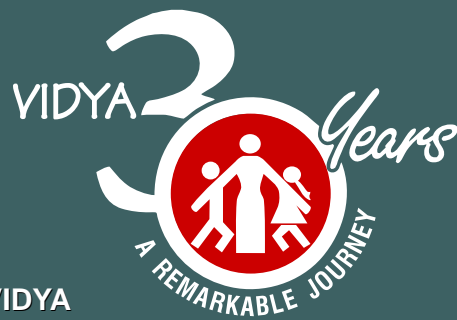


March-April, 2015

रोवेपुत्र वीर्ती



Monthly Newsletter of VIDYA
Delhi NCR • Mumbai • Bangalore



One VIDYA, One Mission, One Vision One Culture...
May the Force Continue to be with VIDYA

Power of ONE

Leaders' Conclave



To commemorate VIDYA's reaching milestone 30, a Leaders Conclave was flagged off on March 30-31 at the IIT Roorkee guest house in Greater Noida near Delhi. The conclave was attended by almost 50 leaders of VIDYA from Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Pune.

It was an enthusiastic and excited group of people brimming with ideas. The group was evidently pulsating with the Power of ONE.

The conclave was formally inaugurated by Rashmi Misra, Founder Chairperson. She walked the talk highlighting the 30 years journey. The latest Annual Report was released.



Amit Rastogi-CEO VIDYA with Rashmi Misra releasing the Annual Report

The leaders from various states made their powerful presentations highlighting their accomplishments and plans ahead. What followed were mind boggling and brain storming sessions conducted by Prof. Mohan Krishnamurthy and Prof. Harish Chaudhary.

Fabulous Facilitators

Meet Professor Mohan Krishnamurthy, he is the inaugural CEO of The IITB-Monash Research Academy. Prof. Mohan's Big Audacious Goals (BAG), his energy and ability to connect was infectious. He was amazed at the capacity of so many women participants talking at the same time just because they were relating to Prof Mohan's BAG full of ideas. Hats off to his jugglery with words and mastery in keeping the group engaged. A gentle nudge, soft glare or walk the incessant talker to a corner- his sin bin – just to cool down the bubbly speaker!

The key issues touched upon were thinking out of the box and not letting go the SMART (specific, measurable, action oriented, realistic, time bound) goals.



Prof. Mohan Receiving VIDYA'S Humble Gift

Dr. Harish Chaudhary Professor in IIT Delhi, Department of Management Studies had the Conclave participants eating out of his hands. So humble and soft spoken but his sharp one liners made a huge difference. He was incisive and lethal with his few words. He was almost cajoling the people to step out of their comfort zones and be adaptable to change.

His thoughtful ideas and participation was amazing.

These gifts for the facilitators are drawings lovingly created by VIDYA students
At the end of the session on day one , the break out groups were given their topics for presentations on day two.
Come evening, all of us changed into our so called ethnic wears and set out in the luxury bus for our dinner bites. The breakout groups continued their preparations for the presentations throughout the night.



*Dr. Chaudhary with Rashmi Misra
Receiving VIDYA's Gift*

Total Yoga

The second morning commenced with a session of Total yoga. The Lovely lady instructor had literally floored the team as they lay on their mats on the grass. Meditative and contemplative, the energy was being built up for the day to follow.

Breakout Groups

The sessions were stormy. Each group had so much to say. The issues being addressed included academics, life skills, VIDYA culture, administration, human resource development, governance, employability, open schools, and volunteer management. The main focus was on how to help VIDYA acquire visibility and become a Brand.

Offbeat Observations



Off We Go- Neelanjana, Prerna and Meenakshi in the Bus

Meenakshi Roy, former VIDYA School Principal regaled the bus load of team members as we took off for the great Conclave. Her funfilled frolic proved to be an excellent ice breaker as strangers got to know each other.

Suddenly, all of us were wide- eyed and happy as voices and emails so far had sprung into actual people! There was Sangeeta, Neeta, Shoma, Rekha, Jaishree, Ajantha, Manvi, Sudhakar and the whole lot were now visible and reachable.

Come in Suprabha. She led the group on the importance of English, computer learning and life skills. Suprabha has a very strong presence and a voice that commands obedience. Unleashing, a resounding Hello...she stunned the group into total silence whenever there was an interruption. She went about making her presentation in her own unique way. Suprabha indeed is a blessing for VIDYA School.



