



## **VISWA BHARATI VIDYODAYA TRUST**

Gudalur, The Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES**

**2018 - 2019**

## **Table of Contents:**

1. Background
2. Introduction
3. SSA Residential School
4. Vidyodaya Nursery and Primary School
5. Vidyodaya Resource Centre
6. Outreach
7. Early Childhood Education
8. Foundation Programme
9. Summer Camps
10. Study Centers
11. Conclusion

## **1. BACKGROUND**

The Viswa Bharati Vidyodaya Trust is a charitable body registered (no.41 of 1993) under the Indian Trusts Act. Its registered office is 12/669B, Thottamoola, Gudalur – 643 212, The Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu. It has nine members on the board of Trustees, which includes the Managing trustee.

Viswa Bharati Vidyodaya Trust (VBVT) was started in 1993 in order to address widespread educational deprivation amongst adivasis in the Gudalur valley. It has focused its energies on the development of innovative, alternative and supplementary educational systems for children who are frequently first-generation learners.

In 1996, on a request from the adivasi community, VBVT took adivasi children into Vidyodaya School. Soon Vidyodaya became a school ran by adivasis, for adivasis. The Trust also took on adivasi educated youth to train as Teachers. Today they form the Education Team, which handles the entire education programme.

In the year 2000, with the support of SRTT, VBVT launched a major programme of ensuring enrollment in schools. From 737 children in year 2000, by 2016 it had covered almost all the 303 villages ensuring education to around 2980 children. A key thrust of VBVT's work has been to ensure 100% enrollment in all these villages. In order to provide motivational and academic back-up to these children who were going to school, an Outreach programme of Camps, Mobile and Village library, Science workshops, and village level institutions such as study centres, non-formal centres and such other programmes were initiated.

VBVT has been able to create a consciousness about education in the minds of the adivasi population; now, what may be called education-seeking behavior is the norm rather than the exception. At the same time, there remains a need for good quality schools and teachers sensitive to the cultural hurdles that adivasis face. It is in this context that a long-term collaborative effort with government agencies sensitive to these aspects is envisaged by VBVT.

VBVT's work has been both at the institutional level as well as to reach out to the children in villages and schools through an outreach programme. This report begins with the Institutional approaches first and then goes on to delineate the outreach programmes.

## **2. INTRODUCTION**

Consolidation of the gains of the previous year and taking them forward has been the main aim during the current year. This year, at the SSA school, we appointed a Head-Mistress and a Science teacher, so all the vacancies at the school were filled. Hence, we could engage the children in a lot of extra-curricular and co-curricular activities.

We took a step back from the full year residential Foundation Course to assess its impact and redesign the program. We ran a 45-day Foundation program for the incoming batch of ANM students.

This year, we were joined by Deepak and Maya, both of whom have been working in the education sector for the past 4 years. They have started a Maths and Science Resource Centre that aims to enthuse children about Maths and Science through simple activities and experiments.

We had a summer camp for 73 children in the age group of 14 -18 years.

With the support of Selco, we are hoping to start the construction of a Balwadi at Chembakolli. The necessary permissions have been obtained for the same.

### 3. SSA RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

#### 3.1 Introduction

The Access Residential School programme has been a huge and timely boon for the Adivasi community in the Gudalur Block. Considering the fact that almost 100% of the drop-outs are from this community due to distance from regular schools or insufficient support at the parental level, the residential aspect has helped to give these first-generation learners a new life and new hope for their future. This building was inaugurated by the then Hon'ble Chief Minister on 18th of July 2016. Now, three years later, an additional building is under construction, which will give this programme a tremendous boost. Today we can state confidently that with the support of the SSA these children are provided with quality education in a well-established and well-managed residential school.

