Service before self

There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up. The VIDYA movement is determined to take education and community development to nooks and corners of urban slums.

Get proactive, endorse a cause, give selflessly and give a helping hand to the VIDYA movement!
1. SCHOOL WATCH

The VIDYA School, Gurgaon

**CBSE Affiliation**

The VIDYA School, Gurgaon has finally received the much awaited affiliation from the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to run all classes up to the secondary level. The school will henceforth follow the prescribed syllabus and implement continuous and comprehensive evaluation system as per the schemes of the board.

Awaited Affiliation
Arrives...
Yes, VIDYA has done it!

This is a major landmark in the evolution of the school wherein years of dedication and commitment has finally paved the way for this recognition. This is indeed a proud moment in VIDYA’s history.

School Re-opens

Come July and the school reopens with renewed enthusiasm. The Principal welcomed the teachers, new timetables were given out, lesson plans were finalized and the classrooms were kept ready.

On July 2, a workshop was organized on six different levels of moral development and life skills for the teachers by Parinita and Shalu. Similarly Nilanjana held an art workshop to help teachers share their feelings which can be later extended to the classrooms also.

We are with CBSE now...
1. SCHOOL WATCH

Giri’s Girls

Dr. V. Mohini Giri, the noted social scientist, along with Prerna Kalra, Jas Singh, Damayanti Tambay and other members of Widows’ Association visited the school on July 5. The Association has sponsored education for some girls. To mark this occasion, a special assembly was held and Dr. Giri honored the scholarship winners namely Neha Yadav and Abha of standard X.

![Image of a quiz event]

Cradle Solutions

On July 22, Cradle Solutions founded by Arandam Bhattacharya organized a quiz contest hosted by Pranab Mukherjee.

The quiz served as a learning platform for the students from various schools like DAV, Modern and Mount Carmel. A special assembly was held to distribute the discount vouchers to the best presenters chosen by AON-Hewitt.
Science Fair: A Day of Learning

A Science Fair was organized on July 19 and it was inaugurated by Dhriti Malhotra, Principal of Manav Rachna International School. The highlights of the Fair were unique models like wind mill, mini bio gas plant etc. and efforts to create best out of waste.

The Fair also exposed the nefarious activities of witch craft practiced by so called miracle Babas offering a cure for every curse. The science quiz and the best out of waste products for sale were highly appreciated. Students from other schools with parents and corporate houses visited the Fair and interacted with the participants. Volunteer from Agastya Foundation supported the Fair. AON Hewitt judged and awarded the best entries.
1. SCHOOL WATCH

**Gift of Groceries**

Thanks to Pullman Group of Hotels in Gurgaon for gifting bags full of groceries for the mid-day meals in the school.

**Friendly Visitor**

Rajiv Gambhir, a Congress party leader paid a friendly visit to the school on July 23. VIDYA appreciates his commitment to clear the waste dumped around the school with the help of local municipal corporation. He has also offered to renew the road link to the school.

**Solar Power**

It was an enthusiastic visit to the Biodiversity Park in Aravalli, Gurgaon. The students were awed by the solar-powered illumination of hand-drawn panels created by the children of Sikandarpur village. This initiative has been supported by URJA Foundation of Nokia Create to inspire fellowship wherein fellows seek to draw public awareness of solar energy.
Classes Again

As the regular classes started, the highlight was the holiday homework of junior classes. There were varied projects on different alphabets, solar system, differentiate shapes and sizes, products from waste materials, health and hygiene etc.

Learning Skills

A workshop was organized by Ajay Agarwal on July 13 with the focus on New Age Learning Skills. The participant teachers were enriched with various tools to save time, boost memory and understanding, radiant thinking and principals of super memory.

Volunteers

Bal Vihar welcomes Seema Gupta and Kiran Vaid who have offered their services to teach English.
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

Motilal Nehru Camp, Munirka, Delhi

Health Camp

The school reopened after the summer break on July 1. A two day workshop was organized for the staff on different learning disabilities by Ekta Malhotra. A health camp was held on July 8 on AIDS and related problems.

Activites at Saral Shiksha in July

- Music classes
- Taekwondo
- Computer classes
- Yoga Meditation
- Collage Making
- Storytelling for kids

Babita’s Brilliance

Babita is learning German!

It’s true, this young girl whose mother works as a cook in Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) has created a unique opportunity for herself despite the setbacks of poverty. She has secured 86% in the standard XII examination and has got admission in the German language course in JNU.

Babita is a VIDYA student. Go fly, the sky is your limit!
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

Pappankalan Community Development, Delhi

**Back to Classes**

The students are excited because they are back to classes after the summer break. The Lotus Club has also started the usual Yoga and Dance classes. A new group of women joined the tailoring classes.

It is a significant achievement that the computer classes have become very popular and students are keen to learn more. Pappankalan’s resettlement colony bustling with lower strata of population is getting VIDYA’s inputs for women empowerment and high standard education creating an environment of self help and better quality of life.
Summer vacations are over and regular activities are back once again. 30 new students have joined in standard X–XII making the total strength of the students in the centre to 48. The former Principal of VIDYA, Sainik Farms, Ms. Bhutani has rejoined and she will focus on improving English speaking skills.

