



# VIDYA

— A JOURNEY TO EDUCATE AND TRANSFORM INDIA —





- Std I children at governments schools tend to be at least **two years younger** than at private schools
- **47%** of Std III children could not read a Std I text, **30%** couldn't recognize 2-digit numbers
- Class 5 is foundational for a student. But average scores in many states is still at around **50% for language and mathematics**.
- In Class 8, the performance for many states is in the **low-40s and 50s** for mathematics and language
- In 2016, the enrollment in class 11 was still only **52 per cent**
- The India Skills Report (ISR) 2018 finds that **85 per cent of the 500,000 students surveyed** across 5,200 institutions said they are *not equipped to make decisions about their future*
- The unemployment rate of youth is nearly **10%**. The **expected skill shortfall in major sectors by 2022** is thought to be **119 million**.
- Only about **one in every four** women are working or looking for work.

## A Snapshot of Education in India

India has made **significant progress** in multiple aspects of education, but there are still lacunae that need to be proactively addressed.




# 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





A woman in a patterned orange and black sari is smiling while operating a black Merritt sewing machine. She is in a workshop setting with other women in the background, some of whom are also working at sewing machines. The scene is brightly lit, likely from large windows in the background.

“ 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.



## Rashmi Misra

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 under-privileged girls in her apartment.







## Delhi NCR



Today, VIDYA empowers 12000 children, 5000 youth 2500 women all over India..

We've impacted 3,75,000 people over 35 years



## Mumbai



- VIDYA Head Office
- VIDYA School, Gurugram
- VIDYA Bal Vihar
- IIT Community Project
- VIDYA DEEP Program
- NIOS Bridge Course
- VIDYA Mandira-Margam
- Three Educational Alliance SDMC Schools (PPP)

- Beyond School Program
- Two PPP Schools
- Bhavishyayaan Program
- Computer Learning Resource Centres
- Resource Room
- Syllabus Research Lab
- Youth Programs
- School Partnerships

... in 32 centers, of 17 schools, and 7 communities



## Bangalore

- VIDYA School Bangalore
- Beyond School Program (12 schools)
- Mali Women's Empowerment Program (English, life skills, IT skills, and stitching, embroidery, driving, & other courses)
- Shakti Women's Program
- School Partnerships
- NIOS and Scholarship Programs



## North America

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



## Pune

- A new initiative. Starting with 250 children at the Swami Vivekananda School, Ghordpadi.
- Computer Center





## 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"**





# Our Approach:

We've seen that education is only useful with continuity. VIDYA empowers and supports individuals at every step of the journey, from their childhood to adulthood.

**Our focus: schools and skills.**

We address literacy as multi-faceted—encompassing academics, vocations, mental and physical health, leadership, life skills, awareness, and values. We strive to bring joy to our classrooms and rekindle a love for learning.

**We support students till they are employed.**



A close-up photograph of a young girl with dark skin and hair in two braids, wearing a light blue school uniform. She is smiling and looking towards the camera while eating from a white bowl. In the background, another child is visible but out of focus.

“

..but ma'am, I *want*  
to come to school.

This is my favourite  
place to be! ”

- Rathna, A VIDYA  
Student



# SCHOOLS

A black and white photograph of a group of smiling school children in a classroom. The word 'SCHOOLS' is overlaid in large yellow letters at the top. The children are of various ages, mostly young, and are wearing school uniforms. They are all smiling and some are making hand gestures. The background shows a classroom setting with a chalkboard and some papers.

Apart from the multiple award-winning VIDYA School Gurugram, we operate out of nearly 44 schools all over the country, which includes our own schools, public-private partnership schools, government schools, and remedial and self-paced education.



# The VIDYA School, Gurupram

- Our flagship, state-of-the-art CBSE school, primary to 12<sup>th</sup> standard, with sports and lab facilities
- **1100+** students
- Won **three** prestigious awards
- Multiple students cleared IIT-JEE, 90% of the class have got into top colleges, others have won chess and athletic competitions
- **It's the anchor school for Project Dhruv by MENSA**

*".. the statistics that I heard tell me that this institution has indeed become one of the premier institutions of primary education."*

— Mr. Narayana Murthy





“ When I started in VIDYA School Gurugram in Class 1, my grades were so poor! Then, with my teachers' faith in me, I started getting higher grades. Before I knew it, I was excelling! In my senior secondary, I was also winning sports competitions and quizzes, and then I cracked the JEE after my 12<sup>th</sup>.

Today, I'm a sophomore studying B.Tech at NIT Kurukshetra, with a full Shikshadaan scholarship through VIDYA!

