Women:

The VIDYA Bhagini Programme @ Mali Foundation & South Bangalore

VIDYA Bangalore Women Empowerment programme, a relatively young child in terms of years, is certainly on par with others exuding the spirit, passion and commitment towards educating, empowering and transforming the less privileged women of the community kindling their hidden desire to learn, and helping them realise that learning has no ‘use-by’ date.

Academic courses:

Spoken English:

Teaching English through interactive methods, the English course takes students to 3 levels of basic and advance learning, assessing and giving certificates at the end of each level. The emphasis this year has been on role plays, story narration, enacting skits and connecting English to their vocational courses.

NIIT- Intel certified Computer courses:

Together with the regular CCIP, ....Courses, we introduced the third course .....Students were taught the usage of mobile phones and apps together with regular classes in computers. Workshops were conducted to create awareness on alternate modes of
payment and use of electronic money, for not only the Computer students, but also to the entire batch of students from all disciplines.

NIOS:

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 Mali Foundation

VIDYA Shakti: A Shakti to strengthen the women:

A dedicated batch for the domestic helps and cooks of gated communities is catered by our VIDYA Shakti Programme; a comprehensive two day program of 6 months, comprising basic English & Computer skills, a customized Tailoring course and workshops on Culinary skills, soft skills and crafts.

Vocational Training:

Our Vocational programmes include Singer certified Tailoring, Madura Coats supported Embroidery, Block Printing, Product making, crocheting, Driving supported by Bimal and Taxshe, Cooking & Catering. Women are getting trained and are happy to earn as they learn, by catering to small orders through contacts of VIDYA. The field trips are greatly enjoyed by them which help them enhance their knowledge of the structure, system and modus operandi of industry at large.
VIDYA Vividha: Creative designs by creative hands

Crochet, macramé, quilling work, paper products, gift bags, silk thread work....the list is endless. The art of Madhubani was transferred to printed cards of VIDYA this year. Many accolades are being received by them for their crocheting skills

VIDYA Varna: Printing& weaving patterns with colour and thread:

The students of VIDYA Varna delve into the realm of delightful world of colours - block printing taught by trainers trained at NIFT and embroidery training being imparted by Madura Coats. Our women have completed different types of Embroidery and received certificates of competence from Madura Coats.

VIDYA Vahan:A drive onto the road less travelled:

The VIDYA Vahan is a unique course aimed at motivating women to take up driving as a profession and be part of the Pink revolution. Thanks to our Tie up with Taxshe – cab service exclusively for elders, women and children- our girls get extra practice and jobs with them, once they get their driving licence through VIDYA.

The aromatic Aahar kitchen

The women empowerment programme through Catering skills- Aahar, spreads the aroma and flavour to the aspirants and the community. Together with learning different cuisines, they get market exposure by catering for the celebrations and events at VIDYA centres, donor’s offices and other individual orders through VIDYA staff and volunteers. The Jam and cake making workshops gave a lot of work to them during New Year and Christmas.
**Summer Camp:** April, a month full of fun filled activities to all who step on the threshold of VIDYA. It is a great way for community mobilisation for the new session.

**Life Skill and Soft Skill:**
Together with regular classes in soft skills and life skills, workshops and motivational talk sessions were held by Mrs Nancy, an entrepreneur running the 'Trendz Saloon', Mrs.Babita Saxena, who threw light on work ethics and the formula for being a successful entrepreneur; the significance of a good first impression was discussed by Mrs.Saraswathi.

Representatives from S.B.I, gave a detailed picture of the savings schemes available in the bank to educate the students on banking and its operations and significance.

**Yoga classes by Total Yoga:** The divine formula to a healthy mind, body and soul

The students of VIDYA, practicewith the Yoga instructor every week& alsodelightfully participated in the yoga sessions held to celebrate Yoga, on the International Yoga day.
Show and Sell - an exhibit of VIDYA’s Creative Art and Catering Programme

Yes, it’s the day that VIDYA Bangalore had been dreaming of: A day to display our designs, a day to communicate our competence, a day of motivation & a day to celebrate our crafts.

A date with Usha Uthup:

The year of peace 2016, as referred by the ever green queen of Indian Pop, Mrs.UshaUthup, began with a bang and a blast with EKAA- Celebrating Oneness with UshaUthup organised by VIDYA, Bangalore brought together the team of staff, students, volunteers and well wishers as one family.

Lalgudi Krishnan’s Violin recital through Spic Macay

Lalgudi Krishnan’s visit to VIDYA is a momentous moment, as he envisioned “VIDYA in every city” with an eye on “empowering” women across the nation.
Change Makers in action:

The bunch of young enthusiasts from "LDSG Young changemakers internship programme", visited VIDYA this year as well; a mutually enriching learning experience for the teenagers and our women.

The association of VIDYA with The Sauder School of Business, Vancouver, Canada, continues to inspire and motivate our women and children.

