



# VIDYA

— A STORY IN THE MAKING —



# Rashmi Misra

When Rashmi Misra was living at the IIT Delhi campus in 1985, she used to see the same five girls from the neighboring slum playing in a storm drain adjacent to the campus wall.

One day, she approached them and asked them why they weren't at school. They looked at each other, then at her, with incredulous expressions, and said, "don't you know girls don't go to school?".

**VIDYA started then, in 1985**, with Rashmi herself educating these five under-privileged girls in her apartment.



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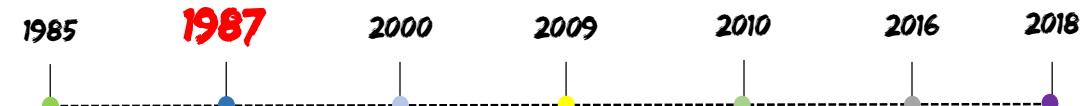
2018



# VIDYA Delhi

**Bal Vihar** was VIDYA's first project, and is still running and thriving. It's an English-medium primary school in Delhi that now serves 350 students from Preschool to Class 5. It imparts a unique holistic education with arts, culture, and sports, and has provided education to over 12,000 children over the years. It has achieved a "no drop out" status and has created a generation of parents and learners who value education!

The success of our Bal Vihar model in 1987 inspired us to create the numerous programs of **VIDYA Delhi**, and later, realize our dream of creating the multiple award-winning VIDYA School in Gurgaon.







# VIDYA Mumbai

VIDYA Mumbai was founded as a single center on the campus of IIT Mumbai in **2000** with the help of a few veteran VIDYA members. The Mumbai team's dedication to their cause then catapulted it into a roaring success and they expanded to wherever they were needed most in Mumbai. They now serve over **5000 children, youth and women** all over the city, with **24 centers**, including **8 government schools**. In 2016, they founded VIDYA's first syllabus research center, have organized several literature festivals and tech fairs, and their students have participated in every major Mumbai marathon for the last few years!

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# The VIDYA School, Gurgaon

Founded in **2009**, our very own state-of-the-art CBSE school, from primary to 12<sup>th</sup> standard. The goal: empower less-privileged children with a high-quality holistic education rivalling the country's most elite schools, and become a model for all schools in the country!

It now serves over **1100+** students. Between 2015-2017, it won **three** prestigious awards, and our students' performance exceeds all expectations, with one student scoring a perfect CGPA, three students clearing IIT-JEE, others winning chess and athletic competitions, and 100+ students qualifying for MENSA!



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# VIDYA Bangalore

VIDYA Bangalore began with a beyond school program in a government school in **2010**, and the women's program began with just an office in the Mali Foundation Building in **2012**.

After a lot of hard work, love and dedication, VIDYA Bangalore now supports **3000 children, women and youth**, across **9 schools**, and a significantly expanded, thriving and innovative **women's center**!

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# 2012-2017

Here are few highlights:

- **VIDYA Pune** was founded in Ghorpadi by one of our most experienced social workers. It already serves 250 children at the government school there, and plans to open a women's empowerment program.
- We published our very own book, "*My Voice, My Verse*". It's a poetry book **written by VIDYA children as young as 7!**
- In 2017, we inaugurated the **VIDYA MiTR program**, an innovative, game-changing program that attaches a single, experienced mentor to each VIDYA student, to guide them towards their goals and inculcate the right skills and attitude.
- **VIDYA North America and Canada** was founded by a long-time Friend of VIDYA, with the help of the University of British Columbia. It was created to expand awareness of VIDYA's goals and attract talent, donors, partners and collaborators



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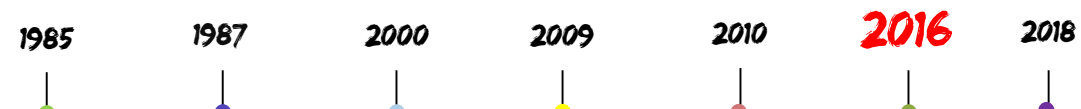
2018

# Empowering Girls..

From 2014-2017, we have benefitted at least **4000 girls** all over the country. We've seen that empowering mothers and girl children empowers their entire family and their communities!

In Hauz Khas, dropouts decreased from **50%** to just **10%**, girl enrollment increased from **15%** to **38%**, and attendance increased from **45%** to **80%**.

At the VIDYA School, the girl enrollment rate has increased from **35%** to **48%**!





# Reaching for the Stars!★

**VIDYA currently serves 12000 children, 5000 youth, and 2500 women all over the country.** Our goal is ensuring employability and self-sufficiency for each individual whom we serve. Our programs address literacy as multi-faceted- encompassing academics, vocations, mental and physical health, life skills, awareness, and values.