*V. Suprabha, Principal of
VIDYA School, Gurgaon*

Enter Amit. Patient, Persistent, Peaceful. Initially exasperated with so many women speaking at the same time, he soon had his Eureka moment- Aha! He had found his magic wand and clung on to it. The humble mic then became his weapon of mass silencing enabling him to rise above the din of voices. And then he spoke and people listened. Henceforth he was loud and clear with the magic of his mic. His presentation concluded that VIDYA should focus on depth and 2016 should be the year of consolidation and not expansion. He highlighted the importance of Operations, HR, Finance and Governance Structure.



Amit Rastogi, CEO VIDYA

Rashmi Misra, compassionate, caring and like a mother hen, Rashmi Ma kept the flock together. A hug here, a smile there, she kept walking the extra mile. Unruffled and elegant as ever, it was her magnetic presence that kept the group connected.

Ashok Misra's discreet presence, sage like serenity, silence yet being ever alert, he was always there just in case. A step behind wife Rashmi, ready to step in, he was oozing with an amazing aura, one always looked up to him. He is VIDYAs Executive Board member and real force propelling the movement.

Gulhati Ji was felicitated for his outstanding contribution to VIDYA. Rashmi and Prof. Ashok Misra expressed their heartfelt gratitude for his services. He was presented the Distinguished Leader's Award. For ones, Gulhati Ji was short of words! His booming voice was just in murmurs, drowned in sentiments and emotions as he received the award.



Honours for S.K.Gulhati(R) Hon. Director and Finance Head

Dr. Rekha Chaturvedi- Vice Chairperson was also felicitated with the Distinguished Leaders Award. She met the leaders at the VIDYA School next day.

Team Mumbai was fun, enthusiastic and almost magical. Professional and well organized, the team presentations have left a strong imprint on rest of the members. We all have lot to learn from team Mumbai specially on Volunteer Management.



From Mumbai with Love

Team Bangalore has started a southern movement which is gradually picking up speed. The tremendous love, spirit and energy was very touching.

Team Pune truly represents Power of ONE. The one and only Neeta Pradhan is all set to conquer Pune. Within a year, VIDYA should be all over in this lovely Maharashtra city.



Kudos to Delhi Team for Successfully Handling the Conclave

The Delhi team comprising Sarita Shahi, Zal Daver, Bandana Agarwal, Meenakshi Roy, Prerna Bhargava, Shreya headed by Amit Rastogi under the guidance of Rashmi Misra worked out the logistics and coordination of the event in meticulous detail. The exuberant and assertive participation kept the group roaring and rearing to move on...

Voices

"I had heaps of fun and learned so much. Thanks for inviting me to be a part of you lovely journey"
Prof. Mohan

"I am loaded with information and a long list of things to do. Thanks all for letting me be as I am"
V. Suprabha

"Team Murali and all of us were simply conquered head, heart and hands and all." Jaishree Murali

"Two minute film for VIDYA by my daughter Sanjana (IXth grade) to mark the 30 years using some of the pictures I have from our very memorable leadership conclave" Shoma Bakre

"Sanjana will make us relive inspiration over and over again" Sangeeta Gupta

Post Script:

Magical movie of two minute visual treat is available :

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BwSRR32SoiVWSINxb3ZNRmkybFU/view?usp=sharing>

Audacious Feat

It may be noted that one of Prof. Mohan's many audacious feats has been finally accomplished. He is back in Melbourne and just completed a treacherous trail of 100k in the wilderness...trekking, running, and climbing. Huffing and puffing but he did not give up. And that is true leadership, an inspirational success story for VIDYA to emulate. This is leading from the front. We are proud of you Prof. Mohan.

School and Community Watch

In VIDYA Schools and Community Centres all over India, it was going on exciting excursions, life skills trainings, academics continued as per schedule. Summer vacations are just ahead. Due to space crunch and focus on Leaders' Conclave, the details will feature in forthcoming issues of VIDYA Varta.

Highlights



KPMG Scholars

The spouses of Global Partners of KPMG visited the VIDYA School recently. The purpose of their visit was to interact with the five scholars chosen by KPMG.

A cultural programme was organized in their honour. It commenced with Guru Vandana as a symbol of obeisance to teachers. It was followed by folk songs and dances. The guests thoroughly enjoyed all these performances. The five scholars, chosen by KPMG, spoke about their journey with KPMG so far. They shared how the various programs like Personality Development, NIIT computer, Guitar and Taekwondo classes amongst others have benefited them and shaped their lives.

The Chairperson, Rashmi Misra, apprised the guests on how students of VIDYA School have evolved, aspiring to touch greater heights and accomplish success. The school Principal, V. Suprabha, congratulated the KPMG scholars on their success and thanked the visitors for their immense contribution and unrelenting efforts. She also urged KPMG to sponsor many more students and continue to support.