#### 3.2 Enrolment in the school:

District	Block	Location	Children enrolled							
			Gender			Social category				
			Boys	Girls	Total	SC	ST	Muslim	Others	Total
The Nilgiris	Gudalur	GHS School Campus, Gudalur	55	45	100	0	100	0	0	100

### 3.3 Staff details:

The SSA ACCESS Residential school currently has the following teachers and staffs

S.No	Name	Qualification	Designation
1.	Mrs. Angeline	M.A, B.Ed	Warden cum HM
2.	Mr.Suresh Kannan	M.A, Mphil, B.Ed	Tamil Teacher
3.	Mrs.Velanganni	M.A,B.Ed	English Teacher
4.	Mrs. Divya	Msc, B.Ed	Maths Teacher
5.	Mrs. Lakshmi Devi	M.A, B.Ed	Social Teacher
6.	Ms. Sharmila	M.Sc., B.Ed	Science Teacher
7.	Mrs. Vijitha	Msc, B.Ed	Computer Teacher
8.	Mrs.Udhayambika	Tailoring	Vocational
9.	Mr. Christopher	M.Com. CA	Accountant
10.	Mr. Shekar	SSLC	Office Assistant
11.	Mrs. Selvarani	SSLC	Head cook
12.	Mrs. Koima	IV	Assistant cook
13.	Mrs. Padmini	IV	Assistant
14.	Mr. Chandran	IV	Watch Man

- Each and every member in the school has been working towards the holistic development of the children in the school.



### *3.4 Preparatory camp activities:*

The students in ARS Kozhikolly are from the tribal community in and around Gudalur Taluk. Most of the parents are daily wagers, mostly into coffee/tea picking, construction works etc.,. The villages of these students are mostly located deep inside in the forests which makes the commuting to schools daily very challenging. The VBVT and ARS teams together visit villages nearby in person, to talk to the parents of drop-out children up to the age of 14 to enrol in the school.



### *3.5 Pedagogy*

- Activity-Based Learning: The teachers use activity-based methods to teach the students of all classes.



Ascending and Descending orders



2D Shape & Abacus

- Maths kit usage

A comprehensive range of Maths kits are used in the classroom. The Maths kit such as the place value strips, 3D/2D shapes, geo board gives the students a concrete understanding of the concepts and deriving solutions using the same.

- Science Kit

Students can explore their favorite science topics using hands-on activities from the experiment kits.

- Handwriting practices

Children are given regular practice for writing both Tamil and English in Hand writing notes which has improved their writing skill.

- Dictionary usage

A dictionary is one of the most important tools that help students to understand their subject better and improving communication skills. Students are asked to write and remember at least 10 words per a day.

- Remedial activities planned and action taken:

The teachers plan remedial activities or classes during Saturdays for the students.

- Library activities:

The library provides resources and services in a variety of media to meet the needs of students for education, information and personal development including recreation and leisure.

### *3.6. Specific skill trainings*

- Online Train and Bus Ticket Booking

The students were trained on how to book buses/ train online by Mrs.Vijitha using the Redbus and IRCTC websites.

- Spiral binding and lamination

Students were given a step by step demonstration on spiral binding and lamination. Post the demonstration, every students created their own spiral bound notebook using the given materials.

- Vermicompost training

Vermicompost training was demonstrated in front of students. The students understood how the compost improves soil texture and adds nutrients to the garden.

- First aid training

First aid training session was conducted by Dr. Ram from the local PHC [Primary Health Centre].

- Child Help line awareness

Mrs. Ranjini, coordinator Child helpline, O'valley gave awareness about child helpline ,when and how to reach out for help if necessary.

- Stress Management

This training helped the students with techniques aimed at controlling a person's level of stress and improving everyday functioning. Mr. Siva Balan, shared insights on how through regular Exercise and food habits one can relax the mind and body.

### *3.7 Medical check-up*

- 3 medical camps were organized this year.
  - Dr. Sheila, pediatrician from the Gudalur Adivasi hospital conducted a medical check-up for the students during the month of August.
  - Dr. Ashish Bosco and Dr. Clyde from Gudalur Adivasi Hospital did general check-ups for all the students and teachers during November.
  - Dr. Lokesh from O' Valley PHC (Primary Health Centre) did complete medical check-up for the students in January 2019.
- First Aid kit  
A basic first aid kit with a few ointments, bandages, tablets etc is kept in the school.

