“Where the Mind is Free…”

…into that heaven of freedom, let my country awake

~ Rabindranath Tagore, India’s Nobel jewel

Independence Day was celebrated all across VIDYA with utmost pride and patriotism. The Tricolour was unfurled as a tribute to 66 years of freedom and India’s amazing unity in diversity.
A farewell lunch was organized for Raji Nambissan, Headmistress, on 17 August. The staff members and other colleagues appreciated her strengths and support during her tenure of three years.

Earlier in a farewell assembly, students from various classes acknowledged her leadership. One representative from each class presented her with artistic cards and bouquet as a token of thanks. Raji was visibly moved by these kind gestures and thanked the students profusely.

To Ma’am, with love...
1. SCHOOL WATCH

**At Leisure**

The juniors visited the Leisure Valley Park in Gurgaon with their respective teachers to soak in nature and enjoy leisure time beyond the classrooms. This particular excursion was an outcome of an academic target achieved by the children.

**Quiz Time**

An inter-house Mathematics Quiz was held for students of standards VI and VII. Godavari house bagged the first position followed by Sutlej and Narmada.

**KPMG & KG**

KPMG held a volunteer program for Kindergarten students. The session involved the tiny-tots to learn about India’s freedom struggle. A short and sweet quiz was also conducted.
The results of July Unit-Tests were announced mid-August, which was followed by a parent-teacher meet. More than 80% of the parents updated themselves on their ward’s progress and performance.

Various in-house competitions were conducted throughout the month to celebrate Independence Day. The students enjoyed the poem recitation, poster making, balloon decorating, flag colouring and kite making activities at the Panchsheel Club. The potpourri of activities was highly appreciated by the residents of the Panchsheel Society.

Our special thanks go to Gen. R.K.Singh, for donating generously for production of our winter uniforms. VIDYA is also grateful to Mr. Prem Kumar Khullar, for his donation for the children’s higher education.
Credibility Alliance

Credibility Alliance (CA) is a consortium of Voluntary Organizations, (VOs) committed towards enhancing accountability and transparency in the Voluntary Sector through good governance.

Registered in May 2004 as an independent, not-for-profit Organization, CA emerged as an initiative from within the Sector. The Organization was formed after an extensive consultative process over a period of two years involving more than 500 VOs all over India.

As an Organization, CA aspires to build trust among all stakeholders through improving Governance and accountable practices within the Voluntary Sector.
The integrated community development program at Munirka is one of the oldest, and a role model for other programs that have evolved. Along with supportive education, the children, youth and women are offered a wide platform to build their lives upon. Various festivals are celebrated from time to time to strengthen interpersonal bonds.

Community leaders like the Pradhans attended and encouraged enthusiastic participation. Monsoon festivals like Teej and Rakhi were the highlight of the month. Independence Day was also celebrated with songs and dances, and food and festivity.

JAI HO!
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

Pappankalan Community Development, Delhi

Call for Celebrations

There were silk threads, beads and stars as various festivals were celebrated in splendor: Id-Ul-Fitr and Independence Day, followed by Rakhi and Janamashtami, filled the air with joy and merriment. Colourful rakhis were created using beads and silk threads. Vivid paintings of these festivals were also enthusiastically made by the children.

Music Masti

Beyond studies, children are provided with a wholesome environment for an all-rounded growth. Most programs are based on fine arts to keep the children creatively engrossed. This in turn promotes regular attendance, better focus on studies and fewer dropouts.

There was “Music Masti in the Music Basti” as the students got a chance to meet the teaching artists. This is a step towards starting music classes soon.
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

Bridge Course, Sainik Farms and Okhla, Delhi Youth Management

*Flowers and Friendships...*

The concept of Friendship Day and flower-making was happily merged with Rakhi. The students first learnt to make fancy friendship bands with colourful wool and silk threads.

The product was so attractive that the girls combined both the activities and created interesting rakhis with the same material, bands for friends and rakhis for brothers. Like every year, the young people looked forward to kite flying on the Independence Day which culminated in a healthy competition.

