

VIDYA MUMBAI

DECEMBER AND JANUARY REPORT



TECHNOLOGY

DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT

Today, we live in the age of the machines.

Technology touches every single part of our lives. It is advancing at a great pace and has been pivotal to the well being and the advancement of man-kind.

Digitization is at its peak - one cannot survive without learning to live with technology. Digitization can never be a success unless the fruits borne of these technological advancements benefit every section of the society.

VIDYA, with its digital empowerment program, strives to train the communities in the same. VIDYA hosted its annual TECH FEST in the month of December and January. The fest was a great success as VIDYA was able to find its SUPER 50 - a batch of special students that have knack for technology and can help usher in a new age. The same SUPER 50 will now be given extra support and will be encouraged to participate more in the field of technology. These children are like saplings who are being nurtured by VIDYA to bloom.

**Any sufficiently advanced technology is
equivalent to magic.
- Arthur C. Clarke**

**DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT
PROGRAM**

BEYOND SCHOOL

YOUTH PROGRAM

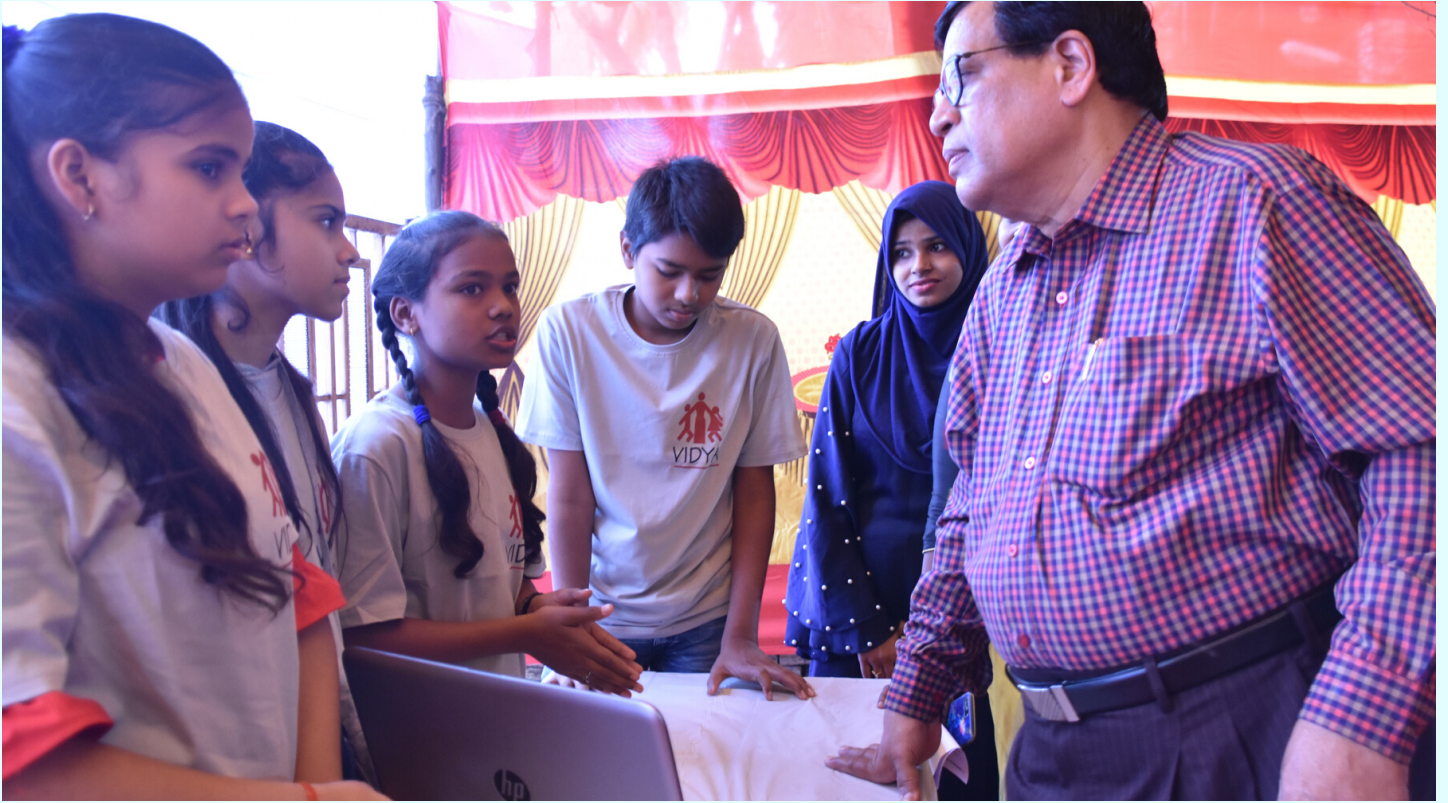
BHAVISHYA YAAN

TATA MARATHON

VOLUNTEERING

TECH FEST

2019-20



TECH FEST

"We want every kid in the world to be excited about many possibilities coding can unlock for themselves, for their communities and for society. Everyone should have the opportunity to learn computer science at school and beyond"

