

SANKALP TRUST



Annual Report 2022 - 2023



EMPOWERING

CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



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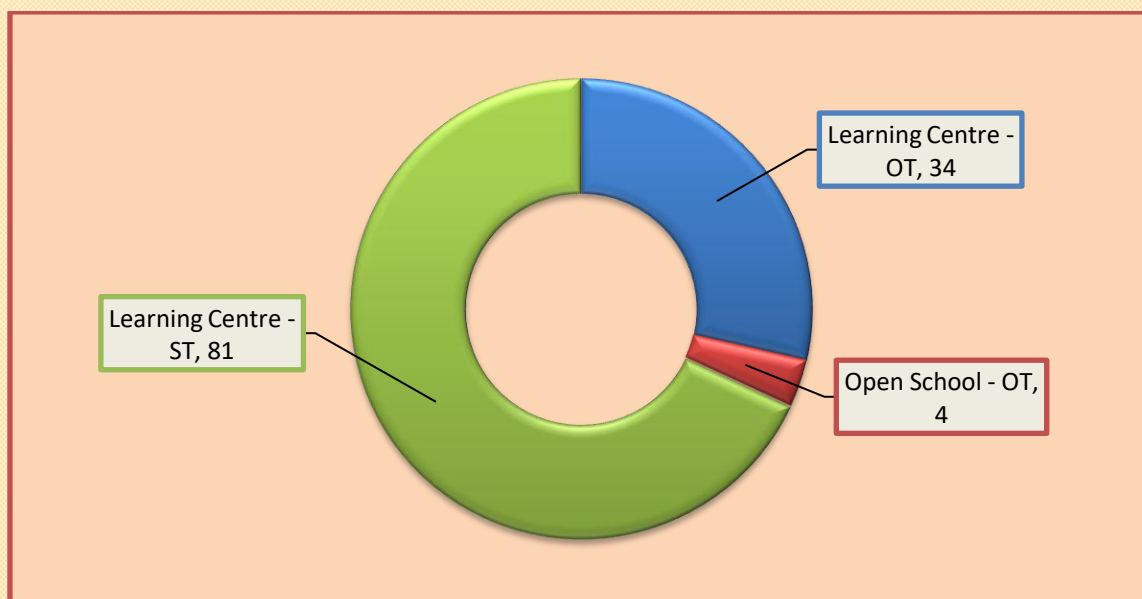
SANKALP – CURRENT OPERATIONS

<i>Unit</i>	<i>Students</i>	<i>Directors</i>	<i>Principal</i>	<i>Teachers</i>	<i>Ancillary Staff</i>
<i>The Learning Centre & Special Needs School</i>	136	2	2	20	21
<i>The Open School</i>	109	1	1	18	7
Total	245	3	3	38	28

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<i>Unit</i>	<i>Part-Time Faculty</i>	<i>Admin</i>	<i>Therapists</i>	<i>Remedial Students</i>	<i>Volunteers</i>
<i>The Learning Centre & Special Needs School</i>	2	4	5	0	0
<i>The Open School</i>	13	1	1	5	3
Total	15	5	6	5	3

Demography of students availing Therapy under Concession



SANKALP RANKED NO. 1 SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOOL IN INDIA

It gives us immense pleasure to share the news that Sankalp Trust has been ranked as the #1 Special Needs School in the country by Education World Rankings 2022 - 23. We would like to express our immense gratitude to all our stakeholders without whom this would not have been possible.



RCI APPROVAL FOR TEACHER TRAINING

Sankalp is now an RCI Approved Teacher Training Centre. After a detailed inspection by a team from RCI, Sankalp got its approval for conducting a Diploma in Spl. Ed. (IDD) which is a two year course. With this it gives us hope to build a cadre of well-trained special educators. In August 2023, we will commence training our first batch for Diploma in Special Education (Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities).



Sankalp - The Learning Centre & Special Needs School

June - July

The school re-opened on June 14th. Parent Orientations for various groups was held in the month of June. Parents were given a brief on what is scheduled for the term and year.

At Sankalp we have now included Speech Therapy as a part of the curriculum for all the children upto the Intermediate Group.

August

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

This year's Independence Day was special as we celebrated the same for the very first time in our own premises at Kolappancheri. The flag was Hoisted by our Senior Trutee and our Emeritus Mentor Mr and Mrs Rao respectively. Parents graced the occasion and watched the performances of their children. The celebrations were very well received and enjoyed.



PARENT ORIENTATION – AUGUST 22, 2022

We had yet another orientation for our parents on “how to teach the concepts to your children, using our aids along with the methodology”. A PPT was also displayed for the benefit of our parents. The Primary and Juniors Group had it on the 17th of August,



while the Intermediate Group had theirs on the 22nd of August. The parents appreciated our efforts for conducting this helpful orientation.

SPORTS MEET AT PERAMBUR RAILWAY STADIUM

A Special Sports Meet was held at Perambur Railway Stadium. Our children participated and made us proud by winning prizes as well.

September

PRIMARY & JUNIOR SPORTS MEET

Our tiny tots of Primary and Junior Groups had a sports meet on the 2nd of September. It was presided over by Mr Prabhakaran, Founder of Anbalaya Special Needs School Thiruvottiyur and is an Active Member of Special Sports Academy. He graciously stayed with us throughout the program and was in awe of how the whole program was organized and conducted. The Sports Meet was well attended by our enthusiastic parents, who were found cheering and encouraging all our little children throughout the event.