### *3.8 Details of Insurance given to children*

All children having insurance coverage through National Insurance Company limited Chennai

### *3.9 Self-defense training:*

Students are taught Karate thrice a week post school hours by Mr. Velanganni Joseph.

### *3.10 Clean School Campaign*

Global Hand washing Day was celebrated on October 15 as a way to increase awareness and understanding of keeping hands clean to avoid illnesses. Mr. Robert, Principal of the Gudalur Higher Secondary School demonstrated the right ways to washing hands.

### *3.11 Vocational activities:*

- Arts and crafts
- In every craft class, different activities are planned according to students' grade levels like beads making for the younger students and knitting scarves for the elder ones.
- Students are also taught to make woolen scarves, curtains and making plastic wire bags. They are also taught decorative craft items like artificial flowers.



### *3.12 Computer Education*

Regular classes are held for students to teach them computer skills according to their grade levels by Mrs. Vijitha.

### *3.13 Physical Education:*

Students are taught various sports and games, their rules and the values behind playing the game by the Physical Education teacher. Their athletic talents are exhibited during the sports day every year.

### *3.14 Parents and teachers association meeting:*

PTA [Parents Teachers Association] meetings are conducted every quarter in the school. Parents and the community being on the major stakeholder for these students education, we consider that making the parents aware of the facilities, the changes and growth of the students in the school will ensure the retention and infuse a strong need to education amongst the parents.

### *3.15 Events celebrated:*

- The annual sports day of ARS Kozhikolly was celebrated on the 23rd of February 2019.
- On the 14th of November 2019, the students and teachers celebrated Children's' day along with the students and staffs of ARS Ambalamoola at the ARS Ambalamoola school campus.
- Independence Day was celebrated on the 15th of August at ARS Kozhikolly. Mr. Diwakaran, from junior chamber of India, Mr. Robert, Principal, Gudalur Government High school and the high school teachers were present during the event.
- Pongal was celebrated on the 13th of January 2019. All the students, teachers and staffs decorated the school with rangolis and made pongal and served.
- Every year, on the 5th of December the school celebrates Adivasi day. On the 7th of December the students and teachers together organized an Adivasi exhibition portraying the lifestyle of different tribes namely the Paniyas, Bettakurumbas, Kattunaickens and the Mullakurumbas. There were various displays ranging from the traditional food, hunting tools, kitchen utilities etc.,
- Women's day - The students and teachers together celebrated Women's' day by writing poems, painting and shared their thoughts appreciating and celebrating the women around them.
- World Forestry Day or International Day of Forests was celebrated on 21st of March at the school premises
- World Water Day was celebrated on the 22nd of March. Mrs. Divya did a presentation on the importance of conserving water.

### *3.16 Club activities*

- Tamil Club - Children are given opportunities to show case the talents in debate, drama, poem recitation and writing
- Math Club - Children are given opportunity to play games using math to create works of art, or make up puzzles and riddles that use math as part of the education.
- Science Club - Children are given opportunities to explain science concepts using practical demonstrations and quiz competitions are conducted.
- Social Club - Children are given opportunities to various issues pertaining to their day-to-day life and issues of civics and national importance.

### *3.17 Best Practices*

- The students of class 8 wrote the NMMS examination held for the academic year 2018-2019
- On Feb 28th, 2019, Science, Maths, Arts and Crafts exhibition was organized at ARS Kozhikolly. The Students from classes 6, 7, 8 participated and exhibited various science models and experiments aligned to what they were learning in class.

### *3.18 Quality Food Provision:*

- The school ensures procuring quality provisions from the market and keeps track of the expiry dates of the same.
- All the provisions bought are stored in clean and closed containers.
- The staffs monitor the quality of vegetables that are used for every meal.

