

# NEWSLETTER

Find Your Own Creativity –  
Siddharth Chandrasekhar, Director,  
Pencil & Monk



YouTube

கற்றலில்குறைபாடு,  
என்படைப்பாற்றலைதூண்டுகிறது,  
முத்தையாகண்ணதாசன், நடிகர்



YouTube



## Successful Dyslexics

How each of us defines success is deeply personal, for some success is about what we accomplish, for others it's what one has achieved or it's what we own. Success is highly subjective and is context based. The issue is not whether your definition of success is right or wrong. Instead the central issue is whether one has reached one's goal by overcoming adversity and obstacles.

Research studies of successful adults with dyslexia (e.g. doctors, lawyers, designers, actors, chefs, students, entrepreneurs) shows that they pursued passionate interests; did not give up in the face of problems; mentors provided important role models and support in struggling times and, denial of access to chosen careers by others reinforced motivation to overcome barriers.

Some of the comments made by the respondents give lot of insights on what made them succeed.

"My parents have always been very supportive."

"It was effort not results that mattered to my mother."

"I think the modern form of communication and technology including working on computers is a great help to dyslexics."

"I was always motivated to prove all those people wrong who doubted my abilities."

"I had the opportunity to find hobbies and subjects that I could do well at school."

"My parents and teachers told me to perceive failure in a positive light. I thus saw failure as a journey and opportunity."

Many successful dyslexics attribute their success to the opportunity given at school and college to showcase their strengths in areas like photography, sailing, design, arts, music and ability to work on your own thus kindling the entrepreneurial spirit. These out-of-the-box thinkers have not only overcome the challenges of dyslexia, but have excelled beyond their own and others' expectations. Their success stories are a testament to the human spirit.

**The Editors**

# Successful Dyslexics



குழந்தைகளின் பேரார்வத்தை பின்பற்றி செயல்பட அனுமதியுங்கள், முத்தையா கண்ணதாசன், நடிகர்

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## *Naveel (as told to Mrudula Govindaraju)*

I changed ten schools before I found a place that understood me and loved me for who I am. As long as I remember, I always had a problem with studies and failed all subjects in school. My school teachers were fed up with me and didn't know how to teach me. This upset my father and he didn't know what to do with me. Whatever he tried to do to make me study didn't work, and that included corporal punishment. In all this my mother supported me and believed I was capable of making a life for myself. Both my siblings did very well in studies and that added to my woes of failure. All this changed when I joined Alpha to Omega Learning Centre.

I stepped into the portals of Alpha to Omega Learning Centre at the age when I should take my Class 10 board exam with the reading and writing ability of a Class 2 child. Within one year my teachers wrought a change in me, especially Sudha ma'am and Lalitha ma'am. I was able to complete Class 10 and Class 12 through NIOS. But the struggle didn't stop. It followed me through the Hotel Management course which I passed with a lot of difficulty. After this I didn't "fit in" the hospitality industry and was wondering what to do with myself, when a chance suggestion by my brother changed my life.

As a child, I was always fascinated with stones and gems and would always "fiddle" with them. My brother asked me to apply to the Indian Diamond Institute in Surat. I was one of the two students among 150 students who took the qualifying entrance exam and gained admission into the institute. After topping my course, I went on to work in Mumbai, Dubai and in South Africa and gained experience in sourcing and selling diamonds. I eventually returned to Chennai and set up my own diamond wholesale and retail business. I make diamond jewellery. I am very happy. What is the secret of my success? The desire to succeed when I know I have the ability to do better than the other person who has a talent to smooth talk and clinch a deal. I may not be able to do that but because I am not afraid to fail, I am able to take greater risks and be more creative. Don't be afraid, just go ahead and do it. Work hard and you will find success.



## *Harsh Melwani*

"Indisciplined, demotivated and downright lazy" was a phrase whose frequency I had gotten quite used to hearing; being used liberally by a string of teachers from past institutions to communicate their displeasure of having me in their classes. And if that wasn't enough to add to my already lengthy string of troubles; my parents began to seek "professional help" from some rather questionable people at a time I would not look back to in search of fond memories.

We reached a point where the administration of my

then school, promptly decided to detain me on the grounds of failing a single subject, and that did not sit well with me or my parents. But surprisingly, even at this dark and lonely juncture, where one would have given up hope and courage, a ticket at redemption, without considering and in perfect timing had fallen quietly into our lap- Ananya.

A decision was taken to exercise trust rather than logic, after which there was no turning back. And from grade 7 onward, a team of faculty I can only describe

as having immeasurable patience and boundless love, began to almost surgically cut and shape me. My personality, my quirks, my habits, my senses—nothing was spared. They vetted out all that they saw was not required or was unworthy of, and in place installed knowledge and values for a better future. I began enjoying subjects that I had detested strongly and even discovered that the person teaching that subject was all that was needed to make a significant difference in my attitude towards it.