TEACHER'S DAY

“It takes a Special Teacher to hear what a child cannot say”.

Our Teachers are truly the backbone of the mission we represent. Teacher's Day was indeed a fun-filled day, where different games were organized for both, the Teachers and Non-Teaching staff. Teachers were dressed in different shades and took back a souvenir to mark the special day.





PROUD MOMENT OF ACHIEVEMENT

Our dear Special Educator, Mrs Chandralekha was awarded the Best Teacher by Rotary Club, Chennai. We are very happy and proud of the success of Mrs Chandralekha. We wish her many more milestones in her journey as a special educator.



ONAM CELEBRATIONS

Onam was celebrated with a beautiful pookalams, done by our very own helping staff. Following that, the teaching and non-teaching staff danced a few dainty steps of the Thiruvathira kali (dance). Not to forget, the sumptuous payasam and snacks were served to all the staff members and relished by everyone. Some glimpses of the celebrations:



IT'S PICNIC TIME!!

Picnic is always fun! Our intermediate students went on their picnic to the Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur on the 26th of July. The children had a great time with lots of memories and lots of photos to prove the same. The picnic was well attended and organized. The authorities at the Zoological Park were very helpful. Following them the students of NIOS, Sahayika and Samyukt also visited the Arignar Anna Zoological Park at Vandalur on the 9th of August. They too had a gala time.





The children of Primary and Junior Groups had their picnic on the 12 of September. They visited the Fun factory. All of the little ones thoroughly enjoyed their picnic.

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A JOYFUL MOMENT OF RECOGNITION:

Our founder members Mrs Lakshmi Krishnakumar and Dr Sulata Ajit were recognized by the OLC, Chennai on the 18th of September for their excellent work in the field of special education.



The school closed on this positive note on 23rd September, 2022 for Term I Holidays.

October

ART COMPETITION

Students from Sankalp participated in the preliminary round of an Art Competition conducted by DDRO, Thiruvallur. The topic of the round was 'Importance of Voting'. Our students enjoyed the process of the creating their Art work.

21ST OCTOBER – DIWALI CELEBRATIONS

Diwali was the first celebration after school re-opened on the 6th of October. The school was decorated with colourful and vibrant Rangolis created by children, teachers and support staff of all Groups. Sparkles and flowerpots were lit by our young adults with special needs with the help of our ancillary staff. The children and staff had a wonderful celebration.



LEARNING DISABILITIES AWARENESS EVENT - SMART FEST AT SANKALP – THE OPEN SCHOOL

This year's LD Awareness Event was celebrated with much excitement and a line up of numerous fun and educative activities. Our students and staff from NIOS and Prep



NIOS visited the LD Awareness Event at Sankalp – The Open School on the 28th of October, 2022. They explored many fun games, food counters and thoroughly enjoyed the cultural events at the school.



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IN-HOUSE WORKSHOP ON LEARNING STYLES

Our Director Dr Sulata Ajit and our Mrs Chandralekha conducted an In-house Workshop on Learning Style, ISSAI and FACP for the faculty at Sankalp – The Learning Centre & Special Needs School. The Workshop has proved very useful for our teachers and they have been implementing their learnings from the workshop.



November

CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION

It was a day filled with our children and young adults showcasing their talent through Fancy Dress and Talent Show. Primary students dressed up as animals of the Jungle. Intermediate students dressed up as Doctors, Farmer, Nurse, Green Grocer, Delivery executive, etc. Students from NIOS and Samyukt sang songs, recited shlokams and there was a Ramp Walk by students of Sahayika. All the participants were given coloured pens as a token of appreciation.

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SPORTS SELECTION

On 17th November, 2022 Sports selection was conducted at Sankalp for running, standing long jump and soft ball throw. Our student Sai Raghavan was selected for District Level Sports.

TALK ON AUTISM

Dr Sulata Ajit, our Director gave a talk on Autism and inclusivity for Roctract Club members. The members felt that the session to be insightful.

December

AUTISCAN

Om Chaitanya Trust, organized an awareness programme AUTISCAN on December 1st, 2022. Teachers, students and parents of Sankalp were given awards and certificates. Senior students from Sankalp gave a dance performance for the programme. Senior students were presented with Achiever's Awards, parents were presented with Best Parent Awards and teachers were presented with Best Teacher Awards (for their excellent service in the field of special education).





YOGA COMPETITION

Yoga competition was held in UCCK School, Vanagaram on December 4th, 2022. Students from Primary, Junior, Intermediate and Sahayika groups participated and made us proud by winning many laurels in the competition.





OPEN DAY

An Open Day was held on 23rd December, 2022 for all the parents of Sankalp – The Learning Centre and Special Needs School. The Open Day was well attended by all the parents of the various groups.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SPEECH THERAPIST MRS PRAVEENA AMRIT

Congratulations to our Speech Therapist Mrs Praveena Amrit on successfully completing her BCA/BA exams. Mrs Praveena is now a recognized Behavior Analyst. She's the 2nd Speech Therapist in India to have cleared this exam and we at Sankalp, are very proud of her achievements and feel even happier that she is a part of our team!



