Giving is a Sheer Joy…

The real joy of giving is not mindless charity, but a humble, inclusive giving of yourself to be involved in social justice and empowering someone to live a life of dignity.

The highlight of this month is Delhi VIDYA Bal Vihar School being blessed with an extended lease of premises till 2025. This kind gesture of giving enables VIDYA to continue giving education and igniting young minds.
To celebrate the **Joy of Giving Week**, students from standard III-V visited **Ridge Valley School** in Gurgaon on **October 8th**. They were accompanied by two teachers. This exposure was an excellent learning experience as it was a part of **Compassionate Delhi** project organized by **Youth Alliance** in partnership with **Teach India**.

This project aims to develop a feeling of oneness among the children. The experience involved a friendly Football Match, hand-made gifts and loving letters written to students of other schools. This was the first step towards generating empathy in children to value their people and surroundings and celebrate the **Joy of Giving**.
1. SCHOOL WATCH

Superhero Campaign

On October 25th, the students were engaged in a Be the Super Hero Campaign run by IVolunteer. This session was conducted for students of standard V-IX to create an awareness of environmental concerns and conservation.

Activities Spectrum

- Parent-Teacher meeting for standards III-V was held on October 3rd.

- Orientation of parents of standards VI-VIII was conducted to acquaint them about the Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation system followed under Central Board of Secondary Education.

- Students are actively involved in different activities like sports, clubs, house meetings, debates, music, dance, yoga and various inter and intra school competition.

- The school welcomed Simon Agace, Chairman of Winkworth along with Vikram Rajaram, Ganesham Sundaram and Narayana. The respected guests attended the school assembly and later interacted with the students.
Every Reason to Celebrate

The drumbeats could be heard from a distance. The joy shimmered on the faces as the staff, board-members and others who danced merrily to the drumbeats. The song and dance was an assurance of giving VIDYA students and staff a place in the sun for many more years. It was also a grateful acceptance of a gift of compassion.

Deepavali, the festival of light and splendor was celebrated in Bal Vihar a little early! VIDYA thanks Panchsheela Co-operative House Building Society for extending the lease of the school building till 2025. Special thanks go to Omesh Saigal-President, R.L.Bawa-Honorary Secretary and Laila Kabir - a very special friend of VIDYA.
Activity Spectrum

• Volunteers from Deutsche Bank donated story books to the students encouraging them to read more and learn more.

• Gandhi Jayanti was observed on October 2nd with a special assembly honoring the sacrifices of Mahatma Gandhi.

• Bal Vihar encourages celebration of various festivals like Dushhera to teach the children the rationale and message behind each festival. Various characters of the epic Ramayan were created by paper cutting and folding competition on October 11th.
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

Motilal Nehru Camp,
Munirka, Delhi

Caring and Sharing

The month of October brings a nip in the air and festivity. Apart from regular academic classes, the children are enriched with the experience of events like Dushhera, Gandhi Jayanti and their own card making sessions. The area is flooded with volunteers who love to care and share.

Activity Spectrum

- The centre was used by the community residence for the formalities of acquiring Adhar Card, an important identity document.

- An eye checkup and health camp was organized by Mahavir Association on October 2nd.

- Parent-Teacher meeting was held on October 18th as the first term results were announced.

- Community staff joined the Bal Vihar School on the joyous occasion of pre-Deepavali Puja followed by lunch.
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

Pappankalan Community Development, Delhi

Destroying Demons

Dushhera is a festival that precedes the festival of light marking the destroying of our demons. Effigies of demons are created and destroyed highlighting the victory of good over evil.

The children celebrated the festival by enacting Ramleela in their own simple way and conveyed the message of being truthful and dedicated. All the props were made by the students themselves.

Photo Fantasy

Tanu Dogra, a professional photographer was all too happy to be with the children in Music Basti. She conducted a small session of creating stories through photographs, giving children a unique out of the world experience of fantasy and fun.
A workshop on **Global Dignity** was organized by **Price Water Cooper (PWC)** staff at their Head Office in Gurgaon on **October 7th**. Sixteen students along with the teachers attended the workshop. **Shweta, Deepa and Sangeeta** shared their own experiences as they explained the nuances of the term Dignity.

**Ambassador Badges** were given to the students after the presentations. As Ambassadors, the students are encouraged to spread the message of Dignity in their homes, neighborhoods, school and community in general.

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**Boon of Bicycles**

**PWC** organized another event at **Anya Hotels and Resorts** in Gurgaon on **October 22nd** where 20 bicycles were donated to socially marginalized and needy students.

