



VIDYA

—— A JOURNEY TO EDUCATE AND TRANSFORM INDIA ——

A close-up portrait of a young boy with dark skin and short black hair, smiling broadly at the camera. He is wearing a light blue school shirt. The background is blurred, showing other people in a school setting.

EDUCATION IN INDIA

- Education is compulsory up to the age of 14. Government schools provide free education till 16.
- There are two choices for education: pay and get the best, or government schools of mostly poor quality
- According to a 2016 GoI report, the educational status of India is steadily improving, but there are still large lacunae.

However, **47 million young men and women still drop out of school by the 10th standard.**



Only about one in every four women are working or looking for work.

The India Skills Report (ISR) 2018 finds, 85 per cent of the 500,000 students surveyed across 5,200 institutions said they are *not equipped to make decisions about their future*

There are **600 million Indians** below the age of 25 years. **That's half of India's population.**

The unemployment rate of youth is **nearly 10%**. The expected skill shortfall in major sectors by 2022 is thought to be **119 million**.

A recent study (IJSS) indicated **juvenile delinquency is increasing** because of low education, poverty, cultural deprivation and status frustration.


Education and employment of youth is of paramount importance for a peaceful world. **Access to alternatives can change lives and the prosperity of India.**



What's life like for a **less-privileged** Indian?

- Often unlettered, malnourished, and live in areas with inadequate sanitation
- Families often survive on less than Rs.10,000 a month
- Exposed to bad influences from childhood, everything from substance abuse to crime
- Women face additional challenges: they're discriminated against, often in abusive marriages, and unaware of women and children's health issues and their rights



A woman in a patterned orange and black sari is smiling while operating a black Merritt sewing machine. She is in a workshop setting with other women in the background, some of whom are also working at sewing machines. The scene is brightly lit, likely from large windows in the background.

“ We are not allowed to make our own decisions. Yet we are the caregivers for all. ”

Many non-educated husbands don't like the women in their family educated. Yet it is women and girl children who have the highest influence on their family.

Our Vision

To be the fountainhead for empowering and transforming lives through education

Our Mission

To optimize the potential of children, youth and women by providing holistic education through schools, collaborations and community programs

Our Values

Excellence Every Day · People Matter · Act with Integrity · Think Forward · Global Citizenship

Our Motto

"Educate, Empower, Transform"

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.





Today, VIDYA serves 12000 children, 5000 youth, and 2500 women all over the country.

Our focus: schools and skills.

*We're
Reaching for the
Stars! ★*

We aim to ensure employability and self-sufficiency for each individual. We address literacy as multi-faceted– encompassing academics, vocations, mental and physical health, life skills, awareness, and values. All our programs country-wide implement spoken English training and digital literacy.

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

A young girl with dark skin and hair in two braids, wearing a light blue school uniform, is smiling and eating from a white bowl. She is sitting at a table. In the background, another child is visible, slightly out of focus.

“

But ma'am, I *want* to
come to school.

..this is my favourite
place to be! ”

- Rathna, A VIDYA
Student

A group of seven Indian school children of various ages are smiling and posing in front of a building with a metal grille. The word "SCHOOLS" is written in large, bold, yellow capital letters across the top of the image.

SCHOOLS

We operate out of nearly 39 schools all over the country, which includes our own schools, public-private partnership schools, government school initiatives, and remedial education. Our flagship project is our very own VIDYA School Gurugram, an award-winning CBSE-accredited center for learning. The model has been so successful that we're currently replicating it in Bangalore and Mumbai.

The VIDYA School, Gurgaon

Founded in **2009**, our very own state-of-the-art CBSE school, from primary to 12th 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!

We now serve over **1100+** students here. We have 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 120+ students qualifying for MENSA!



WE BELIEVE IN EDUCATION THAT IS
HOLISTIC, PRACTICAL AND EMPOWERING

The VIDYA School has attracted attention from celebrities, government heads, corporates, news channels, and many educators for its unique approach of being a school for less privileged children competing directly with elite schools.

In fact, one of our students' favourite teachers is Yash Pal Syngal, Ex-CIO of Aon India, who now volunteers at the VIDYA School as the physics teacher! He even ran the Schneider Electric Marathon in Paris last year for VIDYA, and the funds he raised exceeded the 15 Lakh goal!





- We ensure less privileged students receive a **high quality education** on par with the country's best schools
- We've seen that students emulate their **teachers and mentors**. So, we select them for their passion, dedication, assertiveness, calmness, patience and the willingness to go beyond the call of duty
- Knowledge should **empower individuals to be leaders of change**. So, our students teach what they know to their family and community
- We integrate **life skills and values** into daily activity and classes. We aim to create responsible citizens of India and the world

“

.. the thing is, my grandmother wasn't just against education for girls, she thought girls were a burden. So I decided to prove myself to her and everyone.. and I succeeded! Well, guess what my grandmother does now? She insists that every girl from our village goes to school. I changed her mind, and she's leading that change in the community.

