

SMILE

20TH ANNIVERSARY

2nd October'24



Great joy and happiness was filled in the hearts and faces of all who assembled in the auditorium on 2nd October 2024 at Spastics society, Chennai. Children came prepared for their cultural performance and the students who received education scholarship were eagerly waiting to see their donors, whereas members and donors were emotionally bonding to meet their friends from their college days. It was a long expected gathering for every individual at the venue.

The programme began with Tamizhthai vazhthu and lighting of Kuthuvizhaku by the chief guests and a child.

Bama as mistress of ceremony welcomed the gathering and gave introduction about the celebrations.



Followed by welcome, video message of Nithiyanandan Anandakrishnan, Presidnet and cofounder of Smile was screened for the participants. His speech covered the history of Smile, selfless commitments, projects of Smile, the impacts made by Smile, its strength as volunteer based orgainsation and the future plan of student volunteer collaboration, fundraising, and donor communication.

Gunasekaran, secretary of Smile presented 20 milestones in Smile with the brief history of Smile starting from Karunai Illam to todays Atchaya projects in Vembakkam.



Six Sadhana students Jahara Manal, Pavithra, Gomathi, maheswari, Pondy Pavithra and sooriyananthan shared their heart touching testimonies which moved the crowd to tears. Jahara Manal an orphan child now stands on her own leg because of the support from Smile. Pavithra lives with her mother and was denied support for her studies from her family, today she is a physiotherapist in Pondicherry.



Punnagai Paalam Vazhikatti II edition was inaugurated by the chief guests of the programme followed by Sadhana students' speeches. One thousand copies are printed and PDC classes will resume soon.



Chief Guest Mr. Hari Krishnan, Head- social initiatives and outreach, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras. Highlights of his speech: Respect and obey parents, serve the society as much as you can, do not expect reward you will be blessed. Concentrate on your studies and you will shine. Our destiny is in our hands and we shape it. He also invited students to apply for BS data science course offered by IIT – Madras and willing to partner with Smile in addressing the poor children with scholarship. It was Mid noon when he finished his speech, but the crowd was speechless and carried away by his spellbinding speech.

Post tea break, Mementos and trophies were given to the best performing students from Sadhana batches and Punngai Paalam centers. Tutors of the tuition centers, long serving volunteers by the special guests of the event.



Mr. Paramasivam IRS officer, Mr. Luke Aslakson, Lead - Corporate Partnerships, CSR Project Monitoring Unit for the Department of School Education, Government of Tamil Nadu. Mrs. Gomathi, Headmistress of Vembakkam Higher secondary school were the special invitees.

Mr. Paramasivam, lauded the sincere and honest service of Smile and Sabarmathi to the society. He added; he motivated to start similar service in his native after his retirement.

Mr. Luke, thanked Smile for its projects in Tiruvanamalai schools and wish to extend government support for Smile's partnership with Namma school foundation of Tamilnadu Government's education department.

Mrs. Gomathi, thanked Smile whole heartily for the WASH project support in her school and greeted Smile for its service to the children.



Children performed cultural events as dance and fancy dress all those children were encouraged by gifts. All the small children gathered for celebrations are gifted with toys and candies. The event came to the end with vote of thanks and National Anthem.

The Smile family had fellowship lunch post celebrations.



As a new initiative a photo gallery of Smile's journey was displayed in the meeting venue has attracted the crowd.



An innovative video booth captured the attention of the students and their parents. Many of the students voluntarily came forward and shared their experience in Smile and the benefits they received. The special guest also motivated and addressed before video booth.

Water bottles with the logo of Smile marking 20th anniversary was on display and was on sale to raise support for Smile. There was tremendous response for these new initiatives to mark the 20th Anniversary of Smile.



Another highlight of the event was one of the donor came forward and donated a cheque of 50000 rupees on the stage in support of Sadhana.



Every individual who gathered for the anniversary felt gratified for being part of the great celebration. It was a heart moving moment for each of the participants to depart after the event and left the venue with the hope and trust of meeting in 2025.

