



SRI ARUNODAYAM
Home for Mentally Challenged Destitute



Sathish's Story

*This child is a ward of the Government of India and his identity is recognized and protected.
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Sathish appears to remember his father (an auto rickshaw driver) who abandoned him at the Mylapore Railway Station, Chennai on the 2nd of June 2005 when he was 12 years old. He remembers obediently waiting at the spot his father instructed him to stay at. Sadly, the man never returned to claim Sathish, and Don Bosco Anbu Illam rescued him and sent him to us. Understandably, the child was hurt and withdrawn and it took us quite a while to coax him out of his depression and get him interested in the world around him.

Sathish lives with mild intellectual disability and has regular bouts of fits. He is a silent, hands-on type of person who prefers to work on the most challenging tasks set before him. He appears to have finally found himself. Sathish was a top student in our Special Education program and became a top student at *Prayatna* – our vocational training center, where he blossomed into the calm and capable young man that he is today.

A perfectionist, Sathish has pretty much mastered all the vocational activities; from making candles to painting lamps to binding books to weaving rugs... no one beats Sathish yet! On the personal front, he's extremely finicky about cleanliness, keeping himself, his work station and his favourite haunts scrupulously clean. Sathish is also a sportsman. He's a State player recognized by the District Differently Abled Welfare Office (DDAWO), Chennai.

We are incredibly proud of this young man who chooses not to let his past affect him. It's not that he's forgotten the sad incident but that he bears his sorrow with a quiet dignity and calm acceptance while continuing to put his best foot forward each day. This is a beautiful life from which we have much to learn!

