



Nethrodaya
LET'S SHARE THE LIGHT

The Eyeopener...

Annual News Magazine

2014 - 2015

Those who DON'T have eyes
can also see!



It's not in seeing...but what is behind our seeing that makes us who we are. Here is a glimpse of the vision of some very special people without vision. Nurtured by Nethrodaya, these people have achieved in one lifetime what would take most others many lifetimes to achieve!

Best Institution Award to Nethrodaya



Best Social Worker Award to C. Govindakrishnan



Founder's Desk

C. Govindakrishnan

I feel proud and honored to be a servant of the Differently-abled Community. Serving the differently abled gives me immense joy and happiness. I strongly feel that my visual impairment is my inspiration. If I had been a sighted person I would not have thought of establishing an Institution of this magnitude for the visually impaired. I always believe in converting problems into opportunities which is the only way to see success in everybody's life. My humble beginning has taught me many lessons and these have made me gain confidence in myself. Today I look back all my past fruitful and eventful days which are unforgettable and memorable. People from all walks of life as well as the State Governments recognized me. I feel privileged for receiving awards from Dr. Karunanidhi and Selvi. Jayalalithaa, both the Chief Ministers, in recognition for the outstanding services to the Differently abled Persons and for appointing me as member in various Governments constituted committees. All these achievements are due to the constant encouragement and support of innumerable volunteers, well wishers, donors, and other supporters. I thank them whole heartedly for their continuous support. Their encouragement and motivation have given me the much required assurance to carry on steadfast with our mission.



Our future endeavors will make the differently abled to lead a dignified life and our constant monitoring and support will ensure coverage of many more underprivileged visually impaired with utmost sincerity and total commitment.



Our Student Achievers

Nethrodaya runs a free residential resource center for visually impaired college going students who hail from villages. More than 1000 students have benefitted under this initiative of Nethrodaya during the past 13 years. So far around 850 students of Nethrodaya have secured jobs in various government departments and in private sector. We are proud of these outstanding student achievers of Nethrodaya. In the year 2015, many students of Nethrodaya secured jobs in various sectors, to name a few.

Dr K Muruganandan

Mr K Muruganandan, a visually impaired, hailing from a remote village in Karur district, was a student resident of Nethrodaya home for 3 years to pursue his graduate studies in English literature. He later pursued his doctoral Degree Program in Pondicherry University. He has been appointed as an assistant Professor, English, in the Thiruvalluvar University College of Arts and Science, Kallakurichy in August 2015. Recalling his unforgettable period of stay as a student at Nethrodaya, Dr Muruganandan says "I felt very homely with Nethrodaya which gave me everything that I desired for my all round development of my personality, to name a few, development of my computer skills, proficiency in spoken English, in depth knowledge of Tamil Literature and a fully equipped visually impaired friendly resource center. I am really overwhelmed by the care and love given to me during my stay at Nethrodaya"

Dr R Jayabalan

Mr R Jayabalan, a visually impaired, belonging to a interior rural village of Baganathham in Karur District was a student in Nethrodaya for 4 years to pursue his Master's Degree in Tamil Literature and M.Phil Degree in Tamil literature. He later became qualified as B.Ed graduate and on top of all has pursued and successfully completed his doctoral degree. He appeared for the TNPSC Group 2 A competitive examination and on the basis of his successful performance he has been appointed as Assistant in Police Department, District Police Office, Karur.

"I entirely owe my all round growth to Nethrodaya. I learnt many life enhancing skills such as computers, general awareness, etc. I really admire the way in which Nethrodaya is taking keen interest in my career and my welfare even today" reminisces Dr Jayabalan on his student days with Nethrodaya

IN HOUSE SERVICES

Nethrodaya's Special Higher Secondary School for the Blind

Our Special School, recognized by Government of Tamilnadu is established in the year 2012 and has been running successfully for the past three years. The school exclusively serves the visually challenged boys and girls who hail from rural and economically backward villages of Tamil Nadu. The students are provided quality education including residential boarding facility completely free of cost.

Our school is equipped with various in house facilities for the students like

Digital audio library:

Not always our students can have someone read out their lessons again and again. Nethrodaya's Digital audio library offers numerous digitally recorded audio books on school text books, competitive study materials, higher education books, special education text books where students get an opportunity to listen to the recordings repeatedly and memorize for the exams. This greatly reduces their dependency on other sources.