- Sundar Pichai
CEO of Google & Alphabet

Tech Fest was started at VIDYA Mumbai in 2015. This is the sixth year of the event and it will be hosted as a PAN VIDYA Tech Fest, across all VIDYA centres in India. This Tech Fest will identify the 'Super 50' Tech Talents who can be future tech leaders like Bill Gates, Steve Jobs, Sundar Pichai and Tim Cook. A majority of the students in VIDYA's DEP program are from lesser privileged backgrounds where parents aspire their children to get the best education and become the future enablers of their families. Tech Fest provides a multi round, multi school competitive platform to these students to present their projects-based learning and compete for the top spot. Tech Fest Super 50 is a talent search of the best minds across various institutions in VIDYA's network. Tapping these talents early in their lives can help them nurture, grow, and be ready to change the future.



The Chief Guest Dr. Sawant, gave an inspiring speech and motivated the students by sharing his story of hailing from a small village in Wada, Maharashtra to subsequently reach the level of Vice Chancellor.

"At VIDYA Tech Fest, we focus on developing the 21st century skills required for the students and will nurture them in all the possible ways", said Dr. Nayan Dabholkar, Vice President of VIDYA Mumbai.

Prof. Kannan Moudgalya, IIT- Bombay said, "It's a great effort. I'm happy to see the children learning very important topics and also learning the tools to present them in a beautiful way. Presentation is as important as the underlying story itself. These kids are the thought-bearers of the future. I will them all the best."



OBJECTIVES

1. To identify Super 50 Tech Talents from 4659 students
2. To tinker with the minds of children, youth, women and staff of VIDYA to think "how technology can be included in their immediate work" to make it "more powerful and accessible to others"
3. To showcase the talents and skills of VIDYA students
4. To give exposure to the power of Information Technology and other emerging technologies

THE TWO DAY FINALE

The fest came to an end with the 2 day finale held on the 9th and 10th of January. The fest was inaugurated by Dr. Arun D. Sawant, former Vice chancellor of the Mumbai University. The finale aimed to find the SUPER 50. The first day was allocated for the presentations by the teams on the given topics. Each team had to present their topics to the best of their ability.

The second day was allocated for an exhibition by the students. The day also included two sessions held by the corporate organizations on "Power of Excel" and "Introduction to IOT & AI". The fest was concluded with the announcement of the chosen SUPER 50. These top 50 students will now be given extra help in the field of technology and would be encouraged to participate in more competitions. The fest was a massive success!



Without change, there is no innovation, creativity, or incentive for improvement. Those who initiate change will have a better opportunity to manage the change that is inevitable.

-William Pollard



PHOTO BY MARTIN R. SMITH

NIIT & Tally Final Assessment

At DEP Chaitanya Nagar, an assessment test of employability courses like NIIT-Basic IT, NIIT-Web design and Tally was conducted on the 14th & 18th of December respectively.

20 students attempted this assessment on the respective online portals in the presence of an examiner on behalf of the knowledge partners. For this assessment Mr. Hitesh Shah from NIIT foundation came as invigilator. All our students cleared this assessment with good grade!

Basic IT & Advanced Excel training by NIIT foundation (TOT)

The training was held through 23rd to 26th December at DEP-Chaitanya Nagar. NIIT-Basic IT & NIIT-Advanced Excel course training was conducted by NIIT foundation representative Mr. Mutur Rehman through video call.

The Advanced excel course was introduced by the DEP team because such value added computer courses equip the community students to cater to the needs of the job market.





IMPACT DAY

The students showed a lot of excitement and enthusiasm as they were taken to the Deloitte office for Impact Day.

The employees of Deloitte conducted various activities related to nouns, verbs etc to teach the students. They also had activities for personality development, quizzes etc. Each child introduced themselves in front of the employees. They were also made to participate in reading activities.

