

# 19th Annual PoleStar Awards

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## Celebrating Excellence in Social Impact

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Instituted to honour excellence in the workings of social impact enterprises that have made it their life's mission to bring positive change in the lives of the underprivileged and marginalised communities.

The Foundation has always believed in recognition that is truly deserved. And the winners have earned the honour through their sustained efforts against great odds in making a difference.

# BEST SOCIAL IMPACT AWARD – EMPOWERMENT



## Sristi Foundation

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***Sristi Foundation has won the PoleStar Award for Best Social Impact in Empowerment***

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Sristi a voluntary organisation in Villupuram district, Tamil Nadu, is striving to build a new world in about 30 acres of fertile land near Kunamangalam village. By empowering people with intellectual disabilities and those marginalised in their communities, Sristi is promoting inclusive development by engaging them in pastoral and farm-based activities. By owning the responsibility of construction of basic infrastructure to livelihood training and creating employment opportunities, Sristi is on its way to making the village self-sustaining and eco-friendly. Whilst Sristi is a secular organisation, it celebrates diversity and encourages members to explore and honour all faiths. Sristi is proving that long-term rehabilitation of specially challenged individuals through strong local and global networking is possible.

## SRISHTI'S INITIATIVES IN EMPOWERMENT

Sristi Foundation



1. Sristi Village
2. Sristi Vocational Training Centre
3. Sristi Special School

### Sristi Village

The Sristi Foundation owns 8.39 acres of cultivation land just outside Kunamangalam Village. The main idea of the Sristi Village is to give intellectually disabled people the opportunity to learn some farming skills and therefore get the chance to work in the sector of agriculture, generate their own income and become self-sustaining and (partly) independent. The organisation's objective is to empower and enable the intellectually disabled to lead a dignified and holistic life. Sristi has more members living in the Village (now 30).

- Sristi also provides a safe space to live and learn in a supportive community in an attempt to build self confidence and independence. Active exchange programme of students, professionals enhances learning experiences.
- It is constantly developing the land to produce more organic, profitable crops such as spinach and mushrooms.
- Sristi is planning to expand into honey production and further develop the successful dairy farm.



### 2. Sristi Vocational Training Centre

To help empower people with intellectual disabilities, Sristi Foundation created a vocational training centre where individuals can learn to create items for selling. Using mainly waste and recycled products, they are both helping the environment and keeping the production prices low. The centre is currently producing door mats, cleaning products, candles, incense sticks and more.

### 3. Sristi Special School



The Sristi Foundation is maintaining a school for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The school is located in Thazhuthali Village, 30 kilometres west of the closest city, Pondicherry. The training is mainly based on teaching the children skills they need in the daily life like eating and improve their skills through games and artistic activities such as drawing. Sristi has 17 children in the Special School for children with disabilities.

**For more information visit [www.sristivillage.org](http://www.sristivillage.org)**

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