



Global Giving Progress Report August 2014

WITH ITS RURAL SCHOOLS, ISHA VIDHYA WILL CHANGE THE FACE OF RURAL INDIA.



About *Isha Vidhya* Matriculation Schools

- *Isha Vidhya's* schools make high quality education accessible and affordable to rural children from underprivileged families. The holistic, activity-based approach nurtures children's development beyond just academics, ensuring that students realize their full potential and learn in a joyful manner.
- Today there are 9 rural schools in the districts of Coimbatore, Erode, Nagercoil, Tuticorin, Villipuram, Salem, Cuddalore and Dharmapuri in Tamilnadu and in Chittoor district in Andhra Pradesh. The first 7 currently have classes from Kindergarten to Std. 10, while the Chittoor School has from LKG to Std. 6 and Dharmapuri from LKG to Std. 7.
- Many children are first generation learners in their families.
- The scholarship support provided to needy students has enabled them to access such quality education.
- English is the medium of instruction in the schools.
- The school uses several methodologies; activity based learning tools & digital content to teach English & the other subjects, thus augmenting the regular curriculum.
- Facilities include Science, Math & Computer Labs, Digital Classrooms, Library & Sports facilities.
- All-round development is emphasized through sports, yoga, arts & crafts, environmental awareness, health & hygiene, nutritious noon meals, etc.
- Total student strength combined in all schools is 5200, (with 46% girl students) of whom 2743 (56%) are supported on full scholarships while the remaining pay a nominal fee. The scholarships cover tuition, notebooks and textbooks. There are presently 267 teachers and 191 staff in all.
- The student teacher ratio is quite low at 19.4:1, since special attention is given to slow learners.
- School buses owned by the schools augment hired vans for providing necessary transport.
- Highly subsidized nutritious noon-meals are provided.

New Initiative - Government School Adoption Project

In Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Tirupur and Salem districts 40 Govt. schools have been taken up for various initiatives aimed at improving quality of education in these schools. *Isha Vidhya's* experience is being utilized to impact methodology and teaching environment. Interventions in Government Schools include:

1. Hiring teachers to reduce the student-teacher ratio
2. Hiring teachers for special teaching to slow-learners to mainstream them,
3. English language program
4. Infusing hitherto neglected aspects like sports, yoga, arts and crafts, and health and hygiene.

In 2013-14, we also piloted two other initiatives which were well received and highly appreciated.

- ➔ Bridge Course was aimed to improve the basic skills of slow learning students in 9th standard from 267 schools who will be appearing for Public exams next year in Salem district.
- ➔ Teacher Training Programs in Cuddalore and Vilupuram districts for about 150 Headmasters and teachers in schools that were not adopted by *Isha Vidhya* to train and motivate them on resource utilization and various other aspects.

On the strength of these pilots, two additional initiatives are proposed to be expanded in 2014-15 as follows:

1. Basic training for teachers to maintain discipline without physical punishment, motivating children, lesson planning, access and use of classroom educational aids and digital content.
2. After School Tuition Programs for the rural children.

This is likely to result in several thousands of children benefitting from the transformation that is achieved by a meaningful education.

Pictorial Journey through Isha Vidhya Schools



Isha Vidhya, Perumapalayam



Clean Corridors – Ground Floor



Silence please – Library



Learning by interest – Our classroom

Play & Sports Facilities

Sports is a key element of development of a child. Its importance can never be overstated. Giving our school children these facilities is therefore a key priority.



Computer Aided Learning Lab

Computer-based education is an integral part of the curriculum from first standard upwards.



Math Lab

Math concepts are understood better when children get to use the materials in the Math Lab.



Arts and Craft activities



Yoga Sessions



Isha Vidhya Matriculation Schools - Statistics

School Statistics:

Particulars	Total (2013-14)	Total (2014-15)
No. of Children	5200	5885
No. of Children on scholarship	2743	3194

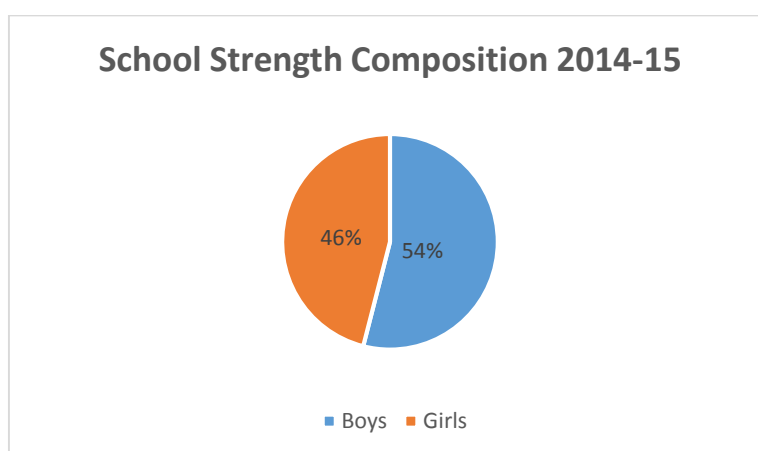


Fig 1. School Strength Composition in 2014-15

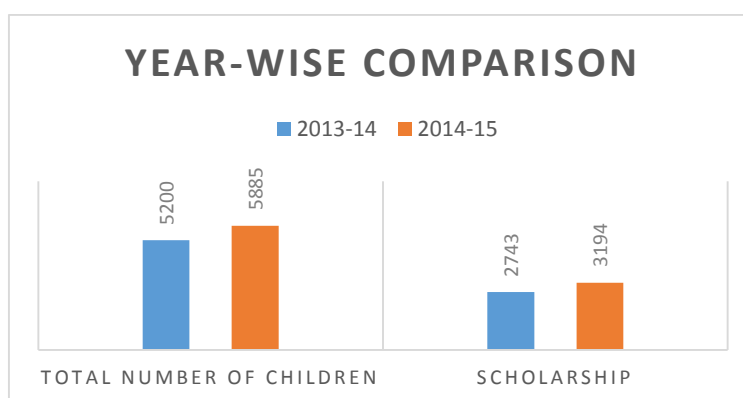


Fig 2. Year-wise comparison of scholarship children and non-scholarship children

Fund Utilization: (March 2014 to June 2014)

