



SRM Institute of Science and Technology
Tiruchirappalli Campus
College of Allied Health Science

REPORT on AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

The event was organized by the Department of Clinical Psychology – members of Ophelia Club, College of Allied Health Sciences, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Tiruchirappalli Campus with a visit to Elite Special School, Woraiyur, Trichy on April 02, 2025.

World Autism Awareness Day is observed on April 2nd every year to raise awareness about Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and promote understanding, acceptance, and support for individuals with autism.

THE PRIMARY AIM of this visit was to provide students with practical exposure to the therapeutic and educational settings used to support children with neurodevelopmental disorders. It also aimed to foster empathy, understanding, and hands-on learning for psychology students in real-world contexts.

EXPERIENCE AT ELITE SPECIAL SCHOOL

Upon arrival, the faculty and students were warmly welcomed by the staff and children of Elite Special School. The school caters with a wide range of developmental conditions to the children, including Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Intellectual Disability, and other learning and behavioral difficulties. During the visit, we were given a tour of the classrooms and therapy rooms. The school uses individualized education plans (IEPs), behavioral interventions, sensory integration techniques, and communication aids tailored to each child's needs. One of the most valuable parts of the visit was the interactive session with the kids. Our team had brought along a variety of materials and tools such as toys, art supplies, flashcards, and sensory objects to engage the children in playful and therapeutic activities. This allowed us to establish rapport and observe how different approaches are used in special education settings. We also had the opportunity to observe how Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), occupational therapy, speech therapy, and group activities were integrated into the children's daily routines. Many students showed remarkable improvements in communication, social skills, and adaptive behavior. The field visit was an eye-opening and heartwarming experience for all of us. While

textbooks and lectures provide theoretical knowledge, this real-time interaction with children and educators offered deeper insights into the challenges and strengths of children with ASD and ADHD. The visit also reinforced the role of Clinical Psychologists in multidisciplinary teams that work with children with special needs. As future professionals, this experience helped us bridge the gap between academic knowledge and practical application.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the staff, therapists, and students of Elite Special School for giving us this enriching opportunity. It was a memorable day filled with learning, empathy, and inspiration. Such experiences are crucial for developing the skills, sensitivity, and awareness needed in the field of clinical psychology.

The visit reminded us of the core values in our profession - respect, inclusivity, and human dignity. We hope to continue contributing meaningfully to the lives of individuals with neurodevelopmental challenges in the future.