By some miracle, I with my modest abilities and little imagination had managed to grow out of my shell and was now ready to embrace all the challenges the world was about to throw at me. The first being a collective decision to return back to conventional education. After completing grade 10, I was placed in Lady Andal at the recommendation of Ananya for the remainder of the two years of my higher education. This gestation period was necessary to set the track and tone for building a character and personality that was required of me, in order to repel my naturally ingrained introverted nature. It allowed my mind to expand in creativity as well as concentrate on what was necessary.

I had for some time now, informally involved myself in a handful of summer internships that would play a major role in setting the foundation of my career. Working in multiple fields in the creative industry was a crucial trial and error process to get firsthand experience on what was to be offered. I had worked over my summer holidays with a publisher, an advertiser, an architect and an interior designer. Design was not a traditional choice since my family was from a predominantly business background. Nevertheless, I was given the freedom to have my pick and was openly supported by my parents.

Upon completing my schooling, I was enrolled by merit to the Srishti School of Art, Design and Technology in Bangalore, where I completed a year's foundation course in Design. Subsequently, I joined the Raffles Institute of Design in Bangalore to specialize my under-grad studies in Interior Design for the next three years.

Even during this period, my internships continued. My correspondence and interactions with my facilitators drained them of their knowledge and energy. I was

a dry sponge willing to soak up anything that was in front of me. The midnight oil was burned and my commitment to perfection in every project to every last detail was considered exhausting by many. It reached a point where campus security had to literally beg me to leave for the night, and still I spared nothing and no one.

Graduating with a Bachelors of Design degree and the blessing of parents and teachers was a celebratory moment in life. I had come a long way and was humbled by the thought of a long and open road still ahead. A couple of minor speed breakers later; I landed a job with a prominent architect in Chennai, and completed the execution of a handful of large luxury homes thereafter. I have also taken up freelancing architectural and interior design consultancy under my own brand, parallel to my job.

I believe that opportunities in life come by aplenty. We take the ones that are considered to be logical; the ones that tend to please the people around us and the ones that we consider may come in favor to us in the future. We like to secure ourselves in a bubble that allows us to see so little of what the world has to offer.

There are so many possibilities beyond that horizon. If we could only pierce that bubble and look beyond, to the multitude of opportunities that are placed so easily within our reach. For what is there to lose? A choice is an adventure waiting to be explored. We can only gain strength from every fall and that makes us steadfast when the world lashes out at our shortcomings.

I ask of all who I reach; what are you willing to do for yourself alone? To what extent are you willing to go to in order to see your will and vision done? Where and to whom will you turn to in order to achieve it all? Take a stand now, listen to the whispers of the heart and follow it so long as the mind allows you to concentrate on it. Take pride in your decisions and be humble in your opinions. Pray, dance, laugh and live; and when your golden ticket comes by, embrace it with all your strength. For a wise person once said—"When the iron is hot- Strike".



### **Renuka**

- Completed 10th State Board in Ananya, (MDA - Madras Dyslexia Association), Chennai in 2011.
- Completed 12th NIOS in Ananya (MDA - Madras Dyslexia Association), Chennai in 2013.
- Finished B.Des in SRM University, Kattangulathur , Chennai . (2013-2017)
- Currently working with Ramaniyam Real Estates PVT, LTD. From July 2017.



### **Paloumi Sheth**

I came to Ananya in class 10, with low confidence. I used to study in Matriculation Board before. Since I was not able to cope with so many subjects, my parents and the teachers at Ananya decided that I should take up State Board. I am so thankful for the decision taken. I scored 81% in 10th Standard. I went back to the same school and took up Commerce and finished schooling in state board and got 84% in 12th standard.

I finished my under-graduation in the year 2009-2012, from MOP Vaishnav College for Women. I took up B.Com and specialised in Marketing Management.

I decided to study further and completed my post-graduation from the same college. I studied masters in Broadcast Communication (MA Broadcast Communication) from the year 2012-2014. Alongside my Masters I decided to study MBA. So, I went to Loyola Institute of Business Administration and studied Executive MBA in Marketing Management. It is a one year diploma course in MBA. (2012-2013).

In 2014, as a part of our post-graduation curriculum, I interned with the TV network ZEE KhanaKhazana (changed to Living Foodz), for two months in Mumbai.

After finishing my post-graduation I developed interest to know a little about Jainism. So I took up the one year diploma course at S.S.N. Jain College (T.Nagar) in 2015. Now I am working with my father's business, ShethImpex Vivo Solutions Pvt Ltd., which deals with healthcare products - mainly dealing with nephrology and sleep apnea products.

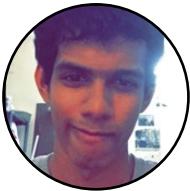
I would like to thank each and everyone from Ananya for making me what I am today. Brave and confident. Thank you so much, I am very grateful to all of you.



### ***R K Anirud***

My name is R K Anirud. I studied from Pre-Kindergarten to Class VII in P S Senior Secondary School. I did extremely well in oral but I could not convert them into writing. I then moved to Ananya and did my studies from Class VII to Class X. I appeared Class X in Tamil Nadu State Board and scored around 88%. During these years, I also learnt to play Western Keyboard and passed up to grade 6 in Trinity College, London. I studied 12th Standard from AMM Matriculation School, Kotturpuram. I pursued Commerce, Accounts and Mathematics. I completed my 12th from Tamil Nadu State Board with 89%. After 12th I joined Bachelor of Business Administration-BBA from R K M Vivekananda College. I completed my BBA with A grade and continued my M.Sc in Visual Communication from SRM College. Alongside my MSc I completed my post graduate diploma in Animation Area Multi Media and also my Post Graduate Diploma in Advertising Management from Madras Advertising Club.

