious children were conferred with Pathway special Awards. These awards were bestowed on children shortlisted from all over the district which also included a couple of children from the Pamela Martinez /Pathway Matriculation School and Orphanage who matched their performance with high performing children from different parts of the state, Pathway Chennai Centre and also the Sabin – Pathway centre. These children have not just performed well in their studies despite various challenges in their life, but also in various vocations. Some children have done exceptionally well in their scholastic performance, each one of them hailing from different parts of Tamil Nadu have performed with great zeal despite struggles. Each one of them have have scored over 90% in almost every subject. Every one of them are first generation school goers and children of illiterates . Many of these children's background are highly challenging. Each awardee child received a garland, shawl, certificate, medal and a cash award.

he award consisted of a cash prize, a certificate, a medal and a shawl.

The most coveted awards were:

- The Pathway- Judge William Sheffield Excellence Award
- The Pathway- Gary Sabin Excellence Award [to two candidates]
- The Pathway A D S N Prasad Excellence Award
- The Pathway- William P Benac Excellence Award
- The Pathway-Jean-Luc Butel Excellence Award

The Pathway -Pamela – Alex Martinez Excellence Award



These prestigious awards were bestowed on children who showed exceptional grit and strength and also superlative performance in their scholastic performance despite severe trials and tribulations.



Almost every Awardee had a great and impressive story. The first award being in the founder of Pathway's name --The Pathway Dr A D S N Prasad Excellence Award in honor of Dr a d s n prasad who believed and had an overwhelming desire to help children with or without disabilities .he believed in a bright future and most of all in happiness of a child. This very prestigious award is being awarded to **LOGESHWARI** a girl child who has done exceptionally well in her tenth examination, scoring more than 98%, despite severe poverty and personal challenges. She lost her father when she was in the 5th grade. She and her brother have been in the care of their mother. Despite all these hurdles Logeshwari has managed to rise up and now is aspiring to become an IAS officer so that she can support later many children who like her need support. We salute this kid and feel honoured to know her.

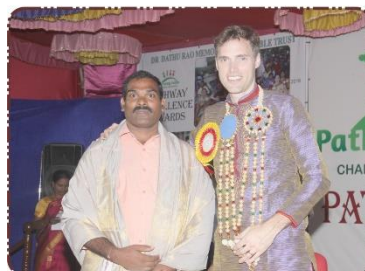
The Pathway Judge William Sheffield excellence Award was given in honor of judge William Sheffield who sees pathway as an institution where he truly sees essence of a child and where miracles happen. He



also believes that all roads always lead to pathway. this award was conferred on Meghanathan who joined pathway in the year 2002 at the age of 7. He led his life with a strong belief in the gospel which has tuned him into a wonderful young man today He passed tenth from here with flying colors and

inspite of medical issues this young man has completed B.Tech degree in electronics and communication engineering and today is proud to work at Tech Mahindra. His ambition is to pursue his MS degree. Pathway takes pride in honouring this special young man. He has scored centum in certain subjects and nursing an ambition to become a doctor. Pathway is proud to honour this great achiever.

The Pathway-Gary Sabin Excellence Award was bestowed onto two very special differently abled children----the first being citibabu....





Citibabu entered the portal of Pathway at the age of 14 years in the month of July 2004 from an orphanage Kaakum Karangal. They had just realised that they didn't understand his needs and didn't have the facility to help him. Our former director Dr. Prasad willingly took him into his fold & after doing the initial assessments planned out an individual programme to help him in every sphere of life. Over the years Citibabu started showing remarkable improvement in spheres especially in speech and language improvement was considerable. The utmost care and patience had showed results. A child who was given up as non-verbal, no-concepts, who was neither receptive or expressive in language having speech problems showed that miracles do exist. He bloomed in every sphere. Rigorous special education was introduced and by the 16th year he was placed in pre-vocational unit & finally by the age of 19 he was admitted in Pathway-Sabin centre for vocational education

In these last few years he learnt to go through various activities like –



1. Coir pot making
2. Making of coconut brooms
3. Making of nurse bags
4. Worked in the carpentry section
5. Using sawdust to make beautiful elephants which serves as gifts
6. He has shown keen interest in candle making and paper mache products.

His other achievements include helping to integrate normal children with special children in certain activities like drawing, playing group games, dining together and also an active part in cultural activities.

His eagerness to please and a beautiful smile has brought and reigned in many friends from all quarters.

Last but not the least he is totally independent in his daily living skills and helps his peer group.

Citibabu with all the assets has become a valuable member of the society. He has been employed as an office boy for the school and hence is able to earn his livelihood.

We feel blessed to honor this young adult.

The next special child being Prasanna who suffers from a condition known as the Apert syndrome which is a genetic disorder characterized by the premature fusion of certain skull bones (*craniosynostosis*). This *early* fusion prevents the skull from growing normally and affects the shape of the head and face. In addition, a varied number of fingers and toes are fused together (*syndactyly*).

Born in the year 1995 He entered pathway in 2006. Over the years he has undergone rehabilitation and education and today stands before you as an asset ready to take on the world. Challenges and hurdles have never stopped him from competing with the outside world. He has learnt the nitty gritty of life and today has been employed by pathway as a helper in Chennai centre where he gets paid for his work. We are very proud to honor this young ever smiling man.

The next prestigious award was given in honor of **Pamela and Alex Martinez** who have not just given this beautiful piece of land that we are enjoying today but also are currently supporting our facility and are our supporting pillar. They run an organization today known as A Brighter Path which is a Human Services Supporting Organization in Capo Beach, California. This great award was awarded to S Kalpana who is based in Kancheepuram district ,born in 2001. This girl child has completed her tenth with overall 95% , scoring centum in social science. Her ambition is to aim for being a chartered Accountant but would like to settle down for B.Sc in Agriculture for now. She wants to make her mother feel proud of her and to be tied down for an early marriage.

The next award was in the name of **WILLIAM P BENAC**. He is not just a supporter of pathway but his entire family has served pathway over years in different ways. We are indeed indebted to him. Brother Benac has been an active member and Bishop in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We are proud to say that he has retired from his lucrative job and is now working as a supporter full time for





pathway. In his honor we conferred this award on Prasanth. Prasanth joined pathway in the year 2002. He loved pathway which was to be his home for ten years. After completing tenth in 2012 prasanth tried to fend for himself. Not being a very serious academic student he decided to join a vocation. He has started in a very small way and today has built a small platform eatery on his own. His future plan is to run a hotel. We applaud his efforts and wish him all the success.

The final award was in the name of **JEAN-LUC BUTEL**. A French gentleman whom I met in 1996, never even imagined would be one more strong pillar of pathway. Not just for a year but three decades till date along with his family have volunteered here. We salute this wonderful soul who is today the global healthcare advisor for k8 in singapore. He provides guidance, support and expertise in broad areas of health care. Jean-Luc also serves as a Senior Advisor to the McKinsey's Health Care practice. We are honoured to know him. This award was conferred in his honor on **KARAN**.

Karan once again was a student of pathway who passed out with more than 82 percent in 2015 from here. Hailing from a very poor family karan being the righteous young man decided to pursue his education. After completing 11th he decided to **FUND** himself by doing odd jobs for a year. After accumulating some money he lodged himself in a hostel and paid for his 12th grade. We are honoured to award this young man today since his efforts to take challenges of life by horn has made us admire his guts and we feel happy to confer this award to him.

We also added special awards to this function by adding and recognising some of our staff at the farm centre namely Mr Annadurai- our Principal, Mr Raja, Mr



Pandian and from Chennai centre- Mr Paul Pandian who have served the centre for decades with utter dedication and sincerity.

