NEWSLETTER OF VIDYA
BANGALORE
July, August, September-2017
VIDYA MALI FOUNDATION

The Bhagini Programme

It has been a great start and an even greater journey through the months of the academic year and the tides seem positive as we move ahead towards the passage of time. This would not have been possible without the support of the extended VIDYA family, sponsors, donors and volunteers and all who have made their mark and sculpted the sculpture of success.

The second quarter witnessed a steady rise in admissions, scaling of enthusiasm among students, a difference in the attitude of our beneficiaries and a lot more things worth sharing. Here, have a glimpse of VIDYA in this quarter.

WE deeply appreciate our patron, MRS. RekhaRao, Mali Foundation, SEMIKRON for sharing VIDYA’s vision and passion. Many thanks to you.

Our acknowledgement goes to Synergy, Society Generale, AIG, Broadcom & LDSG for sponsoring our programmes and in helping us achieve our goals and realize our dreams

ACADEMIC COURSES: Spoken English, Computer Literacy, NIOS & NTT:

The academic courses had a house full of students in varied levels exhibiting their interest to learn and take up suitable jobs. The students from English belong to different stages of learning; some even start from scratch and slowly and steadily expand their horizons. We congratulate the 16 Computer students who have tasted the fruits of their efforts by completing the course and passing the exams held by NIIT. A batch of NIOS students are getting ready for the upcoming board exams. The NTT training has picked up momentum as the students gain good understanding of the subject and an inclination towards the course.

Kudos to the previous batch of NTT candidates as they have all bagged jobs and are heading ahead on their career ladder.
VOCATIONAL COURSES: VIDYA Vividha, Vastra, Varna, Vahaan & Aahaar:

VIDYA looks forward to create entrepreneurs and make students employable after they complete the academic and Vocational courses. Friendship day and Rakshabandhan provided a platform to the VIDYA Vividha & Varna students for exhibiting their creations & making business out of it. Another batch of 7 VIDYA Vastra students passed the exams conducted by Singer, with 6 scoring above 90% and one above 85 %. A new era of VIDYA’s relationship with Samridhdhi began with orders for food for the students of Samridhdhi straight from the Aahar kitchen by VIDYA Aahar alumini.

The embroidery threads of VIDYA Varna can now be seen on blouses & sarees as well.
The extended programme- VIDYASHakti:

A six month women empowerment programme for the domestic helps of Adarsh Palm Retreat, a gated community, has successfully drawn to a proud closure.

The graduation ceremony witnessed confident, inspired women who are already taking orders for various products that were part of the holistic curriculum aptly named VIDYA, Shakti

Wellness, Events & Celebrations:

Health literacy through health camps:
VIDYA and Shankara eye hospital, kundhanahalli together organized an eye camp at VIDYA Bhagini
The awareness and screening camp by Sankara Eye foundation came as a boon to all the students as they eagerly got their eyes checked and the students for whom glasses were advised, placed orders for the same at subsidized price.

Staff Meeting - Saheli:
The VIDYA Bangalore team meet was held with an intention to enhance team work and build the spirit of being and working together. Discussions and exchange of ideas helped all.
Teachers Training: Training session on Bloom’s Taxonomy by Mrs. Nivedita Mukeerjee was appreciated by all and got extended due to the enthusiasm of teachers.

A refreshing training for the teachers of Bangalore was held by your own Jayashri Murali From VIDYA Mumbai. The teachers had an exciting, enlightening and enthusiastic journey through the three day workshop.

Soft skills:
Virina Subbaiah, a career consultant and soft skill trainer’s first encounter with our students was nothing less than awesome. A series of session to be held by her, intend to help our students get some much needed valuable lessons on soft skills which will go a long way in shaping their personality, inter - personal skills, career choices among many others.

The second session on soft skills by Mrs. Virina Subbaiah focused on training and motivating students on public speaking and presentation, which encompasses all attributes of the said skill.
Societe Generale Employee Engagement Programme:
The Societe Generale Employee Engagement programme had various shades and activities; this time at two different venues- VIDYA Bhagini Mali Foundation and Societe Generale office, ITPL.

Archana Singh, the brain behind Asia's first food truck, 7th sin, shared her experiences, showed the ropes of running the venture, interacted on empowerment and entrepreneurship together with touching varied topics with the enthusiastic bunch of VIDYA Aahaar team.

The scene, then shifted to the Aahaar kitchen, where cooking experts from SG demonstrated assorted Rajasthani Cuisine to the students.

How do we claim our rights without being aware of it? VIDYA students participated in the awareness programme on women's rights held at Societe Generale office which emphasised and threw light on the same and empowered them with a basic knowledge of their rights.