### *3.19 Maintenance Work:*

- As part of the school maintenance the following have been done
- The broken plastic doors in the bathroom have been replaced to iron doors.
- Water tank has been cleaned once in every two months.
- All the leakage in the building has been fixed.
- Broken water pipes in the school were fixed.
- All the blackboards in the school were repainted.
- The firewood ovens were repaired.
- The weeds around the school campus were removed.
- Glasses in the bathroom were replaced.
- Pipes in the septic tank were replaced.
- Waste disposal pit was dug in the backyard of the school.
- Classrooms were repainted.



#### 4. VIDYODAYA NURSERY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL

##### 4.1 Introduction

In 1996, on a request from the Adivasi community, VBVT took Adivasi children into Vidyodaya School. Soon VBVT became a school run by Adivasis, for Adivasis. The Trust also took on Adivasi educated youth to train as Teachers. Today they form the Education Team, which handles the entire education programme.

Starting from June 2014, Vidyodaya School reaches out to children between 1-5th standard. The school has now been recognized by the government of India under the 2009 Right to Education Act.

At Vidyodaya School importance is given to the all-round development of the child, which involves academics, handicrafts, innovative project work, drawing, painting and theatre. Great importance is also given to Adivasi traditional songs, dance and story-telling.

The teachers at Vidyodaya School are drawn from Adivasi and non-Adivasi communities. Some were themselves trained through the school.

Today the school functions as an example of what can be achieved: the school is distinctive for its atmosphere of peaceful cooperation, near absence of disciplinary problems, and sky- high retention rates.

Vidyodaya's mission is to improve the quality of education received by underprivileged children in Adivasi communities and to establish a culturally appropriate learning system with active participation of the community.

We want to ensure that

- every Adivasi child completes schooling;
- every child gets a good education;
- every child can pursue learning (not only schooling) up to whatever level they desire
- the supportive and cultural environment for this is facilitated

#### *4.2 Student strength 2017-18*

##### *4. 2.1 Overall student strength*

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Total</b>
LKG	4	6	10
UKG	2	5	7
I	6	6	12
II	7	4	11
III	4	7	11
IV	6	2	8
V	3	1	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>63</b>

#### 4.2.2 Tribe-wise student distribution

Class	Paniya		Kattunayakan		Bettakurumba		Mullakurumba		Irula		Non-tribe		Total	
	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G
<b>LKG</b>	2	4	1	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	7
<b>UKG</b>	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	3
<b>I</b>	3	5	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6
<b>II</b>	6	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	4
<b>III</b>	0	3	0	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	7
<b>IV</b>	3	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	2
<b>V</b>	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>30</b>

#### 4.2.3 Area- wise student distribution

Area	No of Students
Gudalur	21
Srimadurai	20
Devala	12
Devarshola	10

#### 4.2.4 Distance-wise student distribution

Distance in Kms	No. of students
0 – 5	15
5 – 10	36
10 – 20	12

#### 4.3 New Admissions:

This year 12 new students were admitted to the school. The details are as given below:

	Paniya		Kattunayakan		Bettakurumba		Mullakurumba		Total	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
	2	4	1	-	2	3	-	-	5	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>5</b>		<b>-</b>		<b>12</b>	

#### Teacher Details:

S.No	Teacher's name	Subject taught
1	P. Shanthi	Maths
2	Suja	English, EVS
3	Sivagami	Tamil, Science
4	R. Shanthi	Science, Maths
5	R. Parvathi	Social, Tamil
6	Radha	Librarian
7	Janaki	KG (all subjects), Tamil
8	Saroja	KG (all subjects)
9	Shuba	Social, English



**Local Visits:**

During this year, students visited the following places aligned with their curriculum:

