

REPORT



SRI ARUNODAYAM
Home for Mentally Challenged Destitute

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THE FAMOUS FIVE – NOW AT HOME IN SRI ARUNODAYAM!

A Momentous Day at Sri Arunodayam!

The famous five

We welcomed 5 new children (or, technically speaking – young adults) into our home, on April 12, 2016!

Siva, Kandasamy, Basha, Moosan, and **Kumar** are mentally challenged orphans, males above the age of 18. Although their biological age ranges between 18 and 40, they actually have the mental development of 10-15 year olds.

Their story

The boys were looked after by a certain Trust in Chengalpattu, in the State of Tamil Nadu, India, which wound-up operations recently. They were then sent to Wisdom home - an orphanage for normal children, but could not fit in there as they have special needs.

So, when Wisdom home approached us, we immediately said yes! We could understand that these youngsters were going through a really rough and uncertain time, and we saw apprehension writ large on their faces. Our hearts went out to them and they immediately responded with big smiles!

At Prayatna

We have around 25 such youngsters already with us but the famous five fit in easily from the first day onwards! Very accommodating and eager to learn, we've placed them in *Prayatna* – our Vocational Training Center for 18 year olds and above. Here, they will be trained in book binding, and making envelopes, paper bags, candles, door mats, aprons, gloves and napkins.

Prayatna also handles our organic vegetable garden and we are getting into vermiculture too. If the famous five are so inclined, they would be trained in organic farming techniques.

Differently abled, not disabled

If we have learnt anything at all in these past 14 years of caring for the mentally challenged, it is that nothing is impossible for them when they are given the right opportunities and support (even if they have a very late start in life). They have every potential of becoming productive citizens of society... if only given a chance.



Moosan joyfully kissing Iyyappan Subramaniyan, our Founder, when he heard that he was welcome at our home.