A variety of cultural programme from all the centres was presented for the benefit of the audience. The highlight being a Michael Jackson- **HEAL THE WORLD** performed by the special children of Pathway centre. The audience also witnessed a small video presentation from the Alumni group which ended with memento presentation.

Chandra Prasad, Hony Director and Chief Functionary, Pathway, described briefly the work done by the organization for the disabled from the past 42 years and has also outlined contribution made by Pamela Martinez school and orphanage and the Agro Farm, from the past 16 years. She said nearly 40,000 lives have been touched by Pathway over these years.

She conveyed her grateful thanks to Judge William Sheffield, Gary Sabin, Sabin Spencer, David Haslam, William and Barbara Benac, Pamela and Alex Martinez, and Jean-Luc Butel for their long association and for their great contributions.

Ms Jeyseeli, Principal of Pathway Chennai centre steered the programme and Mrs Dhuli Patnaik, President, Pathway proposed a vote of thanks.

ARPANAN OR TOTAL SURRENDER – PERFORMANCE GIVEN BY 200 DIFFERENTLY ABLED



Children at the Pathway Chennai centre were absolutely ecstatic about the final creative drama which was fast approaching on the 23rd February 2018. Past six months they had been practising once a week . A total number of 30 participants were chosen for the above. The preliminaries were conducted twice before the D-Day. Excitement and the sparkle in their eyes was a sight to behold. As the day approached the confidence that they enthused was remarkable. They behaved like a professional troupe going to perform. An audience of more than 1000 was expected to witness this beautiful production.

The day did dawn. One did not need to remind the kids to have an early lunch and to get ready with their belongings to board the buses. Absolute care was taken to pack their necessary items to the last detail. They waited for the buses to roll into the campus . A wave of happiness and cheer were the indicators when their transport arrived. In a flash the kids boarded the buses trying to get the best seat possible and waited eagerly for their teachers to give the thumbs up command to the bus driver for their destined spot.

It was an half hour ride into the city. As soon as they landed they were ushered by the volunteers to the green room for their costume dressing. The teachers along with the make up artistes and the costume supplier went into action. It was going to be a mammoth task of getting 250 children into their costumes, along with the necessary jewels and hair do's and outfits. The entire place was alive with laughter, smiles and above all a confidence which would pale a professional artist. During this period of getting ready, snacks in form of biscuits, juice and burgers were supplied to the entire troupe. Every kiosk had minimum 20 to 30 children to adorn their costumes and make up. There was not a soul there who wasn't busy. Each had



something to add to the scenario. An hour and a half was required for this team of 60 volunteers along with the staff members to get everyone dressed.

Now it was time for the participants to wait in turn for their turn to enact on the stage. We would like to inform the reader that the event was termed as Arpanam meaning- total surrender.

Arpanam — Total Surrender signified the merging of rivers with the sea, and surrendering to the flow of life. Talking about her process and ideation, Ambika from RASA says, “It came to me as an inspiration to ask what it means to surrender to a force, just like the river goes back to its source by merging with the sea. So, I identified moments from the lives of saints, where they realise their oneness with god, and wanted to depict it.”



In
each



scene, about 25-30 artistes were on stage, showing the lives of Amarapali surrendering to Buddha, Andal surrendering to Krishna, Pusalar to Shiva, Panj Pyare to Guru Gobind Singh, Abhinava Vidyathirtha to Sringeri Swami, and others.

The production featured artistes between the age group eight to 60 years. While most of them were persons with disabilities, she also decided to include children from lower income groups too were included. “The aim was to be inclusive, and as a concept, inclusion is to try and create a space where everyone has a homogenous level of functioning,”

The 30 strong troupe from Pathway enacted the life of Abhinava Vidyatheertha by Harish who surrendered his being to Sringeri swami enacted by Prasanna.

Born to Venkatalakshmi Ammal played by Maria and Rama Sastry role enacted by TamilMani, a primary school teacher, on November 13, 1917, the day of Deepavali at Bangalore, He was named Srinivasa. Even as a child, Srinivasa was ardently pious. At school, Srinivasa was an obedient and conscientious student. Several were the instances of His boyhood days when He displayed exceptional qualities of wisdom and farsightedness. From a very young age, He began expressing to His friends a desire to renounce the world and attempt to see God.



Srinivasa's Upanayana(sacred thread ceremony) was performed at the Math's expense at the Sharadamba temple in Sringeri. Ordained by the Gayatri Upadesha, Srinivasa stepped into the stage of brahmacharya, following which He sought to stay back and learn the holy scriptures at the Math.

Srinivasa was unquestionably the most brilliant of the students at the Math and came up with thought-provoking



interpretations of the Sanskrit verses that He was taught. He slowly caught the eye of the Jagadguru, the great Jivan Mukta, Sri Chandrasekhara Bharati Mahaswamigal.

When the Jagadguru decided to choose His successor, the choice fell rightly on Srinivasa. Necessary arrangements were made. On May 22, 1931, Srinivasa was initiated into the holy order of Sanyasa, even before He had attained the age of 14. The Guru named him as Abhinava Vidyatirtha and taught the sacred Mahavakyas that signify the identity of the individual soul with the ultimate reality. The Guru named His holy successor designate Abhinava Vidyatirtha, perhaps because He foresaw that His illustrious disciple would equal the great Yogi, the 10th Pontiff of the Peetham, Sri Vidya Shankara Tirtha, in Yoga.

Sensing the capability of His disciple, the Jagadguru who was least interested in administrative affairs, wished to be relieved of the responsibilities of pontifical duties. He handed over the running of the Mutt to His disciple and entrusted the performance of the Chandramouliswara Puja.

Ever since He was initiated into Sanyasa, Sri Abhinava Vidyatirtha was extremely keen on being an ideal ascetic. Mere reading of the scriptural texts could never satisfy His need for perfection. The Acharya was temperamentally inclined to the royal path of Yoga. Maharshi Patanjali lists eight steps leading to the acme of Yoga. By the time Acharya attained 16 years of age, the deep contemplation of the Self became natural. A few hints from the Guru regarding meditation were sufficient for the Acharya, who practised meditation and soon began to attain Savikalpa Samadhi. He went on to perfect Nirvikalpa Samadhi (attained by concentration on the attributeless Supreme). He was a Jivan Mukta before He was 20.

Strange as it may seem, His formal lessons in Vedanta commenced much after he had attained perfection in yoga. His guru expounded the Bhagavad Gita Bhashyam, Brahma Sutra Bhashyam and Bhashyam on Isa, Kena, Katha and Taittiriya Upanishads. To the





Acharya, these lessons merely served to confirm what He had already learnt through His personal experiences earlier in life.

On October 16, 1954, Sri Abhinava Vidyatirtha formally took over as the 35th Jagadguru Shankaracharya of the Sringeri Sharada Peetham.

The other children who participated in this great production were Gowri, Devi, Beena, Rani, Vani, Anitha, Taj Nisha, Tharun Raj, Arun, Muthu, Vartharajan, Karthik, Manoj, Tamilmani, Shivachander, Prathap, Chandru, Madhavan, Murugappan, Joshwa, Bharath, Subramani, Anand, Durai, and Lokesh

FOUNDERS DAY CELEBRATIONS



today has given many a livelihood, children their education and also steered their dreams to reality.

His 40 years of sheer self sacrifice and hard work has breathed life into many souls and today many owe their success to this wonderful person.

In consultation with the staff of all centres we decided to conduct a full day programme involving parents, our alumini group and children from all centres. The programme was designed to have fun elements, cultural programme along with fun games. This year we had many of our trustees along for this great occasion.