SANKALP STARTED OUR FIRST BAKERY OUTLET AT MADRAS MEDICAL MISSION

As a pilot project, Sankalp started its first Bakery Outlet at Madras Medical Mission in December 2023. This was initiated mainly to create livelihood opportunities and empower young adults with intellectual disabilities so that they become participatory members and contributors of the society. A young adult alongside an able-bodied person is employed to take care of a small bakery outlet beside the MMM Canteen, where our bakery produce made while training our young adults is sold. The project has been running successfully. We hope to replicate more such outlets at Companies and Hospitals alike. This initiative is supported by Mr Mahadevan and Chennai Mission.



JANUARY

'QUIZABLED'

Children above 13 participated in “Quizabled” quiz competition on January 5th 2023 conducted by Seva in Action supported by Spastic Society of Tamil Nadu on Jan 5th through online mode. Children enjoyed the participation and they were provided with goodies.



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CARNIVAL

Our first Carnival “**SANKALP UTSAV 2023**” in our own campus was held on January 7th, 2023. It was an extremely eventful and delightful day! Many games and food counters were organized. We also had a few NGOs display the products made by their children with special needs.

Indian Playback Singer Dr Sujatha Mohan graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Children, parents and other NGO invitees for the day had a blast!! The Event’s main aim was to promote social inclusivity of persons with special needs.

We the staff and management of Sankalp are still reeling over the Carnival! Kudos to the effort of each and every person behind the scene and Special thanks to our Donors who made this possible!





PONGAL CELEBRATIONS

The entire teachers and students got together on the 12th of January for a day filled with joy and colour to celebrate the harvest festival of Pongal. Sweet Pongal was distributed amongst the staff and the teachers surprised the Management with a traditional dance.





FEBRUARY

SPORTS DAY

The 20th Annual Sports Meet held at Sankalp – The Learning Centre & Special Needs School on the 17th of February 2023, was a day filled with fun and frolic. Many unique races and games were organized. Mrs Aarthi Sankaran, National Cricket Academy, Level 2 Coach & Broadcaster presided over the event as a Chief Guest. She was a true sport encouraging all the participating candidates. Mr Vijaybabu, the Panchayat President of Kolappancheri also presided over the event as the Guest of Honour.

The Chief Guest appreciated the efforts put in and shared a positive feedback of the same to the management. The parents and students thoroughly enjoyed participating in all the events.





COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Students from the Hike Association of Dharmamurthi Rao Bahadur Calavala Cunnan Chetty's Hindu College from Pattabiram conducted a **Community Development Programme** on the 28th of February at our campus and entertained our Senior and Sahayika students with dance, fun games and songs. The students thoroughly enjoyed the event. Such events raise the spirits for all of us at Sankalp.





JAVATE: INTER SPECIAL SCHOOL COMPETITION

"JAVATE" an inter-special school competition was held on February 11th, 2023 at Lady Andal, Chetpet. The various categories of competition were art, dance, music & instrumental.



APRIL

AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

“MILAN” is an initiative to spread awareness on Autism by Sankalp – The Learning Centre & Special Needs School. This is a very special event held every year. This year we thought of observing it a bit differently. What better way than stories, to capture hearts and help spread awareness? The fantastic Kathai Kalatta and Sankalp – The Learning Centre & Special Needs School collaborated together for spreading awareness on Autism and conducted this event on the 2nd of April 2023.. We shared stories on sensitivity and inclusivity at our own Centre in Kolappancheri, Poonamallee. Actress Parvathy Jayaram graced the occasion as a Chief Guest and enjoyed the sharing. We also spread awareness through stories in a few neighbouring mainstream schools including Chennai Public School, Thirumazhisai and Sri Chaitanya Techno School, Kolappancheri. Four story tellers beautifully shared 4 stories on inclusion and sensitivity. The children thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and interacted enthusiastically.





DIYA MARIA GEORGE

THROUGH songs, humorous narratives and theatrical flair, the members of Kathai Kalatta team welcomed the audience at Sankalp – The Learning Centre and Special Needs School to Milan, the autism awareness day celebrations. Even though the storytellers — Pretigaya Haran, Ambujavalli Nagarajan, Debjani and Vikram Sridhar — selected different styles to present their stories, the common link was the message — the need for acceptance and inclusion. “This was our first autism awareness event. We were a little worried. But the crowd of school and college kids motivated us to perform and even improvise our stories,” agreed the storytellers in unison.

This was the first time Sankalp held a storytelling session with kids from local government schools, private schools, and universities, even though programmes are held during Autism Awareness month, April, every year. “This school is situated in a semi-rural area. Since we have moved away from the city, there is a greater need of creating awareness. To begin with, children should have awareness and stories are the best method to get to them. We invited kids from Sri Chaitanya Techno School, Kolapancherri, and Chennai Public School, Thirumuzhisai and Anna Nagar. The stories were also curated in such a way that every kid understands the core message of the need to be empathetic. We had different sessions with the Kathai Kalatta team. Through presentations, we put forward the areas we wanted to cover and they performed everything well,” said Sulata Ajith, founder and director, Sankalp.