I am now pursuing my career in Photography and have got admission in Bournemouth University, United Kingdom.



### ***Prashanth Nedumaran***

**My school and college experiences are as follows:**

Class 10: Ananya  
Board: State board  
Class 12: Akshayah Matriculation (Velachery)  
Board: Matriculation board

#### **University/College**

U.G  
Course: Video Game Designing  
University: University of Wales (U.K)

#### **First Masters**

Course: Entrepreneurship  
Country: Canada  
University: Fanshawe

#### **Second Masters**

Course: Geopolitics  
Country: United States  
University: Harvard University (Pursuing)

#### **Work experience:**

Created a board game called Battle pad, patented the game and sold it to Funskool. Later, I worked with a video game development company called Zealcity studios in Chennai. In 2014, co-founded Game Fry studios and developed a game called hyper trip, which incidentally won mobile game of the year 2014. Although my work experience as such has been rather minimal, that is what I did in the past. Now I'm studying, as mentioned above.

**Ramu Sundaram**

I joined Ananya, when I was in 6th std. I joined here because of my learning disability. Ananya gave me the confidence to develop my learning abilities and to grasp things quickly. They shaped me to what I am now. Harini Ma'am and others encouraged the talent in me and the hidden skills in me, which was very helpful.

After I completed my 12th NIOS in Ananya, I went to SRM university to pursue my Bachelors degree in Interior Designing. I went to a new world and got more exposures and more friends. These exposures and four years of study improved me a lot and helped me to lead a normal life and set to work towards my goal.

I finished my UG degree. I later started working in a company for one year and got a seat to pursue my post-graduation degree in GIS in Vancouver Island University, Canada. GIS was my passion and I started learning from my 10th standard as a holiday course. I thought of taking a full-time course in GIS, so I did a post-graduation in it. Now I completed it and have returned to India. I am planning to work in a map company for two years and start on my own and manage my family business in future.

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**Neha**

I did my schooling in Ananya till 10th Standard SamacheerKalvi Board. In 12Standard I studied in Good Shepherd Convent which was state board. After my schooling, I studied BSc Visual Communication in MOP Vaishnav College. I have also done internships during my college.

I also have a work experience of 8 months in graphic designing. Right now I am pursuing Jewellery Designing in Diamond jewellery.

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**Melwin Leo Fernando B****High School:**

10th Ananya (Tamil Nadu State Board)

11th and 12th Akshayah Matriculation Higher Secondary School (Tamil Nadu State Board)

**College:**

B.Sc Visual Communication at Loyola College

**Work Experience:**

Past: Gemini Film Circuit Production Company as a Data Image Technician (Dit)

Current: Cinematography/Photography in Ads and Films Industry

**Anuvrat Kumar**

School X: Ananya (State Board)

School XII: Anna Gem Science Park Matriculation Higher Secondary School. (State Board)

College: Institute of Hotel Management Chennai (2009-2012)

Work Experience:

2012 - 2015 : ITC Sheraton Park Hotel & Towers (Crown Plaza Hotel) Front Office

2015 - 2017: The Oberoi Group of Hotels (Trident Gurgaon) Front Office

2017 - 2019: MBA (General) Indo-German Chamber of Commerce

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**Aarthi Padma**

When I was at Ananya I completed my NIOS 11th and 12th. After that I did my UG at Ethiraj College - BA Tourism and Travel Management. After that I did My PG at Anna Adarsh College for Women - MA Tourism and Travel Management.

Then I was working as travel agent at Cox and Kings Private Ltd for 6 months. Then moved to Travel Tours Private Ltd and worked for 2 years. Now presently at home looking for some other job.

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**Mohammed Aamir**

After completing my 10th State Board I went on to join Aalim Muhammad Salegh Polytechnic College where I did my Diploma in Mechanical Engineering. After that I worked on maintenance and sales for gas filter company called Rathi Filters for a year. Then went on to do B. Tech in Automobile Engineering in Crescent University. I started to lose interest in final year of college. Then went on to whole sale furniture business and this year started off with my first retail store called Ikon Furnitures Redeemed in Miller's Road, Kilpauk.

**Gahan**

Hi, I'm Gahan. I'm 25 years old and I did my schooling upto 10th in Ananya, NIOS boards. And upto 12th, I did it in Akshaya, Matriculation Higher Secondary School. After which I pursued my Bachelors in Commerce in Loyola College, Chennai. And then I went to London to do my higher studies, MBA. Side by side, I developed work experience by working part time in accounts in my university itself. So far I can say I completed my education with success. Then I came back to India and had to take over my father's construction business, where I take care of the marketing and business development. Now that I completed a quarter of my life with the help of so many people, it's my responsibility from now on how I take it further. No matter how life takes you, give your best in every situation. Thank you!