Everybody gathered around 8 in the morning at the vocational centre area. The day started with an opening prayer and hymn. It was followed by unfurling a huge banner of the founder whose ever smiling gentle face brought heartfelt

This is the third Founders day we were to celebrate on the 29th March. It is indeed an honor to respect a man whose mission was only to serve the children from all categories irrespective of caste, creed or religion. His vision and dedication





respect and cheer from every soul present. After paying our humble respects to this wonderful visionary a birthday cake was cut. This cake was especially prepared by special hands of Chennai centres bakery group.

The children had made a pencil drawing portrait of their loving father and used their creativity in installing the same.. Children They paid their respects in different forms like greeting cards by the Sabin group, flowers from the tiny tots, in memory poems for their dad from the older children and some had even prepared individual cards.

This special event this year was marked with Pathway Alumini planting new tree saplings, rose bushes and lemon saplings.



The mike was later handed over to the hony director followed by the president of the trust.

Children were patient and very respectful.as the speeches were over their tiny whispers and excitement started growing. They would be seeing their parents too taking part in the fun games and vice versa.



The tiny tots had a series of games to attend to like the potato gathering, balancing a ball on a tiny plate, sack race, balloon bursting, and arranging paper cups in limited time period. Every game was watched with earnest spirit and loud cheering with applause and claps rendered the air. Now it was the turn of the parents. The games played were musical chair, matching picture game, going through memory test and finally the tug of war. The biggest applause was for the tug of war. Childrens beaming smiles left us totally satisfied. The spirit of happiness seemed to have surrounded us all. Every game





event ended with a prize which was so kindly distributed by our guests. Snacks were distributed at the end of this session.

After a sumptuous lunch and a bit of relaxation the kids and staff were ready for the next session. The next session was started by 3 in the afternoon which concluded by 5 in the evening. The various programmes conducted were group dances, fun games like walking on the upturned mud pot, tic-tac toe game, the action game,



lemon spoon race etc. The children from all centres had participated to make this a very memorable event. As expected every event was concluded with special prizes. The Sabin group boys had to blow balloons till it bursts, the winners declared here were Prabhu and Dayalan.



Senthil, Ambrose, Sheikh and Thamil were involved in the game of throwing a light plastic ball into a bucket kept at a distance. Prabhu was declared a winner here. All the special adults were given tshirts as prizes. Not to be left out of the festivities the staff too participated in the fun event.



The day ended with swimming competitions between the different peer groups joined by the Pathway alumina. It was indeed a very satisfying day which ended with everyone carrying some treasurable moments in their heart to be etched forever.

The entire campus was resounding with happiness and childrens laughter. I am sure the Founder would be pleased to see all his children so happy and joyous.



NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS 2017

World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) aims to put a spotlight on the hurdles that people with autism – and others living with autism – face every day. As a growing global health issue owing to its increasing exposure

in the press and common knowledge, autism is an issue that is only gaining more understanding – and WAAD activities are planned every year to further increase and develop world knowledge of children and adults who have autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

2ND APRIL 2018

What's more, World Autism Awareness Day goes one step further to celebrate the unique talents of those with autism, while putting a huge focus on the warm embrace and welcome that these



skills deserve through community events around the globe. regarding. this above mentioned event was given importance by our staff and children who tried to spread awareness of the same. A parents meet was held to highlight about the meaning and the term Autism. To mark this wonderful day competitions were held in drawing which is shown below. This special day was also marked by children donning blue color clothes and waving blue balloons.

We have also participated in the drawing competition held by

VIEWS FROM PLANET AUTISM GROUP In the final entry selection has been done four entries have been shortlisted which has been sent from to Delhi where these selected artworks will be up for exhibition from April 15-17 at Open Palm Court Gallery, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The title of our artwork was Zentangle art.

ORAL POLIO VACCINATION



Every year literally Pathway has been a base to draw in children from surrounding areas to get benefitted from the govt driven polio vaccination programme in January on the 28th and 11th March 2018. We feel satisfied to note that in some humble way we are able to help the cause of polio eradication in India

Two drops of polio vaccine are administered to all children below the age of five except the sick children. All vaccinated children are marked with ink on their left little finger.

71 lakh children below the age of five years are administered polio vaccine by the Tamil Nadu government. The pulse polio vaccination, was inaugurated by chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami on 28th january, which was carried out till March 11, and involved nearly two lakh public health and anganwadi workers. As part of the drive, around 43,000 immunisation booths were set up across the state in primary health centers, government hospitals, noon meal enters and schools, which functioned from 7am to 5pm. The state also operated 1,000 mobile booths for children living in remote and inaccessible areas and localities that have a migrant population.

Since 2005, the state has not seen polio cases. Besides the routine vaccination, children are vaccinated twice a year as part of the pulse polio campaign. According to the directorate of public health, 71.04 lakh children were immunised in the drive last year. On March 11th the second phase of pulse polio campaign was administered to nearly 66 lakh kids in the state. Of the total 711897 children 670890 children were covered under this drive.



EXPRESSIVE ART THERAPY

It was the month of January 2018. I was musing over what new opportunities and programmes could be added to empower the children more. Every therapy and special classes were being conducted and life was going on as usual. Just then a young lady knocked at my office door and requested to speak to me for a few minutes. I looked at my glass window and beckoned her in. She gave me a sweet smile and introduced herself as when Dr. Shruti Kamath, B.H.M.S, an Consultant Homoeopath & Arts Based Therapist from Mumbai. I settled down and waited for her to complete her introduction. In her discussion with me she explained her desire to introduce Art based Therapy for the children as a volunteer for 3 months. Her talk set me thinking and my mind raced back to 2003 when Liz Gleason from Ireland had volunteered as a drama therapist for 2 months. The results were very positive since the children had enjoyed every therapy class of hers. Looking at Shruthi and her determination to bring in some more positive changes in our children's life I decided to give in and laid out the basic rules.



In our next meeting in the following week we decided that she would assess a group of children and then create a detailed schedule for them. this started our new programme namely – THE ART THERAPY

Arts Based Therapy represents the use of art forms like movement, music, drama, stories, visual arts and activities and their combinations for the purpose of therapy. The aim of this project was to increase their emotional awareness. This was done using the senses of touch, taste, sight, auditory and body consciousness.

It is known that Art therapy can be great for a number of people and is perfect for all ages due to its versatility. Art Therapy can also be great if you have not had luck with verbal therapy and would like to try something new. It can also help open up emotions you may be pushing back or not reflecting on, forcing you to notice them and try and work on them.

Art Therapy could be a great outlet for especially those with learning difficulties, Those on the autistic spectrum, Art therapy can help a child or children with abuse, helping them communicate about physical or sexual abuse those who find it difficult to express their feelings etc. and many more.

Children may find it scary or difficult to properly express themselves in a clinical setting. This is particularly true for young children who generally have limited vocabularies and those that don't speak the primary language in the country where they live. In addition to or in lieu of standard therapy methods, kids can use art to communicating their thoughts and feelings to the adults who want to help them deal with their life challenges.



Art therapy is a psychotherapy wherein patients use art in varying ways. The most common way is to escape from the stress of illness or disability. It is also used as a symbolic language. With the help of the therapist, the child





deciphers the meaning of the picture and discusses the underlying issues that inspired the artwork. No matter how it is used, art therapy can be a creative outlet for children struggling with the circumstances of their lives.

The exact process depends a lot on the art therapist, the age of the child, and the problem being treated. In general, art therapists provide kids with age-appropriate art supplies and set them free to express themselves. More often than not, the therapist will give the child a prompt to get them started. For example, he may ask the child to draw a house or favorite food.