Description	School	Rate(INR)	Quantity	Amount (INR)	Amount (US\$)
Steel Benches (Classroom Furniture)	Isha Vidhya Matriculation Cuddalore School	4,000	60	2,40,000	3990.68

Donations received through Global Giving is Rs. 2,40,062.82/- (\$3991.73) and had been used to cover above expense.

Pictures:



Pictures of the purchased steel benches under use in Isha Vidhya Matriculation School, Cuddalore.



Funds from Global Giving has enabled us to give the children a better environment conducive for their education.

We seek your continued support for this current year.

Highlights from our Monthly Newsletters 2013-2014

SCHOOL BUZZ



Science Exhibition @ Cuddalore School

Isha Vidhya Cuddalore conducted a school level exhibition for which students created exhibits and models related to all subjects.



Guest Lecture by ISRO Scientists

Sheeju Chandran and Vishwanath, scientists at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) Trivandrum, visited Nagercoil school and held a guest lecture session for senior students.



State Level Science Exhibition

After winning the 2nd prize in District level Science Exhibition, S M Abimanyu and Sooryababu R presented their model in the State level Exhibition, held at Thambaram.



National Children Science Congress

After winning the District level NCSC competition, the students of Tuticorin School qualified for the State level competition which was held in Dec 2013.



Dharmapuri School shifts into its own building

On 12th Sep, 2013, Isha Vidhya Infosys Matriculation School started operating from their own premises provided by Infosys Foundation.



Coimbatore School

A classroom was inaugurated at Isha Vidhya Coimbatore school on 18th June 2013. Larsen and Tubro, the engineering giant sponsored this classroom.



Villupuram School

Six new classrooms were inaugurated on 14th June 2013 at Isha Vidhya Agility Matriculation School, Villupuram. Agility Logistics Pvt. Ltd have sponsored construction of these classrooms.



Library Corner at Villupuram School

Villupuram School Principal inaugurated a Library corner in KG classes which is a small book zone within a classroom populated with books created by teachers which are colourful and pictorial and appeal to young minds.

STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

Art2013 Drawing Competition

Art 2013, a national level drawing competition organized by Viveka Foundation, Namakkal, was held in Isha Vidhya Erode in Nov 2013 and 86 Isha Vidhya students



participated.

Chess competition

Isha Vidhya Nagercoil students participated in the chess competition held by Chess Academy of Nagercoil. Yogeswaran, a 4th standard student, was placed 7th.



Win in Volley Ball competition

Eighth class students of Vanavasi School won the volley ball match organized by Rural Development Competition. They have qualified for the district level competition!



National Children's Science Competition



Tuticorin students won the 1st prize in the district level competition of 'National Children's Science Congress' and were automatically selected for State level competition. Group of five students, Subhasini (8th std), Akash G. (8th standard), Kanthimathi (6th standard), Pravin Kumar (7th standard) and Lavanya L. (7th standard), presented a research on "Solar – an alternative source for cooking".

Isha Vidhya students will be attending the 10th board examination for the first time in the 2013-2014 school year. Special classes were held at the Cuddalore school during the summer holidays to offer extra practice and preparation for the exams. The students and teachers alike are feeling slight trepidation but also excitement about the board exams.



Impact Stories

New Benches; better Environment.

New benches were purchased for our school recently. Even before their installation in classrooms, the children were eager to sit in the new benches. They would sneak into the room, where the benches were stored and try sitting on them.

The day benches were distributed to the respective classrooms, the children were very eager to help us out. Now they are more attentive in classroom and eager to sit and listen, thanks to the new benches.

'I like sitting in the new bench with my friends and attend the classes' says a student of class VIII. We would like to thank Global Giving for their contribution which enables us to make the classroom atmosphere more conducive.

-Admin, Isha Vidhya Mariculation School, Cuddalore

Life-changing opportunity for Rameshkannan.

Rameshkannan. R has joined 6th standard in Isha Vidhya Matriculation School, Cuddalore. His father, being a habitual drinker, had never looked after his family of four. At a point, unable to bear his torture Ramesh's mother separated from his father and settled in her distant relation's house near our school. The relative also being poor could give shelter alone to them.



Ramesh's mother, who is working in a mosquito repellent company as a casual worker, gets a meagre income so she had decided to discontinue the Ramesh's studies.



This child, who was denied of English education due to poverty got a new opportunity for a quality education, thanks to Isha Vidhya.

Fortunately she heard about Isha Vidhya and came to our school. The boy being smart, got admission in 6th standard. Upon getting the necessary particulars, the boy was given scholarship. Both, the mother and the boy, are now very happy.

His ambition is to study well and become a doctor. With the help of Isha Vidhya his dream will be definitely fulfilled.



Thank you for making it happen!