

vidyaranya
Towards sustainable change

Annual Report 2020-21

FROM GENERAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE

Dear Supporters,

I want to thank you for all your support towards creating happy childhoods, empowering women, and providing care for senior citizens in 2020. One of the greatest privileges I have as the General Secretary of Vidyaranya is seeing first-hand the incredible impact various programmes have on more than a thousand lives every single day, creating new opportunities for children, women, and senior citizens.

The past year was particularly a difficult one due to the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. It is a tumultuous time for the world, with millions falling sick and thousands dying. Vidyaranya also faced difficulty in meeting the needs of the project and ensuring the health of all the inmates. Various preventive measures like social distancing, awareness sessions, visiting restrictions, etc. are undertaken. The health of our inmates is our primary objective.

Vidyaranya wouldn't have been able to achieve everything it did if it wasn't for your invaluable and unshakeable support. Your contribution not only helped the children to receive a quality education, the women to find hope in life, and the senior citizens to find a home away from their home but also created a safe and healthy environment for them to grow. When you donated to Vidyaranya or participated in our initiatives, you made sure that our people's voices were heard.

I'm so grateful to each and every one of you for being the very backbone of all our efforts. Thank you so much for standing by us, as we continue on this journey of transforming children's lives! With faith and goodwill.



M.C. Ramesh
General Secretary



A MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Dear Supporters,

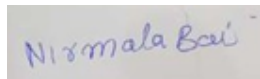
It was because of supporters like you, that the past year was an active one for our organization. In addition to the services provided to the target population, our governing council was busy in 2020-21 with efforts to strengthen our organization, in order to run the organization effectively and efficiently.

The past year was a journey never experienced, but it was due to your support that Vidyaranya was able to cater to the underprivileged sections of the society and those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Because of your encouragement, Vidyaranya was able to reach out to 1000 people on a daily basis through its various initiatives. Also, hearty gratitude to all the volunteers who dedicated their precious time to support us in our cause and impart their skills for the benefit of our people.

Thank you so much for standing by us and trusting us as we embark on this journey to spread love and hope.

On behalf of Board of Trustees,



Nirmala Bai
President





ABOUT US

WHO ARE WE?

Established in the year 1991, Vidyaranya was founded by Mr. M. C. Ramesh to serve the marginalized sections of society including children, women, children, aged, differently able, that needed the most care but usually went unnoticed. He committed himself to the goal of providing a choice and an opportunity of better living for those who were the most underprivileged. In the 30 years that followed, many more shared their vision and joined him in his mission to make Vidyaranya what it is now, a non-profit organization with the strength of dedicated staff that works to keep the dream alive and thriving.

Vidyaranya's focus is to work with the most marginalized groups in society. It has a holistic approach and integrated one to empower the participant beneficiaries in all spheres of their lives.



Our Mission

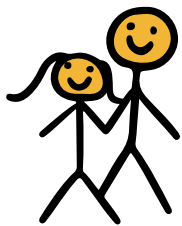
To work with marginalized sections of the society to empower them and enable them to evolve a Vision of an alternate society that includes alternate models of social and economic relations and Alternate development paradigm



Our Vision

A prosperous, harmonious and peaceful society

OUR INITIATIVES



Permanent (Namma Mane) and temporary (Open shelter) shelters for kids who come from distressed backgrounds like orphans, homeless, ragpickers, runaways, etc., These children are provided with basic amenities and education.
Impact: 1250 kids



Residential special school for mentally challenged children. Kids are provided with round the clock care and education to inherit basic living skills
Impact: 1850 kids



Supports women who are victims of human trafficking, sexual assaults, domestic violence, widowed, divorced, etc. Vidyaranya runs various vocational training programme to empower these women.
Impact: 1620 women



Old age homes for senior citizens who are provided with basic amenities and vocational trainings
Impact: 860 senior citizens

OUR PRESENCE

The organization has set up the projects at Bangalore Urban, Bangalore Rural, Hassan, and Ramanagar district of Karnataka.

Success Story



Lakshmi was born into a family with 2 brothers and 1 sister. With the loss of her father, her young shoulders had to suffer extreme sorrow and heartbreak at a very young age. However, her abject suffering did not end. Her mother was unable to provide and nourish her children with food, shelter, or care. With the help of our social worker, Lakshmi and her family were brought to us.

Due to their former deplorable state, Lakshmi was deprived of education and hence was a very weak girl academically. However, Vidyaranya tried to bridge this gap through bridge education before enrolling her into school. She has engaged herself in numerous educational and brain-development tasks in our home. With the help of our staff, she has been able to make outstanding progress in academics and co-curricular. Initially, Lakshmi was a very shy-natured girl, but now she has gained tremendous courage to face the world and make it her own, and thus she portrays excellent leadership skills. She has inculcated artistic hobbies; she is an avid artist and has won many prizes in various drawing competitions.