After the pictures have been completed, the therapist will begin to question the child about various aspects of the artwork in an effort to understand what the thoughts or feelings it represents. The therapist will then use that feedback to develop an effective treatment program that will help the child move forward. Treatment may be conducted individually or in a group setting. It may be the primary mode of therapy or secondary to other forms of psychotherapy. Additionally, the therapist may work individually or as part of a clinical team treating the children

For many kids, art therapy helps them immensely. However, it is important to remember that every child is different and may not respond the same way to this treatment. Some kids will pour their hearts out on the page while others may require a little more space and time before they open up. This is true even for adults. The most important thing in a child/therapist relationship is trust. Therefore, it is critical to take time to search for an art therapist that the child can connect with. We are glad that we found this quality in Dr Shruthi. She used a few art therapy forms like painting, music, drama on a larger scale. Painting art therapy technique is and probably the most limitless.

Painting can give one a great sense of freedom, being able to paint whatever one wants. She made this little easier by assigning exercises and prompts on what they could base their drawing on. She also used visual arts, stories, non flame cooking and activities to make their learning a fun one. Her programme enabled the children to perform on the stage a dance drama based on Michael Jackson's song-Heal the World.

We are indeed grateful to this wonderful young woman who we wish continues to do the best in her field and reach out to as many children who need her.

OUR AMAZING TERRACE GARDEN



Gardening with children who have special needs is indeed a very rewarding experience. Creating and maintaining the ornamental plants and vegetables, plants has long been recognized as being therapeutic. Over these years of experience we feel that it is a tool to help these



special children to develop necessary skills and in turn enjoy the fruit of success not just by money but also by being in nature. Our terrace garden idea was first started by the help of two then student volunteers from USA namely Bill Benac junior and Tim Fewkes.

This very worthwhile thought project has yielded today a number of years of happiness in the children's life. Their motor skills have improved, working in a group has increased their social and personal skills which has culminated in further self confidence building.



We have also observed that the children have shown less aggressiveness and reduced stress and tension. Every year of work has only reaped more benefits from every angle. This year has no different after going through a rough patch during 2016-2017 when we have faced flood and later cyclone which had destroyed our entire nursery. The children were not cowed down by it we decided to take the matter in our hands. I know it was easy to just call for a company to re-install our mesh and a new drip system along with erection of new poles which had given way. All the plumbing lines had been destroyed.



The special gardeners were not the ones to give up. I was sitting among the ruins of their once beautiful nursery garden and moving about my next step. They gathered round me and showed interest in rebuilding their nursery. I listen to their talk and finally accepted to give a try. They were so enthusiastic that it had already rubbed in me and we





gathered and made a list of materials that we would require. It was not unusual to see our cook, carpenter and driver join to rebuild the entire structure again. Once the frame work was in place the entire shade net



of 35metres was bought to encase the entire structure. It was indeed a pleasure to watch them a pleasure run around and do small errands like procuring nails, hammer or string where required or just helping by supporting the ladder etc. Some even

made arrangement to supply refreshments to their peers. Once the frame work was ready the drip was set in the place. It was most hearting to watch the children who work so diligently and at every step ask to be guided. Ego has never been their trait. Their strongest trait is a smile and the inner silent voice which says "I CAN". Cheers and applause was definitely due. Once done we had to rework on the outlay. Every year we re arrange the nursery to give it a added dimension and think of new plants which can be experimented and planned for.

Ash blocks were bought and rearranged in a new pattern to allow proper drainage and accessibility for children to grow their favourite plants. The choice was varied since it involved a group. Each one had their favourite and this interest was used as a motivator to be a part of this gardening club. Bonsais orchids, pineapples, egg plant, tomatoes all types of greens, green chillies, sapota, lemon, Roses, Jasmine, Bougainvillea, Litchi, Orange apple, Cactus, Crotons, Papaya, Drumstick, Banana, Lxora, Curry leaves, Coriander, Rangoon creeper, Betel leaf creeper, Tulsi or Basil, Heart ring creeper, Begonia, the list is endless. The beauty about this nursery is that it also educates our special child, vocabulary increases, along with other skills like touch, colour and aesthetic sense etc. and concepts are benefited. A Leaf of life -----Medicinal plant also known as Fiery costus or spinal flag has been grown to since it has been dubbed as insulin plant because it was believed to help the body in producing insulin.



TRADE FAIR



“Tourism for all — promoting universal accessibility” was the theme of the 43rd India Tourism and Trade Exhibition 2017. The exhibition began on Island Grounds on January 13. Officials said the footfall for the exhibition was around 11 lakh people the previous year and they expected a good number of visitors



till April, when the exhibition was supposed to end. Organised by the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation, the exhibition was attended by 25 State government departments and 23 government undertakings. To this wonderful Exhibition Pathway’s Vocational unit was called once again this year to be a part which opened on a grand note at the Island Grounds. Several dignitaries from State departments were present

“The idea of this fair was to provide a billion opportunities to the tourists visiting. During this 2 month long fair Pathway exhibited their products to the public and received rare compliments and kudos for the work at large to the society. The fair was open from 3 pm to 10 pm on weekdays and from 11 am to 10 pm on Sundays and public holidays.

Enchanting Tamil Nadu — The 44th Tamil Nadu tourism trade fair exhibition at Arignar Anna Kalaiarangam, Theevuthidal/Island Grounds, Kamraj Salai, Chennai is under way now. Here's a look at the fair, which kicked off on Saturday January 13, 2018, and will go on for 70 days.



In this fair, state government departments showcase their



services, alongside entertainment activities and amusement rides.

The Island Grounds constitute a vast empty space on the island where fairs and exhibitions are held on a regular basis. Anna Salai is one of the major roads of Chennai. It originates on this island running mostly in the southwest direction towards the south. From the year 1975, the annual India Tourist and Industrial Fair, which is popularly known to the locals as the trade fair, has been conducted on this island by the state government of Tamil Nadu during the months of January to March.

The fair will be open to visitors from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays and on Sundays it will be open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

VOCATIONAL – JOB TRAINING & PLACEMENT

To meet the employment challenges of the disabled, Pathway offers the following jobs to its students:

NO. OF JOBS	TYPE OF SKILL	LOCATION
WEAVING	10	CHENNAI
CLEANING AND HOUSE KEEPING	4	CHENNAI
DENTAL CLINIC	1	CHENNAI
MEDICAL CLINIC	1	CHENNAI
JEWELLERY UNIT	8	CHENNAI
BAKERY	6	CHENNAI
CANDLE MAKING	6	CHENNAI
PAPER MACHE	15	CHENNAI

Over the years, Pathway has developed some long term, time-tested relationships with certain companies, organizations, and individuals who have consistently supported the Center and its endeavors to rehabilitate and employ its students.



Additionally, many small businesses and individuals regularly buy services from the Center's printing, wood working, candle making and bakery facilities.

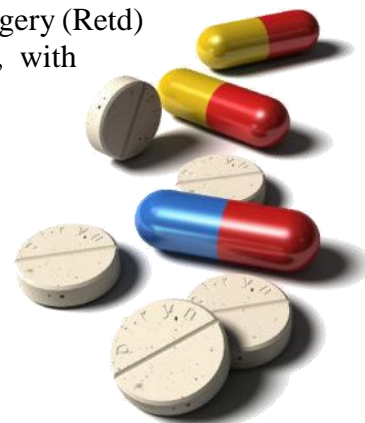


MEDICAL UNIT

Pathway's medical programme is a comprehensive and continues to grow. Established 33 years ago in a rented building in the slums of Thiruvannmiyur, Kamarajnagar, the medical centre is committed to providing care for both Pathway patients and poor communities within Pathway's reach.

