



\*"Learn to light a candle in the darkest moments of someone's life.  
Be the light that helps others see; it's what gives life its deepest significance."

\* Roy T. Bennett

# REPORT



**SRI ARUNODAYAM**  
Home for Mentally Challenged Destitute

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OUR SPONSORS WERE THE SHINING LIGHTS THIS DIWALI!

OCTOBER 20, 2017

## Rejoicing in the light!

Diwali is always a fun time for kids, especially ours! It's a festival they wait for all year round. The new clothes, the crackers, the fun and games, chatting with visitors, sumptuous food and so much more! Our children had a blast! The deeper significance of this festival of course being the victory of good over evil, and light over darkness.

The day started early at 5.30 am with the customary ritual of the children getting an oil massage and a warm bath. They had a healthy breakfast, thanks to the generosity of our donor, Mr. P. Chelladurai who sponsors breakfast on Diwali day for more than 10 years! Around 10 am they excitedly changed into their new clothes – thanks to the kind generosity of Mr. Suresh Rajagopalan of Dishaa who not only sponsored clothes for the children but also for the staff. The children proudly showed off their new garments and started a morning cracker session followed by a sumptuous lunch of chicken biriyani and traditional sweets, lovingly prepared by another wonderful donor, Mr. Sivalingam Anna.

In the afternoon, they watched a movie we screened for them and then we had photo sessions and games. So, that kept us all busy until tea time. The highlight of the day soon followed with a lovely cracker show from 5 to 7 pm. (The crackers were also donated by kind benefactors). Tired after a hectic day of fun and frolic, the children retired to bed after a lovely dinner of rawa kichadi, sambar, chutney, and sweets, sponsored by kind donors.

We had a lovely day because of the kindness of all these wonderful people who make it a point to commit themselves to the welfare of these children year-on-year. We are truly grateful to you Mr. Suresh Rajagopalan and supporters at Dishaa, Mr. P Chelladurai, Mr. Sivalingam Anna and all the other generous individuals who donated to make Diwali a wonderful experience for these children!

And that's how Diwali was celebrated here. The children are exposed to all the festivals, which helps them enjoy multiculturalism with the deepest respect.