Computer lab:

World is getting more digitized, so our students should get equipped too. Nethrodaya offers computer training on MS Office and Internet basics to students thereby to empower them with technological skills to improve their employment prospects. The lab is equipped with voice enabled screen reading software and a digital Braille printer for better utilization and access.

Gymnasium:

To improve health, Stay fit and lead a healthy life, Nethrodaya is equipped with a fully functional gym with a trainer. Students do utilize the facility on a regular basis; boys and girls are given different timings.



Yoga classes:

To improve concentration and excel art of quality living, the school conducts regular yoga classes on meditation, breathing exercise and asanas for the students.

**Music and instruments:**

Visually challenged are great musicians of all time in history. Nethrodaya appreciate student talents and provide various trainings in vocal music and musical instruments to improve their employability in music field and become self-reliant.

**Academic achievement:**

Nethrodaya is proud to announce that our school student Master.S.Ashok Kumar is a district topper among visually challenged students in 12th standard board examination conducted in March 2015. This Recognition goes to all the dedicated efforts and support from the school management, teachers and hard work of the student.

OUT REACH PROGRAMMES

“Be the change, you want to see around” – Nethrodaya has taken up number of initiatives to bring out the positive change for the welfare of visually impaired community.

Educating Children of Visually Challenged Parents

Nethrodaya trust provides financial assistance to educate children of visually impaired parents, so that the children will be able to take care of the visually challenged parents well in their old age. More than 200 such children are getting benefitted by this initiative every year.

Self-Employment of Visually Challenged Economically Backward Families



Nethrodaya trust provides seed capital to families of unemployed visually challenged whose day to day survival proves to be a huge challenge. The trust provides marketable products to visually challenged persons who they sell in trains and get a substantial income on a daily basis thereby paving a way for them to lead a dignified life.

More than a 1000 visually challenged people and their families have been benefitted by this initiative in the past 13 years.

Individual Cattle Rearing Unit for Visually Challenged Families

Nethrodaya trust lends a helping hand to the uneducated visually challenged people from remote villages of Tamil Nadu by donating a hybrid cow with a female calf. This helps economically backward families to get a stable income and lead their life with self-esteem.

More than a 100 visually challenged families from more than 20 districts of Tamil Nadu have been benefitted by this initiative in the past 13 years.



Medical Services for the Visually Challenged

Nethrodaya trust runs a 24*7 free medical help line to provide quality medical services to the visually challenged people. The trust has tie up with hospitals and helps to meet the expenses ranging from bearing hospitalization expenses to providing surgical aid for medical problems which go far beyond the visual realm.

More than a thousand people have been benefitted by way of medical assistance through Nethrodaya in the past 13 years since inception.

Helpline No: 04426533680

A FEW GLIMPSES OF OUR MEDICAL SERVICE

“He who has health has hope, and he who has hope has everything” – Nethrodaya helps visually challenged people to get everything through health.

Mr. S. Paranjothi

Mr. Paranjothi a visually challenged person from Vandavasi lost his vision when he was 12 years old. He makes his living by selling stationary items near a government school. While crossing the road on his own he slipped and fell into a manhole injuring his legs very badly. The primary treatment given at his village could not suffice. He required further treatment to help him walk again. With one of the legs fractured, he could not even move out of his vehicle when he came to Nethrodaya. We immediately admitted him in the Hindu Mission Hospital and the doctors advised for an immediate surgery for both the legs. Nethrodaya extended all the required assistance. The surgery was carried out successfully and he is able to walk again as before.



Mrs. KasthuriMurugan

A visually challenged couple Mr. Murugan and Mrs. Kasthuri from Ennore reached out to Nethrodaya requesting medical support for Mrs. Kasthuri who had excruciating stomach pain for few months. The trust arranged for her admission in Hindu Mission Hospital and the patient was diagnosed with liver failure which was termed irreparable and irreversible. She was given treatment till her demise. Thanks to the Hindu Mission hospital who waived hospitalization charges. The cost of medicines and consumables was borne by the trust. Upon discussing the cause for liver failure the doctors explained that Mrs. Kasthuri had jaundice which was not detected and treated at an early stage due to her visual impairment. The yellowness in eyes could not be seen as her eyes were shut always and she could not see the color of her urine too. The health of visually challenged women is more complex and every effort must be made to detect symptoms and to provide quality medical treatment.