- ❖ Medical centre began with a modest grant from the Drawings & Sponsorship EMMAUS of Switzerland
- ❖ Established under the direction of late Dr. V. Shankaran, Professor of Surgery (Retd)
- ❖ Now located within the Pathway Centre building in Thiruvannmiyur, with funding from :
 - ❖ Judge William Sheffield, USA
 - ❖ Mr. Jean-Luc and Mrs. Carole Butel, USA

On average over 3,208 patients are treated every month at the medical facility:



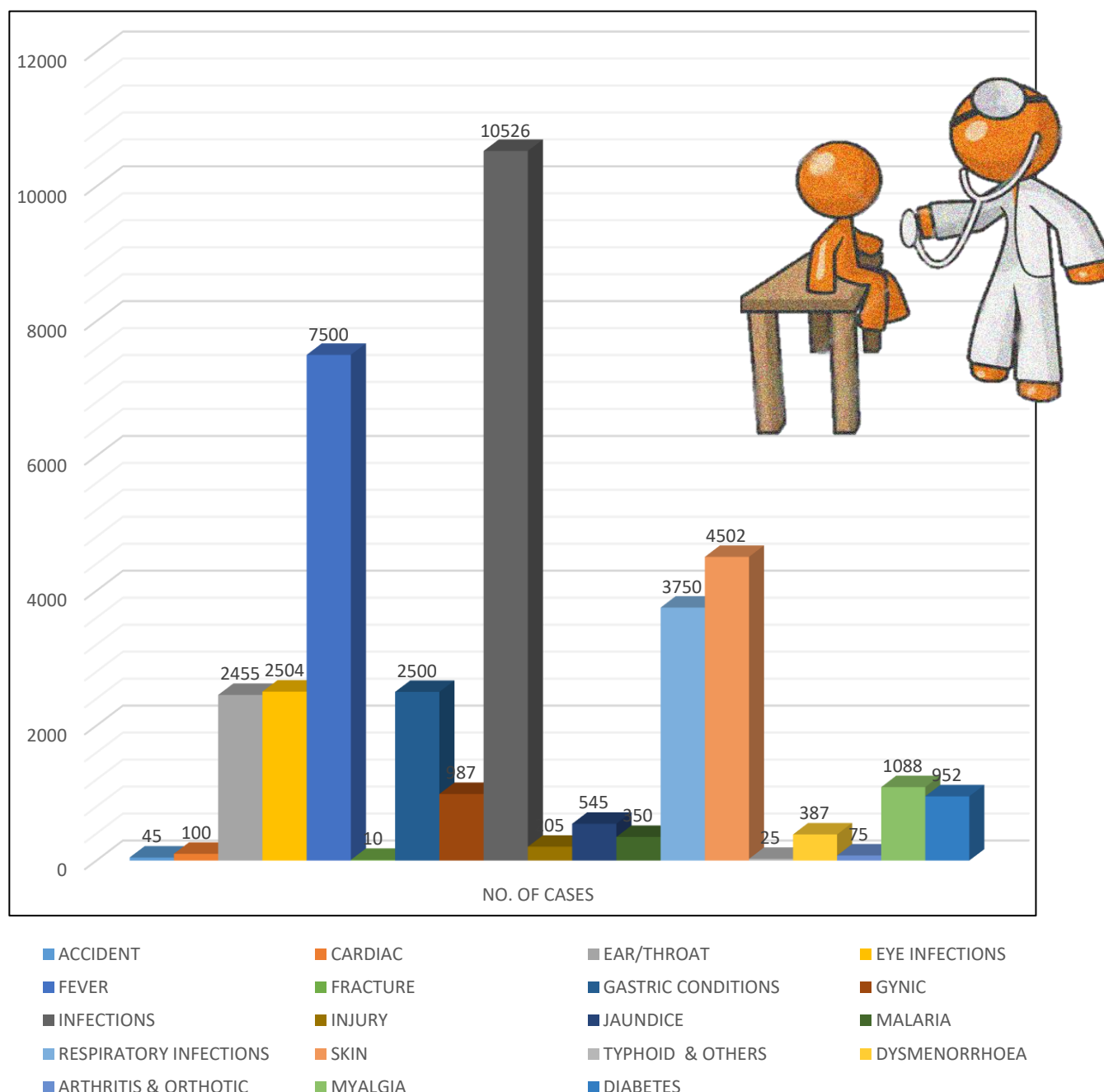
- ❖ Nearly 1,100 are men.
- ❖ Over 2,208 are women and children



The medical centre has the following capabilities:

GENERAL MEDICAL CONSULTATION	DRESSING AND INJECTION AREA	PEDIATRIC CARE	PHARMACY
MINOR SURGICAL PROBLEMS	PSYCHIATRIC OUT PATIENT CARE	MEDICAL STORE	TREATMENT ROOM

Total number of cases treated is : 38,506 Men : 16,172, Women and Children : 22,332



CONDITION	NO. OF CASES	CONDITION	NO. OF CASES	CONDITION	NO. OF CASES
ACCIDENT	45	EYE INFECTIONS	2504	GASTRIC CONDITIONS	2500
CARDIAC	100	FEVER	7500	GYNIC	987
EAR/THROAT	2455	FRACTURE	10	INFECTIONS	10526
JAUNDICE	545	MALARIA	350	INJURY	205
RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS	3750	SKIN	4502	TYPHOID & OTHERS	25
DYSMENORRHOEA	387	ARTHRITIS & ORTHOTIC	75	MYALGIA	1088
DIABETES	952				

DENTAL

Pathway's Dental Clinic in the Thiruvannmiyur centre also serves Pathway patients and the surrounding slums and middle class neighborhoods.

Full service clinic with the latest equipment presently manned by Dr. Senthil, MDS, PhD consultant in Orthodontist & Dentofacial and also a specialist in Lingual Orthodontistry