Sankalp, started in 1999, is in-



Storytellers from Kathai Kalatta conducted the session

STORIES THAT SPIN AWARENESS

involved in remedial instruction to children with disabilities like Dyslexia (learning disability) and Autism Spectrum Disorder. The staff affirmed that it is currently the best special school in the country according to the ranking of Education World. Dr Mullasari Ajith, cardiologist and managing trustee of Sankalp, shared, “Autism Spectrum Disorder is one of the increasing problems in our country. We currently have two schools with 60 teachers, 10 other staff and 15 helpers assisting almost 250 students in total. Our aim is to include children with disabilities and focus on improving their communication, socialisation and behavioural skills.” Addressing the need to give special attention and training to children with disabilities, Kurian Manavalan, trustee of Sankalp, shared, “The student-teacher ratio in special schools is

high, here it is 2:1. This makes it expensive to run the school. We need to become a safe environment for the kids. We have been lucky because of our sponsors. Sankalp is also planning to be launched in other cities like Kochi.”

The organisation aims to partner with the team of storytellers to conduct story sessions throughout the month. The team is also inviting admissions to their teacher training session. Sulata explained, “Sankalp is starting a Diploma in Special Education programme approved by the Rehabilitation Council of India, with an aim of building a cadre of highly-trained and specialised educators. The course commences in July 2023. Admission for this course is open.”

For details, call 9791130913, 9150048494, or visit: www.sankalpnet.org

VISIT BY THE YOUNG INDIAN WING OF CII

The Young Indian wing of CII visited Sankalp on the 7th of April 2023 to discuss prospective collaborations with the YI forum on supporting some of our projects.



AWARENESS TALK ON “UNDERSTANDING NEURODIVERSITY IN CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS” FOR SHELL, INDIA

Our Principal and NIOS Coordinator presented a talk on “**Understanding Neurodiversity in Children and Young Adults**” for Shell, India on the 10th of April 2023. The webinar was very well received and the employees had many queries post the Awareness Talk which were carefully addressed by our team.

AN IN-HOUSE WORKSHOP CONDUCTED FOR TEACHERS

An in-house workshop was conducted by our Director Dr Sulata Ajit along with the NIOS Coordinator Mrs Chandralekha on Learning Styles, ISSAI and FACP. The teachers found the workshop very beneficial.



Sankalp – The Open School

June

INTERNSHIP AT STELLA MARIS COLLEGE AND SANTHOME BAKERY UNIT

Our enthusiastic bunch of students kick-started their **Internship** Journey at Stella Maris College and Santhome Bakery Unit on the 17th June. They thoroughly enjoyed and learnt a lot in this process.

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INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY

International Yoga Day was celebrated with great fervour on the 21st of June 2022. At Sankalp, Yoga is very much a part of the curriculum for children. Hence children are



very well versed with many Asanas and teachers have observed tremendous improvements in the students with the practice of Yoga.



July

TEACHING LEARNING INTERVENTIONS FOR INCLUSIVE CLASSROOMS – LEARNING DISABILITY INCLUSION (CLASSES 1 – 12) – AN INTERACTIVE SESSION

NCERT observing LD awareness week gave us at Sankalp and our Director Mrs. Lakshmi Krishna Kumar, a wonderful opportunity to address the much needed topic of Inclusion. We at Sankalp - The Open School remain committed to our cause to reach out to as many people to build awareness on SLD. This address is one among our numerous efforts. The interaction can be viewed using the following link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y2bheuRv8yY>

ALUMNI MEET AND INVESTITURE CEREMONY

Alumni Day as per tradition was conducted on 9th July 2022 (second Saturday). It was a new record of sorts as about 45 past students attended the event. The program began with the Alumni giving an introduction about themselves and then they spoke about what they were doing. The Investiture ceremony for the newly elected leaders was held on the same day and the Alumni pinned the badges. The students interacted with each other, played games and it was a fun morning spent on campus. Some of the teachers who taught the alumni and have left the school were also invited to join the meet.





August

SOROPTOMIST INTER SCHOOL COMPETITION

Students took part in the Soroptomist Inter-school competition held at Lady Andal school on the 6th of August 2022.

The children took part in the Oratorical, Art and Skit Competitions. Sai Akhilesh won the second prize in the Art competition in the Beginners category. Yashoda of 7A got a Special mention in the Junior category. The teachers worked very hard to make the props and prepare the children for the competition.





RAKSHA BANDHAN – AUGUST 11, 2022

The students of the Vocational group made colourful Rakhis for the school. On the occasion of Raksha Bandhan, the girls tied Rakhis on the boys' wrists to celebrate the spirit of unity and brotherhood.



FIELD TRIP – JUNIOR & MIDDLE GROUP

48 students with 10 teachers and 3 non-teaching staff went for a one-day field trip to Birla Planetarium, Kotturpuram on August 10, 2022. At the Planetarium, the students enjoyed the night sky show which included the solar system, sky, shooting meteoroids, eclipses, galaxy and the Milkyway. It was a very good visual experience for the students.

Later they enjoyed '3D dinosaur' and 'Science on a Sphere' shows which projects high resolution videos on a suspended globe representing our earth, atmosphere, ocean and land. They also got a chance to walk around and look at other exhibits. They walked through the fun mirror gallery and an exhibition on astronomical and science objects.

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INDEPENDENCE DAY – AUGUST 15, 2022



As India stepped into the 76th year of Independence, we at Sankalp - The Open School decided make the celebration very special by involving each and every student of the School.

