New Dawn, New Resolutions...

“One Child, One Teacher, One Book and One Pen can Change the World.”
~ Malala Yusufzai, Pakistani Student Activist
It is time to give back. Donate for a Cause. Help VI\DA build a better tomorrow. Your gift of love and compassion will make a huge difference

Can you read? Then volunteer to read for a person who cannot.
Can you write? Then why not write for someone who cannot.
Share your food with someone who is hungry.

Nothing is more rewarding than a life lived in the service of others. Go beyond donating and get involved.

**VIDYA needs you.**

As we move into 2014 with new hopes and aspirations, we look forward to your generous contribution and support to achieve VIDYA’s dream to be a movement of social change.

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**Share and Care**

Thousands of candles can be lit from a single candle and the life of a candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared. We need Volunteers, Sponsorships, Equipments, Computers, Furniture, Books for Library, Stationary etc. For details contact VIDYA offices in Delhi, Gurgaon, Mumbai and Bangalore.

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It is VIDYA’s dream to see every Indian child receive quality education and empowered families to fulfill the dream.
**Christmas, Choirs, Candles**

All across VIDYA in Delhi, Gurgaon, Mumbai and Bangalore, Christmas was celebrated. There were cakes and cookies and there was joy in the anticipation of 2014.

Earlier, the festival of lights Deepavali was celebrated with the hope that VIDYA all across attains success and bliss with every light lit on the occasion.

**The Year that was**

**Milestones 2013**

- **CBSE affiliation** of the VIDYA School, Gurgaon.

- Accreditation to **Credibility Alliance**

- The Bal Vihar School extension of the MoU by the Panchsheel Co-Operative Society till 2025.

- **VIDYA Mumbai’s reorganization** to lead social change

- VIDYA Bangalore’s development of Bhagini women’s empowerment programmes.

- **Annual General Meeting** attended by major stakeholders.
**VIDYA Vishesh in Videsh**

Anna in Amsterdam is pleased with the sale of handicrafts created by the women trained at the **VIDYA Udyog Kendra**. “The products are fabulous”, she says “and are widely appreciated for their quality and workmanship”. These inexpensive and pleasingly colourful items like trinkets, purses, cards etc go for a song in the western world.

VIDYA is proud to acknowledge that the products created by the VIDYA women who now work from home are giving them a life of dignity. With the new found confidence, some enterprising women like Geetanjali have created their own niche.

She is now supplying Tiffin (home- made meals and snacks) to workers in nearby areas. She joined VIDYA in 1990, picked up the art of management and today stands tall as a self employed and empowered woman.
CBSE Workshop

A Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) workshop was held in Rosary Secondary School in Delhi focusing on formative assessment which is an integral part of continuous comprehensive evaluation. The school was represented by three teachers.

Helpers’ Day

Helpers’ day was observed with great gratitude. Small gifts as token of appreciation were presented to the various helpers in an assembly specially organized to honor them. The helpers participated in a Rangoli competition and sports. The day was wrapped up with a special lunch.

Friend Indeed

United Health Group (UHG) conducted a Friendship Programme. It was attended by fifteen students of standards V and VI along with two teachers. Different types of communication skills with multiple examples were explained to strengthen expression.

Later each student was given a topic to speak on for 30 seconds. The winners of this session were awarded. Dilruba Kalsi, noted educationist conducted a workshop on co-scholastic areas to be tested for students. All related queries were duly addressed.
Students of **standard II** participated in an exciting activity to learn about different plants and their products such as cereals, pulses, cotton, tea etc. Students from **standards IV to IX** visited **Humayun’s tomb** in Delhi accompanied by their teachers to understand the historical roots.

The school collaborated with **Delhi Traffic Department Mega Festival** and held a couple of events. A painting competition on Road Safety produced masterpieces which were selected for district level competition.

**A quiz competition** for seniors created winners for the next level. **Anil Sejwal** of standard V was the selected candidate in the second round of painting competition. **Honey** of standard VI, **Anjali** of VII and **Komal** of VIII visited the **Scottish High School** for the second round of quiz competition on **Road Safety**.