”

Vikram

VIDYA School Gurugram Graduate, 2016-2017 Batch





**0%**

Dropout Rate

**100%**

Of students are enrolled in  
higher education after  
graduation

**25%**

Of students already working  
part-time/freelance while  
studying

**10%**

Of students qualified for  
MENSA level IQ, against a  
national average of **2%**.

Our graduates are now alumni of prestigious institutions like:

NIT Kurukshetra, Sri Venkateswara College, Lady Sri Ram College, Jamia Hamdard, Indraprastha College, Banasthali Vidyapeeth, Janki Devi College, and Amity University, enrolled in professional courses like B.Tech, B.Sc., Hotel Management, B.Com, Mass Communication, Law, B.B.A., ITI, Fashion Designing, C.A. etc.



“

.. 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



# SKILLS

A group of approximately ten children of various ethnicities are standing on a balcony with a blue metal railing. They are all smiling and waving their hands towards the camera. The background wall is covered in vibrant, colorful murals depicting flowers, balloons, and other cheerful scenes. The children are dressed in casual clothing, including sweaters, jackets, and a beanie.

We work out of less-privileged communities across Delhi NCR, Mumbai, and Bangalore. We serve children, youth and women what they need most: **practical steps that enable them to achieve independence and prosperity.**



# Building Capacity

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The primary goal of our community, youth and women programs **is to build capability, capacity and confidence and enable them to break the cycle of poverty.** We conduct:

- Employability training:
  - IT skills, Spoken English, Life skills
  - Vocational training (with certification), especially for women and dropouts
  - Support for entrepreneurship
- Adult literacy (reading, numeracy)
- Second chances for Graduation (NIOS)
- Scholarship Programs for Higher Education
- Physical and mental health programs, financial literacy workshops





“ 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! ”



Kamlaaji

A 50 year old beneficiary from Delhi



## Why VIDYA is Successful:



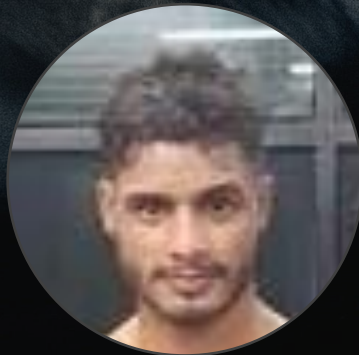
- We ensure less privileged students receive a **high-quality education** on par with the country's best schools
- We've seen that students emulate their **teachers and mentors**. So, we select them for their passion, dedication, assertiveness, calmness, patience and the willingness to go beyond the 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
- **Our programs are varied and flexible** because we work with our beneficiaries to focus on creating the maximum tangible value for them



“

VIDYA gave me a second chance with their NIOS program and they've always been supportive of my dream: to become a professional boxer! I started small, winning many championships along the way, and last year I won the WBC championship in Bangkok. If I keep this up, I could win the WBC belt!

”



Dheeraj







# The COVID Challenge

VIDYA adapted overnight to COVID: overhauling entire syllabuses, systems and processes to ensure our students' education is not interrupted. We partnered with organizations to distribute ration kits and essential supplies, organize training sessions and sourced devices for our students to use for online classes. We created a webinar series to help us and others adapt to this unprecedented shock. The webinar hosted guests like Mr. Narayana Murthy, Mr. Feisal Alkazi, Dr. Vineet Joshi and Sri M. This pandemic proved our ability to meet any challenge!

**But COVID also showed us that VIDYA's vision is now more urgent than ever. Less privileged communities in India have become even more vulnerable, and the time has come to put education and empowerment in their hands.**

***We want them to come back from this stronger than before.***





Help us build the  
future of India..



# Working with VIDYA

**VIDYA empowers our students to lead change in their own communities.**

Through VIDYA, you can create a lasting impact on thousands of lives, discover great solutions, build experiences, and create a powerful, successful and prosperous India.





# Sponsor Our Students

## Rs.120 a day

is all it takes to sponsor a complete, holistic VIDYA education on par with elite schools.

