



NEWSLETTER OF VIDYA BANGALORE OCT, NOV&DEC-2016

Another quarter has come to a closure, and as always has left behind a lot of memories and experiences to carry ahead.

We would like to begin by extending our gratitude to Mrs.Rekha Rao, Mali Foundation and Semikron for being a strong pillar of support in all our ventures.

Our deepest gratitude goes to RCI, who has been with us and been a patron to the great cause that we believe in.

We extend our love and appreciation to Societe Generale for their continuous patronage.

ACADEMIC COURSES

Spoken English:

Our spoken English programme that aspires to enhance the language and communication skills of the students is heading in full swing with a mission to impart knowledge and the specific skill to the beneficiaries that will help them to go ahead in all walks of life.



Learn English the smart way!

Here is a one stop solution to learn English through ones mother tongue as demonstrated by Rahul through his app 'English Seekho'. Rahul is a student of 'The International School of Bangalore' pursuing his IB diploma. His app can be installed in any mobile phone and the user gets access to English lessons together with translation of the same in various languages.



To encourage reading habit and to make reading more interesting, exciting and engaging, VIDYA Bhagini realized the need of distributing **English dictionaries** in the students' mother tongue as part of its New Year and Christmas celebration.

Computer Literacy:

Our academic courses take a prime position with 3 NIIT certified courses in computer literacy.



VIDYA Bhagini takes pride in presenting a snapshot of Meghna's Stride into the digital world through the excellent PPT that she proudly exhibited

NIOS for Secondary and Sr. Secondary courses:

To encourage school dropouts & housewives who are eager to complete their basic education, we have the NIOS classes helping them achieve their dream.

NTT – Nursery Teacher Training Course:

Nursery teacher training classes for aspiring candidates who have successfully completed their basic education is on full swing at VIDYA Bhagini by a dedicated and enthusiastic volunteer Mrs.Mehar Choudhary.

VOCATIONAL COURSES

VIDYA looks forward to create entrepreneurs and make the students employable after they complete the course.

VIDYA Vividha:

The creative arts course is programmed in such a way that it kindles the creative bone of the student and also transforms them from a learner to an entrepreneur.

Creative designs by creative hands of VIDYA Vividha

Madhubani paintings transferred to printed cards with the guidance of Mrs. Raj Mathur.



A silvery string of twinkling lights made to order



A spectacular sparkle of diya - rangoli to jazz up the festivities



A pretty frock, a teeny pair of booties, a band for the soft strands, a cute little cap completes the set



VIDYA Vastra:

VIDYA Vastra, the Singer certified tailoring course aims to satiate ones ambition to excel in the field of designing and tailoring; the cute creations of VIDYA Vastra - Patiala and salwar



VIDYA Aahar:

The course that tickles and tempts the taste buds, enhances culinary skills and empowers by offering a wide knowledge on the age old art and its nitty gritty.

A taste of China from Aahar.

A blissful baking experience:

Chefs from Bliss, Mahesh and Sunny were here to give a delectable demo of plum and Dundee cakes, spreading the enticing and appetising aroma together with the flavours of Christmas all though the Aahar kitchen.

The VIDYA stall held as part of Christmas and New Year celebrations at Society General was an eye opener and a highlighter of the trends, pricing, quality control techniques and demands of the day together with the needs of the visitors.

VIDYA Varna

Colourful Kamal embroidery from VIDYA Varna to deck up necklines and hemlines, adding a dash of hues and shades to the fabric .A Madura Coats freelance work order completed with class by Chitra G.

Printing patterns:

The students of VIDYA Varna delved into the realm of a delightful world of colours - block printing.













The session was held by Mrs.Sangeetha Goel, whose expertise and exemplary touch has made a difference in all the products of VIDYA.

VIDYA Vahaan: A drive into the road less travelled:

The VIDYA Vahaan is a unique course aimed at motivating women to take up driving as a profession and be part of the Pink revolution.

Orientation programmes by VIDYA, Bimal and Taxshe, our partners in providing extended practice & jobs to the trained women are constantly held at our premises to motivate, educate and allay the fears relating to their personal inhibitions, road safety, violence against women, work schedule, selfdefence and safety of life, medical aid and remuneration.

Mrs.Vijaya, our alumnus and a driver at Taxshe was present during one of the programmes to direct and navigate the newcomers through the road map to success.

The session was followed by theory classes, which in turn led to practical lessons.



VIDYA Shakti:

The much awaited VIDYA Shakti, a comprehensive weekend program of 6 months, comprising basic English & Computer skills, a customized Tailoring course and workshops on Culinary skills, soft skills and crafts started with the first batch of students from Adarsh Vista.





LIFESKILLS

Alcohol – a deadly spirit:

Alcohol has been a deadly bane to the society. The addiction leads to many more of its attending evils like ill health, illiterate children, poverty, loss of life and domestic violence.