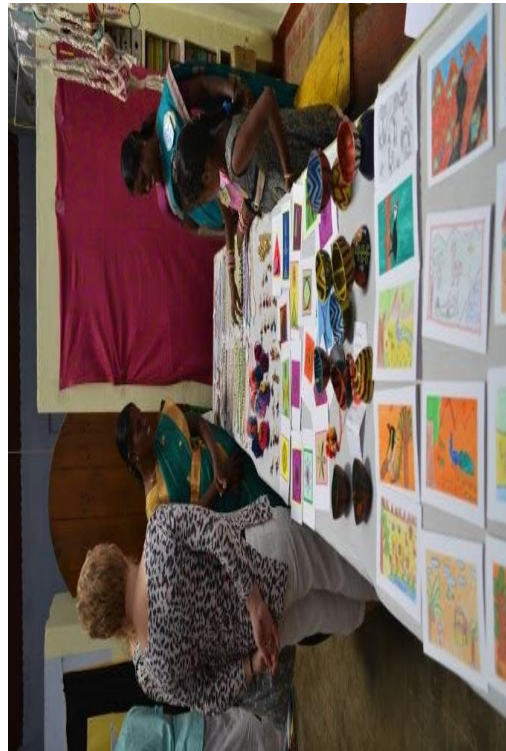
Grades	Place visited	Subject
2 & 3	Kunilvayal Paddy field	EVS
1	Fruit and vegetable shop	EVS
4 & 5	Gudalur Govt Library	Library
2 & 4	Fire Station	Science
3, 4 & 5	Theppakad Elephant camp	Exposure
3,4 &5	SSA Adivasi Day exhibition	Adivasi culture
2&3	Kunilvayal paddy field	EVS
Kindergarden	Main road for vehicle counting	Maths
All classes	Annual exhibition, SSA Kozhykolly	Science, Maths, Art & Craft

**4.6 Library Books read:**

Total number of books	Number of books Tamil	Number of books English	Number of books read
3105	2020	1085	797

## Annual Educational Exhibition

On March 17, 2019, children along with the teachers conducted an educational exhibition called “Makkala Keeche”- meaning child’s pockets.



The exhibition was visited by parents of the children, alumni and various other visitors. The children presented their exhibits and interacted with the visitors. The following activities were part of the exhibition:

- Science experiments: Children presented exhibits on the concepts of air, electricity, properties of materials and water during the exhibition.

- Maths puzzles: Interactive Maths puzzles and activities were also presented by the children, covering covered concepts like shapes, place value, weight estimation and puzzles using logical thinking and basic operations.
- Art & Craft exhibits: At this station, craft items and paintings made by the students during the craft classes were displayed. The paintings were made on the theme – “Earth- my home”. The craft items on display included string art and drawing cards, painted coconut shells, bead chains, earrings and bracelets.
- Photo walls: The walls along the walkway had photos of children at school from the past 20 years.
- Adivasi culture exhibits: In this section, elements of Adivasi culture including jewelry, musical instruments, tools etc. were exhibited.
- Frisbee: An outdoor activity was conducted by One All for the visitors.

### Parents Teachers Meeting

- A parents-teachers meeting was held at our cluster office at Manvayal on August 9th, 2018. All the Vidyodaya school parents except one, from the villages in that cluster, attended the meeting.



- In the second term, a parents-teachers meeting was held on October 26, 2018 at Vidyodaya School. Parents of 56 / 63 children attended the meeting. 38 parents and 6 teachers were present.





Topics discussed at the meeting were:

- New admissions and submitting birth certificates for some of them
- Health
- Aadhar card submission
- Savings
- Transport of children
- Local trips

For the parents of the outgoing batch of students, that is, students of class 5, a parents-teachers meeting was conducted on January 23, 2019. The meeting was attended by 3/4 parents. In this meeting, it was discussed about the learning levels of the students, information regarding TC application and bank money withdrawal and options for schools for the next year.

### **English classes by special teacher:**

In continuation of the teacher's workshop on dyslexia held in May this year, Mrs. Prema who has trained in teaching dyslexic children is conducting English classes for grade 2 and 3 children. 3 Vidyodaya teachers are also getting trained in the methodology.



## Publication of students' paintings:

Some of our children's paintings were published in the journal 'Constellation' which is a France-based initiative that encourages children from Africa, America and Asia to find expression through paintings.



## Culture

Onam festival was celebrated in the school on August 23, 2018 . Children and teachers made colorful Rangoli designs and performed the Tiruvadira dance and traditional songs.