Later, the five scholars of KPMG visited the First World War Centenary celebrations organized by the Indian Army at Delhi Cantt. The students gained many insights into India's participation in the First World War.



Thank you KPMG for Giving VIDYA the Wings to Fly

Mensa, a Feather in the Cap

MENSA India conducted an IQ test for the students on classes VI, VII and VIII. The results of the test are very encouraging and promising. Mensa Delhi head, Rohit Agarwal was excited while sharing the results as more than 20% of VIDYA School students have an IQ of more than 150 which is a record in itself as other schools tested have only 2% students with IQ more than 150. A feather in the cap of VIDYA School.

Remembering Krishnam Saigal

On April 1, in the memory of Dr. Krishnam Saigal on the 10th anniversary of VIDYA's unique partnership with Panshila Co-op House Building Society, Bal Vihar paid homage by organizing a special assembly. Present on the occasion were Rashmi Misra, Omesh Saigal and Leila Kabir who addressed the assembly. It was due to the vision of Dr. Saigal to help poor and needy people, that Bal Vihar was inspired to form this unique partnership. Shanta Saigal, wife of Dr. Krishnam Saigal presented scholarships to two students of Bal Vihar for their academic excellence. She also planted a tree in the loving memory of her husband in the school.



Hansi Maa

In the journey of 30 years, there are some stalwarts to whom VIDYA will remain grateful forever. Humble Hansi is one of them. This small statured woman with a big heart is Delhi's Bal Vihar's pride. Popularly called Maa Annapurna, she ensures that no child or staff member ever remains hungry. Her platter is full of affection along with food. She is the kitchen attendant since 1995. Visitors are treated as *Devo Bhava*. She can also surprise you with a big hug and a pat on the head.

Mind-Body-Soul

Teachers and community leaders of VIDYA Delhi learnt about stress management and how to identify Learning Disability. Total well being involves mind-body-soul balance. This was summarized by Renu Brij, Health Coach with guidelines on nutrition. Handouts of a whole wheat pizza to be made at home were appreciated.



Workshop in Progress

In Mumbai, there were visits to the museum opening the doors of a new world.

Little Aishwarya Gaikwad - a 6th Class Bhavishya Yaan student from Byculla Centre won the first prize for a Beautiful Marathi Poem written on Flamingo.



Blooming Poetess Aishwarya



Danaher, a US based company arranged a fun filled evening for students of Beyond School and Youth forum. There were street plays on gender sensitivity followed by experience sharing by alumni. One group of leaders had a one to one mentoring session with the youth. The younger students also bonded comfortably with the team.



Bonding with Danaher

Margam's Women's Day celebrations were a great success. Inspirational Sessions on the life and times of great women leaders like Savitri Bai Phule, Rani Laxmi Bai were shared across all the community centres. A

cooking workshop was conducted and special gifts were arranged for the participants across all the community centres. A cooking workshop was conducted and special gifts were arranged for the participants



Women- the Enablers

VIDYA Mumbai has partnered with Teach India, the CSR initiative of The Times of India. The curriculum for spoken English was designed by British Council

In Bangalore, a life skills workshop in Gottigere High school was the monthly event to mark the 30 years celebrations. After a two weeks toil, the final result was a fantastic array of food platter from South India. As new learning, Chinese food was also included.



Boys had a Blast Preparing the Dishes

Narasimhalu, the noted painter who uses foot and mouth to create exquisite paintings spent some time with the students. His remarkable rise from adversity was a great inspiration.



Foot and Mouth Wonder Artist



At Mali, Women's Day was marked with novel business ventures like jewellery designing.

In VIDYA, every second and every effort of is for the women, by the women and to the women. So to commemorate the International Women's Day VIDYA Bangalore had organised various programmes



Activity based workshops were conducted for the visitors who were keen on learning jewellery making, pot painting and some even gave a few strokes to give a pictorial expression to their inner voice concerning the status of women. The events not only scaled the confidence of the participants but also gave them a better perspective of the business module.



Frank Sidney's visit marks the beginning of a new era for VIDYA

Welcome Aboard



Meet Priyanka Mathur who has recently joined as Director, Operations and Strategy in VIDYA Head Office. She has a rich education sector experience. In addition to multi geography stints in the private sector, she has also worked for Not for Profit organisations at grassroots. An MBA, she has specialisation in Human Resources & Public Relations,

While the congress supporters in India are clamouring for Priyanka Gandhi, VIDYA has got its own Priyanka!

VIDYA is blessed to have you.



Be like a bee, seek nectar whenever, forever

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