It was an enlightening event for the scholarship students as well just like many of the previous sessions. The event enhanced and enriched their knowhow on career choices related to different disciplines.
The first of the many sessions on financial literacy led by Mrs. Raj Mathur and Mrs. Harmeet triggered the participants' thoughts and lit a spark on the concept of saving in addition to allocation of funds to various essentials based on income.

The 71st Independence Day was celebrated at VIDYA Bangalore with true sense of the spirit of freedom or rather a renewed sense of the term together with a multi dimensional and personal view of freedom and independence.

The chief guest Mrs Kiran Bhatia with her vast experience of working with the UN, motivated the students to work hard and fulfill their dreams of independent identities for themselves.

Students had a great time with the Decathlon Team, who conducted games for them at the Centre. We thank Ms Harmeet for arranging the same.
Mrs. Cindy Abramson from Samasource visited VIDYA Bhagini centre with her team. Their future partnership with VIDYA would enable our students to be placed in IT related jobs, and eventually empower them and enhance their life style to new heights.

The orientation by Jeevika Skills and SelectHER – training and placement firms - at VIDYA Bhagini discussed in depth, the ways of building a career in retail marketing.

Students brought to light their innate talents at the Ganesha Chaturthi celebrations and presented their skills as an offering to the elephant God, by welcoming the destroyer of all evils with the colorful Rangoli, adorning the place with arts, colors, paints and sequences together with assorted ladoos in the fire less cooking art.
VIDYA celebrated the power of women and offered prayers to all the aspects, tools and vehicles that make our lives better by celebrating *Ayudha Pooja and Dussera* on a grand scale.

**Student of the week:**

Rajitha, a very quiet yet smart and dedicated student has made a mark and reached a milestone in her career by getting placed at an MNC, Enchanting Travels, who offer tailor made services to travelers across the globe. An internship for 6 months at the concern has fetched her a posh cabin, a laptop and a decent stipend. Once her successful stint as an intern is complete, she will be absorbed into their employee force.

We congratulate her on her achievement and wish her success in life. We also welcome her to the VIDYA family as she has been helping at the Mali centre as the weekend Computer teacher.

**A meet with the BEO:**

Our constituency is welcoming our new BEO, Mr. Saleem Pasha and a meeting was organised by the education department of the constituency for the NGOs, volunteers and organisations that are playing a vital role in improving the standards of the government school students.

VIDYA elaborated its role, mission and vision together with what it offers and what is expected of the governing authorities.

Also present at the meet were the DDPI and BRPC, Mrs. Bharathi

**Beyond School Programme East Bangalore:**
Interactive learning aided by rhymes, songs, mathematical tools, expressions and formulae through day to day activities, board games and charts. This is the methodology being used to educate the students of government schools, enhancing their participation in class room activities, making learning fun and motivating them to continue their studies. Innovative teaching methods not only evoke the dormant skills of students but also upgrade their learning and understanding to new heights and levels.

Various programmes were conducted in schools on teachers Day. We thank Mr Raju & Chancery Pavilion for sponsoring sweet boxes for all VIDYA teachers and staff.

**VIDYA Bhagini South Bengaluru**

As we chug along the year, many new activities and actions are happening at the South Bangalore centre.
With more students joining the programme, our **English** classes are seeing a lot of activity. Women are talking in English using the newly learnt skills to the best of their abilities. The video sessions and weekly story reading sessions are very interesting and enjoyed by all, and students are learning to use our library.

**Computer** classes are attracting many who are excited to work with the marvels of technology. Most of our new students are now well versed with the use of Windows OS while our older batch Students are completing their course and preparing to give their NIIT certification examination through the NSDC (National Skill Development Council).

The Students attending the **Retail Training Programme** received their certificates.

**Vastra** students, after mastering the basics are creatively embellishing their work. The first batch are looking forward to their diploma examination next month.

**Vividha** students are using artistic and creative skills to create beautiful products with good market value, and that they could take up as a vocation. In the last three months they have learnt Kundan Rangoli, Soap Making, and Crochet work.
Under the **wellness health programme**, eye camp was conducted at the centre, and all the women received a free eye check. **Weekly Yoga classes** by Yoga Bharati are well appreciated.

On 15\(^{th}\) of August, the students celebrated the country's 71\(^{st}\) **Independence Day** with great enthusiasm. They had prepared a beautiful programme with a patriotic song, Dance, and a Speech. We all enjoyed light snacks to cherish the Day. We also felicitated our dear volunteer counselor, Leah, for her three years at VIDYA, and wished her well for her future study of Psychology at London.

