

REPORT



SRI ARUNODAYAM
Home for Mentally Challenged Destitute

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Uma with Jayachitra Deepak Raj - our Administration Head, at the beach.

Understanding Uma

Thirteen year old Uma came to us in early April this year through an order of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Tiruvannamalai District, Tamil Nadu. Apparently, she was found wandering the streets of Nedungavadi Village by a good samaritan who handed her over to the CWC.

Uma was temporarily sheltered in a reception unit for girls until the Probation Officer from the Department of Social Defense could submit his findings. She was taken to the District Office for the Differently-Abled and assessed as moderately intellectually challenged.

Despite many attempts, the good samaritan could not be reached on the number he provided, and as no one came forward to claim the child, the CWC decided to send her to us. We are sending monthly reports on her health, the medical treatment she is receiving and our plan for her rehabilitation, to the CWC.

Uma is able to identify objects but she cannot read, speak or write; she cannot identify or even copy numbers at this time. She has no concept of time and is dependent on caregivers for grooming activities. She can eat on her own and especially loves biryani (a spicy and very tasty mixed rice dish). It is a good thing that she can differentiate between eatable and non-eatable substances.

Uma does not socialize and prefers to be left alone. She manifests problem behaviors like self-injury, biting others and screaming. Our doctor and psychologist are working with her. Uma is also hyperactive. Although she speaks in monosyllables, she is able to understand and respond to instructions.

Luckily, her physiotherapy report is more positive than the other assessments, showing that she has good motor skills, physical balance and coordination and good muscle tone.

Our work with Uma starts now. Analyzing and studying her to work out the most appropriate rehabilitation program is a large part of what we do, yet not as large a part as loving her back to wholeness!



Uma coming to terms with her new home and siblings