In view of the above, VIDYA organised an event to create awareness about the effects of alcohol and the means to handle it with courage, strength and sensibility. The engaging talk by Mr. M Kanikaswamy from Alcohol Anonymous made a mark in the minds of the audience who were encouraged and got equipped to deal with the social evil in the right spirit. The session threw light on the help lines and services available to the victims and the affected family.

Living a better life style:

Personal grooming and the significance of a good first impression was discussed in detail at the life skills and soft skills session held at VIDYA Bhagini by Mrs.Sunita Menon and Mrs.Saraswathi .



The Demonitisation effect

Creating awareness on the alternate modes of payment and the use of electronic money seemed to be the need of the hour. Monika, our Computer coordinator made sure that the session on the same educates VIDYA women the ways of using electronic money and e wallets.



The joy of giving:

A weeklong celebration @ VIDYA, starting from Gandhi Jayanti.

To reinforce the noble tradition of "giving", our VIDYA students celebrated the week with the ostracized community of NavajeevanaNilaya. There was music and Garbha to feast the eyes and soul, gifts of saris and shirts, gulabjamuns and vegetable cutlets to feast the palate. Altogether, a student's initiative.

Such great deeds of the students need to be acknowledged and nurtured. Then, came the surprise element, a gift from the VIDYA family to all the students, a token of appreciation to their generous hearts.



A student, who aspires to give back to the society.

A hand painted lamp with the first lines of VIDYA anthem 'VIDYA Jeep JalataJaa' imprinted on it – By AsiyaBanu.



The Dushehra spirit:

Dushehra - the festival of triumph of good over evil, a tribute to women power, a day to honour all aspects and tools of life was celebrated with the right spirit by the students at VIDYA Mali Foundation by performing Ayudh Puja & setting up GombeHabba/ Bomma Golu. We thank Mrs.Janani Jaganathan for beginning the culture of "Golu" at VIDYA.





Diwali celebrations at VIDYA:

The Competitions:

VIDYA students competed with one another to grab the prizes and fought hard to excel in academic and other competitions held as part of Diwali celebrations.





Diwali Mela:

The solemn, traditional beginning of the Diwali celebrations culminated with a grand gathering of VIDYA family not only to celebrate the festival of lights, but also to appreciate the achievements of students who have successfully completed their respective courses. Rocking dance performances, mesmerizing music, gala games, proud prize winners, fuming fun and sumptuous snacks made the day a memorable one.



Stalls for exposure

VIDYA was invited to set up stalls at the offices of Society Generale, RCI, AIG and Karnataka Rajyotsava celebrations of Whitefield Rising, giving an opportunity for students to showcase their attractive & unique handmade products from Vividha, Varna, Vastra, Aahar and South Bangalore women's empowerment programme.



VIDYA participated in the annual marathon, "Walk for a cause" organised by The APR charitable trust. The event provides an opportunity to NGOs and charity trusts who work for a definite cause to spread the message of their mission and the services that they offer to the betterment of the society



COMMUNITY MOBILIATION:

Spreading the VIDYA message:

A community mobilisation drive at Adarsh Vista was focused to make a difference in the lives of the domestic helps of the gated community.



VIDYA with its aim to partner and work closely with other organisations and institutions towards bringing a change in the societal outlook, had a presentation at a meeting held by APSA for the self help groups that APSA is associated with the cause that we believe in.

Team Outing for Rapport building:



The long ride to 'Discovery Village Resorts' was indeed a memorable, interesting, and fun- filled experience and certainly a joyful journey through the day for the VIDYA Bangalore team.



The team building activities that the team participated in brought out the significance of team work, the need for an 'all inclusive' attitude that encompasses every unit of the system there by strengthening the same, heeding to different perspectives, views and workings and ultimately highlighted the efficacy of team spirit.

Our aim being to build leaders and entrepreneurs from the ordinary sections of the society, we encourage them to take and handle orders from various avenues. We are very delighted to have Chitra G. and Nagarathna Y, who have transformed their knowledge and skill into a vocation. Chitra got embroidery orders from Madura Coats and Nagarathna received a letter of appreciation from Mrs. Madhuri, whose daughter is the proud owner of the custom made crochet frock that she made for her.



Bhagini South Bengaluru

"The quality of mercy is not strained. It droppeth as a gentle rain from heaven.

Joy of giving:

DaanUtsav or the joy of giving week started at SB with a visit to the Ramakrishna Shalé, donating the amount collected personally by the teachers and spending an interesting day with the special needs children..



Ayudh puja, an integral part of Navratri, was celebrated by chanting of Saraswati shlokas& lighting of Diyas near the machines, tools & books.



Mr.Vasudev carried out the puja with our colourfully dressed students, celebrating whole-heartedly in the activities of the day.

The woman put-up stalls at the offices of Society General, AIG, RCI &during the VIDYA Diwali Mela. They displayed tremendous teamwork and commitment towards preparing, packing & designing. The events gave our women the opportunity to make, package, price and deliver their products to the market. They also learnt to interact with the employees of the hosting companies, and build up their sales skills.