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**Qasim Abbas**

It's been a privilege to be part of my Alma Mater the place where I got to know myself - the place who showed me the real me. To be a part of this school for 6 years has given me a great start - from a shy boy who joined Class 5 to become a 10th topper, it's a great achievement for me. After Ananya, I joined Lady Andal for 11th and 12th State Board where I took arts on the advice of Harini ma'am who gave me a great boost in 10th.

I passed 12th in 2010 and joined Loyola College. With a BA in Sociology, where I was also secretary of department. Loyola gave me a lift from where I was to what I wanted to be - Vice President of EDC club. I joined LIBA to do marketing, where I had my own start-up of agro products. I also joined our family business. In 2015 I joined Madras School of Social Work to do my MA in HR. I work as an educator at grassroots school for kids with autism spectrum disorder.

My future plans are to expand my business on a large scale in different cities.

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**Raj Purush**

MDA has helped me be the person I am today. I was studying in ICSE Board before and didn't perform well in my tenth. I came to MDA for my 10th again and the help I got made me score good marks. The way of teaching was different. They had simple ways that got into my head and stayed till my boards finished. Then I proceeded with my 11th and 12th by doing open schooling in which I performed well there too by the methods taught to me by MDA. Now I am studying in Panimalar College doing my diploma in Mechanical alongside following my passion where I race cars at an international level of drag racing in India.





### *Devanshi*

I completed my schooling in 2012 and went on to do a BA in Travel & Tourism from Ethiraj College. I completed my Masters in the same discipline in 2017. I then joined my father's business and was involved in marketing and liaising with companies wanting to participate in International Exhibitions. While I helped my father till 5 pm, thereafter I devote 3 to 4 hours every day in designing and marketing imitation jewelry. I am selling my products by arranging displays at selected places in Chennai followed by reaching out to her friends and potential customers through social media.

I have overcome obstacles and challenges in learning difficulty by sheer effort and determination. Throughout my school and college, I received a lot of support from parents and teachers which has helped me to be what I am today. During my school days, I was interested in doing beading work, making Rakhis etc, which later got me interested in making imitation jewelry designs and motivated me to focus in this field.



### *Adityaa*

I'm reaching out today to say that I, Adityaa., from being a mischievous hyper active boy to a successful individual today, life has been a roller coaster ride for me.

I was found to be dyslexic during my early primary schooling and was pulled out for a few months from regular schooling, trained on how to face and deal with challenges and was put back to the main stream.

I completed my 10th grade with State Board with great difficulty. I then moved on to high schooling where I opted for Commerce stream and completed my 12th grade with the Matriculation Board. Following which I completed my Under-graduation from a Madras University Affiliated College in Chennai. During my final year of under graduation - I used to intern in a prominent garment company to gain experience on the management proceedings and more.

After completing my Under Graduation, I prepared myself to go overseas to do my Post Graduation. My experience as an intern helped me get placed in University along with my GMAT and IELTS scores.

On completing my Post-Graduation successfully, I got myself placed and was working in England as a Business Co-ordinator in a Financial Services Company. I was then asked to pursue my Masters in Finance (Corporate Masters). Following this, I relocated to Middle East and was working as a Business Manager in the Corporate Training Department.

As the situation warranted me to come back to home country, I quit my job and came down late last year. I was on a sabbatical for a few months before I joined my father's business early this year. I'm very happy in what I am doing and for what I am today. We are into Wealth Advisory which, Manages Investment portfolios and distribute Financial Products.

I again underline I am very happy and thankful for what I am today.  
When I was young, being dyslexic, I had never thought of being this successful.  
Today, I am proud to one!! am thankful to all the people who have dealt with me so far.

Firstly – Ms. Savithri Krishnan Mam, Ms. Lakshmi Radhakrishnan Mam - MY MENTORS. They had extracted the potential in me, without whom I am not what I am today. Their contribution in my upbringing was sky-high.  
Secondly – MDA (the entire crew).

Last, but the FIRST – MY PARENTS who had to put up with all my mischief where very understanding and acceptable. My main motivators. Their involvement in nurturing me was mind-boggling.



### *Dhanush*

I experienced learning difficulty when I was in the 3rd standard. I found it very difficult to cope with the lessons especially in writing, reading, spelling and felt isolated in class. In 2011, I joined the school for dyslexics in 6th standard and passed out this year in June, gaining lot of confidence. When I was in 10th, I started helping my father in running the family sweets and snacks business, especially in the areas of talking to customers, finding out what will make them happy and in delivery.

Opportunity to explore my interests, interacting with students and other activities in Hydra helped me a lot. Hydra is a Multiple Intelligences center which analyses and helps in identifying the various intelligences in the child.

I am currently pursuing under graduation in Travel & Tourism in DG Vaishnav College in the afternoon batch 2 pm to 6 pm. During the day I am assisting in the family business which has diversified into auto spare parts and in the running of a mobile phones shop carrying different brands. I have also started online selling of branded clothes - T shirts, Jeans etc., through Facebook targeting the young population.

