

**HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU THIRU R.N.RAVI
INAUGURATED THE RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY FOR YOUTH WITH
INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AT
SRISTI FOUNDATION, KONAMANGALAM VILLAGE,
TINDIVANAM TALUK, VILLUPURAM DISTRICT, TODAY (27.10.2022)**

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu Thiru R.N.Ravi participated as Chief Guest and inaugurated the residential community for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities at Sristi Foundation, Konamangalam village, Tindivanam Taluk, Villupuram District, today (27.10.2022). He visited the Sristi Special School and planted tree saplings at the Campus. He issued the employment letter to 10 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who will be joining mainstream society with dignity.

Hon'ble Governor, in his address, outlined the Thirukkural and underscored Service as an eternal part of Indian culture and tradition. He remarked that since the time he assumed his office as Governor of Tamil Nadu, he had visited many places in the state. He is glad to see there are many institutions and individuals silently doing great service to the needy. He mentioned that visiting these institutions that help vulnerable sections of society is like visiting a pilgrimage. People should be made more aware

of such initiatives, which are making valuable contributions to society, and incentives should be provided to encourage them.

Hon'ble Governor said every child is a divine gift. It is a tragic moment for parents when they come to know about the intellectual disability of their child. The first reaction of the parent to the challenge is denial, and in the case of a girl child, denial is even stronger because of the social stigma. Gradually, they accept this harsh reality. The crucial time for early intervention is compromised because of the long gap between denial and acceptance. Autism is one such issue. Rising cases of autism is alarming to us. People with autism are more affectionate and have better sensitivity than average people. When such loving people are ignored, they feel aloof from society. They are so largely ignored that there is not enough data available. They need our love and care with compassion.

While mentioning the limitations of the government in addressing such issues, he underscored the vital role of service-based institutions in reaching out to the needy. They are also better equipped with higher inner connection and inner commitment for those who need special care.

The Hon'ble Governor urged collective efforts to spread social awareness to deal with the social stigma and denial and encourage more acceptance. We can unleash the potential of such special children with personal support and subjective interventions. They are part of society and deserve equal rights to a life of self-respect and dignity.

While stating Swami Vivekananda's quote "Service to man is service to God" he applauded the Sristi Foundation's commendable services and contributions for identifying and encouraging the potential of people with disabilities through their socio-economic rehabilitation, empowering them to live an independent and dignified life. He admired the founder, Thiru. G. Karthikeyan, his wife and his team for doing such noble work with the rural people and wished for them to grow to greater magnitude in the future and help the needy more.

On this occasion, Thiru. D. Mohan , I.A.S., District Collector, Villupuram, Thiru.E.Vallavan, I.A.S., District Collector, Puducherry, Srimath Sivagnana Balaiya Swamigal, Mailam Bommapuram Adheenam, Thiru. Karthikeyan Ganesan, Founder Sristi Foundation, Thiru. Srinivasa Rao, Senior Chartered Accountant, Dr.R.Arul Murugan, Scientist and Advisory Board Member, Distinguished Invitees, officials and staff of Sristi Foundation were in presence.

Raj Bhavan, Chennai - 22

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