BEYOND SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Christmas is one of the most beloved festivals across the globe, celebrated with much joy and cheer! The festival is all about the spirit of love, joy, and charity. On this day, people remember Jesus Christ and his lessons of life. The festival teaches us to practice kindness and love towards each other and help those are underprivileged. It is all about bringing a smile on other's face.

Children from various centers were taken for Christmas celebrations by various corporate partners. The children got to dance, sing and play. They were also given various gifts and surprises.



**"CHRISTMAS IS NOT A TIME NOR A SEASON, BUT A STATE OF MIND. TO CHERISH PEACE AND GOODWILL, TO BE PLENTEOUS IN MERCY, IS TO HAVE THE REAL SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS."
– CALVIN COOLIDGE**



SOLAR ECLIPSE

The students were given a hands-on experience of the Solar eclipse that took place on 26th December. The kids were made to see the eclipse with eclipse glasses and given a clear explanation of the phenomena.

The kids got a better opportunity to learn and understand the science behind the occurrence of eclipse and were in awe of witnessing such a rare cosmic event.

STEAM FAIR

The STEAM Fair is the Science and Technology fair event that is conducted by the Beyond School Team annually. The event this year is a month long affair whose finale is scheduled on the 14th and 15th of February. The event is divided into 4 weeks, each for Science and Technology, Engineering, Arts, Films and Literature, and Math. This event is a budgeted activity across the program.

Students display their projects based on the STEAM fields. From mid-January to February, week-wise, the students participate in activities related to the STEAM week. The activities would include discussions during circle time, showing movies, reading relevant articles and extracts from books etc. For example, the first week of STEAM FAIR included students discussing various technological advancements happening all around the world. Children discussed topics like future vehicles, artificial moon, Space X & Elon Musk, medical advancements etc.

The event will help the students gain confidence to speak in front of audience, learn to explore, get exposure and learn to interact and presentation skills. It will also help them learn analytical and research skills, develop higher goals for themselves as well as develop leadership qualities in the students and teachers.





YOUTH PROGRAM

VISIT TO THE ECO PARK, PANVEL

The eco park in panvel is one of the most interesting and informative places to be visited by the youth. Smart is a non-profit world class eco park that aims to teach children vital skills which they will need the most in the next 50 years such as the ability to be a good global citizen, to be at peace with each other and within and to be sustainable/ eco-friendly. These skills are taught using interactive, immersive cutting-edge methods to the kids making it fun. Our students from youth forum and NIOS visited Smart eco park in Panvel.