**KPMG** organized a lively carnival for the students on children’s day in November. Various games stalls were put up followed by lunch.
Five students accompanied by Pooja, visited the Adobe head office in Noida for an interactive workshop. American Indian Foundation in partnership with Adobe is carrying out projects in 35 schools including the VIDYA School in Gurgaon.

Under this project, the selected students are working on comic strips, short films and documentaries. Three selected projects were reviewed for the final release.

Later, film makers Milin Kapoor and Nidhi visited the school and interacted with senior students on different aspects of film making. They plan to hold creative workshops that include production, direction, editing, music etc.

An inter house quiz competition was held for primary classes on environment awareness. Narmada house stood first followed by Sutlej, Ganga and Godavari.

A health camp was held wherein doctors of SGT Hospital organized a free dental checkup.
1. SCHOOL WATCH

Book Week

A book week was observed across all classes to inculcate good reading habits. Students were exposed to different texts through talks, group reading, quiz, word building, creating a story trail etc. Designing of book jackets and book marks were also introduced.

Raaghiri Day

Raahgiri Day is the latest initiative by the Gurgaon authority wherein certain roads on every Sunday are reserved for pedestrians who like to spend time on sports. 42 senior students participated in sports on the road organized by Genpact on Raahgiri Day. These few hours of no traffic highlights the importance of clean environment.

Green Earth

Two hundred volunteers from Genpact visited the school for a cleanliness drive. This activity involved cleaning the school premises and visiting the community to sensitize the people about health and hygiene. The volunteers helped the students in the school beautification by painting the basketball court and making posters on green earth.
Airtel Delhi Half Marathon

They ran. They ran all the way in the Airtel Delhi Half Marathon on December 15. VIDYA was represented by two teachers and nine senior students who successfully completed the six km run.

Student Council

The school was in an election mood. The student council was elected after the candidates campaigned for themselves. The student council includes captain, sports captain, discipline and co curricular in charge.
The VIDYA Annual Day on December 7, was attended by teachers, students, parents, guests and well wishers in precious moments of togetherness. The occasion was graced by Chief Guest Kamla Sood, Managing Trustee of Durga Devi Memorial Trust.

The colourful Annual Report of VIDYA was released much to the delight of people present. The function was anchored by charming Head Girl Rakhi in fluent English. The teachers were rewarded and the children were appreciated for their variety cultural presentations including dances from Goa, Maharashtra, Punjab and Nagaland.

The Chief Guest awarded the children for special achievements during the year.
Activity Spectrum

Students from Shri Ram School UK visited Bal Vihar in an exchange programme to understand the functioning of NGO’s in India. They distributed story books and stationary.

The Deutsche Bank organized screening of the movie Stanley ka Dabba. This was a unique experience for the children since most of them visited a multiplex for the first time.

Matilda, the volunteer from Sweden conducted a workshop creating Christmas Crackers. She had been with Bal Vihar since October helping in teaching English and administration. She was given a fond farewell.
Deepavali, Children’s Day, Christmas, New Year... there was plenty to celebrate. There are 276 beneficiaries in this community camp.

The volunteers from Cross Cultural Solution (CCS) have made a huge difference in the dynamics of teaching and learning.

The English communication skills have been enhanced along with sensitivity to the Indian culture, art and crafts.

A workshop was organized for participants in the age group of 15-36 years highlighting the health hazards of alcoholism, smoking and violence.

Cancer Patients Aid Association team conducted a health camp handled by a gynecologist and physician.

More than hundred women and children were checked and tested.
Joy of Giving

Real happiness was evident in the Joy of Giving with children celebrating the spirit of Deepavali and Christmas throughout November and December with their good deeds.

May the cheer continue throughout the year.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

The World Pollution Day was observed to create awareness about hazards of pollution. The residents were motivated to take simple steps as responsible citizens to reduce pollution by reducing, reusing and recycling.

They were encouraged to plan more trees, save water and keep the environment clean.

Health and hygiene particularly keeping the hands clean was the focus of Mad about Khan, a movie by Kid Power Media, screened for the children.
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE  
Pappankalan Community Development, Delhi

**Magical Music**

Music Masti continues with Music Basti teachers fine tuning the musical talent of youngsters.