Currently, she is pursuing Commerce and aims to become a Chartered Accountant. With her tremendous faith in herself, she has been able to achieve wonders.

“EDUCATION IS NOT THE FILLING OF A PAIL, BUT THE LIGHTING OF A FIRE.” ~ WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS

Children's Education is our topmost priority as we understand the role education plays in shaping a child's personality and life. The children at our projects go to schools and also, receive bridge education and remedial coaching. We also cater to their basic needs of food, clothing and shelter.



The COVID-19 has resulted in schools shut all across the world. Globally, over 1.2 billion children are out of the classroom. With this sudden shift away from the classroom, Vidyaranya is trying its best to keep the education of the children on track. After all, nothing is impossible in this digital era. Our kids at Namma Mane, Open Shelter and Residential School for Mentally Challenged Children have access to online sessions and virtual learning and we are developing digital infrastructure for their education.





DAILY CLASSES

Daily time-table and schedule has been drafted at each project to facilitate the education and other activities of the children. Children go to school and also, receive remedial coaching.

EXTRA CURRICULARS

Extra curriculums are as much important for the kids as the studies, and hence we facilitate sports for these children. Also, cultural activities are also conducted like painting, dancing, etc.



LIFE SKILL SESSIONS

These children come from distressed backgrounds primarily orphans, street kids, etc. and hence life skill sessions become of utmost importance to them.



*HUMAN RIGHTS ARE WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS, ONCE AND FOR ALL.”
~ HILLARY CLINTON*

The latest figures from the National Crime Records Bureau show that a crime was recorded against women every three minutes. Every hour, at least two women are sexually assaulted and every six hours, a young married woman is beaten to death, burnt, or driven to suicide. It is appalling to learn that 28.4 percent of pregnant women suffer domestic violence. As a result of violence, women suffer social isolation, unemployment, income loss, poor self-care and fail to provide childcare, which is a grave concern.

UJJWALA

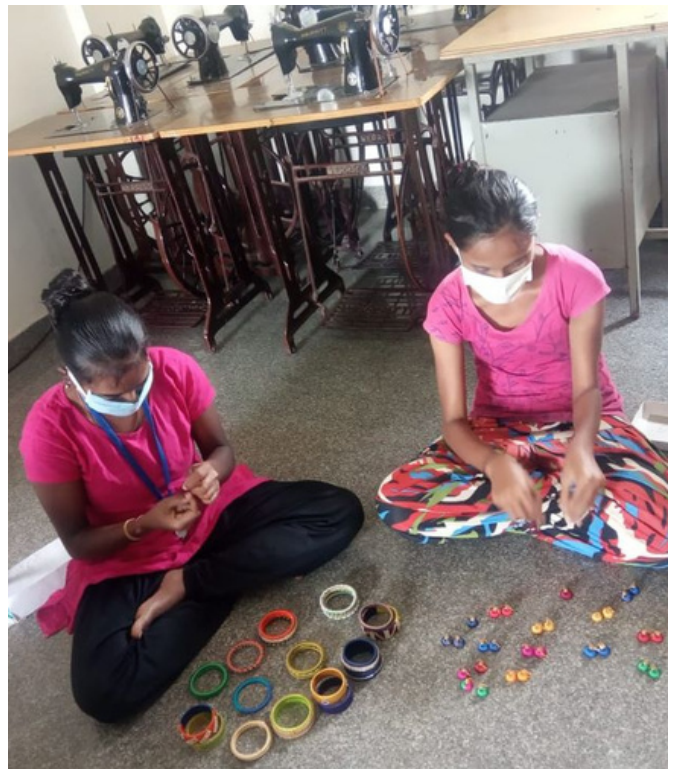
SWADHARA

Vidyaranya works towards the rescue and rehabilitation of such women who are victims of trafficking, sexual assault, domestic violence, etc. We believe that the true progress of a nation will happen only when the women of the country are empowered. Hence, we work towards empowering these women through various Vocational Training and assisting them with job placements.





Vocational training in tailoring, BPO, mat making, artificial jewellery making and areca leaf plate making is conducted to empower these women coming from distressed background. This gives a sense of empowerment in them and also develops a sustainable solution to the issue in hand.



"PEOPLE OF OLD AGE ARE A TREASURE TO BE TREATED RESPECTFULLY, AS THEY CAN OFFER US WISDOM AND LIFE EXPERIENCES."

Through our initiatives for senior citizens, Vidyaranya reaches out to the old-age people who have been deserted by their family or have no family. We aim to provide them with a comfortable life by providing them with basic amenities of food, clothing, and shelter and also, providing them with required medical and psychological assistance.