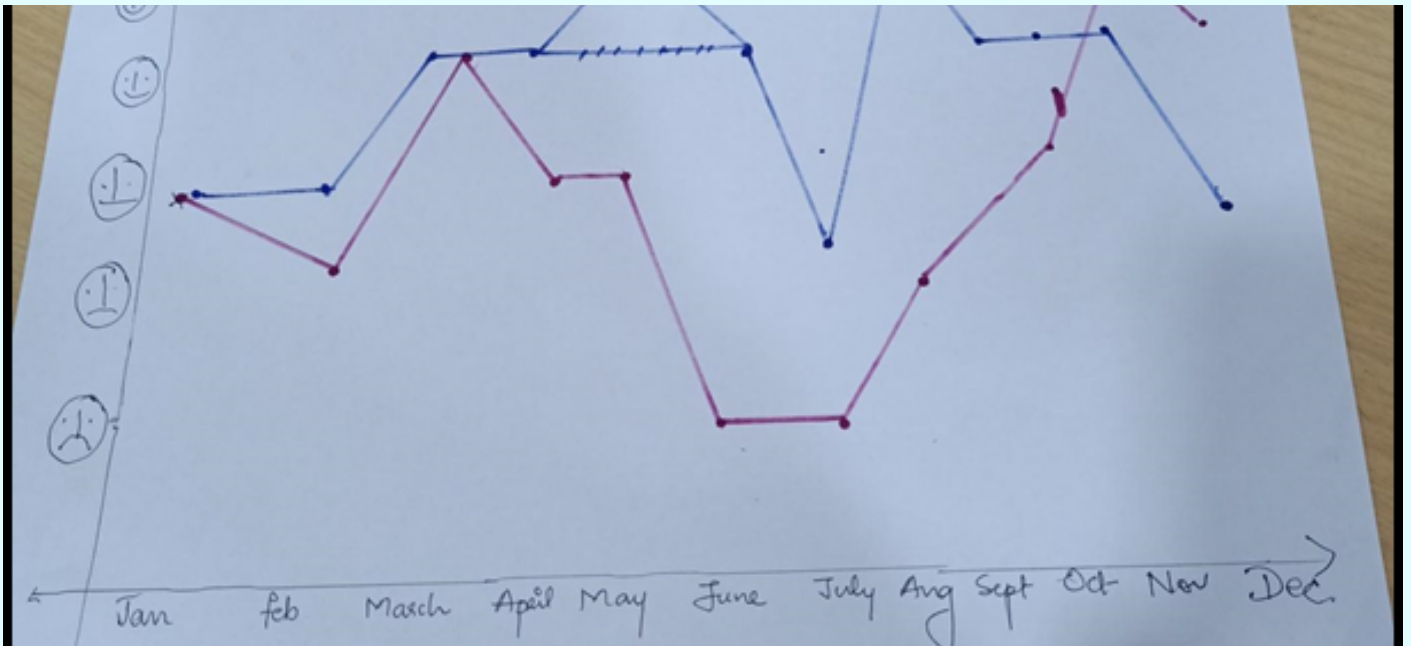
These students got a hands-on experience and learnt about rain water harvesting, process of filtration and purification of water, and how to build a water catchment area. Students were made to do the work which gave them practical insight. They were then taken to a park which taught them different perspectives through various fun activities. They visited an animal shelter where they get to know different breeds of livestock like cows, goats, and bullocks. Finally, the kids were made to plaster mud on the wall which they really enjoyed. It was a very helpful and informative field trip for the students.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Literature review is one other important skill one must have in order to understand and critique. One of our corporate partners took sessions on importance of reading skills and reviewing books, poems and other piece of literature. Students were made to read newspaper articles, stories, poems before the session. They were made to present their review in front of the class as the activity went forward. Each student got a personal feedback by the facilitator on the presentation they gave. They also received a general feedback. These feedback shave helped the students understand where they've gaps and will help them bridge it. The session was fun and extremely helpful to the students.



REMINISCING THE YEAR



As the year came to an end, we decided to recall the events that happened throughout the year and self-reflect. The youth got an opportunity to go back to the year, recollect what they did, right or wrong, what helped them change and what they need to change.

The session started as the Students were told to draw a graph with respect to their personal and college life. This was done on the parameters of moods such as happy, very happy, neutral, sad and very sad for each month. The students were then made to reflect on how each of these months went for them and what they felt during that time. Students drew the graph and self- reflected on how their year went. They also got a chance to discuss the same and understand the year and the events and its significance.

YUVANAAD YOUTH FESTIVAL

"It's not whether you get knocked down; it's whether you get up."
- Vince Lombardi

VIDYA Youth Forum students were the winners of the Yuvanaad Youth Festival. The competition was organised by the Sneha Foundation and Antarang on the 12th of January 2020. The competitions were held at the Matunga Labour Camp. The students won in the categories of Debate and Street Play.

The trophy seen in the picture is a rotating trophy which will be with VIDYA for a year and will be passed on to the winning team next year.

This was a very proud moment for everyone at VIDYA.





NEW MARGAM CENTER

A New Margam center was inaugurated at Parksite on 2nd December 2019.

At this center, we have started launched a Singer certification course to teach tailoring to women. We have also started a mehndi course for women and young girls.

MARGAM

AWARENESS PROGRAM

A two day Wellness workshops was conducted by Indians for Collective Action (ICA), a 50 year old US based organization located in the San Francisco Bay area. It's mission is to advocate for gender equality and offer learning opportunities to girls and women.

The workshop was conducted by Lata Patil and her team on 9th and 10th Jan 2020. Ms. Lata Patil is the co-founder of India for Collective Action (ICA) that has supported VIDYA for the last 20 years. The two-day workshop was conducted at the Chaitanya Nagar Centre. It was attended by 45 to 50 ladies.

The workshop covered various topics like:

1. Hygiene, nutrition, general health, positive attitude
2. Resilience and Self-Esteem, Self-Development
3. Guided visioning & goal setting, decision making
4. Personal Security, Self-defense, communications

This workshop created awareness among the ladies and helped them in various day to day life aspects.





VISIT TO BYCULLA MUSEUM

50 students from the standards 7th and 8th of Ambedkar School were taken to the BhauDaji Lad Museum to attend a program conducted by the STEAM ACADEMY of the museum. This program is curated by Dr A.P. Jayaraman, the Founder of the academy for the advancement of STEAM. The children listened attentively to the talk on the classification of living organisms and answered questions at the end of the session. It was an interesting and an informative session.