A surprise visitor:

The corporator of Doddanekundi, Mrs. Shwetha Vijay kumar was excited and was amazed and very appreciative of the exemplary "team work" that she witnessed at the centre.

A buddy just for you:

VIDYA has launched the Buddy Programme to strengthen the bond with its partners and supporters and to enrich the experience of the student beneficiaries.

Wellness programme:

VIDYA in partnership with Inner Wheel Bangalore IT Corridor made the girls aware on healthy & sustainable menstruation options.

The Indian Cancer Institute & Ramaiah Dental College, organised a health camp on oral hygiene, women’s health and screening test for cervical cancer for the students of VIDYA. 77 women and girls benefited from the wellness program.

Alcohol – a deadly spirit:

VIDYA organised an event to create awareness about the effects of alcohol and the means to handle it with courage, strength and sensibility. A talk by Mr. M Kanikaswamy from Alcohol Anonymous.

The joy of giving:

VIDYA coordinated with StopHungerNow and IWCBITC to provide dry meal packages to an Nava Jeevana Nilaya, the neglected community of cured Leprosy patients.

A weeklong celebration of Joy of Giving @ VIDYA, started from Gandhi Jayanti. Students and staff contributed, to give gifts of clothes and food to the needy.

Walk for a Cause:

VIDYA participated in the annual marathon, "Walk for a cause" organised by The APR charitable trust, to spread the message of their mission and services that they offer for the underprivileged of the society.
Musical evening – a memory to carry a long, long way:

VIDYA, in association with Inner Wheel Bangalore IT Corridor had organised a musical evening for the students of VIDYA, the residents of Mali and the elderly inmates of NavajeevanaNilaya to entertain and bring about moments of happiness in their otherwise sedentary lives.

Celebrations:

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.

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, followed by a grand gathering of the VIDYA family.

A thoughtful message on our Independence Day:

Mrs. Rashmi Misra’s speech as a chief guest at the Navaprajna Public School’s Independence day celebrations highlighted the need for education and it's far reaching effects on freedom in a broader sense.

VIDYA celebrates our Independence Day:

We at VIDYA, together with enjoying the spirit of freedom, focused on the need to be free from fear, free to pursue dreams, free to aim & dream high, achieve dreams with good planning and focus. A aptly the chief guest of the event, Mrs. Jija Hari Singh, the sole woman DGP of Karnataka, stressed the need to follow ones dream and make every possible move to get nearer and nearer towards achieving it.

Women’s day – Celebrating Women Power:

The women celebrated their new found skills, friendships, and sense of community on the International women’s day, inspired by the Chief Guest, Ms. Vinita Bali, CEO of Britannia’s words that nothing is impossible if you put your mind towards your goal.

Teacher’s day celebrations:

The teacher’s day celebration organised solely by the students was a show, showcasing their love, affection, and devotion to their teachers.

Save our Earth - Eco friendly Ganesha:

Keeping to the theme GaneshChaturthi, a workshop was organised on making Ganeshas with potter's clay to bring awareness on nature, nature friendly ways of living and to inculcate the multidimensional characteristics that India represents.
VIDYA Stalls:

The VIDYA stalls held as part of Diwali, Christmas and New Year celebrations at Society General, R.C.I, A.I.G. and Whitefield rising 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.

Team Outing for Rapport building:

The team building activities that the team participated in at “Discovery Village’ 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.

Shining Stars of VIDYA:

Sujini

Vatsala

Shining star from the galaxy of VIDYA- Sujini, our 2015 batch English and Computer student has realised her long cherished dream of being a teacher. She is a teacher at Samridhdhi Trust now. Vatsala, a yellow board licence holder is with us to assist in our driving needs.
Such stars are the beacon of hope and light for others sailing in the same boat and they motivate their fellow mates to deftly sail the tides and achieve their dreams.

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.

Volunteers are pillars:

Praneetha: Praneeta has established a strong bond with the students and is continuing to play a major role in enhancing the student's language abilities.

Malathi: Malathi aspires to help the students, who are first time learners to speak the language with a fair degree of fluency.

Sangeeta Goel: Sangeeta Goel has been spinning and weaving a charming ambience in the vocational chapter, thus developing creativity and creative hands.

Janani: Janani has been the pillar of NIOS programme as she handles English for the same, which is significant as all the books of NIOS are in English.

Raj Mathur: Raj Mathur is not only designing Madhubani motifs, but also pepping and inspiring the imagination of the creative minds.

Upasana: Upasana, a dedicated volunteer has succeeded in training the students in an employable art of crochet.

Mehar: Mehar is the face of NTT and also handles the weekend English batch with much enthusiasm.

Usha: Usha has been using her many years of experience in aiding the NIOS students to understand and gain a working knowledge of Computers.

Srijapurkayastha is diligently & committedly volunteering her time to teach accounts for the Sr. Secondary NIOS students and make an indelible mark in the lives of students.