The Programme was graced by chief guest – Theatre artist and director, Mr. Balakrishnan, who hoisted the national flag.

The school captains led the National Pledge taken by the school. Every form of art was showcased at the event.

The decorations with tricolor as the theme were prepared by students. They worked hard on making paper chains, which was then put together to make a great background with the colours of our flag. The seniors made a collage on an outline map of India. The students also made badges for the visitors, teachers and students.

The children practiced and performed "We shall overcome". A beautiful dance choreographed on the theme of the tricolor and our national symbols was performed by students.



“Never give up” was the theme of the animal skit performed by students. Wearing animal masks prepared by our teachers, the students performed the skit with a lot of enthusiasm and even involved the Chief Guest at the end.

The quiz masters Anirudh , Sudarshan and Sairam of SS 2 B, conducted a short quiz with questions based on India and its leaders. The program ended with a happy note and the first ever human chain formation at Sankalp.





FIELD TRIP – SENIOR GROUP - AUGUST 18, 2022



The Senior Students of the NIOS and Vocational group were taken to “Dakshinachitra” at ECR , Chennai for a one day field trip. Dakshinchitra is an Art Museum that exhibits the culture and heritage of South India.

It has an array of displays and relocated originals of dwellings depicting the life pattern of people in the states of Southern India. The exhibits portray the architecture, art, folk performing-arts and craft of South Indian traditions.

The students enjoyed a puppet show – Bommalattam. They also bought eco- friendly artifacts, handicraft and jewelry made by the artisans.



September

TEACHER'S DAY & ONAM CELEBRATIONS – SEPTEMBER 5, 2022

The festival of Onam was celebrated on Sep. 5th along with Teacher's Day. The students and teachers came dressed in traditional clothes. The students spoke on the relevance of Onam and importance of Teacher's Day. There was a pookalam competition and the students participated enthusiastically along with their teachers. There was a short entertainment programme put up by the teachers and students. They performed a traditional dance from Kerala- kaikottukali. The children conducted a quiz, performed a skit and sang a song to thank the teachers. They also conducted some games for the teachers. The celebration ended with a sumptuous Onam sadhya for the teachers.

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On this festive note, the Open School closed for Term I Holidays on September 23rd, 2022.

October

The school reopened on the 6th of October, 2022 for the II term. On the 14th and 15th of October the parents were given a feedback on their child's performance in the quarterly examinations.

DENTAL CAMP FOR STUDENTS

A dental camp was held on 17th October, 2022 for the students of the Open School by Saveetha Dental College. The parents were given feedback about their child's oral health.





LD AWARENESS PROGRAMME

October is celebrated as the LD Awareness month and Sankalp – The Open School organized a host of activities to spread awareness. The colour code was RED for all the events. It was interesting and surely hopeful to see the country and city also celebrate the Awareness Month through lighting up of the Rippon Building in Red. Our celebrations continued to November as well

SANKALP – MIRROR CHALLENGE: The first of the events was the Mirror Challenge. Participants had to write their names as a mirror image and post it on their social media pages. Many teachers and their contacts participated in this challenge and posted their pictures on social media.





SANKALP SMART FEST – OCTOBER 18TH AND 19TH, 2022

The Smart Fest was conceptualized to display the talents of the students. Every class displayed the children’s work in the form of charts, displays and games. The children put up a short variety entertainment programme showcasing drums, dance, on the spot art and solving the Rubik’s cube blindfolded. There were stalls selling artifacts made by the students from the vocational stream, paintings and some students did Mehendi Designs.

The Fest was inaugurated by **Smt. Jacintha Lazarus, The Disability Commissioner**. She was impressed to witness the work done by the students and teachers. Parents, well-wishers, donors and children from 3 other schools visited the Fest.





MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY

On October 13th, 2022 students of the Madras School of Social Work conducted a fun filled programme of song, dance and games to celebrate the Mental Health Awareness Day. It was an enjoyable session and the children enjoyed the interactive games and activities.



November

SANKALP – TRIVIA QUIZ – NOVEMBER 5TH, 2022

In continuation with our Awareness Programme, we continued to The Grand Finale which was an online Trivia Quiz which was open to the public. Participants from all over the country and abroad participated in the quiz. The feedback was very positive and the winners were given gift vouchers.



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WALK 4 DYSLEXIA

The senior students and teachers from Sankalp took part in the LD Awareness walk organized by the GOLD parent support group on November 6th, 2022. The walk on Besant Nagar Beach was flagged off by Mr. Sylendra Babu.





CHILDREN'S DAY

Children's day was celebrated in our school premises on 14th November 2022. The place was beautifully decorated with posters, balloons and craft work done by the children. The programme began with a prayer song. The teachers entertained the children with a skit and a fusion dance. This was followed by a ramp walk by the teachers in outfits they would normally not wear to school. The children were enthralled with the show. A game and dancing followed. Chocolates and sweets were distributed to make their day special.





FIRST AID TRAINING

A session on CPR/ Basic life support and first aid training was conducted for the senior students at Sankalp -The Open School on November 16, 2022. 25 children enthusiastically participated in this session. A few students had the opportunity to experience hands on training and courageously volunteered to demonstrate their learning.

We sincerely thank Chennai Bharati Annettes Club in collaboration with Apollo team for this opportunity.