Charities Aid Foundation

VIDYA has signed and extended the MoU with Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) India for supporting the Pappankalan project. CAF is a grant making foundation and a Public Charitable Trust.

VIDYA is grateful for the continuous support.
Price Water Cooper (PWC) conducted a workshop in its Gurgaon office on Resume Writing for 50 students of standard XII.

Each one, Teach one and every student had one mentor teaching the intricacies of structuring a resume preparing them for a job market.

PWC distributed fifteen cycles to needy children. A sports event was organized at the VIDYA School.

The VIDYA students won the cricket matches where as PWC scored ahead in football.

There was a joyous sportsman spirit and a great opportunity to be with the mentors. Sports kits were presented by PWC followed by refreshments.

New Learning

Ajay Agarwal organized a workshop for the teachers to introduce them to new age learning methods.
The students of Bridge Course practiced for days to put up a fabulous dance performance for the Annual Day at Bal Vihar School. Following students were awarded for excellence:

- **Abhishek** – Highest marks in Accountancy, Business Studies and English in XII.
- **Shahrukh 1** – Highest marks in Hindi in XII
- **Shahrukh2** – Highest marks in Economics in XII
- **Noor Quadir** - Highest Marks in Data Entry in X
- **Ritu** – Highest marks in Political Science.
- **Nadie** and **Akhalque** - Full attendance.

Annual Day dance drama
Bridge Course, Sainik Farms, Delhi Youth Management

**Annual Day Awardees**

The students attended in Annual Day function at Bal Vihar in full strength. Besides dancing capabilities, the senior students were appreciated for other talents as well:

- **Anju** - All rounder and highest marks in Hindi
- **Laxmi** - highest marks in economics
- **Prakash** - Best in Business Studies
- **Mansi** - Based in data entry
- **Nitesh** and **Nazia** - Full attendance.

**Workshops**

**Manju Chauhan** and two students attended the Adobe Youth Voices workshop on photography and cartoon films followed by another workshop in Noida.

Teachers attended the workshop by **Ajay Agarwal** on New Age Learning Methods.
Due to concern about women safety, a meeting was attended by local NGOs, police officials, councilors and public. A memorandum was given to the police officials to increase patrolling on lonely and dark streets.

Another meeting was held to highlight the problems of child labour. Effort was made to extricate, educate and support such children.

This meeting was also attended by police officials, elected representatives, local leaders, school authorities, factory owners, middleman and parents.

LSR Volunteers

Five volunteers from Lady Shriram College initiated a health and hygiene programme for young girls.

The girls were educated about the personal cleanliness, toilet training and keeping the environment spic and spam.

A memorandum was signed to Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) to make the toilet free for girls. Later the memo was submitted to the director of DUSIB on the World Toilet Day.
The Computer and English class students voluntarily decided to paint the walls of the centre.

It was an enthusiastic team work to create refreshing environs of the centre.

Nathalie, a volunteer from Cross Culture Solution was given a touching farewell.

A Potters’ wheel workshop on diya making was a unique experience. Thanks to Sanjana, a volunteer from LSR for organizing this workshop.

There was mud, there was wheel and later the freshly made Diya’s were baked in the sun and finally lighted on Diwali.
A Happy Club for boys and a Vikas Club for girls consisting of twelve members each are engaged in constructive activities.

Welcome Bandana Agarwal! She has taken over charge as Project Head.

On Children’s Day, a Bal Adhikar Rally marched through the lanes and by lanes of Indira Kalyan Vihar highlighting the rights of children.

November 14-21 was observed as a Child Rights Week.

Lupin laboratories held a bone check up camp for the women. Reports and medicines were provided on the spot.

Beauty Culture and Cutting Tailoring Course has trained many needy women till date who are successfully handling their small business. Thanks to Adharshila for support.

Computer Exams in basic IT were conducted. Thanks to Fena Foundation for support.

Javed, former Project In charge made a presentation on the Okhla Project in the Annual General Meeting.