For all the success that I have achieved till date, I owe it to my parents especially my mother, family members and my teachers at the dyslexia school who constantly helped me in making me mentally strong and in coping with my studies with words of encouragement – “You can do it, you can overcome, you are very talented.”

I want to start a travel agency after I complete my undergrad studies.



### *Ajay*

I passed his 10th Standard from Lady Andalstate board). I was then under the tutelage of Ms. Nirmala Pandit. I remember that the study sessions I had with her were lively and interactive. She helped him consolidate everything that I had learnt in class. She would use pictures as visual support to help me learn. By the time I entered the 11th standard, a resource centre had been set up at the school to address the needs of children with special needs. With continued support from Ms.Pandit and the teachers, I did quite well.It was at this juncture, in the 12th standard, that I developed an interest in sailing.

I took part in the under-18 World Championship in Poland, and for the next 3 years participated in regattas all over Europe. I was offered a sports scholarship at Sydney University and did a degree course in Media and Journalism. I continued with sailing while studying and was instrumental in starting the Sailing Club at the college. What saw me through college was the continuous support and encouragement that I received from my grandmother and my parents. I then worked for a European company as their Social Media Co-ordinator and have covered sporting events like the Olympics.

"Ajay went through school not realising he had a learning problem," says my mother Aysha. "Early intervention helped him to a great extent. Without Ms. Pandit's help he would not have gone forward. She had such a calming effect on him that he would go to her house with his books, to study all by himself". Just as sports has helped me learn discipline, focus and team-work, music has also played an important role in developing my self-confidence. I play the saxophone and have earned accolades for my performances. I now work for the sports retailing company Decathlon, in charge of their water sports division at Melbourne.



### *Neha Rao (as told to Ashwini Nair)*

sourced from the Maharashtra Dyslexia Association.

Neha was featured in the June 2018 edition of Verve magazine as an empowered woman and rightly so. She is an innovator and a sustainability advocate and has been responsible for developing printing ink from industrial pollutant and waste by product. As part of her post-graduation studies in sustainable textile design from Chelsea College of Art and Design, University of Arts London; she researched and developed the dye made from "soot" which can be used for printing on fabric as well as paper. For this innovation, Neha was awarded the "India's Best Design Project 2017" for SOOT by Pool magazine.

Neha's journey into design began as a distraction from Dyslexia. Thankfully in her case, the journey began early when she was diagnosed with Dyslexia in the first standard itself. She was tested at Maharashtra Dyslexia Association and followed an eight-year remediation programme at our Deonar Centre thereafter under the guidance of Special Educator Manek Chitalwala. Her mother took this information in her stride and ensured she equipped herself with every information on the subject to ensure that Neha got the necessary support she would need. Mrs. Rao has been hands-on in Neha's academic progress and sat with her to study right up to the 10th standard. Neha's father, on the other hand, took a slightly different approach and focused on introducing her to different skills and gradually his interest in arts rubbed off on Neha unknowingly moving her towards her calling. In design, Neha found a way to connect to the world around her. Being accepted into the National Institute of Design was like coming home for her. The way design was taught in this prestigious institution, in Neha's own words, "was more suited for a person with Dyslexia. NID was more me." Growing up, getting through every school day wasn't easy. Though an average student, Neha needed extra time to finish her exam papers and was always bullied for it. Her batchmates seemed jealous and her teachers resented it. Neha didn't want anyone to know she had Dyslexia and even when her mother came to explain her condition, the school professionals indicated that Mrs. Rao might be overthinking on account of being a medical professional.

A turning point in Neha's life came when along with her family she was invited by Maharashtra Dyslexia Association to the screening of Taare Zameen Par. Throughout the movie, Neha saw her entire life being projected on the screen and though the movie left her in tears, it also gave her the realization that she wasn't alone. She stopped caring about trying to hide her condition and began a journey of self-discovery. The more she

experimented with arts and crafts, the more she realized she was a visual person. An aptitude test helped cement her path to design and she immersed herself in the field. Overtime Neha realised she had gotten the better end of the deal when she discovered that most of the people in her field were affected by Dyslexia. She says, "I went through 8-10 years of remediation and I started early. There were people in my Master's programme who were just discovering that they are Dyslexic. In that regard, Maharashtra Dyslexia Association was such a blessing for me."

Talking about the future Neha shares, "I used to be a planner but I am more flexible now. I want to keep exploring." Neha extends her design philosophy to her life where she wants to keep looking at new and different ways to do things. At BOHECO, as a Hemp Fabric Curator, her role allows her to design fabric and research innovative materials with sustainability at its core.

She was recently invited by Leeds University to present her paper on the sustainable dye she had developed. When talking about her experience that was both unnerving and exciting, Neha, channeling zen-like wisdom says, "Life is not easy, but it gets easier."