They range from teaching additional classes at government schools, to remedial education, career guidance, and vocational training. To significantly increase employability, all our programs country-wide implement compulsory spoken English training, digital literacy, life skills, and many cultural events, and awareness workshops for health and general knowledge. For the next three years, we're expanding our reach by focusing on projects that we think will have maximum impact in the long-term.

Our goal? **We want to see an India where every child gets a quality education, every youth an opportunity to succeed, and every woman achieves economic and social independence**

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**Bhadra Sen Negi**  
A shepherd from the hills of Himachal Pradesh, now a software engineer, working for the City of Los Angeles, USA. Studied at the VIDYA Bal Vihar



**Raju**  
From Nepal, worked as domestic help in Delhi. Fluent in English, the library is his life, aspires to be an engineer. Studying in class X at the VIDYA School, Gurgaon



**Kanti**  
Married at 15 years, single mother of a 12 year old, overcame all odds to complete school education. Now a factory worker, Kanti is educating her daughter. Studied at the VIDYA Bal Vihar School, New Delhi



**Neelam**  
A 35 year old widow with three young sons, she is a Madhubani painter. VIDYA gave her an opportunity to polish her skills, and she now sells her art, with forty people working for her





- We ensure less privileged students receive a **high quality education** on par with the country's best schools
- We are very careful in selecting our **teachers**: they must show passion, dedication, assertiveness, calmness, patience and the willingness to go beyond the call of duty. Teachers are the bedrock of making education empowering. Students emulate their teachers and mentors.
- We believe knowledge should **empower individuals to be leaders of change**. We often assign our students the task of teaching what they know to their parents and communities, to help them with their daily lives
- We integrate **life skills and values** into daily activity and classes, along with circle time, rather than separately. We aim to create responsible citizens of India and the world
- We believe education should be **useful**. We place a great emphasis on IT skills, life skills, and English proficiency across all our programs, which greatly increases employability





## Delhi NCR

- VIDYA Head Office
- VIDYA School, Gurugram
- VIDYA Bal Vihar
- Okhla Community Project
- Pappankalan Community project
- IIT Community Project
- VIDYA DEEP Program
- NIOS Bridge Course
- VIDYA Mandira-Margam
- Educational Alliance SDMC Schools (PPP)



## Bangalore

- Beyond School Program (9 schools)
- Mali Women's Empowerment Program (English, life skills, IT skills, and stitching, embroidery, driving, and other vocational courses)
- School Partnerships
- NIOS and Scholarship Programs



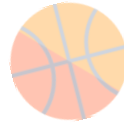
12000 children,  
5000 youth  
2500 women all over  
India..

.. 3,65,000 people  
over 33 years



**VIDYA**

INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT  
FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS



## North America

- Contact center for North America/Canada, to facilitate partnerships, donors and volunteering



## Mumbai



- Beyond School Program
- Bhavishyayaan Program
- Computer Learning Resource Centres
- Resource Room
- Syllabus Research Lab
- Youth Programs
- School Partnerships

... in 24 centres and 8 communities



## Pune

- A new initiative. Starting with 250 children at the Swami Vivekananda School, Ghordpadi.
- Computer Center





## Vision 2020

For the next three years, we're expanding our reach by focusing on projects that we think will have maximum impact in the long-term. This is where we would value your help, creativity and time:

- ▶ Bringing out the VIDYA voice, with the students, teachers, and team thinking and sharing together to affect change all over India
- ▶ Ensuring our innovative VIDYA MiTR program is available to every VIDYA student all over India
- ▶ To expand our health awareness efforts, especially towards mental health, women's health and substance abuse.
- ▶ Replicating the highly successful Gurgaon School model in Mumbai and Bangalore
- ▶ Publishing a book on VIDYA— the story of VIDYA, its impact and the lessons we've learned
- ▶ Impact assessment, and possible avenues to influence policy
- ▶ Starting a teacher's training initiative
- ▶ To further focus on employability and economic and social independence by improving and expanding our spoken English programs and high-quality vocational training programs
- ▶ Increasing, improving and streamlining our volunteering opportunities





# You can..

- Mentor our students
- Intern at VIDYA
- Get involved in Field work
- Assist us in setting up programs
- Join our permanent team
- Sponsor a child's education
- Sponsor a woman/youth



If you're interested, just drop us a line at [office@vidya-india.org](mailto:office@vidya-india.org),  
and we'll answer all your queries ASAP!