Dental chair, tools and dental x-ray

Dental scaling and sealing equipment

Facilities for pure filtered and treated water

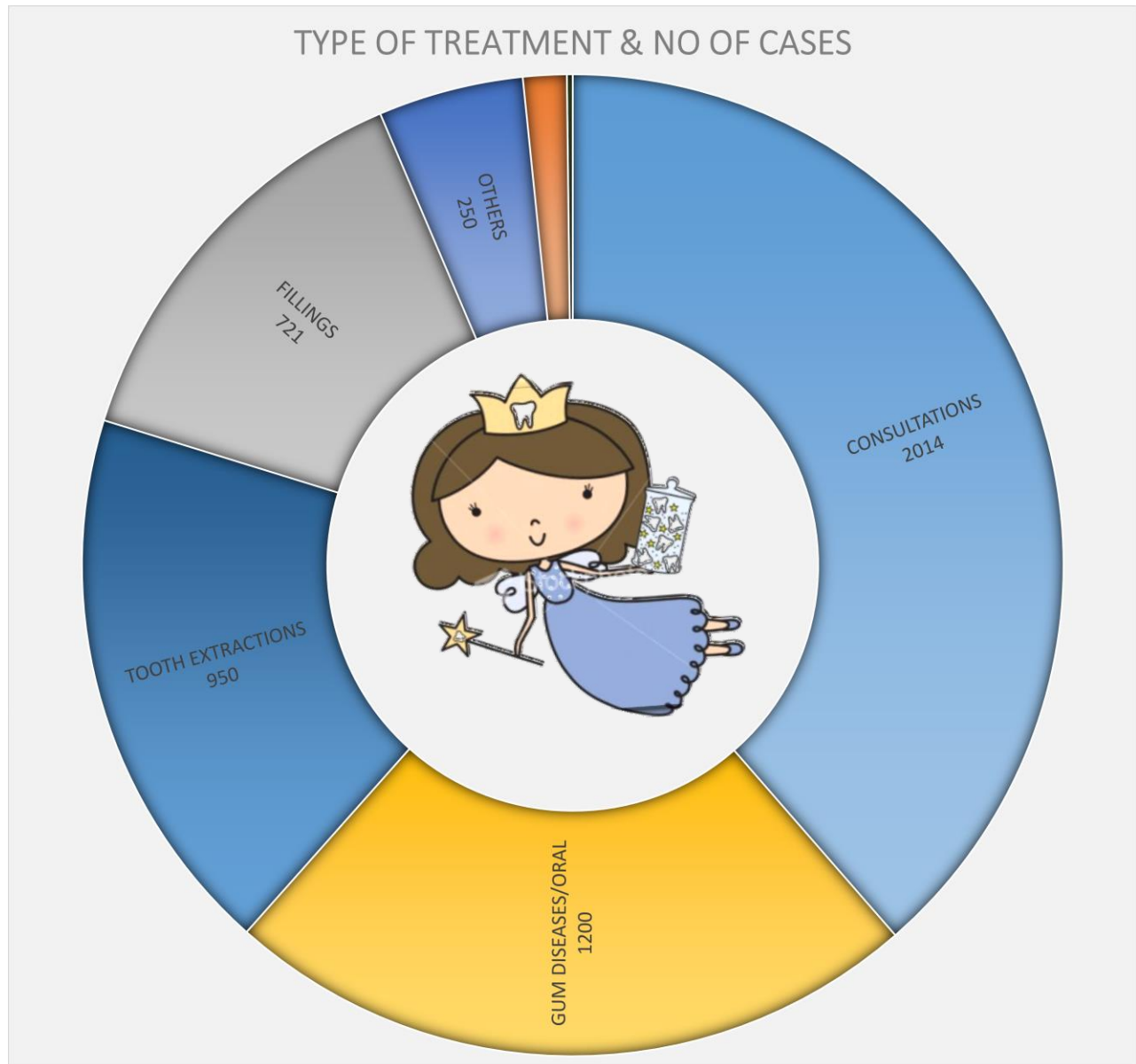
Fully licensed and experienced dental surgeon available every day for consultation and treatment

Open to patients six days per week from 6.30 -10.30p.m

Established with generous donations by: Judge William Sheffield, Amanda & Kay Sheffield,

Dr. R Wheatfil, DDS USA

SERVICE/TYPE OF TREATMENT	NO.OF CASES	SERVICE/TYPE OF TREATMENT	NO.OF CASES
CONSULTATIONS	2014	FILLINGS	721
DENTURES	75	GUM DISEASES/ORAL	1200
OTHERS	250	TOOTH EXTRACTIONS	950
ROOT CANAL TREATMENTS	10	IMPLANTS	



DENTAL CAMP



During the cyclone we had plenty of destruction to face since the roofing was ripped off and the dental chair was flooded with water. There was no way to clean up the mess till a fortnight. During this period the dental chair faced a setback and all the other small instruments caught rust. We tried to garner all the support we could get and clean and disinfect the entire area. We also cleaned the chair so that the basic work could be attended to at the same time silently prayed for a new one which to our delight was confirmed by our great supporter and friend Bill Benac who very benevolently offered to provide a new one. We are humbled by his munificent gesture.

We at Pathway having services of highly trained dentists and dental services realised that its not just enough to cater to our children but also awareness of this service in form of regular camps is necessary. This gives us

an opportunity to educate the surround community along with our staff and children the merits and demerits. This year two special camps were conducted by Dr Sivakami Ramaraj whom we have been in touch from December 2017. After too and fro mails we were able to fix the month of February onwards for these camps. Dr Sivakami Ramaraj who graduated from Madras Dental College and her post-graduation from Orthodontics from Royal London Hospital. She has worked as a consultant at the Ministry of Health at Bahrain and as a consultant for cleft palate for Muscat. Her services includes working at Queen Alexandria



Hospital at London. With her such applaudable services she decided to give her precious time for our special children which made us feel honored.

At Pathway she educated the audience regarding the common dental ailments especially stressing on tooth decays and other gum diseases arising from them. The parents were educated regarding the choice of foods and eating pattern to conform to etc. She also demonstrated the choice and use of proper toothbrushes and paste. In very easy and descriptive ways she explained the major cause of tooth decay---PLAQUE. Some curious parents and children did enquire more about this oral disease.



After screening the children were highly excited to get new brushes and tooth paste along their new patient card, the diagnosed problem and the dental treatment plan.

CHENNAI STAFF

Pathway currently employs a total of 45 staff members at the Chennai centre, plus 4 honorary experts

STAFF	NO	STAFF	NO	STAFF	NO
SPEECH PATHOLOGIST & AUDIOLOGIST-part time	1	ASSISTANT TEACHERS	3	HELPERS	5
PEDIATRICIAN	1	OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST	1	CLEANERS	3
PHYSICIAN, SURGEON	2	YOGA INSTRUCTOR	1	ACCOUNTANT	2
DENTIST	1	PHYSIOTHERAPIST	2	PUBLIC RELATION OFFICER	1
NURSE	1	VOCATIONAL INSTRUCTORS	3	WATCHMAN	1
MEDICAL/DENTAL ASSISTANTS	2	BAKERY ASSISTANT	1	DRIVERS	2
SPECIAL EDUCATORS	13	WARDEN	1	COOK	2

TRAINING OF PARENTS



The institution regularly conducts training programme for the parents in the various aspects of rehabilitation. Parents are encouraged to join various programmes of the centre and work with the special children with special needs. They are also given opportunities to join as regular staff in various programmes for the children and adults of the centre. Groups of parents who have expressed their willingness to work are encouraged to assist the day care programme in several ways.

SELF HELP GROUPS OF PARENTS



“The parent's association of Pathway” has successfully formed 'Self Help Groups' (SHG) . These groups consists of parents of mentally handicapped children and adults of the centre. The intention of the organization to form such group was to energize and empower parents to take lead in helping their children in various projects drawn by the organization. The organization has ambitious programme for the SHG in organizing sales of various products made by the organization, involving children and parents of the children, so that the SHG can work towards economic emancipation of their wards.

TRAINING THE TRAINERS

The proposal strongly advocates “Training the Trainers”. It is proposed to establish very well organized and planned courses to train young minds to serve the disabled and the needy. These training programs will be need-based and specific to the urgent needs of the proposed facility. All these courses are recognized by the Rehabilitation Council of India, Ministry of Welfare, Govt. of India. These courses will run at different levels, such as: Multipurpose rehabilitation workers educators for the disabled, etc. All these training program will have considerable inputs from agriculture.

BENEFITS OF THE TRAINING PROGRAMME



The training programs will provide 20-30 qualified and interested helping hands in integrated education to the Farm and reduce the overhead recurring costs. Candidates trained at the Farm are expected to acquire all round expertise which includes general management of the disabled, working with normal children, residential rehabilitation program, specific skills in the techniques of scientific agriculture, etc. Training will be unique as no such programs are available in other centers.

EDUCATING SLUM CHILDREN FOR 24 YEARS

Today the literacy rate in India has improved a lot, the most literate state being Kerala with 93.91% whereas the least literate state is Bihar with 63.82%. Tamil Nadu state has shown decent improvement in its literacy rate in the last 10 years beginning from 2001. More than 80% of the total population in Tamil Nadu is literates, the male counterpart showing 86.81% and the female depicting 73.86%. Government of Tamil Nadu has played a vital role in providing a better education system in the rural as well as urban areas of the state.