RajiVeeradhi – Raji’s selfless dedication has been instrumental in building the confidence of Students from the women’s programme. They confide in her and look up to her as their elder sister.

Harini Gopalswami- An editor by profession she has helped with profile writing of students and bringing in entrepreneurial skills for women.
Youth:

Scholarship Programme

VIDYA South Bengaluru’s scholarship programme is growing and going places! This year we are supporting students of PUC, Vocational diploma and degree courses.

The year began well, with all the PUC students in Gottigere school clearing their exams and moving on. In PUC1, Devaraj topped the Science stream with 87%. Anjali, with a strong 78% in Commerce, was the highest scorer in Business Studies. Société Generalé and Synergy conducted mentoring and counselling sessions to guide and support the students through their final year. In the PUC2 exams, many students secured a first class. Dawood Ibrahim scored an impressive 92%. With support from Synergy, students received CET coaching and secured good ranks in the exam. Dawood and Nilanjan joined Dayanand Sagar in Mechanical Engineering and Shirdi Sai in Electrical & Electronics Engineering respectively. Shweta has joined a degree course in Biotechnology. Several of our students joined Loyola College for vocational courses, and have successfully handled the transition from Kannada to English medium.

Motivational talks are held regularly to inspire students. Weekend classes are conducted and students’ progress carefully tracked.

Our Scholarship Coordinator regularly visits the colleges to keep a track of their progress. Information on the latest educational and employment opportunities is provided to students. The VIDYA team visits homes of scholarship students to connect with the parents, update them on their child’s performance, and counsel them on supporting the child’s efforts. A special visit was made to each child’s home during the Joy of Giving week, to share the happiness with their families.

We are fortunate to have the support of AIG as our scholarship partner this year, supporting 25 students. Through the Buddy Programme, AIG employees regularly interact with our scholarship students to guide, counsel, motivate and nurture them. Three of our girls were invited by AIG in November, to attend a conclave on Global Women in Technology. It was an excellent opportunity for them to observe successful women as role models, and also to share their own story – which they did to a standing ovation. The students also had an amazing interaction with Société Generalé at Mali Foundation in October, which yielded knowledge, experience and positive vibrations all around. Two students, Sumithra and Maulabi, attended the BEET Force Symposium on Bridging Gaps in Education Creating Sustainable Social Equity, a great learning experience for them.
Our scholarship students know how to play as well as work! They participate in events like the APR marathon, where they impressed the crowd with their short street play on education of girls.

The students studying in Loyola College spent their Dussera holidays in Mangalore, enjoying the scenery and learning about India’s wonderful culture. The scholarship students also organized the Grand Finale of the Joy of Giving Week, which was a great success. Completing the circle of love – of receiving and giving, the students donated a table fan and white board to our head office and an iron to the tailoring class. But the most overwhelming gift was the gratitude and affection they showered on the VIDYA teachers and staff.

Children:

Beyond School Programme

The year has been an eventful one for the Beyond School Programme in South Bengaluru. The children in our adopted schools have done well in academics as well as extra-curricular activities, and have gained immensely in confidence.

In Gottigere High School, all the Vidya students sailed successfully through the Class 10 Board exams. The school toppers were Satish BN with 85%, and Divya with 82%. Remedial maths sessions were conducted in the holidays. A workshop for teachers was held, in which our teachers learnt (and immediately applied) new and innovative techniques.

With the launch of the South Bengaluru Centre in July, the hub of our operations moved from Gottigere school to Shantiniketan layout. Three new government schools were taken up: Jayanagar East End High School, Arekere Higher Primary School and Sri Champakdhama Swamy High School. Remedial&Computer classes are operational; a system of weekly reports is in place. Assessment tests and oral evaluation are conducted to track the learning, comprehension, and conversation skills of the students. Thanks to our generous well-wishers, a science lab has been set up in the Arekere school.

Hand in hand with academics, our students are blossoming in extra-curricular and creative activities. At a summer camp organized at Gottigere school in April, the children thoroughly enjoyed the exposure to different crafts, using recycled material. There were also fun activities like Dumb Charades and story-telling. August saw a grand celebration of Independence Day at the Arekere school, with our faculty distributing certificates to the sports participants.
Sri ChampakadhamaSwamy High School held a cultural competition and a Rural Health Awareness campaign to educate the local community about fevers like chikungunya and dengue. A very enjoyable story-telling session was also conducted.

Our schools celebrated Teachers Day (September 5) with great fervour. Joy of Giving (DaanUtsav) was also celebrated with enthusiasm. The VIDYA team performed a skit for the students showcasing the teacher’s perspective of joyfully imparting education, and the student’s perspective of turning it into success and heartfelt gain. The teachers had made a collection of books and toys for the students of East End school, which were received with great excitement.

**VIDYA Bangalore Donor list**

GOLD: Societe Generale Global Solution Centre

SILVER: Synergy Properties

  - RCI
  - AIG