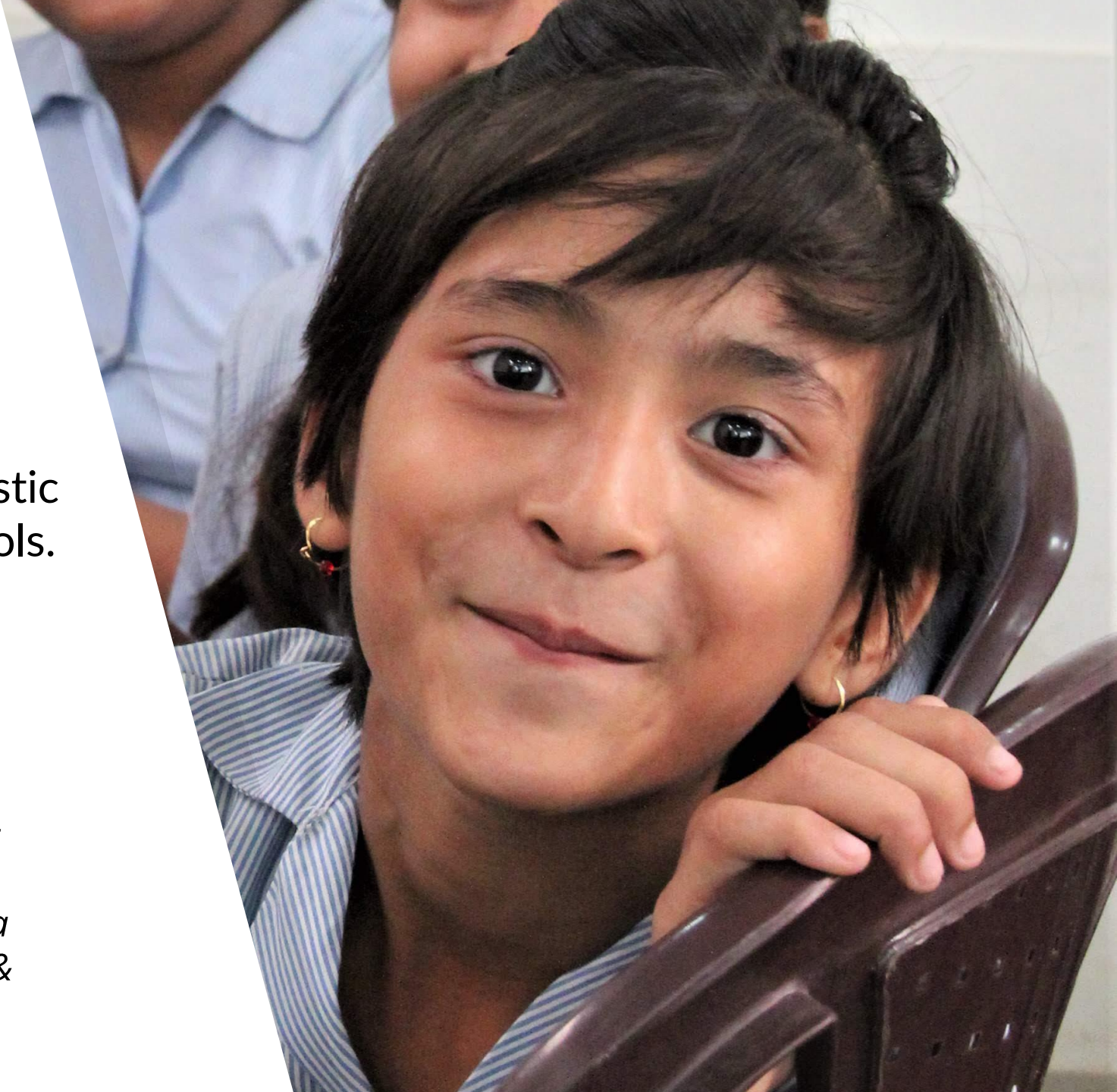
### — Sponsorship Options —

*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*





# Partner with Us

Partners are instrumental in making our programs meaningful and relevant, and helping us scale effectively. We're looking for:

- Establishing new VIDYA Schools
- Support for our COVID relief initiatives, **including providing devices and solutions for our 15,000 beneficiaries**
- Industry skill certification
- Corporate internships and career partnerships
- University partnerships
- Teacher training
- Collaboration on community interventions
- School partnerships and cultural exchange programs





# VIDYA मित्र



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!