EVENTS

Nethrodaya College of Special Education



Nethrodaya College of Special Education was inaugurated in August 2015 by Justice Raja of Madras High Court and Selvi. Apoorva IAS, Secretary of Higher Education Department. The college is affiliated to Tamil Nadu Teachers Education University and is approved by the Rehabilitation Council of India.

The college offers B.Ed. in Special Education, a course for the visually challenged / physically handicapped. Additionally students are provided with boarding facility completely free of cost.

The course is handled by qualified faculty to ensure quality education is imparted to the students

Twelfth Anniversary Celebration

The Twelfth Anniversary was celebrated on 26 October 2014. Distinguished visually challenged personalities were honored. Dr. Manikandan was awarded the Best Role Model for completing his doctorate in Commerce. Dr. Saravanan was awarded the Best Couple Award for sharing a happy marital life with a sighted wife and completing his doctorate in Tamil Literature and



State Level Conference on Career Counselling and Guidance



Nethrodaya organized the annual state level conference on career counseling and guidance for the visually impaired on 29 November 2014. Hon'ble Thiru Justice D HariParandaman, Justice Madras High court, Dr C. SylendraBabu IPS were the special dignitaries who graced the occasion. More than 200 visually challenged students from all over Tamil Nadu participated in the event.

South Indian Singing Competition for the Visually Challenged



Nethrodaya conducted the South Indian Singing Competition for the visually challenged on 21 February 2015. Prominent celebrities from the film industry including Thiru. R. Krishnaraj, Thiru. S.N.Surender, Thiru. M.L.R.Karthikeyan, Ms.Priyadarshini and Ms. Surmukhi judged the performance of participants.

More than 200 visually challenged singers including those from neighboring states participated in the competition. Tamil Nadu Minister for Social Welfare Ms. B. Valarmathi awarded the winning trophy and cash award of Rs.1 lakh to the winners. Ms.Bhagyamma from Karnataka was the winner of the contest.

Felicitation of Visually Challenged Young Achievers

Visually challenged students who excelled in Tamil Nadu state board examinations in the tenth and twelfth standard were felicitated by Nethrodaya on 28 June 2015. Justice V. Ramasubramanian, Dr. G. Visvanathan, Vice chancellor, Tamilnadu Teachers education university, Thiru. M. V. M. Velmurugan, CEO Velammal Group of Institutions, Thiru. R. Srinivasan, M.D of Hotel Radha Reagent, Thiru. R. Prabakaran, Lawyer, Supreme Court of India, and Thiru.Sathya, music director graced the occasion. Justice Ramasubramanian in his key note address said that the skill and the knowledge of visually impaired community should not be underestimated as the innate talents and determination of these students surpasses those of even sighted students. Mr. M.V.M. Velmurugan sponsored the cash awards for 90 visually challenged students who scored more than 90% in the board exams.



State Level Chess Tournament for Visually Challenged



The state level chess tournament for the visually challenged was held on August 22nd, 2015. Tamil Nadu Minister for Sports Mr. Sunderrajan presented the winning trophy and cash award to the winner Mr. Jeremiah Jeparaj. Mr.R.Srinivasan, M.D of Hotel Radha Reagent sponsored the event in which around 200 visually challenged players participated.

“Advocate for what you believe in is crucial – if you don't do for it, people assume you don't need it!”

A FEW GLIMPSES OF OUR intervention SERVICES

Ms. Sarala lost her eyesight in an accident while returning from work which made her totally blind. Nethrodaya took up her cause with the company for whom she worked as a contract employee. The company provided Rs. 5 lakhs for her treatment and rehabilitation through Nethrodaya. The amount has been deposited in the bank and the monthly proceeds are credited to her bank account for meeting her monthly expenses and for supporting her aged parents.



The Directorate of Government Examinations announces the names of state level toppers in all categories including students who have opted for different languages. The Herculean efforts of visually challenged students go unnoticed. Nethrodaya appealed to the department of school education that the achievements of visually challenged needs to be publicized, appreciated and honored on par with sighted students as this public recognition would motivate the upcoming visually impaired students to perform well in the examination and achieve academic success. The department addressed the concern and announced the visually challenged toppers in the board exams conducted in March - April 2015.

The State Government of Tamil Nadu distributes free laptops to school and college students while visually challenged students were not included in this initiative. Nethrodaya wrote to the State Government as a representative of visually challenged community and the Government acknowledged the need and passed orders to distribute free laptops to the visually challenged students with special software, a DVD player, reflector white cane and a magnifier.