The Tamilnadu government owes its literacy success to one of the pioneers of the scheme that started providing cooked meals to children in corporation schools in the Madras city in 1923. The programme was introduced in a large scale in 1960s under the Chief Ministership of K. Kamaraj. The first major thrust came in 1982 when Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. M. G. Ramachandran, decided to universalise the scheme for all children up to class 10. Tamil Nadu's midday meal programme is among the best-known in the country. Starting in 1982, Tamil Nadu took an approach to promoting literacy based on free lunches for schoolchildren, *"ignoring cynics who said it was an electoral gimmick and economists who said it made little fiscal sense."* The then chief minister of Tamil Nadu, MGR launched the programme, which resembled a similar initiative in 19th century Japan, because *"he had experienced as a child what it was like to go hungry to school with the family having no money to buy food"*.

Current Population of Tamil Nadu in 2017	79,096,413
Population of Tamil Nadu in 2016	77,881,463
Population of Tamil Nadu in 2015	76,656,206
Population of Tamil Nadu in 2014	75,478,738
Population in 2013	74,319,357
Sex Ratio in Tamil Nadu	995 females per 1,000 males
Literacy Rate	81%

Eventually, the programme covered all children under the age of 15, as well as pregnant women for the first four months of their pregnancy. Tamil Nadu's literacy rate rose from 54.4% in 1981 to 86.81% in 2017. In 2001, the Supreme Court of India instructed all state governments to implement free

school lunches in all government-funded schools, but implementation has been patchy due to corruption and social issues. Despite these hurdles, 120 million receive free lunches in Indian schools every day, making it the largest school meal program in the world.

Now, if we consider female literacy rate in India, then it is lower than the male literacy rate as many parents do not allow their female children to go to schools. They get married off at a young age instead. Though child marriage has been lowered to very low levels, it still happens. Many families, especially in rural areas believe that having a male child is better than having a baby girl. So the male child gets all the benefits. Today, the female literacy levels according to the Literacy Rate 2011 census are 65.46% where the male literacy rate is over 80%. The literacy rate in India has always been a matter of concern but many NGO initiatives and government ads, campaigns and programs are being held to spread awareness amongst people about the

importance of literacy. Also the government has made strict rules for female equality rights. India literacy rate has shown significant rise in the past 10 years.

Perpetual flow of people from villages to cities creates many socioeconomic problems. The density of population of cities rises and civic amenities fall short of needs. Law and order situation deteriorates. Prices of essential commodities rise. Housing situation become acute and rents soar. New entrants start living on pavements and thatched huts. That way slum come up, at times, adjacent to or right in the middle of posh colonies.

Migration of the poor to cities creates slums. Cultivable land in villages is limited. And it is not enough to support the landless labourers in the village. Instead of starving in villages, they along with their women folk move on to cities in search of employment. While men work as unskilled works, their women get work in households. World found, they build juggles that later become a cluster of huts.



Landless labourers are also attracted to cities as there have many factories where mill hands are needed. Later, these factory workers call their relatives and friends from their villages. Thus cities start expanding haphazardly.

Spread of education in villages is also responsible for migration of rural people to urban areas. Once a person in a village crosses the matriculation level, the agricultural profession does not interest him. He is on the lookout for an office job and hence the migration.

City Life has its own charm. We have sprawling bungalow multi-storey buildings, clubs, cinemas, theatres and other places entertainment and employment. Villagers start enjoying city life. They send money to their parents and elders regularly. At times they get lost the hustle and bustle of city life.

The slums in the capital and metro cities are getting larger and larger—with more migrants coming in. Basic amenities like electricity, potable water, toilets may be lacking in slums and there is no drainage. Heaps of garbage is found here and there. Hygienic conditions are not there—thus slum dwellers fall easy prey to diseases like cholera, malaria, jaundice. During the rainy season, it is real hell for slum dwellers.

It is now more than twentyfour years since Pathway started serving poor normal children from the urban slums adjacent to the city centre of Chennai by offering them free educational support. This service has galvanized lives of many children. Recently it was a pleasure to meet some of the boys and girls who have metamorphosed into successful young men and women in different walks of life. Murali, who was in the 12th grade in 2013, has today successfully completed B.Tech. Some children are looking out for jobs and some are doing part time courses. Similarly, Kowsalya has completed her B.Com and has set out to become an account assistant in Chennai. There have been other success stories from many of the children who were served by Pathway over the years. It was indeed satisfying and thrilling to hear such stories about many former students.

In 1992, as Pathway was in process of shifting to its new building at Thiruvannamiyur, Chennai (where it is presently located), there was considerable hostility and opposition from the neighborhood, where hundreds of slum dwellers live next to the mosquito-ridden canal bank. The disabled children of Pathway faced hostility

from men, women and children from the slum, who had the bizarre belief that the presence of disabled children in the area or even catching sight of them would spell “doom and bad luck”; therefore, the local people tried all methods to stall the functioning of Pathway. Prasad and Chandra were baffled with this new problem and pondered over this for several days, when out came the solution.

FIRST: They decided to throw open the doors of the walk-in clinic to all the poor in the slum so that the men, women and children could receive free medical services and thereby have an opportunity get closer to the institution. This helped many so that they would actually visit Pathway and see the services which were given and accept the children with disabilities.

SECOND: To encourage children to get closer to Pathway, it was decided to start a child-friendly programme of helping a few school children in their education between 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. every day. This step had an overwhelming response as more than 150 children approached the organization for assistance. This compelled Pathway to enlist several well-educated and dedicated teachers to offer educational support to these poor children who were attending the government-run corporation schools. This free and highly friendly support gained the patronage of hundreds of children who needed educational support for completing homework as well as for understanding their lessons better. This move by Pathway brought great changes in the lives of children as they flocked in the evenings to attend the well-organized classes. The focus on spoken English gained much popularity. This service brought great dividends. Once hostile neighborhood children came to know many of the disabled children by name and showed positive affection and concern to them. In addition to this, Pathway also offered the deserving poor children modest financial support by purchasing books, stationery, clothing and other needs. This experience formed the foundation to understand the needs children, particularly girl children, and the problem of Indian children marginalized by poverty, and paved the way for Pathway to establish the Pamela Martinez Matriculation School and orphanage.

Many studies show that poverty and lack of education go hand in hand. One of the best ways to lift children from dire poverty is education, which allows them to earn better wages as adults and to value the education of their children. Poverty in India is widespread, with the nation estimated to have a third of the world's poor.

Against the earlier estimate of 269 million people living below the **poverty line**, according to government data, **India** now has 172 million people, although the World Bank revised the **line** upwards. The global **poverty line** is the ability to live on \$1.90 (Rs 123.5) per day, up from \$1.25 (Rs 81).reported on Oct Today our Student Classroom Ratio (SCR) and Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) of the government-run schools have witnessed ‘significant progress’, as per Economic Survey . Besides, Gender Parity Index (GPI) has also improved “substantially” at primary and secondary levels by increasing enrolment of girls, although in higher education, gender disparities still prevail.

India has also improved quantitative indicators such as enrolment levels, completion rates and other physical infrastructure which includes construction of school buildings/classrooms, drinking water facilities, toilet facilities and appointment of teachers at elementary school level.

SCR is defined as average number of pupils per classroom in a school in a given school-year and the ideal size is 30 students per classroom. “At all-India level, percentage of schools with SCR greater than 30 students declined from 43 per cent in 2009-10 to 25.7 per cent in 2015-16,” said the Economic Survey 2017-18 tabled in our Parliament .

However, it also added that though SCR has improved in almost all states, there are variations in it. While India had a PTR of 23:1 at the national level for primary schools in 2015-16, at primary level and upper primary level, the PTR should be 30:1 and 35:1, respectively.