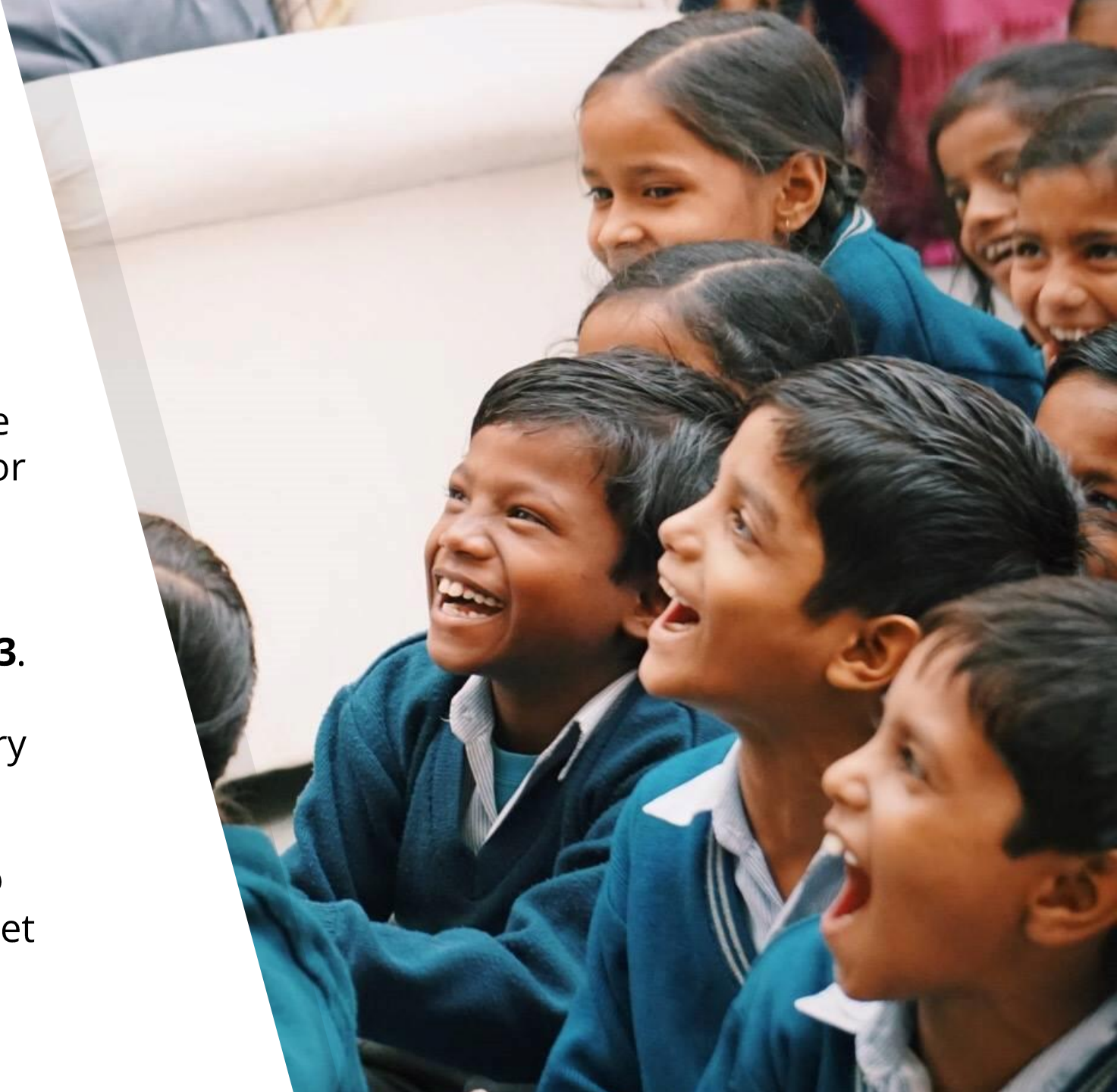


# Underwrite a School

We're building schools that set high standards of education for the less privileged. We aim to be a beacon of hope and achievement for local communities for decades to come.

We are in discussions to open **five more** VIDYA schools all over the country **by 2023**. Donors who underwrite our new schools become our partners and join our advisory board.

Our newest school is the **VIDYA School @ Dunmore House, in Bangalore**. Please get in touch if you'd like to support it.





# 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.





“

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!

”



Chandan

VIDYA Bangalore Scholarship Student



# Vision 2023

For the next few years, we're focusing on projects that we think will have maximum impact in the long-term:

- ▶ Having VIDYA Schools in all three cities
- ▶ Providing devices to our beneficiaries to help them with digital learning not just through the current pandemic, but also to scale our efforts for the future
- ▶ Creating a network of people who can mentor every student in VIDYA (Mitr program)
- ▶ Supporting every VIDYA student from childhood to adulthood into employability
- ▶ Scaling our vocational training programs for youth and women, and partnering with industry leaders to ensure employability
- ▶ A digital lecture library for VIDYA to share our knowhow and methods with the world
- ▶ Partners to support our pan-VIDYA Tech fests, STEAM fests, Robotics training programs and Tinkering Labs
- ▶ Partnerships with universities, schools and NGOs all over the world to raise the bar for our beneficiaries
- ▶ Integrating technology-assisted learning in all our projects
- ▶ Introducing arts, music, theatre, sports in each project across VIDYA
- ▶ Implementing data-driven improvements to our organization and workflow





# Friends of VIDYA

*"Friends of VIDYA"* is VIDYA's new set of offices in the USA and Canada 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 for enquiries.



Please Visit Us

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*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.*



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<https://goo.gl/DGRx61>

We've social!

Click the button  
below to donate:








# Thank you!

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! ”