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Supporters of Nethrodaya

Anna Nagar Times
A.R.R. Charitable Trust
Pushpa Visuals
Kovai Pazhamudhir Nilayam
Hotel Radha Regent
Sri Ayyappa Seva Samaj

R.K. Industries
Sarita Jain Foundation
Hotel Vasantha Bhavan Hotels Pvt. Ltd.
Vellammal Group of Institutions
JSP Honda
Gee Gee Kay Pvt Ltd

Judiciary at Nethrodaya

Hon'ble Chief Justice Karpaga Vinayagam – Inauguration of Nethrodaya - 2nd October 2002.

Hon'ble Chief Justice Hemant Laxman Ghokale - South Indian Sports Meet - 26th July 2009.

Hon'ble Justice P.K. Mishra – South Indian Chess Tournament - 26th August 2007.

Hon'ble Justice Prabha Sridevan – 7th Anniversary Celebration - 25th October 2009.

Hon'ble Justice Mani Kumar – State Level Career Counseling & Guidance Inauguration - 22nd January 2010.

Hon'ble Justice Venkatraman – 8th Anniversary - 31st October 2010.

Hon'ble Justice Nagamuthu – Award of Excellence - 13th June 2010.

Bureaucrats at Nethrodaya

Thiru. C.K. Gariyali, IAS, Secretary, Social Welfare – Braille Library Inauguration on 30th January 2005

Thiru. L. Vijayaraghavan, IAS, Secretary, Social Welfare – Third Anniversary on 2nd October 2005

Thiru. Mohan Verghese Chungath, IAS, Commissioner for Disabled – Nethrodaya Award of Excellence

Thiru. V.K. Jeyakodi, IAS, Commissioner for Disabled - State Level Career Counseling & Guidance for the Visually Challenged on 27th February 2011

Thiru. Audiseshiah, IAS, Secretary, PWD – Nethrodaya Building Foundation Laying Ceremony on 21st January 2007

Thiru. Rajendra Kumar, IAS, Collector, Thiruvallur – Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony on 21st January 2007

Thiru. Kumar Jayanth, IAS, Secretary, Govt. of Tamilnadu – Website Launch

Thiru. Thangasamy, IAS, Collector, Thiruvallur, South Indian Adapted Volleyball Tournament Inauguration on 3rd July 2005

Dr. M.S. Ananth, Director, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras – Cricket for the Blind 2006

Thiru. Ranvir Prasad, IAS, Collector, Thiruvallur – Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony on 21st January 2007

Thiru. Palaniappan, IAS, Secretary, Social Welfare – Audio Book Release on 6th December 2008

Thiru. Ram Mohan Rao, IAS, Secretary, Social Service – South Indian Sports Meet on 26th July 2009

Thiru. G. Sundaramurthi, IAS, Collector, Thiruvallur District – Building Inauguration 2009

Thiru. K. Dhanavel, IAS, Secretary, Revenue – World Environment Day on 4th June 2010

Tmt. Meenakshi Rajagopal, IAS, Commissioner for Differently abled- Special Visit

Hon'ble Justice K.N. Basha – State Level Career Counseling & Guidance - 27th February 2011.

Hon'ble Justice Mathivanan - Inauguration of Free Community Hall and release of B.Ed Audio Book for Visually Challenged Students - 1st May 2011.

Hon'ble Justice P.N. Prakash - State Level Career Counselling and Guidance, 2013.

Hon'ble Justice Kirubakaran - State Level Chess Competition for the Visually Impaired 2014.

Hon'ble Justice D. Hari Paranthaman – State Level Conference on Career Counseling & Guidance 2014.

Hon'ble Justice V. Ramasubramanian – State Level Felicitation of the Visually Impaired 2015.

Hon'ble Justice T. Raja – State Level Chess Tournament for the Visually Impaired 2015.