## On Becoming a Successful Dyslexic

*Matt Fawcett, Manchester UK*

I struggled with dyslexia throughout school and university, despite the best efforts of my parents, who had noticed the gap between my interests and ability when I was only 5. I'm particularly proud of my mother, Angela Fawcett's achievements, in becoming a world authority on dyslexia, and helping me and others to understand the condition. At times, despite this early diagnosis, the difficulties seemed almost insurmountable, but with support I was able eventually to achieve a good 2.1 in Politics, an area which has always fascinated me. I learned the importance of never giving up, of seeking help when it became too much and above all the need to follow my interests, to find my own niche in life. Over the last few years I have begun to live my dream, following my interests in Peace and Sustainability. Initially, after university, working as a volunteer in Guatemala with the Peace Brigade International (PBI), to protect the indigenous people from persecution, later with the Kindling Trust to ignite passion for sustainability. For the last few years, I have worked for the Yorkshire CND (Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament) leading their campaign against Trident, the UK's Nuclear submarine, as well as leading a European consortium on Climate change. My life is rich but challenging!



*Akshay B.*

My name is Akshay B. I did my schooling at Ananya from 2006-2008. It was a great learning experience the 2 years I spent there. I got all the support and the confidence I wanted in my life throughout the 2 years, which has helped me to excel in my life. The school was instrumental in helping me coming out in flying colours in my 10th standard board exams. There was no looking back after that as I completed by Engineering and MBA after that.

I am right now working as Assistant Manager- Human Resources at Casa Grande Builders, thanks to the strong foundation built by Ananya.



### *Todo Takanao*

***"Take action, when you find a passion."***

Take action first! I always followed this principle. It brought mixed results; setback in music but success in architecture, pottery, film making and writing (in Japanese).

Let's talk about writing. I have mild dyslexia but I always enjoyed reading stories. It does not mean I obtained good score in school. Writing in English and taking business minutes have always been my weakness. To overcome my weakness in writing, I use smartphone application for support or make friend who is good at it.

I tried to improve my writing, so I started to post the topics I enjoy in SNS, like architecture, gourmet, philosophy, and history. My topics became popular among my friends. And they asked me to write professionally. I always wanted to write a novel and interestingly smartphone made it easier for me to turn ideas into words, and I won an award for a short story!

As you can see, first you need the passion, then try, and judge if you have potential to go further in it. If yes, commit to it. You might fail and that's ok. What is important is to never give up and create something with passion. Then, you will succeed one day!

### **TRAINING PROGRAMME IN SRI LANKA**

MDA's first overseas training took place in Sri Lanka from August 13-19. It was organised by National Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy and Other Disorders. There were 29 participants in all, including Psychiatrists, Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, Speech and Language Therapists, teachers and parents. Participants were from Sri Lanka and Maldives. This was first of a kind workshop conducted in Sri Lanka. An awareness session on Dyslexia, and strategies for remediating reading, writing, spelling, Mathematics and Study Skills and Multiple Intelligences were discussed in detail.



### **BREAKTHROUGH INTO THE PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM**

The Education Department of Tamil Nadu Government has joined hands with Madras Dyslexia Association to offer Dyslexia remediation training to their teachers. A series of training programmes are being planned. The first training programme for Government School teachers was from 3-7 September.

Teachers from Chennai district participated. Principal Secretary - Education and SCERT Director informed that

the programme will be taken state-wide, so dyslexic children studying in all government schools will benefit. By training teachers of the Government schools, Madras Dyslexia Association will achieve their dream to help economically under privileged dyslexic children.



## சிறப்பு தமிழ் பதிப்பு

### வணக்கம் என் பெயர் கோபிநாத்

நான் படிப்பில் ஆர்வமில்லாமல் இருந்தேன் என் பெற்றோர்கள் என்னுடைய 9 வயதில் தான் எனக்கு கற்றலில் குறைபாடு இருப்பது தெரியவந்தது . எனக்குப் படிப்பில் எழுதுவதில் முக்கியமாக பழக்கவழக்கத்தில் அதிக சிரமம் இருந்தது ஒரு இடத்திற்கு ஒருவரிடம் பேசுவது போன்ற வேலைகளை என் அம்மா துணையுடன் தான் செய்வேன் இந்தக் குறைபாட்டை எளிய முறையில் ஆசிரியர்கள் சரிசெய்தார்கள். என் பெற்றோர்கள் ஆசிரியர்கள் கூறியபடி OT அளித்து இப்பொழுது என்னை ஒரு சமையல் கலை நிபுணராக உயர்த்தி இருக்கிறார்கள். என் ஆசிரியர்கள் என் பெற்றோருக்கு நன்றி. இவர்களைப் போன்ற பெற்றோர் கிடைக்க நான் கொடுத்து வைத்திருக்கின்றேன். நான் பத்தாம் வகுப்பு NIOS மூலம் படித்து முடித்தேன். பிறகு வின்னர்ஸ் பேக்கரியில் பயிற்சியாளராக சேர்ந்து கற்றுக்கொண்டேன். ஒரு வருடத்தில் சமையல் கலையை நன்றாகக் கற்றுக்கொண்டு இப்பொழுது ஒரு பெரிய நிறுவனத்தில் முதன்மைப் பதவியில் இருக்கிறேன்.