**Deepak Kapoor, Chairman PWC** presented bicycles to two **VIDYA** students who attended the event along with **Principal Sushila Sharma**.

Fifty staff members of PWC were enthusiastically assembling the bicycles on the spot encouraging the recipients to join-in and decorate their gifts. **VIDYA** is grateful to Deepak Kapoor, **Shakir** and executives of PWC.

*Thank you, PWC, for the bicycles!*
Activity Spectrum

• GE and PWC continue to hold regular mentoring classes.

• Academics are full on with students of National Institute of Open Schooling heading for their exams.

• The girls participated in a Mehandi competition with great zeal and proved their creativity through spectacular designs.

• Anticipating Deepavali festivities, students had a session of creating colorful diyas (mud lamps) and cards using exotic material like tiny mirrors, laces, pearls, glitter powder etc.

Congratulation to M. Rohit on successfully completing his Web Designing course from Habitat Learning Centre with flying colours securing the first position with 90% marks!
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

**Spelling Success – Shibu’s Strength**

Shibu is now working with a reputed firm earning a decent salary. Shibu is a VIDYA boy. He is self made supporting his education by taking tuitions and doing odd jobs.

His father is a carpenter and mother a householder. His parents could not support his expensive training at the AREENA institute in South Delhi for Multimedia course, so VIDYA stepped in helped him to achieve his success.

**Sitara Shines**

Sitara is now working with an advocate in Saket Court in South Delhi. Sitara is a VIDYA girl. She is supporting her humble family and continuing her graduation from Delhi University.

**Activity Spectrum**

- Children have selected various topics for documentary films, photo essays and radio programs. This is an excellent exposure to various types of media under the guidance of capable youth volunteers.

- **General monitoring** and specific GE monitoring continue with the same commitment.

- Children look forward to paper craft and fabric painting classes.

- First term exams have just finished.
Kids Power Media (KPM) is creating magic in movies in Okhla community. The movie ‘Mad about Khan’ was shot in July but till date it is a rage. The community people constantly clamor for rescreening the movie. As per popular request, this movie was once again screened on October 1st.

KPM went all out to promote. Posters and pamphlets were distributed and passes were issued. On the day of screening, the open air make belief theatre was full in anticipation of a great experience.

This is one movie where the community children are the lead actors and whenever they appear on the screen, they get a round of roaring applause. This time, there were more than 600 people and it was quite a task managing a huge crowd.
The graduation ceremony for the members of Rangmanch Media Club was held on October 17th. The members of this club had made a documentary on their community that included a footage of intensive interaction with the locals and screened it. Many girls narrated their experiences and learning and were honored with graduations.

On this occasion, a book was also launched based on the community survey to highlight the socio economic profile. The results of the survey conducted by the girls are compiled in this book. It is very encouraging to note that the girls and children themselves write the script and shoot their own documentary. KPM facilitates Rangmanch’s activities.
Come October and **Okhla** goes high on demolishing demons on **Dushhera**. It was very special this time as computer students and remedial centre boys were ecstatic in creating a huge fifteen feet high effigy of **Ravan**.

For five days, eight boys and four youngsters from community worked round the clock under the guidance of project staff to create this demon. Students of remedial centre performed the epic **Ramayan** at the end of which the evil Ravan was shot down amidst crackling crackers and roars of glee from the crowd.

The Ravan went down in flames. It’s a tradition year after year proving that deceit gets destroyed and good values are the true winners.
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

Volunteers’ Volleys

The Deutsche Bank (DB) recently observed a volunteer week and selected VIDYA for various activities.

It was through a friendly Volleyball match with the children that the bank helped to build a team spirit. The players looked forward to the match on October 21st and came prepared for a friendly tussle.

They were provided with Volleyballs and sportswear. Smaller children played Football and Badminton. The sports activities were followed by an enthralling story-telling, drawing, colouring session and fun time.

FENA hi Lena

The FENA Foundation has recently donated five computers with latest configuration and original software. The full fledged computer centre already has 17 computers but they are not sufficient to accommodate 135 students in seven batches.

Sensing the need FENA has kindly stepped in with extra computers. The idea being an ensured quality of teaching and maintaining ‘one student one computer’ ratio. Thank you Pradeep Jolly, the trustee of FENA for this generous donation.
Cross Culture

Here is a committed volunteer from Cross Culture solution who teaches English to standard VIII and above regularly. In this process of cross culture, this volunteer is learning the local language to facilitate her own teaching.

Teach India

Teach India volunteers are empowering VIDYA to make the youth employable. They come six days a week to teach English. The current third batch started on October 3rd. The learners were enrolled after a screening test. Most students of the second batch are employed today.