*Mentors’ Moments*

The first batch of students attended a mentoring session at the GE office. Twelve students from Sainik Farms and Okhla were present, where they were mentored on various aspects of personality development, spoken English, career options and excellence in academics. The feedback from students was very emotional and encouraging as they got the chance to share their feelings with people who really cared.
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

Bridge Course, Sainik Farms and Okhla, Delhi Youth Management

VIDYA’S Shahrukh

The name Shahrukh Khan rings bells of the badshaah of Indian movies. But VIDYA’s Shahrukh Khan is no less. He recently cleared his XIIth from Bridge Course Okhla. His dream to do an animation course was fulfilled by Prabha Mehta, a kind donor who sponsored his admission in the Multimedia and Animation Course in National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC).

Shahrukh Khan

Shahrukh comes from a humble background and is the first-generation learner in his family. His father is a welder and his mother expired recently. He is the second of four siblings and has to take care of the family alongside his studies.

Prabha Mehta’s generosity has also benefitted Sarfaraz, who is now learning Web and Graphic designing at NSIC. We wish the two boys success in their chosen fields.
Hundreds of factories exist in Okhla and create huge problems for slums. To address the various issues of illiteracy, unemployment, crimes against women, child labour and health problems, a stakeholders’ meeting was organized on 28th July.

The meeting was attended by officials of Child and Women department, Child Rights activists, NGO officials, community leaders, factory owners and people from the community. The meeting was in collaboration with Empowerment for Rehabilitation Academic and Health (EFRAH). The director of EFRAH touched upon the issues of women safety and child labor in his interaction with the people.

Rama Raghawan, the volunteer at Okhla centre voiced her concerns about child torture. The factory owners also expressed their views on completely eliminating child labor and ensuring these children’s education for a better future.
Plenty of Plantations

To maintain a green cover in Delhi and its surroundings, the students are encouraged to plant more trees to save the environment. As monsoon is the right time to initiate such a plantation drive, in the first week of August the students registered themselves with their respective teachers in the first week of August... and got going! With tiny plants in their hands, courtesy the Forest Department of the Delhi Government, they went on a planting spree.

The youngest boy in the group inaugurated the plantation drive. Name tags were attached to each plant. To top it all, the budding conservationists took an oath to continue to plant new trees and care for them every year. It was a different high and a strong motivation for the students.

Computer Competence

The students learn computers and appear for the required examination regularly. Recently, an exam was conducted, for those who have completed six months basic IT course, sponsored by Fena Foundation. They were evaluated on the basis of the practical, projects, viva and theory. Congratulations to Aman of standard VIII who topped with 86.5% followed by Neil Kumar with 83.5%!
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

Okhla Community Development, Delhi

Special Celebrations

Our thanks go to NYK Line, a Japan based shipping company, for sponsoring the Independence Day celebrations, presenting gifts to the children and providing refreshments for the celebrations. Ms. Madhu Khatri and Mr. Chandar Kaul of NYK Line were guests of honor. Mr. Sahiram, the Deputy Mayor of South Delhi Municipal Corporation was the chief guest.

The musicians from “Music Basti” created a melodious musical morning. The younger children sang patriotic songs and the computer class girls presented a skit highlighting Gandhi Ji’s contribution in India’s freedom struggle. This skit was directed by Kevin of Kids Power Media.

On the other hand, the computer boys presented another skit called ZULM prepared by NYK Line volunteers focusing on various pre-independence problems of terror and torture. Dr. N.S.Rana, General Manager of HR, Fena Foundation was another guest of honor. He awarded the certificates to the successful students of Basic IT course encouraging them to keep the country corruption free.

Invited by Congress

On August 20, the students of Moon dance classes were invited by All India Congress Social Organization to perform on the occasion of birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi, the late Prime Minister of India. This special day was called Ekta Diwas. Eight moon dancers danced to a roaring applause from the audience and were later honored with the Rajiv Gandhi Rashtra Nirman Award 2013.
VIDYA is conducting a remedial education program in partnership with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi in collaboration with National Social Service (NSS). The students attend these remedial classes after regular school.

It is a continuous program of skill enhancement with 127 students currently on the rolls. The limelight is the multitude of the extra-curricular activities like art and craft, dance and music, yoga and sports, included in these classes.