### வணக்கம் என் பெயர் சுதர்சன்

எனக்கு படிப்பில் சிறு குறைபாடு இருந்தது. எனக்காக என் பெற்றோர்கள் மிகவும் சிரமப்பட்டார்கள். என் குறைபாட்டை அறிந்து அதற்கு ஏற்றாற்போல் படிக்க வைத்தார்கள். எனக்கு எழுத்து பிழை அதிகமாக இருந்தது எனக்கு ஏற்றால் போல் ஆசிரியர்கள் புரியவைத்து படிக்க வைத்தார்கள் என்னை பைத்தியம் என்று என் காதுபட கூறியவர்கள் இன்று கூட நான் தப்பாகக் கூறிவிட்டேன் என்று கூறும் அளவிற்கு என் ஆசிரியர்கள் என் பெற்றோர்கள் என்னை B.B.M படிக்க வைத்தார்கள். இப்போது என் தந்தைக்கு அவருடைய வியாபாரத்தில் உதவி செய்து வருகிறேன். என் ஆசிரியர்களுக்கும் பெற்றோர்களுக்கும் நன்றி.

### வணக்கம் என் பெயர் மைத்திரேயன்.

என்னை என் பெற்றோர் சரியான நேரத்தில் என் குறைபாட்டை அறிந்து MDA பள்ளியில் படிக்க வைத்தார்கள் எனக்கு படிப்பதில் எழுத்துப்பிழை அதிகம் இருந்ததால் அதன்படி என் ஆசிரியர்களுடன் என் பெற்றோர் இணைந்து என்னை நல்ல முறையில் வழிநடத்தினார்கள். என்னால் என் பெற்றோர்கள் அதிக மனக் கவலையடைந்தார்கள். எனக்கு கவுன்சிலிங் கொடுத்து என்னை வழிநடத்தினார்கள் இப்போது நான் ஆட்டோ மொபைல் இன்ஜினியரிங் பாலிடெக்னிக் 3 வருடம் படிக்கிறேன் ஆசிரியர்களுக்கு மற்றும் பெற்றோருக்கும் நன்றி தெரிவிக்கிறேன்.

### வணக்கம் நான் அப்ரோஸ் ஐஹான்

எனக்கு படிப்பதிலும் எழுதுவதிலும் ஆர்வம் இல்லாமல் இருந்தது ஒரு வருடம் நான் MDA வில் பயிற்சி எடுத்துக் கொண்டேன். அடுத்த வருடம் பயம் கலந்து நம்பிக்கையுடன் வேறு பள்ளியில் சேர்ந்தேன். இந்த முறை ஏதோ புரிகிற மாதிரி உணர்ந்தேன் என் பெற்றோர்கள் எனக்குப் பெரிதும் உறுதுணையாக இருந்தார்கள் . முதலில் நான் சிறு வினாக்களுக்கு விடையளிக்க கற்று கொண்டேன். முதல் முறையாக நல்ல மதிப்பெண்கள் பெற்றேன். மிகவும் மகிழ்ச்சியாக இருந்தது. பிறகு என் மதிப்பெண்களை எந்த காரணத்திற்காகவும் இழக்கக் கூடாது என்று மன உறுதி கொண்டேன். அதற்காக தினமும் ஒரு குறிப்பிட்ட நேரத்தை படிப்பதற்கு ஒதுக்கினேன் .படிப்படியாக நல்ல மதிப்பெண்களை எல்லா பாடத்திலும் பெற்றேன். வெற்றியின் சுவை என்னை வேகமாக கவர்ந்தது.

ஆசிரியர்களிடம் நல்ல பெயர் வாங்கினேன். இது இன்னும் படிக்க வேண்டும் mark எடுக்க வேண்டும் என்று மன உறுதி ஏற்படுத்தியது. இம்முறை படிப்பு சொல்லி கொடுக்கும் போது அம்மா அடிக்க வில்லை மாறாக உற்சாகப்படுத்தினார்கள். இப்பொழுது என்னால் பெரிய விடையைக் கூட படிக்க முடியும். நான் பத்தாம் வகுப்பு பொது தேர்வில் 431/500 மதிப்பெண்கள் பெற்றேன். இப்பொழுது நான் உற்சாகத்துடன் என் பள்ளிப் படிப்பை தொடர்ந்து கொண்டிருக்கிறேன்.

## செய்திச்சிதறல்கள்

திருமதி. வித்யா லக்ஷ்மி,  
திரு. கண்ணன்,  
திரு, நிகில் அவர்களின் மின்னிலையில் நடத்தப்பட்டது

10/9/18 அன்று இந்திய கிராமிய நடனம் ஓயிலாட்டம் மற்றும் தப்பாட்டம் நிகழ்ச்சி திருமதி வித்யா லக்ஷ்மி திரு கண்ணன் மற்றும் திரு நிகில் அவர்களால் நடத்தப்பட்டது. நிகழ்ச்சி ஏற்பாடுகளை ஹைட்ரா குழுவினர் செய்தனர்

### ஸ்காட் ஸ்டைரிஸ் வருகை

முன்னாள் நியூசிலாந்து கிரிக்கெட் வீரர் மற்றும் TNPL பயிற்சியாளர் திரு. ஸ்காட் ஸ்டைரிஸ் அனன்யாவிற்கு வருகை புரிந்து பொருட்களை வழங்கினார் மேலும் பள்ளி குழந்தைகளுக்கு பந்து வீசும் யுக்திகளையும் பயிற்றுவித்தார்.