BHAVISHYA YAAN

BANGANGA SCHOOL

The students of Banganga school performed a drama on the birth of Lord Jesus, sang carols and gave speeches on how Christmas is celebrated all across the globe. The entire program was scripted by Ms. Jhanvi Vissanji who also conducted regular rehearsals with the teachers and students. The Alumni were a constant help to make the program success and also performed a dance. The school Principal, inner wheel of hanging garden members and the parents. The effortless looking performances of the students were appreciated by the guests. The efforts of the Banganga team were also acknowledged and appreciated.



**"GOLD MEDALS AREN'T REALLY MADE OF GOLD.
THEY'RE MADE OF SWEAT, DETERMINATION, AND
A HARD-TO-FIND ALLOY CALLED GUTS."
-DAN GABLE**



CHRISTMAS PARTY AT BCCI

The BCCI held the annual Christmas party for the Bhavishya Yaan children. The party was attended by 800 students.

The party was a dream come true for the children with the trampolines, rides and music. There were games like bungee jumping for the daring and trains for smaller children, popcorn, candyfloss and lots more. Children danced on Bollywood music for hours. They went home tired and happy with their gifts and snacks boxes. Bhavishya-yaan Is deeply grateful to Rtn Suresh Agrawal and the CCI events team for hosting this party every year. It is a party no BY child wants to miss and one that they look forward to eagerly every year.



THE STORY OF KULDEEP UGREJIA

Kuldeep ugrejia is a 3rd grade student who comes to VIDYA. He has been with VIDYA since the beginning of the center. The team at the center has had continuous issues with his family as his father would get drunk and come to argue at the center.

One day a few students brought it to the notice of the teachers that Kuldeep has been sleeping outside his friend's house as his step mother had kicked him out. Eventually the kid stopped coming to the center. On calling and questioning his father, he denied any of it to be true. Mr. Sachin, along with a few students, decided to visit the father. He rejected the accusations and responded that he had no reason to make his own son sleep outside the house. The team warned the family that in case the accusations turn out to be true, a police report will be filed. Since the intervention, Kuldeep has been taken back to his home and continues to come to the center to study, and no such incident has occurred!



SUCCESS STORY

- MANOJ GAIKWAD

SUCCESS IS A JOURNEY, NOT A DESTINATION



Manoj Gaikwad completed his engineering from Babasaheb Naik College of Engineering, Yewatmal. Manoj does not have a father and has lived with his mother all his life, who is a cook. His mother worked day and night to make both ends meet. Despite her inevitable and desperate tries, she couldn't have afforded to provide Manoj with higher studies.

Manoj came in contacts with VIDYA through their Beyond School program when he was in grade 7th. He was studying in Tirandaj school in Marathi medium. Joining VIDYA gave his life a direction. He never felt bored while studying in VIDYA as he says it felt like peer studying. He knew the word "computer" but was obscure to its practical knowledge. VIDYA introduced computer to him. VIDYA didn't just make him study his syllabus but made him fully knowledgeable about everything including technology. His family couldn't afford further studies, thus VIDYA provided him with scholarship. After his 10th, he eventually moved to the Youth Forum, which helped him by providing him with monetary support to study engineering VIDYA has helped him all throughout the 4 years he was studying. He made a lot of memories, friends, and most importantly, an IDENTITY for himself. Manoj also got a chance to explore the cultural and extra-curricular sides of him which included cultural programs, NSS street plays, he became the coordinator of the DRAMA COMMITTEE and the member of the Civil Engineering Student's Association. When he first came to VIDYA, he was a quiet and shy boy. By the end of 4 years, he gained confidence and self esteem and learnt the art of public speaking. Along with this, VIDYA also made him realise his social responsibility towards the society and taught him various soft skills that helped him achieve his goals. He got his first job in FIDESTO PROJECTS PVT LTD in Pune through campus drive selection. The company is all about the construction project management. He thanks VIDYA for its immense support and help in shaping his future and helping him form a base of his career. He thanks VIDYA for having faith in him and helping him achieve his dreams.