**HOSA BELAKU HOME FOR
THE AGED**

**GANDHI HOME FOR
THE AGED**

In order to engage them and utilize their time in productive activities, the inmates engage in vocational training for candle making and paper bag making. They also engage in gardening and an annual trip is also organised for them.



Success

Story



Bheema was born in Kalburgi, Karnataka. The family was very poor and distraught. Desperate for a job, they moved to Bangalore. Earlier, they were surviving on the mere wages brought in by Kooli work, and their only shelter was a shed. The Vidyaranya staff counseled Bheema's parents. They brought Bheema along with his brother Raama to our Open Shelter.

Nervous and detached due to his past experiences, he did not mingle with the others initially. Slowly, but surely, with a lot of counseling and exposure, he is happier now and has made several friends. He is currently studying in 4th Standard, and his dream is to join the Police Force and serve his country.



**KEY
EVENTS**

Vidyaranya celebrates 30 years of service

29th October 2020 was an auspicious day for Vidyaranya as the organization marked 30 years of service to the underprivileged sections of the society.

All the beneficiaries and staff came together to organize a small ceremony to mark the celebration, in presence of the Chief Guests Mr. KCV Mane (Rtd. Superintendent of Police), Dr. V. Muniraju (Director- Dept. of Empowerment for the Differently Able & Senior Citizens, Bangalore), Mr. M.C.Ramesh (General Secretary, Vidyaranya) and Mr. Gopal Rao (Administrative Officer, Vidyaranya).

The ceremony was a collation of Vidyaranya's journey through these 30 years focusing on its various initiatives and their impact and culminated with recognizing our staff and donors who are the pillars and without whose support, this milestone would have not been achieved.



Our fight against the Pandemic

The pandemic has brought the entire world to a halt and people across the globe are struggling to fight against it. We here at Vidyaranya are also putting up our best fight against it. The unprecedented pandemic not only reiterates the value of physical and mental health but also emphasises on standing together in the face of adversity. Vidyaranya has taken multiple steps to ensure the health of its children, women and senior citizens, by providing them with nutritious meals, conducting exercises, maintaining hygiene and regular health check-ups. All inmates have been provided with masks and sanitizers, and are closely monitored for their symptoms.



Digital Learning is the need of the hour

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On the eve of Gandhi Jayanti, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

was conducted across all our initiatives to promote the ideals and work towards the dream of Clean India as was envisaged by Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the Nation.

The motive was to promote the value of cleanliness and inculcate a sense of responsibility towards the country among our inmates, especially the children who are the future.

Other Activities



FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS

We celebrate all the festivals with our inmates as we promote the idea of them being a family. Christmas and Holi were celebrated at our shelters.

Infrastructure

Work on extension of current Namma Mane Infrastructure has started. This would enable us to provide a better living and learning space to the present children and also will allow us to reach out to more children in need.



Events & Sessions

Corporate events are an important learning for the children as they get to experience the outer world. BabySutra invited our kids to the Zyra kids outlet and their office premises, and celebrated their first anniversary with us. The kids were asked to draw an image portraying what they see themselves to grow up to be and the results were thrilling. The kids were exposed to new learning experience and had a great interaction with the staff.

Success Story



Sonia has studied up to SSLC. She faced a terrible tragedy when she lost her father and got married, and in a few years, she lost her mother too. Her transient joy came when she had given birth to a beautiful baby girl. However, she did not live a successful married life. She did not receive the respect she deserved from her husband, who used to torture her and leave her alone in the house for weeks. Looking at her anguish, her in-laws took pity on her and married her to another man, with whom she had a baby boy.

Misery did not leave her side, when her second husband met with an accident and she had to take care of him and the whole family. Desperate to support her family, she was going around seeking for a job, when she was promised one by a stranger. When she and her children were about to be sold off, she was rescued and referred to our Ujjwala centre.

She was counselled and placed back to her family. Fortunately, her life took a healthier turn, and she is now leading a happier life with her family members and she is being followed up on regular basis by our staff. Sonia's courage to not let her past meddle with her future has helped her attain a contented life.

VOLUNTEER WITH US

“Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more.”
— H. Jackson Brown Jr

Vidyaranya works for children, children with special needs, women and senior citizen. Since its inception, Vidyaranya has been working towards recognizing the prevailing issues in the unprivileged sections of the society and eradicating it. An inevitable contribution to this cause comes from the persistent efforts of the volunteers. These self-motivated individuals understand the need to get involved with this cause.

Vidyaranya offers a diverse range of volunteering opportunities. Through these, you can not only contribute towards the betterment of underprivileged children/women/senior citizens, but also undergo a transformational journey for yourselves!



OUR PARTNERS



SITARAM JINDAL
FOUNDATION





Contact Us



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