### பெற்றோர்கள் ஊக்குவிப்பு குழுமம்

MDAவின் பெற்றோர்களின் ஊக்குவிப்பு குழுமம் ஆகஸ்ட் மாதம் 5ஆம் தேதி கூடியது. இக்கூட்டத்தில் 17 பெற்றோர்கள் பங்கேற்றனர். கூட்டம் சென்னை மகாலிங்கபுரத்திலுள்ள MDA அலுவலகத்தில் நடைபெற்றது. இக்கூட்டத்தை திருமதி. உஷா ராமகிருஷ்ணன், பன்னாட்டு ஆலோசகர் (எமோஷனல் இண்டெலிஜன்ஸ்) அவர்கள் சிறப்பித்தார். பெற்றோர்கள் உற்சாகத்துடனும் ஆர்த்துடனும் பங்கேற்று தங்கள் செய்ய வேண்டிய மற்றும் எவ்வகையில் MDA உதவ வேண்டும் என்பதையும் பட்டியலிட்டனர். MDAவின் தலைவர் திரு.தி. சந்திரசேகர் கலந்துக் கொண்டு சிறப்புரையாற்றினார்.

### அகிரா

ஹைதராபாத்திலுள்ள செயிண்ட் அண்ட்ரூ பள்ளியில், ஜூலை 19 2018, அகிரா முழு நேர சிறப்பு மையம் துவக்கப்பட்டது. MDAவுடன் கூட்டமைப்பில் இந்த மையம் இயங்கும்.

### யுனைடெட் வே

ஜூன் 28 அன்று யுனைடெட் வே நிறுவனத்தால் ஏற்பாடு “Day of Action ‘ செய்யப்பட்ட நிகழ்ச்சியில் அனன்யா மாணவர்கள் பங்கேற்றனர். இந்த ஆண்டு பயிலும் 3 மாணவர்களும், கடந்த ஆண்டு பயின்ற ஒரு மாணவனும் பங்கேற்று உபயோகமற்ற மற்றும் தேவையில்லாத பொருட்களில் இருந்து கைவினை பொருட்களை செய்து தங்களது திறமைகளை வெளிப்படுத்தினர். இந்நிகழ்ச்சி துரைப்பாக்கத்திலுள்ள காக்கிசண்ட நிறுவனம் ஊழியர்களின் முன்னால் நடைபெற்றது. சிறுவர்கள் அவர்களுக்கு புகைப்பட சட்டம் , தீப்பெட்டியை வைத்து அலமாரி, களி மண்ணாலான மிருகங்கள், பாட்டில் மூடியிலான பம்பரம், ஐஸ்க்ரீம் குச்சியில் கலைப் பொருட்கள் போன்றவற்றை செய்யும் விதத்தை கற்றுக் கொடுத்தனர்.இதற்கு தேவையான பொருட்களை மாணவர்கள் கொண்டுச் சென்றனர். யுனைடெட்வே நிறுவனத்தின் 2 ஒருங்கிணைப்பாளர்கள் மாணவர்களுடன் சென்று அவர்களை வழிநடத்தினர். தங்களுக்கு தெரிந்தவற்றை பெரியவர்களுக்கு சொல்லிக் கொடுத்ததில் மாணவர்கள் மிகவும் பெருமிதம் கொண்டனர்



# Happenings at MDA

## Parent Support Group formed

MDA Parent Support Centre was finally revived. Seventeen parents participated in the first meeting on 5th August 2018. The meeting was held at the Mahalingapuram premises of the MDA Learning Centre. Usha Ramakrishnan, International Consultant for Emotional Intelligences and Parenting, was the resource person. The parent participation was enthusiastic.

AKIRA, the full time pull out centre of St Andrew's School, Hyderabad, was inaugurated on 19th July 2018. The centre has been set up in collaboration with MDA.



## UNITED WAY

Students of Ananya Learning Centre participated in Day of Action organised by United Way Chennai on 28th June 2018. Three current students of Ananya Learning Centre and one who had been a student last year were excited to showcase their talent in craft to the employees of Cognizant Technology Solutions, at their Thoraipakkam premises.

They also carried enough material to train the employees in creating art out of waste. The employees at Cognizant were impressed and eagerly carried out the instructions given by the confident students. Two volunteers from United Way accompanied the children. Photo frame from waste, yoyo from bottle caps, chest

of drawers out of match boxes, animals from clay, objects from ice cream sticks, and giving antique finish to paper with coffee decoction were some of the crafts shown and taught to the employees. The students were overwhelmed and felt proud to have taught something to adults.



## Indian folk dance

Oyilattam and thappattam sessions at hydra were facilitated by Ms. Vidya Lakshmi, Kannan Master and Nikhil.

## Visit by Scott Styris

Former New Zealand Cricketer, coach for a TNPL cricket team, visited Ananya and distributed merchandise. He also taught a few ball tricks to our students.

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