Rashmi Misra, Founder Chairperson of VIDYA visited the Okhla Centre and interacted with the community.

Music Basti classes are held every Saturday.

Rashmi Mishra, with Okhla Center Staff and Students
**Project Mashaal**

This project literally means lighting a torch. The illiterate mothers who turned up for parent teachers meeting were often embarrassed for not being able to sign.

Reluctantly, they put their thumb impressions when asked to sign. Hence this initiative called Mashaal mobilized and enrolled women for basic literacy.

The classes started with three women and within a month, the number has grown to 24. This is the first step towards their dignity and self reliance.

**Pledge to Protect**

Our Girls and Women will no longer suffer and silence. This was a pledge taken to protect and stop eve teasing incidence. In this project, the Okhla team reached out to Delhi Crime against Women Cell for self defense training.

The community religious groups extended support through *Satsang* and *Namaaz* meetings. To popularize the idea of self defense, Pamphlets were distributed along with door to door mobilization.

The training lasted for fifteen days conducted by women constables. Now 78 girls are well trained with certificates in self defense.
This was a fundraiser with a difference, just the way VIDYA is, different and dedicated. At an evening full of fun, energy and high spirit, 30 young women in South Mumbai came together to shake a leg, exercise and show their support for society.

This fund raiser with a twist was conducted by Rinku Shah, a trained and talented ZUMBA instructor for victims affected in the Geeta Nagar fire.

The proceeds of the fund raiser will be used to purchase general home supplies and other essentials required by the families whose homes have been destroyed in the fire.

VIDYA in Mumbai runs Bhavishya Yaan in partnership with Rotary Club in eight BMC schools across the city. Almost 900+ students are impacted by this programme imparting education in spoken English, life skills and computers.

The students from Colaba Municipal School were effected by the fire. VIDYA also conducted a drive to collect food, clothes and other home essentials for the students and their families. Both, the drive and the ZUMBA fundraiser received an overwhelming response.

“Through the drive and ZUMBA fundraiser, we truly believe that Mumbai citizens have a big heart and we look forward to their continued support, “ say Ritika Bajaj and Manisha Ahuja of core management team VIDYA Mumbai
Diwali, Christmas and New Year festives spirit lit up the homes and hearts, enlightening the young minds at VIDYA Bhavishya Yaan. The young students made new discoveries about legends and sagas of Indian history.

In week long camps in all the schools, the students revisited history through historical monuments and learnt about different civilisations and kingdoms.

They dabbled in art and craft activities, ventured into field trips and related their discoveries to parents and teachers.

The camps were a great platform for learning. Eco friendly celebrations were encouraged. At Colaba centre, the great Mughals-Akbar with Birbal in particular, were in focus whereas at GK Marg centre, the mysterious Indus Valley Civilisation was discussed.

Harappa and Mohanjodaro came alive through charts, power point presentations, YouTube videos and books.
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

VIDYA, Mumbai
Bhavishya Yaan

Happy Homes and Hearts

The Worli centre camp went back to the Mughal empire and the monuments. They also visited Prince of Wales Museum. Emperor Akbar was again the fascination for students in the Byculla centre camp.

The highlight of the Baanganga centre was the life and teachings of Gautam Buddha through Jataka tales, audio visuals, dance, drama, field trips etc. The trip to Global Vipasana Pagoda was truly enlightening and perhaps the first step towards meaning of meditation.

The centre at Vile Parle East learnt the stories from Ramayana. The stories emphasised that the Ramayana is not only about lord Ram but also about unconditional love, respect for elders, affection for siblings and selfless service of Hanuman.

At Ghatla centre camp, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj came alive. For five days, students were exposed to various facets of the great Maratha ruler through video clips, lectures, role plays, skits etc. The students enthusiastically volunteered to organise all the activities.
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

Beyond School

In the moments of joy, sharing and festivities, VIDYA Mumbai has been on its toes.

There were Christmas events at donor organisations attended by Beyond School students.

The Environment Module conducted by SPROUTS, organised an event at British Gas, tying up their environmental learnings with nutrition through an effective fun session with VIDYA health partner, Foundation for Mother and Child Health (FMCH).