# Please Visit Us



[www.vidya-india.org](http://www.vidya-india.org)

## VIDYA Delhi/Head Office/VIDYA School

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## VIDYA Bangalore

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## VIDYA USA

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*VIDYA is registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 in India and exempted under Sec. 80 G of the Income Tax Act 1961 and under section 6(1) of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act 1976 (FCRA).*



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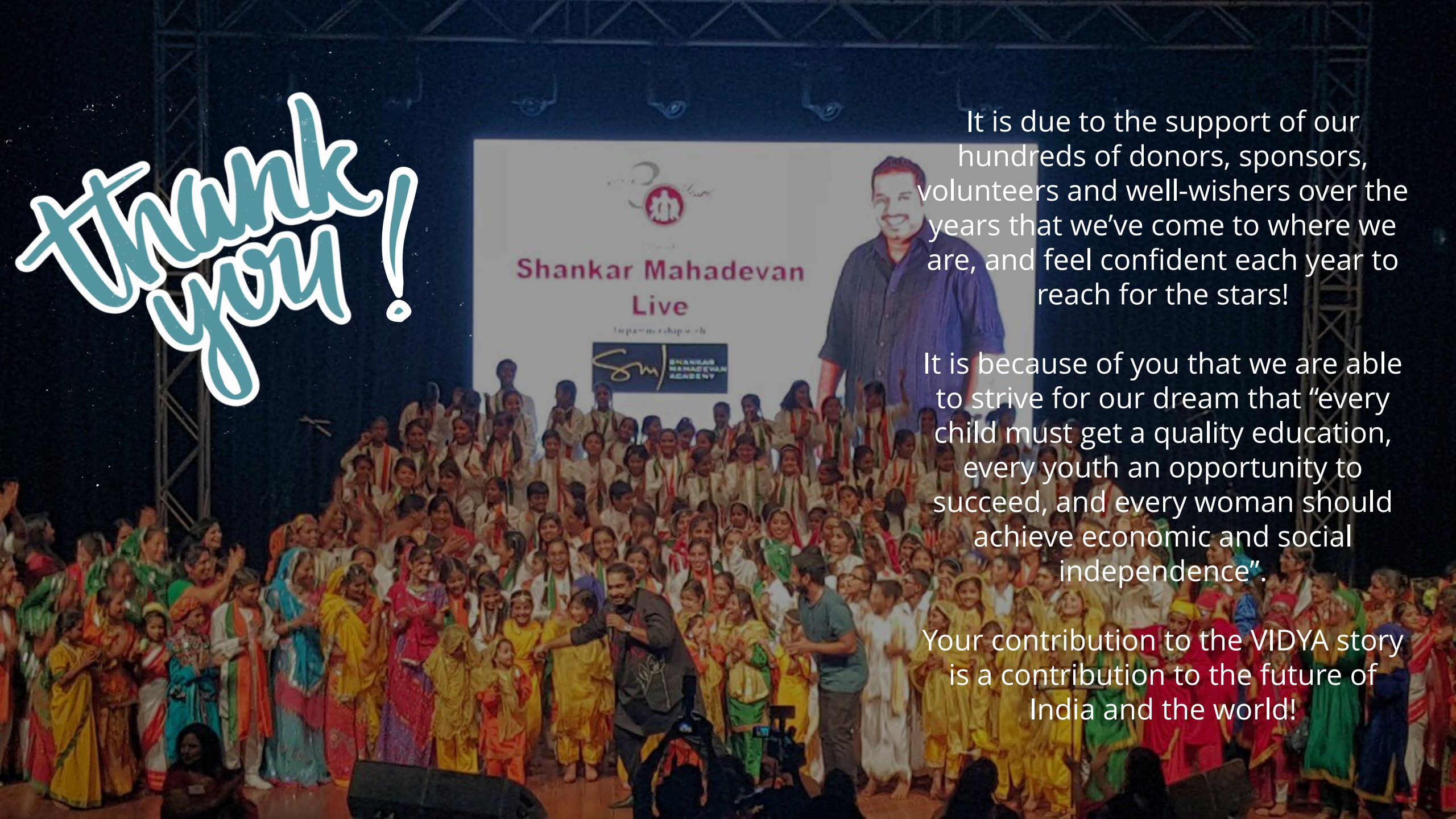


We're social!





# Thank you!



It is due to the support of our hundreds of donors, sponsors, volunteers and well-wishers over the years that we've come to where we are, and feel confident each year to reach for the stars!

It is because of you that we are able to strive for our dream that "every child must get a quality education, every youth an opportunity to succeed, and every woman should achieve economic and social independence".

Your contribution to the VIDYA story is a contribution to the future of India and the world!