In spite of all the good initiatives and good programmes there is still a need to educate our children through extra coaching which will help in the quality education especially where the parents are illiterate. Their offsprings face no access of after school education to compliment the school education. There is no one to provide them tuition once they return from school, because their parents are very poor and illiterate. No one can help them in their homework and asking a young child to do his homework is a mockery of entire education system. There is poor quality of teaching by private tutors who are not qualified. The major one is lack of study space for the children. Since the houses are always cramped and the noise decibel of TV and continuous stream of visitors inside their tiny settlement, the children find it very impractical to study in such circumstances. Then there is shortage of teachers, rooms, poor light conditions. The major hurdle being the parents lack interest about the education of their children. The society is not sensitive to their emotional needs. Hence like a drop in the ocean Pathway has been addressing this problem in a humble way, but with some success. By sustained effort, school dropout at the Pamela Martinez/Pathway Matriculation School and Orphanage has been reduced from 19% in 2002 (its first year of operation) to 0.5% in 2016. We whole heartedly will try to do our best to empower these kids so that their future is secured for generations to come. This lift will not only motivate but also spiral towards a better life. The dedicated staff of Pathway is sensitive to these



youngsters and their efforts prove that these children can be an asset not just to themselves or their families but to the world at large.

FLOWER POWER

It was a day of outing for some of the residents of Sabin Pathway centre. Some of them being religious mind set wanted their educators to take them to visit the temple nearby. Saturday a weekend day was fixed for the same.

Early morning at the farm is a sight to behold especially when the paddy fields are swaying to the gentle breeze. A huge flock birds doing ballet and soaring into the sky with spread wings adorn the sky. They display a spectacular shade of white hues in various sizes, shapes and patterns.

The first bloom of fresh flowers which have droplets of moisture seem to be playing see-saw on the petals while some drops just l down and some play till gravity pulls them down. The children were to walk down from their living abode and board the van at the main gate. Spectacular birds like kingfishers guided their way and it seemed as if nature was beckoning them to greet them. They boarded the van and went to the nearest temple. What they observed was very interesting to note. Fresh flower garlands of all designs, sizes, hues were being offered to the gods but at the



same time the flowers which were not secured tightly made their way to the ground only to be trampled by the other pedestrians.

Seeing this sight the children for a moment forgot the reason to come to the temple. They brought this sight to my notice. Every positive thought gives rise to a new thought since it was like a challenge thrown at us. For sometime even I was stumped that they notice even these small details which many would feel as a part of life. Later it dawned to me that these beautiful flowers though had lived their life but still could be useful. I felt that they could be sorted out as per size, type and color and then dried to form powder to be used as a raw material.

Thus was born another eco friendly raw material which could be used as color powder for our Rangoli designs. While musing over this thought I decided to go a step further by using this powder along with adhesive and create the most charming products using our silicon moulds.as they say pictures say a thousand words

The dried petals were converted into powder and labelled as per their origin and colour. This was further sent to Chennai centre to be used in various forms. The possibilities are endless. Some of the examples are as shown below.



SILK THREAD BANGLES

The tradition of wearing bangles in india started way back in ancient times. However even today women love to wear bangles to enhance their feminine grace and beauty. The word bangle has been derived from the hindu word- bangri or bangali which in Sanskrit means- the ornament which adorns the arm.

Looking at the trend of fashion our educators and students decided to try their hand at creating silk thread bangles. Basically the usual instructions were followed like rolling silk thread around a cardboard of 1 and a half feet length 40 times. This was followed by gluing a centimeter area with glue which on drying was to be split into two with scissors. This would ensure that both the ends of this band of silk thread wouldn't get entangled and retain their sheen. Placing one end of this band to the inner side of the plastic bangle the thread was wound. This process continues till the entire bangle is covered with silk thread.

Once this base was ready the excitement and curiosity started since we wanted to be different from what the market produced. Various variations like stone chains, ball chains, sequins and charms were added to give a different and unique look. Some of the pictures shown here are a proof of our creativity



SOME OF OUR LATEST PRODUCTS 2017-2018



2017-2018



2017-2018



Nagar Main Road, Thiruvananthapuram, PIN: 95409 57303.

Director of Pathway honoured



Chandra Prasad, the Director and General Secretary of Pathway was honoured at the 107th birthday anniversary of Mother Teresa held at Raja Annamalai Mandram on Sept.1. She received the award from Justice S.Rajeswaran and Justice M.V.Muraidharan of Madras High Court.

Pathway is a centre for rehabilitation and education for the mentally retarded. Pathway is at E-76/1, 12th West Street, Kamaraj Nagar, Thiruvananthapuram. Ph: 24483949.

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

Pathway Excellence Award



Pathway, a voluntary NGO based in Thiruvananthapuram for children and adults with special needs, conducted the 'Pathway Excellence Award' at their Agro Farm in Melmaruvathur on Feb. 9.

These awards were conferred on children from rural districts of Tamil Nadu. Conceived 7 years ago, the main aim of the event is to encourage and appreciate the achievements made by the underprivileged.

At the event, awards were presented to 7 deserving candidates from marginalised community for their superlative performance in academics. Pathway is at E-76/1, 12th West Street, Kamaraj Nagar, Thiruvananthapuram. Ph: 2448 3949.

AWARDS



Pathway has received numerous awards and prizes from various sources and institutions over the years:

- 🏆 Social Award on 107TH Birthday Anniversary of MOTHER TERESA by Justice S Rajeswaran and Justice M V Muralidharan of Madras High Court conferred on CHANDRA PRASAD in the year 2017
- 🏆 GODFREY PHILIP Social Bravery Special Award conferred on A. D. S. N .PRASAD in the year 2013
- 🏆 THE PROFESSOR RAMESH K OZA Oration Award conferred on A. D. S. N. PRASAD in the year 2013
- 🏆 “Best Employee” awarded to one Pathway employees – Hon’ble Social Welfare Minister, Government of Tamil Nadu, 2013
- 🏆 "The Noble Soul Award" - Award of Excellence in the field of Social Responsibility & for Valuable Support presented by Sathyabama University on 7th December 2013
- 🏆 Pathway Centre for Rehabilitation & Education of Mentally Retarded was awarded "
–The Best Institution for the Disabled for the year 2009-2010 by the Hon’ble Chief Minister of TamilNadu,
- Mr. M. Karunanidhi
- 🏆 “MCDS-Award for a couple rendering exceptional services to the disabled” awarded to -

–Mrs Chandra Prasad and A D S N Prasad, 2007. Award consisted of cash award, plaque and a citation handed over by Hon’ble Shri Surjit Singh Barnala, Governor of Tamil Nadu, in the presence of many distinguished persons including Mr. Devarajan, Managing Trustee of MCDS.



Award for “Services Rendered to the Mentally Disabled”

–Council of Parent's Association of the Mentally Retarded, Chennai, 2002



“Vocation Excellence” award to A.D.S.N. Prasad for his services to the disabled

–Rotary Club International, 1999



1998 award for “Most Outstanding Institution in India Serving the Disabled” and “Most Outstanding Employer of the Disabled in India”

–Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, (awarded in 1999)



“Best Institution Serving the Disabled”

– Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Ms. J. Jayalalithaa, 1995



“Best Employer of the Disabled”

– Hon’ble Social Welfare Minister, Government of Tamil Nadu, 1995



“Best Employees” awarded to two Pathway employees

– Hon’ble Social Welfare Minister, Government of Tamil Nadu, 1995



“Exceptional Contribution for Services to People”

–Government of Karnataka, 1995



“Services Rendered to the Mentally Disabled in India”

–Japanese SIVUS Council, 1993