Nutrition Needs

Malnourishment can be tackled with early interventions.

FMCH conducted an awareness talk about health and balanced diet for the community mothers.
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

**Sky High**

Over 200 students from the **Beyond School programme** visited the **Nehru Planetarium**.

This visit was organised by **Lions club**. They learnt about the solar system followed by a short movie on the launch of satellite to planet Mars.

Later the students visited the Sky theatre for an audio visual delight on stars and planets.

**Movie Time**

VIDYA’s **Corporate Partner** organised a special screening of **Stanley ka Dabba** for 55 children from the **Beyond School**. A surprise guest appearance was made by the director actor **Amole Gupte**.

**Testing Texts**

A staff upgrade session on ‘**Know Your Text Book**’ was organised for teachers conducted by **Shalini Swaminathan, Education Manager**. The curriculum was discussed for text books for standards III to X.
It is VIDYA’s dream to see every Indian child receive quality education and every woman empowered for self reliance.

VIDYA Bangalore started operation in 2012 by conducting a support programme of education called “Bhavishya Yaan” for 350 government school children in Gottigere, south Bangalore backed by Rotary Bangalore Midtown Club.

Students are first generation learners.

At Marathalli, there is a women centre called “Bhagini” which provided education and empowerment to almost 100 women.

VIDYA is seeking help to strengthen the present programmes and scale by creating satellite programmes of Bhagini and Bhavishya Yaan models so that a larger impact can be created.

The greatest need is sponsorship of education programmes of children and women.

As VIDYA enters 2014 with new hopes and aspirations, generous contributions and support is looked forward to.

Do get in touch with Rushina Muraleedharan at 09986422009.
**In Driver’s Seat**

At the threshold of welcoming the new year, here is some good news. VIDYA has initiated the first ever and unique opportunity of teaching driving to the women in **Bhagini programme**.

Innagurated in mid December, the **Rotary Club** along with **Maruti Driving School** have started providing driving lessons. The Maruti School is one of the best driving schools in the country.

This golden opportunity will definitely create a new sense of confidence and pride in the underprivileged women. This is reaching beyond the traditional jobs associated with these women.

*No Longer in the Back Seat!*

With the Bhagini programme already creating ripples of success with women getting jobs in IT and other sectors, the driving lessons is yet another pat on the back.

The women are now in driver’s seat, charting new territories with the new skill.

Warm gratitude to Rotary Club for providing an exciting career option, almost unheard of till date, atleast not in the slums. Imagine your maid driving in! Women no longer need to be in the back seat.
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

Brief Round-Up

A new computer batch of students from Association for Promoting Social Action has been created. They now learn basic computer skills and English from VIDYA.

VIDYA Bangalore welcomes new coordinator Anupa Ghosh.

Women are sharpening their skills in art and crafts.

Deepavali and Christmas were celebrated amidst joy and happiness.

Santa visited with his bag of goodies and good wishes.
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

Bhavishya Yaan Program
Gottigere Primary and High Schools

Children’s Day

The children had a wonderful time with colours, paper and uninhibited creativity in the painting competition sponsored by Unibic.

Synergy provided delicious sweets.

Swing of Studies

The students are fully into their swing of studies. In English, they are improving the basic conversation skills and in computers, they are more in to Microsoft office and power points.

High school students are revising and learning direct and indirect speech. After their December preparatory exams, now they are preparing for January round of exams.

Three English literature undergraduate volunteers from the Christ University are currently sharing their love of English and learning the intricacies of teaching students of government schools. Many innovative methods are being used to facilitate learning.
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

Jingle Bells

Christmas were celebrated with the members of Rotary Club including Hon. Rotary Governor.

Bells jingled with carols, cakes cookies and gifts.

Rotary and Synergy sponsored this exuberant Christmas gala.

Life Skills

The focus of life skills was on self esteem, positive attitude, friendship, dealing with feelings and appreciating others.

Overall it was a package of learning to assist in leading a better quality of life.
“Don’t tell me sky is the limit. There are footprints on the moon!”

~Dorothy Parker