The 25\(^{th}\) of August the women celebrated the popular **Ganesh Chaturthi** by preparing Laddus, Lord Ganesh’s most favorite food. It was a great opportunity for our students who learnt something new, and also worked as a team to prepare the sweets.
On 2\textsuperscript{nd} September SG GSC had organised a \textbf{wonderful day} for the women at their ITPL office. Our women saw the international Tech Park, and learnt how a Global workplace functions. They also attended a session on women's rights facilitated by eminent lawyers of “LeanOn Me”.

On the 5\textsuperscript{th} of September the women of the Bhagini programme gave their teachers a big surprise by organizing an event for the staff.

\begin{center}
\includegraphics{image1.png}  \includegraphics{image2.png}  \includegraphics{image3.png}
\end{center}

\textbf{Beyond School Programmes South Bangalore:}

With the new students settling down, our Teachers are getting to know the children and creating a conducive learning environment.

The students of \textbf{Arekere Government Primary School} are learning Parts Of Speech in English and are using Paintbrush on the computer,

The children at \textbf{Champakadhama Government School} are learning sounds of alphabets, blends, and diagraphs and in computers, they are using different fonts& colours, in Word. A career guidance session was organised for the Class 10\textsuperscript{th} students to show the options available and help them make informed choices for their future. They were also made aware of the efforts required to achieve ones goals.

The \textbf{Puttenhalli School} is picking up well with classes 8\textsuperscript{th}, 9\textsuperscript{th}, and 10\textsuperscript{th}. The students are slowly getting into the VIDYA rhythm, and taking keen interest in their learnings. VIDYA has brought to the school the power of digital learning through the Meghshala E- learning kit, where the entire state board syllabus is available to the teachers and students on a portable screen that will enhance the students' visual learning and understanding skills.

The Students at all the South Bangalore Beyond School Programme celebrated the \textbf{Independence Day} with great fervor.
Teachers Day was celebrated in all Schools on 5th September. It was marked as a day to show respect to all the Government School Teachers who work tirelessly to give the best to the children. VIDYA team gave a box of sweets from the Chancery Pavilion bakery to all the Teachers.

Many volunteers from Morgan Stanley painted blackboards in the classrooms.

Scholarship/ Buddy Programme:

A number of events had been arranged by VIDYA and SG for the benefit and well being of the scholarship students.

Total Yoga has been partnering with VIDYA in bring physical and mental wellness in students and women. As a part of their programme, Total Yoga celebrated International Yoga day at UB city on June 18th, 2017. Our SG students participated and performed with full spirit and enthusiasm along with our founder Ms RashmiMisra.

Mentorship Session:

A refreshing and energizing open talk could bring about a great change in one’s mind! VIDYA scholarship students are privileged to gain such experience from Ms Leah Johnson, a psychology student who is a volunteer and good friend of VIDYA. The sessions by Leah give them an insight about themselves and their future.

Cooking Competition:

Back in the quiet corner of East Bangalore at Vidya Bhagini centre, we had an unprecedented scene slowly unfolding in its versatile shades and shean. A Cooking competition was in vogue, the participants from SG GSC and Vidya Aahar teaming up, forming a group to create cusine with a multi dimensional flavour.
The event brought donors and beneficiaries on the same platform thereby providing a space to get to know each other in the right aspect and either of them had a great time working, enjoying and competing to the run in for the winners with equal zest and fervor. Thanks to SG GSCEXcos for their participation in the event and encouraging the students!

SG GSC Independence Day Felicitation:

SG arranged and invited VIDYA Scholarship students for facilitating them in their office. We were well received and acknowledged by the employees and the CSR team. Mr. David Verdier, Ms Sowmya & VIDYA Coordinator spoke about VIDYA and its operations. Pavithra from I B com gave a short but sweet speech about her association with SG and VIDYA. Mr. David Verdier, Ms Sowmya & VIDYA Coordinator spoke about VIDYA and its operations. Pavithra from I B com gave a short but sweet speech about her association with SG and VIDYA. They received calculators from SG as a token of appreciation.

Coaching Classes at the Center:

Every Sunday, the accounts classes are handled by Mr. Subramanian an expert in handling classes for I and II PUC students. His invaluable service is highly appreciated and the students are making the best use of it. Mr. Ashutosh is taking classes in business studies and economics for both I PUC and II PUC students.

Mr. Varun an ex student from Dayanand Sagar Engineering college gave an hour long mentoring session for our engineering students. Thanks to Mr. Varun Mathur.

Community mobilization:

The VIDYA team is also visiting homes of students from the women’s programme who are irregular to their classes, explaining and counseling them about the value that VIDYA programme will add to their lives.