PRAGATHI ALT SCHOOL FOR KNOWLEDGE FEST

A visit to Pragathi Alt School on November 25th, 2022 was a day of fun learning and exploring science for our students of Class 8 as they participated in the "Knowledge Fest " held there.



December

ONLINE WORKSHOP

A virtual workshop on "A peek into the world of specific learning disabilities " was conducted for the employees of PayPal on December 1st. This was done with an objective to create awareness among employees who are also young parents.

INTERNATIONAL DISABILITY DAY

On December 3rd, 2022 as part of the International Disability Day, the Government of Tamil Nadu had organized an exhibition to showcase the talents of People With



Disabilities. Sankalp Trust had a stall selling bakery items and jewellery made by our students.. The activity corner with the Mirror Challenge grabbed a lot of attention.

AWARENESS PROGRAMS

Awareness Programs to sensitize teachers on Specific Learning Disabilities was conducted for Primary school teachers of Excel Global School on 26th November 2022 and for Primary school teachers of Chennai Primary school on 15th of December 2022.

The sessions were to spread awareness on the various manifestations of Learning Disabilities in a classroom and how it affects a child's performance. A part of the programme was also to make the teachers aware on where to get assistance to help the child.

Checklists were handed out to the teachers to help them identify children who could be at risk and need to be tested. Feedback from the teachers is awaited.

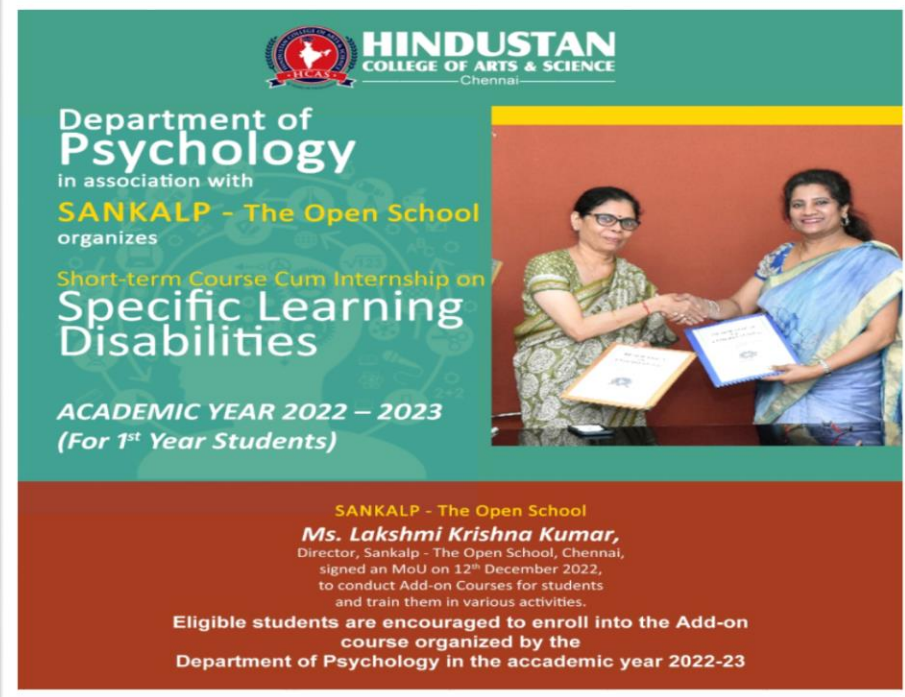
CERTIFICATE COURSE ON REMEDIAL TEACHING

A certificate course to train people to become Remedial Teachers has been planned to create a pool of resource teachers for after school remediation. This course will run from the 30th of January to 20th of March, 2023. Flyers have been distributed and registrations for the course will begin once the school reopens in January. The course will be conducted at The Open School.

MOU SIGNED WITH HINDUSTAN COLLEGE

On 12th December, 2022 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Sankalp – The Open School and Hindustan College to conduct a Certificate course on Understanding Specific Learning Disabilities for the students of Psychology. The students will attend 30 hours of Theory and Practical classes followed by 20 hours of Internship at The Open School.





HINDUSTAN
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCE
Chennai

Department of Psychology
in association with
SANKALP - The Open School
organizes

Short-term Course Cum Internship on
Specific Learning Disabilities

ACADEMIC YEAR 2022 – 2023
(For 1st Year Students)

SANKALP - The Open School
Ms. Lakshmi Krishna Kumar,
Director, Sankalp - The Open School, Chennai,
signed an MoU on 12th December 2022,
to conduct Add-on Courses for students
and train them in various activities.

**Eligible students are encouraged to enroll into the Add-on
course organized by the
Department of Psychology in the academic year 2022-23**



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Department of Psychology

**Dr. Susan Marthandan, Director, HCAS and
Ms. Lakshmi Krishna Kumar, Director, Sankalp - The Open
School, Chennai, signed an MoU on 12th December 2022,
to conduct Add-on Courses for students
and train them in various activities.**

THE COMMITTEE (CONSTITUTED BY THE STATE COMMISSIONER FOR PWD)

Lakshmi Krishna Kumar and Sangeetha Karthike are a part of the Committee constituted by the State Commissioner for Persons With Disabilities. This Committee is made up of experts in the field and have put forth the collective difficulties faced by persons with disabilities (Dyslexia).



They have made recommendations for policy framework and guidelines specifically for persons with Dyslexia the State must adopt while making interventions for persons with disabilities including students.

