



SANKALP

Learning Imaginatively

Annual Report

2019 – 2020

We at Sankalp Trust commenced the academic year on an auspicious note with the Bhoomi Puja conducted on June 17th for the land we acquired, to build an integrated campus. With the undying support of our donors the construction progressed fast during the first ten months post which it is protracted due to the current pandemic situation. We are just a few months away to see our dream come alive. Below are some pictures of the progress of our new campus.





Our Achievements

- Yet again another feather has been added on to Sankalp's cap as we have been ranked as the 10th Best Special Needs School in India, by the Education World.

- The 'Jury's Special Recognition Award' awarded to Sankalp by the Polestar Jury for working with **Children with Special Needs** came by as a pleasant surprise. This award was conferred on Sankalp to recognize our efforts in creating a social impact among the community. This indeed recognizes that, the seeds that we had sown 20 years ago are now bearing fruits.



Events of Sankalp – Open School and Sankalp – Learning Centre

A Day at the Mango Farm

The Management of Hanu Reddy Farms invited the students and staff of Sankalp - Open School and Sankalp - Learning Centre to visit their Mango Grove at Guduvanchery. The children enjoyed various activities like bullock cart ride, pottery making, block printing, functioning of the pump set and plucking mangoes from the farm.



Work Skills – Certificate Distribution Ceremony

On 10th Oct 2019, it was a proud moment indeed for our students in the Prayaas, Sahayika and Samyukt 18+ groups. Students of Sankalp - The Open School and Sankalp - The Learning Center were presented certificates for successful participation in the varied work-skill training sessions. A report on various activities was presented by the work skills coordinators of the respective schools. The certificates were handed over by the Chief Guest Captain R Venkatesh, Chief Executive Officer of DP World, Chennai, who are the backbone (sponsors) for the work skill training. The sponsors expressed their happiness and satisfaction about the new venture undertaken by Sankalp.



Sankalp – The Open School

Inauguration of Sankalp - Prayaas

We kick started the year by inaugurating Sankalp – Prayaas an activity based Skill Development Program which includes activities such as weaving, cloth bag and paper bag making, vegetable processing and compost making. This initiative was spearheaded to ensure enthusiastic participation of all the students in pre-vocational skill training.



Outbound Trip

A trip for students from classes NIOS and upwards, was organized between Oct 31 and Nov 3, 2019. Around 46 students were taken to the cities of Pollachi and Parambikulam where they bestowed with the opportunity of living in camps and tents. They stopped over at a waterfall and went on a jungle safari to Parambikulam Tiger Reserve.

NIEPMD Workshop for teachers

On 5th and 6th Nov 2019 around 22 teachers from Sankalp - The Open School attended a seminar cum workshop conducted by NIPMED. The seminar was on “Assessment Techniques with regard to children with Learning Disabilities”. The speakers were Dr. Edward, Dr. Ruth and Dr. Marlene from Malta and Dr. Maria Josephine from India. This was found very valuable to our teachers.

Inter-School Competitions/Exhibitions

Our students took part in many inter-school fests/competitions and flew out with flying colours. Soroptomist an inter-school competition organized by Lady Andal School, Competitions organized by Madras Dyslexia Association, Kalakrithi organized by Balamandir School, Sparkle – a science exhibition organized by Balamandir School, Rangotsav and Rotary Talent Show are a few competitions in which our children participated.





Annual Day

The 31st of August witnessed our 18th Annual Day, an evening full of joy and enthusiasm. The programme began with an Invocation, followed by lighting of the lamp by our Directors and the Chief Guest Mr. Tarun Mahadevan, Director B&M Hot Breads. There was a super energetic performance which followed. Our students were seen singing, dancing, cycling, skating, and showcasing different talents which took the audience by a storm.

Annual Sports Meet

The **Annual Sports Meet** was held on 31 January 2020 at the Good Shepherd Convent grounds. The guest of honour was Ms. Anwasha Reddy an International Squash player. The students displayed their athletic talents and participated in the events allocated to them very enthusiastically. Ms. Anwasha Reddy appreciated our children and delivered a very inspiring speech.



A Few More Events

Apart from the events mentioned above we had many other schools and university students visiting us for conducting Case Studies. We also celebrated many festivals and National Holidays in high spirits with students and staff enthusiastic participation.

A few other important initiatives that we had organized are Workshop for Mothers, Alumni Meet, School Stay for Senior Students, Guest Lectures for different groups of children on various important topics such as “Sympathy & Care for others”, “Unconventional Courses that provide better Job Opportunities” and “General Hygiene” and a Farewell organized by senior students.



