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
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”
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 underprivileged girls in her apartment.
Today, VIDYA serves 12000 children, 5000 youth, and 2500 women all over the country.  
Our focus: schools and skills.

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 strive to bring joy to our classrooms and rekindle a love for learning.

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.
“But ma’am, I want to come to school.

..this is my favourite place to be!

”

- Rathna, A VIDYA Student
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.
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, three students clearing IIT-JEE, 90% of the class have got into top colleges, others have won chess and athletic competitions, and 120+ students qualify for MENSA!
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
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...
Working with VIDYA

Sponsor our students, partner with us, join as an intern or 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.
Partners are instrumental in making our programs meaningful and relevant, and helping us scale effectively. We're looking for:

- Establishing a VIDYA School with you
- Industry skill certification
- Corporate internships and career partnerships
- University partnerships
- Teacher training
- Collaboration on community interventions
- School partnerships and cultural exchange programs
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 – ₹35,000/yr ($495)
- Class 6 to Class 12 (Gurugram) – ₹43,000/yr ($600)
- University or Vocational course scholarship 30,000 INR/yr ($418)
- Just 8600 INR/yr ($120) or 720 INR/month ($10) supports a student’s essentials from nutrition to textbooks, stationery & uniforms

For a list of other needs, please get in touch with us.
VIDYA is building schools that set a high standard of education quality for the less privileged. These are centers that aim to be a beacon of hope and achievement for local communities for decades to come.

There are currently 5 more schools coming up all over the country. We want to make the maximum impact and be accountable to improve further every year.

Donors who underwrite our new schools receive the following benefits:

• A name board
• An event and batch named for you
• Fully customized quarterly reports
• A place on our advisory board
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!
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, high-quality vocational training programs and entrepreneurship, 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
- Comprehensive documentation and research with the help of experts
VIDYA North America or “Friends of VIDYA” is VIDYA’s new office for the western hemisphere, headed by a team of highly experienced professionals and social workers. The goal of Friends of VIDYA is to build a network to facilitate volunteers, partners, donors and sponsors for our projects.

If you live in the US and Canada, please get in touch with them for enquiries.
VIDYA School Bangalore @DRIK Viveka
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

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)

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)

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

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

DELHI NCR

Mumbai

Pune

VIVEKADAYA
INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS

12,000 children,
5,000 youth
2,500 women all over India...

3,75,000 people over 34 years
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).

VIDYA is a member of ICA which is a federally tax exempted organisation in IRS code section 501. All contribution to ICA are tax deductible to the full extent permitted by law. The ICA corporate no. is D561953IF8CA. Its Federal Employee Identification no. 23-7027461 and its California State Registration no is 11181.
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!”