The committee formed conducted series of meetings and framed this Policy, Guidelines, Standard Operating Procedures, and Budget estimate for Specific Learning Disabilities in Tamil Nadu, which will enhance early detection and providing appropriate interventions for persons with Specific Learning Disabilities.

January

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The school reopened on January 4th, 2023 for the III term. The students from Classes 7, 8 and the Vocational stream visited the carnival held at the Learning Centre, Kolappencheri on the 7th of January. It was a day filled with fun and games.

9TH JANUARY, 2023- WORKSHOP AT D G VAISHNAV COLLEGE, ARUMBAKKAM

Sankalp had the opportunity to conduct the very first workshop at the inauguration of the Special Needs and Equal Opportunity Cell (SNEO) at the D.G. Vaishnav College, Arumbakam, Chennai . Ms. Krishnaveni and Ms. Sudha Gururaj from the Open School were invited as Resource persons to conduct the workshop. 25 participants supported by a large group of their volunteer friends worked together to create wonderful art and design through the dip and smudge technique. The art work finally put together looked like a beautiful carpet.



12TH JANUARY, 2023 - VISIT BY THE STATE VP FOR BJP

State Vice President for the BJP visited the school on the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. He interacted with the students and teachers. He presented a special Ponnada to Mrs. Lakshmi Krishnakumar.



13TH JANUARY, 2023 – PONGAL CELEBRATIONS

Pongal celebrations were held at Sankalp - The open school on January 13, 2023. The students, teachers and non – teaching staff were all dressed in traditional Indian clothes. The entire school was decorated with sugarcane cutouts and beautifully decorated paper pots designed by the Vocational Group.

A variety of competitions were held for the children:

- Cookery contest- Millet Pongal (Seniors)
- Pot decoration (Vocational and 8th)
- Rangoli (6th and 7th).

This being the International year of Millets, the Pongal was made with millets. Everyone was pleasantly surprised by how delicious the preparations were.

The students enthusiastically participated in traditional rural Indian games such as tyre rolling (Juniors) , lemon and spoon (7th), Slingshot (8th) and arm wrestling (Seniors and Vocational).

The programme also included a song by the Juniors and a graceful dance by the middle group and Senior girls.

Overall the programme was a great opportunity for the children to understand and appreciate their culture.



26TH JANUARY, 2023 -REPUBLIC DAY AND SPORTS DAY CELEBRATION

The Republic Day was celebrated along with the Sports Day on 26th of January 2023. The chief guest for the event was Lakshman Rohit Maradapa, an internationally acclaimed rowing champion and an Asian Games medalist. Mr. Rohit unfurled the National flag and the school leaders led the school for the National Pledge. This was followed by a March past around the community. The chief guest interacted with the students and everyone enjoyed his speech. The students signed their names on the scroll of honor which was displayed at the entrance of the school. For the first time, the teachers were recognized for their hard work and talents and they too signed a scroll of honor that was specially prepared for them. Prizes were distributed for the sports events conducted by the teachers in charge of indoor and outdoor games. Chandrayaan won the overall championship. Sweets and fruit juice was distributed to all the children.



18TH JANUARY TO 1ST FEBRUARY, 2023 - CERTIFICATE COURSE ON UNDERSTANDING CHILDREN WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES.

The students of Hindustan College of Arts and Science attended an add on certification programme for 10 days on Understanding Children with Learning Disabilities. The course comprised of theory and practical classes for 30 hours and internship for 20 hours. The students gave a very positive feedback at the end of the course. They enjoyed the activities and interaction with the staff and students.