VIDYA welcomes Kulsum Farooqui. She has just joined the Okhla Community as Project Incharge.

VIDYA VARTA will miss Javed Hussain’s intensive, extensive and prompt reporting.
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

VIDYA, Mumbai

**Beyond School**

Hats off to the Beyond School Team for conducting regular assessments of students across all the centres. This activity aims to make children comfortable with their school exams.

**Street Smart**

As a tribute to Narendra Dabholkar, the noted late anti superstition activist, a street play was organized at Chaitnaya Nagar. The real effort behind the street play was the spirit of the Beyond School Children Team to spread the message of rational thinking.

At Milind Nagar and Phule Nagar, the children spread the message of health and hygiene. These activities were part of the week marking the Joy of Giving.

**Navratri Garba**

They went round and round with their colourful embroidered skirts swaying in the air to the tune of dandia beats. This was Garba in true spirit and style.

At the ninth day Navratri celebrations organized by VIDYA, the Garba dance was a novel experience as young boys and girls filled with energy danced through the evening. It was a memorable event and a refreshing break from the routine.
Green SPROUTS

45 children have been selected across the centres to soak in the passion of environment conservation. These children will be attending weekly sessions of the year long module of practical and theoretical learning.

Through this exercise, VIDYA aims to highlight the individuals role in creating a sustainable world. This green module is prepared and implemented by SPROUTS, VIDYA’s environment partner.

Life Skills

Reading, writing and basic maths may make a student literate but not self-sufficient. To be truly self reliant and confident many skills beyond the basics are required.

To meet this need of self sufficiency, VIDYA organised a life skills session for students between 13-15 years of age. This module is created and delivered by Tejal Rajyagor, a life skills consultant.
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

Ability Unlimited

Fascinated, motivated and charged were the Bhavishya Yaan students of standard IX after they attended the Rotary Club of Bombay had organised this counseling program focusing on ‘Ability Unlimited’ at Colaba school benefitting 28 participants.

Apart from career counseling, the program enabled the students to overcome their fears and set goals in life.

Creative Thinking

The “Art and Creative Thinking” workshop was organised at G.K.Marg school to expose the students to various aspects of arts appreciation.

Different styles of painting were explained and the students created some excellent pieces of art which will be later auctioned and proceeds will be donated to Bhavishya Yaan.

The workshop was addressed by guest speakers such as Shanaz Mahimtura - Interior Designer, Zubin Driver of TV 18, Madhu Shah – Actor and Reema Gehi - Sub Editor Mumbai Mirror who interacted with the students giving them an overall view of the various creative and alternative profession.
Healthy Habits

Healthy food versus junk food is a constant debate because of young students preferring taste over health. Hence, a science camp was conducted at Byculla School focusing on healthy habits.

Healthy body and mind is the key to success. Interactive sessions, project making and games were part and parcel of the camp on healthy habits.

Catalysts of Change

“Be the Change” - This was the topic of the workshop conducted at N.M.J School to create sensible, thoughtful and responsible citizen for India. It was a fun-filled session including a tell-tale movie focusing on the importance of truth, non violence and honesty.

The students shared their experiences and related them with the movie followed by a question and answer session.

‘Motivation’ - This was the topic of another workshop organised at Ghatla Centre to bring forth the strength of positive thoughts, right speech and correct body language.

The students were explained various ways and means to increase their self worth and confidence. They were also taught to accept and handle failure.
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE  
VIDYA, Bangalore

Bhavishya Yaan Program, Gottigere Primary and High Schools

With Gratitude

The Joy of Giving week created a real joy for the inmates of Asha Jeevan Old Age Home. The students visited the home on October 3rd and gave quality time to the senior citizens.

They played games, they shared stories and a small entertainment program was presented. The seniors were overjoyed with this attention and love and blessed the juniors with positive vibes and health and happiness.

Activity Spectrum

• In academics, the mid-term examination ended on October 1st. The relived students looked forward to the various festivities ahead.

• Well done standard VII! Can you imagine the highest score being 49 out of 50? In English? It has happened as the students have achieved almost impossible scores.

• Thanks to Rotary for providing Diyas and Synergy for providing craft material to prepare colourful lamps for Deepawali.

• The teachers have utilised the holidays to get certified by National Institute of Information Technology after their training. The teachers have also worked with ITM Business School volunteers to chalk out English and Computer academic plans and create curriculum for Life Skills program.
Happy Deepavali!
Let a thousand lights illuminate our hearts and minds!

May the Divine Light of Diwali spread into our lives Peace, Prosperity, Happiness and Good Health!
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.....