TATA MARATHON



MUMBAI MARATHON

Seeing all types of people in Mumbai marathon, I got to learn that sports is one of the best way through which relationships can be built between people, cities and countries - Jitendra Jaiswar (student)

Tata Mumbai Marathon is one of the top 10 marathons of the world that takes place every year. The 2020 edition of the marathon was a great experience for VIDYA students, especially for those who were participating for the first time. The children were extremely proud to be a part of the same and representing VIDYA. They were ecstatic on receiving medals after finishing the race.

The flag off started at Azad Maidan at 8 am where the chief minister of Maharashtra, Mr. Uddhav Thackeray was present to cheer the participants. Children were holding VIDYA banners and shouting slogans like 'V for VIDYA', 'Educate, Empower, Transform'. Children interacted with people from Indian Army, Disabled warriors from Wounded Warriors fund and people on wheel chairs.

It was a carnival like environment with clowns, stilt walkers, karaoke singers, Marathi dhol tasha, tribal children performing lezhim dance & bhangra dancers from Punjab to cheer the runners at Nariman point. Our children joined and danced with them. Children also met the comedian Raju Srivastava and clicked pictures with them.

Our children also got an opportunity to learn different things as there were various NGOs and groups spreading awareness about plastic recycling, leprosy etc. The marathon was an amazing finish to the month. It was a great learning experience of the children and the teachers.



STRATEGY FOR GROWTH

by Dr. Nayan Dabholkar

All programme heads of VIDYA Mumbai were involved in a session held by Dr. Nayan Dabholkar (Vice President, VIDYA Mumbai) highlighting the strategies for personal as well professional growth.



Highlights

There are 3 pillars for growth:

1. Mindset – Mindsets are a mental framework that guide how people think, feel, and act in achievement contexts. A "fixed mindset" assumes that our character, intelligence, and creative ability are static givens which we can't change in any meaningful way. A "growth mindset," is the understanding that abilities and understanding can be developed. Those with a growth mindset believe that they can get smarter, more intelligent, and more talented through putting in time and effort. Having a growth mindset forces you to put in extra time and effort to achieve more ambitious goals, break barriers to make a difference and create value for others. A fixed mindset impedes employees' engagement by virtue of diminishing their enthusiasm for development. It also affects employee engagement and people relations at an organizational level.

2. Behaviour – Different mindset leads to marked differences in behavior and our behaviour directly impacts the results we get. In dynamic and complex environments, there are some critical behaviours that enable us to collaborate better and build more trusting relationships. First, you need to always put growth first, whether it is personal, professional or organizational growth. You need to constantly self-analyse, pick an area that needs improvement, and work on it. Second, you must have a willingness to fail. Without taking risks, failing, and learning, you are surely going to be stuck in your comfort zone and inhibit your growth. Third, you need to learn to build trust, so as to create a collaborative environment that enables you to reach your goals collectively.

3. Action – Ultimately, a strategy is not a strategy unless it's being acted upon. Is it necessary for a person to have a "Vision". This vision should be long-term. The next part is setting the "Mission or Purpose" – which is the driving force behind your hard work. You then set your values – the set of ethics that must be abided while pursuing your goals. Once you have your vision and mission nailed down, you can begin to develop a set of objectives, or goals. Having a clear end goal in mind motivates and guides a person towards that goal and enables them to take the necessary steps. Thus, it is imperative to create a plan of action, set clear goals, and look to create a new future.

VOLUNTEERING

- The month of December started with the Annual Volunteer Planning for the academic year 2020-21. Calendar for the academic year was designed encompassing various volunteering opportunities for corporates, educational institutions, other organisations and individual volunteers.
- The Half yearly volunteers meet and greet event was conducted at VIDYA Mumbai office on 13th December 2019.
- VIDYA Mumbai volunteers' coordinators participated in annual meet and greet event of Global Academic Internship Council on the 14th of January 2020, wherein different aspects of global volunteering were discussed in the presence of Dr. Kate Moore, Vice president of council of International Education and Exchange, Boston, USA.
- Indian team of Global Academic Internship Council along with Dr. Kate Moore, visited our colaba centre on 16th January 2020.

**Vidya Integrated Development for Youth and Adults,
Gurukrupa, Room No. 10, Hare Krishna Road, Opp.
Konark Bldg, IIT
Market, Powai, Mumbai – 400 076.
Contact: 02225787317
email ID – mumbai@vidya-india.org**

**For Volunteering opportunities, Please contact:
Ankit Bhuptani - 9920879663
ankit.bhuptani@vidya-india.org**

**For any other queries, please contact
Priyanka Mathur - 8826288169
priyanka.mathur@vidya-india.org**