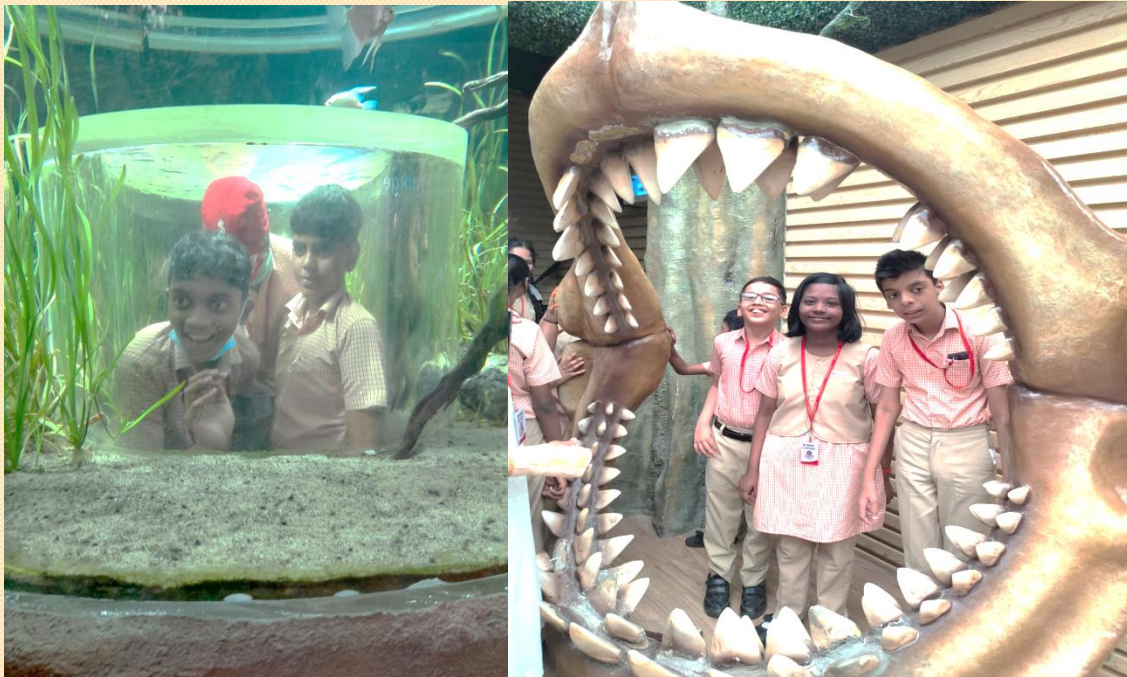
February

13TH FEBRUARY 2023 - FIELD TRIP TO VGP MARINE KINGDOM

The whole school including the students of the Life Skills and the Vocational Groups were taken to VGP Marine Kingdom on ECR for a field trip. All the teachers, support staff and admin. staff Ms.Sailaja accompanied the children.

The children got to see a variety of marine life such as Octopus, Turtle, Starfish, Jellyfish, Shark etc. The children were enthralled and had great fun interacting with the guides and watching the fish. It was an enjoyable and informative experience for both children and teachers. After the visit to the Aquarium, the authorities of the Marine kingdom provided a spacious hall for the children to have lunch.





March

MARCH 13TH, 2023 - FAREWELL

The students of NIOS 1 hosted a farewell party for the students of the Senior Secondary and the Vocational Group. The students organized a short skit followed by games and dancing. The students who were graduating thanked the school staff and shared their memorable moments at school. As Rashma Shenoy says, "There are no goodbyes for us. Wherever you are, you will always be in our hearts. We are so proud of who you have become. A piece of our heart will always wish we had more time with you. We at Sankalp wish you a great life ahead."





24TH-25TH MARCH, 2023 – PAPER PRESENTATION AT RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY,

Ms. Lakshmi Krishnakumar- Director, Learning Disabilities, presented a Research Paper entitled “**Youth Entrepreneurship and Employability Skills for Students With Specific Learning Disabilities**” at the Two-Day National Conference on Youth Development with the theme Youth in the 21st Century: Prospects and Psychosocial Challenges.

The conference was jointly organized by the Department of Social Work & Department of Applied Psychology, RGNIYD in collaboration with ICMR – NIRT, Chennai on 24-25 March 2023. The conference was sponsored by the ICSSR, New Delhi.

This paper was based on a Study conducted by Sankalp - The Open School to understand the readiness of children for Vocational Training. For this purpose, a survey was conducted among parents/educators having/handling youth in the age group 15-18 years, using an online questionnaire and implemented through Google forms.

The paper presentation was well received and appreciated by the organizers of the event.





April

"PRAYAAS"- THE VOCATIONAL SKILLS UNIT: GRADUATION OF THE FIRST BATCH

Prayaas caters exclusively to the needs of children with Specific Learning Disabilities. The main aim is to train students above 16 years with working skills that are required to make them employable and independent.

The first batch of students were given training in a wide array of skills like Data Entry, Desk Top Publishing, Book Binding, Weaving, Culinary Art, Retail, Jewelry Design, Paper Bag making and Impression Art. They also did an internship with Suder Bakery and were involved in baking, over the counter sales and the packing process.

Prayaas also imparted soft skills that are so important in a working environment like Communication Skills, Executive Functioning Skills and Logical and Reasoning Skills.

The inhouse meal planning and prepping training led to the soft launch of in house "Prayaas Kitchen". The students prepared and served a wholesome menu that was pre-ordered by the teachers. The students took the orders, collected the payment and issued tokens. The first batch of students graduated In April 2023 after a period of two years.

The students prepared a sumptuous lunch on the final day and served their parents.







17TH TO 21ST APRIL, 2023 - FIE TRAINING- BASIC LEVEL 1

The teachers underwent a 5 day training programme in Feuerstein Instrumental Enrichment (FIE) conducted by Ms. Jayashree Ashok. Instrumental Enrichment is a process-oriented cognitive intervention program. Consisting of 14 specially designed instruments or 'tools,' FIE is a series of pencil-and-paper tasks that may be mediated in a classroom, group or individual setting. Each series focuses on different cognitive skills, creating systematic, persistent and structured conditions to engage students in problem solving by developing their ability to understand and elaborate information. 19 in-house teachers and 4 educators from outside attended the program. It is proposed to include Instrumental Enrichment as a part of the curriculum from next academic year to enhance cognitive skills for academic learning achievement.





AFTER SCHOOL REMEDIATION PROGRAMMES : JANUARY TO APRIL 2023

Ms. Harini Ramanujam, After School Remedial Project Head conducted the following awareness and remediation programmes from January to April 2023.

- January 28th, Reading assessments for 25 children of Kendriya Vidyalaya, Anna Nagar
- February 12th, a follow up session at Kendriya Vidyalaya, along with awareness for those parents of children who were assessed
- April 1st, awareness program for primary teachers of Alhira, Anjuman and Dacal schools



Annual Report compiled by

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- With inputs from the Principal and The Core Committees in-charge