Beyond School Programs

The Joy of giving (DaanUtsav) was celebrated with great enthusiasm and excitement in our respective schools. Believing it is more blessed to give than to receive, the VIDYA South Bengaluru team visited three government schools, performing a two-perspective – teachers' and students'- based skit for the students of the schools.



The teachers of South Bengaluru also collected and distributed books, toys, and puzzles for the students of East End Govt.school

300 story books were received from the children of Brigade millennium apartments who wanted to share the joy of giving and reading with the children of Government schools

The Principal, staff and students of the SR Nagar government school were thrilled to receive 150 Pratham books from United Way of Mumbai.



Scholarship/ Buddy Program:

On the 12th of October, VIDYA South Bengaluru hosted the Grand Finale to the Joy of Giving Week – by our smart and suave Scholarship students. With great maturity, they organised the programme, to thank the teachers and VIDYA, who helps them in multiple ways.



The gratitude shown by them was indeed overwhelming and will forever be close to our hearts. Completing the circle of love of receiving and giving, the students made a donation of a table fan and a white board for our head office and an iron for the south Bengaluru tailoring classes.



The scholarship meet with SG employees at the Mali Foundation on the 22^{nd} was an amazing interaction between the corporate and our students

The scholarship students of Loyola PU College spent their Dussera holidays vacationing in Mangalore enjoying the natural serenity and learning about the brilliant Indian culture. We thank **Synergy properties** for supporting us in the endeavour.



Community mobilization

As part of DaanUtsav ,Dusehra and Diwali celebrations, the South Bangalore community mobilization team visited homes of students and shared good wishes with their families; they also updated them with the phenomenal progress that their children have made in their studies. The team also visited the homes of the women who are currently pursuing their courses at the VIDYA South Bengaluru Centre.



After a hectic festive season, the centre is now abuzz with women coming back to learn. New workshops and activities are interesting them all.

The computer classes at the Bhagini Program are now becoming very interesting for the students. With the basics learnt, they are able to use the computers more effectively& efficiently, thus experiencing the wonders of the modern machine.

English classes are productively progressing. Today the centre is abuzz with our women chattering in the language. It is so satisfying for the teacher, to see them try and get thrilled when they are able to complete a small conversation in English .

Tailoring classes are witnessing women who create beautiful frocks for their children and dresses for themselves. The students have also learnt to quilt and are using this too make aprons, bibs, yokes and bags.

In the embroidery classes, students have completed learning free style embroidery.

Soft skill classes in confidence building for our women are conducted by Ms Prathibha, who has an experience of conducting many such workshops for the employees of Bosch.

Leah Johnson, a long-time associate of VIDYA, is volunteering her time to counsel our young girls.



Leah has interacted and understood the students well. She will be extensively working with those who need more help.

As part of our initiative to spread the benefits of our program to more, we are rolling out a program "EACH ONE GET ONE". With this, we are hoping to get some more enrolments to our program. The South Bangalore team has been visiting homes of Bhagini Program students to know their feedback and also to spread the VIDYA word in their neighbourhood.

Beyond School Programs

The Schools are back in session after a long festive break. The Arekere schoolchildren had a wonderful time in November, when children from a neighbouring apartment block came visiting with lots of story books to share and read them together. The books are now kept in the school library



The students of the two High Schools- East End Champakadhama busy taking notes and clearing their doubts with the board exams approaching with the teachers working hard to get the best out of each child.

Scholarship/ Buddy Program:

Our Champions AIG, invited three of our girl scholarship students to attend a conclave on Global Women In Technology. This was an excellent opportunity for our girl students to see where today's women have reached and a wonderful platform was given to them to dream higher. The students also had an opportunity to share with the employees of AIG – how the scholarship given to them is helping them inch closer to their dreams! The students gave a confident and heart rendering talk that moved and impressed one and all, not to mention that our students got a standing ovation at the end of their speech, by the AIG employees. The students were happy to receive many goodies from the company, and they enjoyed the grandeur of the Zuri Hotel where the program was held. It was indeed a once in a lifetime opportunity.



The Sunday sessions for the scholarship students is going on in full swing as the students are now gathering every Sunday to catch up on their studies. Ms Shreeja and Mr Shaunak are dedicating their time to help our students with Accounts and Maths respectively.

Career counselling sessions are also being well received by the students. AIG is also initiating a BUDDY PROGRAM where in their employees will interact with our scholarship students at our South Bangalore office on a regular basis, guide them, counsel them, motivate them and most importantly nurture them to bloom beautifully. A great initiative by the AIG employees.



With the recent fiscal and monetary changes in our country, knowledge of digital technology, E-Technology, and smart phones has become imperative. Our computer classes are accordingly equipping students and making them aware of the importance of e-banking