The main objective is a holistic empowerment of dropout youth, through academics and beyond. The main achievement is regular attendance and better performance in school.
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

VIDYA, Mumbai

Teaching Teachers

Thanks to RIHAEE - a not-for-profit organisation, a sensitive subject like sex education was handled with care. In the light of the recent spurt in crimes against women, especially in Mumbai, this subject is of the utmost relevance. Most of the times the teachers are anxious or uneasy in touching upon and tackling the topic of sex and sexual health. To ease out this inhibition, RIHAEE conducted a workshop for VIDYA teachers so that they could reach out to the students in a sensitive and sensible way.

Health Assessment

To tackle the issue of malnutrition, VIDYA collaborated with the **Foundation of Mother and Child Health (FMCH)**, an NGO foundation, which works with various communities to improve maternal and child health, through provision of health and nutrition, and education and sustainable skills. As a part of this collaboration, a health assessment camp was organised to ensure proper and creative designing and implementation of future programs.
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

VIDYA, Mumbai

Personal Effectiveness

A workshop was conducted to focus on the “individual employee” for improving personal effectiveness at work. The successful contribution of an employee stems from his confidence and competence which helps in the acceptance of self and others in a team.
Bhavishya Yaan Program

Students of Gottigere Primary School are well into academics and computers along with multiple fun-filled events: The Independence Day was celebrated with good cheer, and the main highlight was a fluent and impressive speech in English by Kavita of standard VII.

Kavita Speaks

Newspaper reading continues with same enthusiasm, as do the sports, where the children get the opportunity to compete in true spirit. The Snipers team sponsored the team colours, with yellow and red reflecting the Karnataka flag.

Overall, August has been an exciting and inspiring month.
Come Friday, Uma Rani and Lalitha Mathews, the enthusiastic volunteers, are all geared to focus on enhancing reading, writing and spoken English.

‘Curiosity is the first step to the threshold of wisdom. Knowledge is stepping ahead, but sharing the knowledge gained is the crown of wisdom. I shall be grateful forever for the opportunity given. After a long eight year break from teaching, lost and rusted in mundane life, skeptical of my abilities, I dreaded to take up teaching again.

Relishing the comfort of the safe haven, I was scared of treading the alien world, apprehensive of holding responsibility, fear of failure, worry about mockery, all crowded in me, I founded it difficult to arrive at a decision.

After much thought, I agreed to teach the ladies of VIDYA, only for my own good. Drawing more inspiration from the ladies of VIDYA, I am much more happy and relaxed than I was before and delighted to devote my efforts on constructive work and productive thoughts’

– Uma Rani, English Teacher
Teaching Computers

The NIIT certified computer class has strengthened the students on matters of the tech savvy environment. Tutan Debnath, the dedicated teacher, has instilled a sense of pride and confidence in the women students.

“Through my few months of teaching and working in VIDYA, my experience at VIDYA stands above the rest as my absolute best teaching experience. Through the experience at VIDYA I learnt so much about teaching and dealing with students.

My hope is that the student involved has at least partially changed for the better from the experience. I also hope that there is something in VIDYA that can help student’s future.

And the most important thing is that VIDYA is a family where we are working as family members.”

- Tutan Debnath, Computer Teacher
NIIT Graduation

The first batch of the NIIT students have graduated with impressive credentials. The certificates were awarded by Ravi Singh and Ramya Narayanan, amidst the throng of proud and happy faces.

Potluck Party

The women had a great time tasting a variety of home made delicacies in a pot luck party held at VIDYA Mali. This event knitted together the team as the members shared various recipes.

Medical Camp

A medical camp was organised by a team of doctors who answered a number of queries and concerns of the women. VIDYA is grateful to Bangalore Central Lab for assisting the doctors in their lab reports. As usual, the volunteers facilitated the camp and made it a success in spreading awareness on basic health and hygiene.
Blessed are those who can give without remembering and take without forgetting.

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 and 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.....

VIDYA IS JUST A CALL AWAY

VIDYA VARTA thanks Saiansha for volunteering to design and inculcate a youthful exuberance in the Newsletter. This young designer is a standard XI student.