”



Sanjana

VIDYA School Graduate

SKILLS

A group of approximately ten children of various ethnicities are smiling and waving at the camera. They are standing in front of a vibrant, hand-painted mural that features colorful flowers, balloons, and abstract shapes. The children are dressed in casual clothing, including sweaters, jackets, and a beanie. The overall atmosphere is cheerful and positive.

We work out of less-privileged communities and the largest slums in Delhi NCR, Mumbai, and Bangalore. There, we focus on serving children, youth and women what they need most: **practical steps that enable them to achieve independence and give them hope.**

This includes vocational skill training in partnership with industry leaders, IT skills, spoken English programs, cultural events, life skills workshops, health camps, mental health programs, remedial education, including in our graduation programs for drop-out youth (NIOS)

“ I can't believe this has happened. I'm earning ₹50,000 a month from UrbanClap! Life has finally taken such a positive turn for me. I'm so proud to introduce myself as a working professional. Soon I'll introduce myself as the owner of my own salon! ”



Usha

VIDYA Mandira Graduate

“ I can now fill and sign the bank forms on my own, I can identify buses, read newspapers, I no longer feel lost in a crowd.. a whole new world has suddenly become open to me! I feel like a transformed person. It feels amazing! ”



Kamlaji

A 50 year old beneficiary from Delhi



Help us
build the
future of
India..

Work with Us

Intern with us, volunteer or collaborate with us on a project using your expertise. Business leaders, professors and other experts might also love to mentor our students through the Mitr Program.

Not only will you impact lives directly with your work, you will discover new things, create great solutions, and your experiences with VIDYA will be some of your most memorable.



VIDYA मित्र



Everyone needs a mentor. Our students want to be proud graduates, CEOs, artists, scientists, achievers, athletes and global citizens of tomorrow. Our **VIDYA Mitr** program links each student with a mentor who will guide them to success.

You can help make sure their hard work pays off. You can help them reach their goals. Get in touch with us to know how you can apply!



Train Teachers

Teachers are the pillars of society, and their role in VIDYA is no different.

Conduct teacher training programs to help them improve their knowledge, sharpen their skills, and increase their grasp of different fields so that they can better identify interests in students and guide them along the right path.



Sponsor our Students

We have an urgent requirement of sponsorships for individual students. We believe in a holistic, complete education without compromises for each student. The sponsorships are as follows:

- Nursery to Class 5 (Gurugram) – ₹35,500/yr (\$517)
- Class 6 to Class 12 (Gurugram) – ₹43,000/yr (\$626)
- VIDYA School Bangalore - ₹35,000/yr (\$517)

For a list of other needs, please get in touch with us.



“

I had a great interest in sports from a young age, but no one to sponsor it, no map to lead me, no mentor. So I tried to be a student. That did not go well. But then VIDYA came along and put their faith in my true calling. Today, I've won state-level competitions in three sports, and have started coaching kids who are just like I was! .. and I've become a pretty good student too!

”

*Chandan*

VIDYA Bangalore Scholarship Student

Vision 2020

For the next two years, we're focusing on projects that we think will have maximum impact in the long-term:

- ▶ Replicating the Gurugram School model in Bangalore and Mumbai
- ▶ Taking on PPP schools in other cities, as we've successfully done in Delhi
- ▶ Employability and independence: focusing on spoken English programs and high-quality vocational training programs, through **partnering, certification and employment opportunities from industry leaders**
- ▶ Expanding programs for mental health, women's health, substance abuse and environmental awareness
- ▶ Making VIDYA MiTR available to every VIDYA student all over India
- ▶ Improving impact assessment
- ▶ Increasing, improving and streamlining our volunteering opportunities



Please Visit Us



www.vidya-india.org

VIDYA Delhi/Head Office/VIDYA School

Block-S, Plot no. 3126,
DLF Phase III, Gurgaon, India
Contact: 01244049559
Email: office@vidya-india.org

VIDYA Mumbai & Pune

Gurukrupa, Room No. 10,
Hare Krishna Road, Opp. Konark Bldg,
IIT Market, Powai, Mumbai - 400 076.
Contact: 02225787317
email ID: mumbai@vidya-india.org

VIDYA Bangalore

Mali foundation, Navjeevana Nilaya,
Kundanhalli Gate, White Field Road,
Marathahalli post, Bangalore-560037
Contact: 9986422009
Email: bangalore@vidya-india.org

VIDYA USA

Friends of Vidya Office,
Office of Aparna Dave,
107 Alderwood Drive,
Gaithersburg, MD 20878,
U.S.A

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).



<https://goo.gl/7Liwtj>



<https://goo.gl/CYyMxI>



<https://goo.gl/DGRx61>



<https://goo.gl/228ATV>



<https://goo.gl/iKXGkV>



We're social!





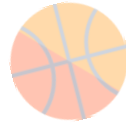
Delhi NCR

- 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 (12 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..

.. 3,75,000
people over
34 years



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 37 centers, of 20 schools, and 16 communities



Pune

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






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!



“So, Rahul, what do you want to be when you grow up?”

“I want to be Vidya’s **BIGGEST** donor!”