Thiru. Vijay Rajkumar, IAS, State Commissioner for Differently Abled – Book Release Function on 4th December 2009

Thiru. S.S. Jawahar, IAS, Secretary, Dept. for the Welfare of the Differently Abled – State Level Felicitation Ceremony for the Visually Challenged

Thiru. P. R. Shampath, IAS, State Commissioner for Differently Abled – State Level Felicitation of the Visually challenged on 25th June 2011

Tmt. Kannegi Packianathan, IAS, Secretary, Welfare of the Differently Abled Department – State Level Chess Competition for the Visually Challenged on 7th Aug 2011

Thiru. K.S. Sripathi, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Tamilnadu – Workshop on Right to Information for the Visually Challenged, 2011

Mr. Bryan Dalton, Chief of Consular Services, Consulate General of the United States of America – State Level Conference on Career Planning & Skill Sets Development, 2011

Dr. G. Jayachandran, IAS, Secretary to Government, Law, Govt. of Tamilnadu – State Level Conference on Career Counseling & Guidance 2012

Thiru. P. Sivasankaran, IAS, Secretary, Welfare of the Differently Abled Department – State Level Chess Competition for the Visually Challenged on 8th Aug 2013

Thiru. Prasanna Kumar Pincha, Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Govt. of India – 11th Anniversary Celebrations 2013

Dr. K. Manivasagam, IAS, State Commissioner for the Differently Abled, Govt. of Tamilnadu – Visually Impaired Achievers' Award Celebrations - 2014

Selvi. Apoorva, IAS, Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department – State Level Chess Competition for the Visually Challenged – 22nd August 2015

Thiru. G. Visvanathan, Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Teachers Education University – Felicitation

The IPS family at Nethrodaya

Commodore R.S. Vasan, Commander Coast Guard Region (East) – 1st Anniversary Celebration 2003

Thiru. Alexander, DGP – Third Anniversary on 2nd October 2005

Thiru. G. Nanchil Kumaran, IPS – Anniversary on 7th October 2007

Thiru. Mukherjee, DGP – South Indian Adapted Volleyball Tournament

Thiru. Nataraj, ADGP – Computer Training Centre Inauguration on 25th October 2009

Thiru. Sekar, ADGP – South Indian Adapted Volleyball Tournament

Thiru. Radhakrishnan, ADGP – Cricket Tournament

Thiru. Vijayakumar, ADGP – Special Visit

Thiru. Md. Shakeel Akther, Addl. Commissioner – Interface Meet of the Visually Challenged Families on 11th July 2010

Thiru. T.K.Rajendran, IPS, Additional Director General of Police – Ninth Anniversary Celebrations on 23rd Oct 2011

Inspector General Thiru. S.P. Sharma PTM TM, Commander Coast Guard Region (East)- Ninth Anniversary Celebrations, Oct 2011

Thiru. K. Ramanujam, IPS, Director General of Police – Tenth Anniversary Celebrations on 2nd Oct 2012

Dr. C. Sylendra Babu, IPS, Addl. Director General of Police – State Level Conference on Career Counseling for the Visually Impaired

DONORS

“It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.” - Mother Teresa

Nethrodaya is run with the funds collected from the general public by way of donations and the support extended by volunteers and well-wishers. We thank our donors from all strata of the society for helping us run this organization to enlighten the lives of visually challenged community.

A FEW OF OUR DONORS

Mr. SENTHIL KUMAR

We met Mr. Senthil Kumar during one of our official visits to the Pollution Control Board. Mr. Senthil Kumar who works as an Office Assistant showed keen interest in the activities of Nethrodaya and came forward to volunteer in spare time and holidays. He enthusiastically donated a sum of Rs. 500 with a generous mind to share the little he has with those less privileged than him. Nethrodaya salutes the generosity and kindness of persons like Mr. Senthil Kumar who inspire young people to lend a helping hand to the disadvantaged sections of the society.



Dr. C. SAILENDRA BABU IPS

Dr. C. Sailendra Babu IPS is well known for his inspiring speeches and soul stirring articles in leading magazines. He has written thought provoking books for youngsters. He came to know of the yeomen services rendered by Nethrodaya and decided to donate the royalty amount from the publishers of one of his books. This act of compassion reveals his simplicity, contentment and his deep concern for the welfare of the underprivileged. Nethrodaya salutes Dr. C Sailendra Babu for his empathy and support for the visually impaired community.

Volunteering:

Donating our eyes is impossible, where donating cornea only cures corneal blindness yet so many other kind of blindness that don't find a cure. So, can we donate our eye sight while we are still alive? We say “Yes, it is possible - by volunteering for reading service at Nethrodaya”. Committed volunteers offer various services to our school by helping our students in reading books, writing assignments, recording lessons and being a scribe for their exams. We are looking for more volunteer support to assist our students to achieve more.

Volunteering Timings

Weekdays: 3:00PM to 6:00 PM Weekends: 10AM to 1PM