The Board exam results have been excellent. Standard XII has achieved 100% results and standard X has secured 90% pass outs. Nadeem of standard XII has joined F-Tec for multimedia. This is a one year course sponsored by Anil Dev. A number of students have registered for graduation from Delhi University.
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

Okhla Community Development, Delhi

Dengue Danger

Every monsoon arrives the Dengue danger caused by heavy breeding of mosquitoes. The slum dwellers living in clusters surrounded by stagnant drains have hardly any chance to take precautions against Dengue. To create an awareness about protection and cure from mosquito menace, VIDYA supported by South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) observed a Dengue Day recently. Sahiram Pahalwan, Deputy Mayor of SDMC interacted with the people and the health officers highlighted the importance of cleanliness, particularly of water coolers and water tanks.

Sahiram, Deputy Mayor SDMC speaking on Health is Wealth

Culinary Certificates

Finally Laura from Tiffin Community awarded certificates to the girls who successfully completed the 14 weeks cooking classes. It was a day to remember for the young girls who can now create international cuisine in a jiffy.
Children’s Fair

Children enjoyed the games mainly on the issues of cleanliness and good toilet habits. Various topics were explained through music and dance competitions and the winners were duly awarded.

NYK Volunteers

The volunteers from NYK line, a Japan based shipping company played a friendly cricket match with computer students to channelize the youth energy and develop sportsman spirit.

Media Power

A few lucky students got an opportunity to act in a documentary produced by Kids Power Media. Portions of the film were shot in the Okhla Centre giving a great exposure to the students in confidence building.
IIT, NSS VIDYA Remedial Education Program, Delhi

The objective of this Indian Institute of Technology Program supported by National Social Service is to offer remedial education for children, holistic empowerment of dropout youth through interventions of education and occasional training. The centre is maintained by a dedicated team of regular staff, volunteers and visiting faculty.

More than 130 students come in for regular coaching and guidance. Many of them are school dropouts. About 10 students attend the adult literacy class.

Most of the students have cleared their board exams and have taken admission in different vocational programs like NIIT, teacher training etc. The curriculum also includes life skills classes, story-telling sessions and physical education.
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

VIDYA, Mumbai

Manju’s Magic

It is a pleasure knowing Manju Gupta, the 40 year old from Milind Nagar centre. She has enrolled in the literacy course recently and uses the sign language course to communicate with the children who are speech and hearing impaired. It was a challenge for her to master this craft of silent communication. She is also mastering the art of basic English reading and writing. With these acquired skills, she can also get across via text messages without assistance.

May her tribe increase.

Margam Marches Ahead

The women’s program in Milind Nagar is fondly called Margam inspired from the Powai-based program. Various income generating activities are conducted, The ancient tribal Warli painting being one of them. The main aim of this learning is to preserve the folk art and craft and create self-reliance. English speaking classes are also very popular.
Smiles all Around

The Saturdays at Phule Nagar centre are happy heavens with music all around. It is literally turned into a musical *adda* with volunteers from Sing A Smile. This musical group is a not for profit organization of young people who devote their weekends singing and entertaining the less privileged and spread happiness.

Volunteer Orientation

The Credit Suisse volunteers were taken around for orientation and introduction to VIDYA programs. It was followed by Beyond School Program children visiting the Credit corporate office.
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

VIDYA, Bangalore

Bhavishya Yaan Program

The Gottigere primary school children are enjoying their reading, writing and computer training. They can now explore, save screens, open windows and take short cut keys.

There have been exciting visitors from the US. The Principal welcomed the visiting teachers with the beating of the drums of the school band. The visit was co-ordinated with Teachers Foundation and organized under the IREX program.

IREX Teachers from the US

The team from Synergy visited the school on July 19 and appreciated the art and craft created by the children, the folders were a great hit.
Newspaper reading on a regular basis is catching up fast. The student editions of noted newspapers are shared by students.

The students visited the Jayanagar Fire Station and Regional Fire Office and learnt about the processes and technicalities of the Fire Department. The children were treated to fantastic display of Fireworks and the fire fighting techniques.

The focus this month is on saving the environment and the slogan being “Green is Beautiful”

Thanks to Veena Hinduja of Rotary for providing nutritious biscuits everyday to the students.
Mali Foundation

Knowing and understanding English has given VIDYA women an extra edge in today’s competitive world. They can express better, learn better and be more confident.

There have been martial art classes inculcating a sense of confidence and pride in women. They are now enabled physically and emotionally to handle adverse situations.

The folk and tribal arts of different states are catching up fast facilitating creativity and learning of a new culture.

The NIIT certified computer classes are providing precious education and self-sufficiency in a tech savvy environment.

A senior volunteer Lalitha Mathews is spending her precious time creating awareness of better parenting, hygiene, gratitude, communication skills, etc., enabling the women to be more vocal and expressive.

Welcome to new co-ordinators at VIDYA Bangalore: Devika Mathur heads the VIDYA Bhavishya Yaan Saumitraa Ganguly heads the VIDYA Bhagini program at Mali Foundation.
Why should you become a friend of VIDYA?

Be a part of a huge moment to educate, empower and make a difference to your neighbourhood, your city, your country.

VIDYA has been creating a meaningful impact for almost three decades in Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore and needs your support.

Education: Over 2,50,000 underprivileged students have been educated providing access to good quality education.

Empowerment: Women across the country are educated and vocationally trained.

You are welcome to join the VIDYA network. For details get in touch.....