Sankalp – The Learning Centre

“On the Job” Training at Writer’s Cafe

We are grateful to Mr Tarun Mahadevan, proprietor of Writer’s Cafe for providing our students of Samyukt (18 & above) - young adults with Autism, an opportunity to get trained in different skills such as folding of napkins, cleaning the table and chairs, stacking books and arrangement of tables. This venture aims at providing our students hands on experience of being in a job.



Workshop Series

- **Pre-School Heads**

We conducted a one-day workshop for Pre-school Heads and Special Educators on “Collaborative efforts towards supporting students with Special Education Needs during Early Intervention Programs”.

- **CRE – Program**

A three day workshop on “Promoting of School Mental Health Program”, was organized by NIPMED (National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities) – A Government Agency in collaboration with Sankalp on August 2nd, 3rd and 4th.

Annual Day Celebrations

An important celebration of the year is the school’s Annual Day. It provides an opportunity for our students to showcase their hidden talents. The students took part in diverse programmes that included music, dance and speech. The Chief Guest for the Annual Day was, Dr. Priya Senthil Kumar. M.D (CM)., D.G.O., practicing Gynecologist and Professor of Community Medicine, Madras Medical College.



Battle of Buffet–Seva Mela

Battle of Buffet, Chennai Mission and United Way together had organised an event at the Chennai Trade Centre, where students of Sankalp Sahayika and Sankalp Samyukt (18 & above) put up a stall exhibiting various products made by them. We also presented a video showcasing the students working on different activities like weaving, packing & data entry.

“**The Perfect Shot Award**” was presented to Sankalp, for creating a coherent, concise and compelling project video depicting different activities done by the students of Sankalp Samyukt.



Annual Sports Meet for the Primary and Seniors

Our **Annual Sports Meets** were successfully conducted this year as well on two separate days for the Primary and Senior group of students. All the students participated enthusiastically in the numerous creative activities and games organised by a dedicated team of teaching and non-teaching staff. Chief Guests Mr. K.T. Muraleedharan, Chief Coach of Dolphin Swimming Academy, Tamil Nadu State Aquatic Association and Mrs. Arthi Jayavel(M. Sc., M. Phil., B. Ed), a freelance clinical psychologist, with over 9 years of experience in the field of mental health and a state and national level hockey player delivered a very inspiring speech.



Special Needs Eco-product Hub

Five Institutions – Sankalp Trust, Sarvamangala Vihar Trust, Sri Arunodhayam Swabhiman and V.Excel have put our hands together with a vision to create sheltered employment opportunities that will provide sustainable livelihood for adults with special needs.

National and State Level Competitions

Our students have participated and won many prizes in both State as well as National Level competitions. Some of the competitions that our students participated in are as follows:

- Yoga Competition organized by **Tamil Nadu Young Olympian Association**
- The **Specially Disabled Children's National Science Painting Competition** organised by “**United Schools Organisation of India**” in collaboration with **CSIR - NISCAIR** and with support of **UNESCO** was held in our premises. Another feather in the cap for one of our students in the **Samyukt** group as he was awarded for the **Best Entry** in this National Level Competition. Two other students were awarded the first and third place.
- **Javate** – an inter school competition for differently abled students conducted by **Lady Andal Venkatasubba Rao School** in various categories like music, dance, instrumental music, painting, talent show and fancy dress.
- **Thiruvallur Special Oylmpics**



A Few More Events

Apart from the events mentioned above we had many other important developments and events this year. Enlisted below are some of them

- Our Principals attended AITP (Autism Intervention Training Program), at Ummeed Child Development Center, Mumbai where excellent and constructive training was given on diverse methods of intervention used in different special schools in India.
- Students of Sankalp were invited to experience various events held at different places in Chennai. The Senior students participated in **DANZZA** at the Institute of Modern Dance, Alwarpet while the primary students were given an opportunity to enjoy the fun rides and play games at the **Fun City in VR Mall**.
- We also celebrated many festivals and National Holidays in high spirits with students and staff enthusiastic participation.
- A dental Check-Up conducted by Ms. Priyatharshini, a 3rd year Post Graduate student from the Department of Public Health, Tamil Nadu Government Dental College, and Hospital, Chennai. She conducted a study titled “Assessment of development defects of enamel in Autistic children”.





Current Pandemic (COVID-19) Situation:

The academic year 2019-2020 came to an abrupt end on March 16, 2020 when the Government ordered all educational institutions to shut down in an attempt to contain the spread of the COVID 19 Pandemic. However we at Sankalp with the incessant support from teachers have been in constant connection with our students over the internet (online medium) in an attempt to train them on a range of new skills which would also prove useful during these testing times.