### **Christmas function:**

Children engaged in different activities for the celebration of Christmas including making caps, baking cakes and preparing packets for the gifts. Christmas celebrations were held on December 22. Children sang carols and enacted a play. Later gifts were distributed to them by one of our staff





### **Republic day function:**

On January 26, 2019, Republic day was celebrated in the school.

The national flag was hoisted by the Chief Guest, Mr. Malaichamy, Advocate. Children also sang songs on national integration. One of the students delivered a speech on the Republic day. This was followed by games for the students including lemon-and-spoon race, threading-a- needle, collect-the-stones and so on.



### **Health**

On February 20, 2019, a complete health check-up was done for 55/63 students by doctors from the Gudalur Adivasi hospital. The check-up involved measuring the height and weight of each student and checking for any health abnormalities. 8 students were advised to visit the hospital for further check-up and medications.



### **Kitchen garden activity**

A kitchen garden activity was done for two groups, grades 4 and 5, twice a week with the objective of integrating subject knowledge, especially Maths and Science with the activity. Children planted

seeds and nurtured the plants for a period of 2 months. At the end of this period, children harvested the produce and made curry and shared with the rest of the students.



### **Culture classes**

Providing children with a culturally appropriate curriculum is one of the core objectives of the school.



Towards this end, weekly classes on Adivasi culture were conducted by Sathish, a member of the tribal team who works with Shola trust. The classes were started on February 15, 2019 and held every Friday afternoon for 10 students in Woodpecker group. During these classes, children carry out a range of activities like discussions about Adivasi culture, making and learning the traditional musical instruments, nature walks and identifying birds etc.

The classes will be continued with the same group in the coming academic year as well.

### **Prayer Activities**

Prayer activities are conducted every day from 9:00 to 9:30 am. All the teachers and the students get together for these activities. Every term a schedule of activities is prepared and followed. These activities are sometimes interchanged or new ones added. This year activities were as follows: -

<b>Days</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Monday	Songs in all the tribal languages and in Tamil, English or Malayalam.
Tuesday	Children narrating stories or reciting rhymes individually
Wednesday	Children asking riddles in English, Tamil or any tribal language
Thursday	Physical Exercises
Friday	Cultural Dance

## **Craft**

In the afternoons, the students are engaged in craft work. The children from class 1-5 are divided into groups and work individually with the guidance of the teachers. The children work on making bead chains, macrame, paper box making, coconut shell painting etc.

## **Teacher training and Skill Development**

- Lesson planning workshop

A workshop on lesson planning was conducted for all the teachers in the school by Mrs. Rama Sastry on January 18, 2019. In the workshop, teachers were introduced to the 9-point lesson plan that includes an objective, previous knowledge, Teaching-learning materials, strategies, motivation, activity, blackboard summary, evaluation and home-work. They also discussed on how this could be incorporated in the classrooms.

As a follow-up to the same, teachers wrote and executed a lesson plan in this format. These classes were observed by Mrs. Rama and feedback was given regarding the same.

As a follow-up to the lesson planning workshop and classroom observation done by Mrs. Rama Sastry, a session was conducted on February 16, 2019. During the session, each of the teachers reflected on their classes, collective feedback was given and discussion was held as to what could have been better and a model class was conducted.

- Teacher skill development:

Two of our teachers enrolled in the 2 year D.El.Ed (Diploma in Elementary Education) course offered through NIOS (National Institute of Open Schooling) completed their teaching practice classes in Vidyodaya School as part of their course, with Mrs. Rama Sastry as their mentor.

They have completed the final exams and successfully qualified for the course.

## 5. Vidyodaya Maths and Science Resource Centre

The Vidyodaya Maths and Science Resource Centre was started with the intent to enthuse children in remote areas to question and experiment. Using material that is inexpensive and easily available, simple hands-on activities are designed. It was started in November 2018 and is run by 2 resource persons – Deepak and Maya. During the period from November '18 to March '19, the centre worked with students from Vidyodaya and SSA schools.

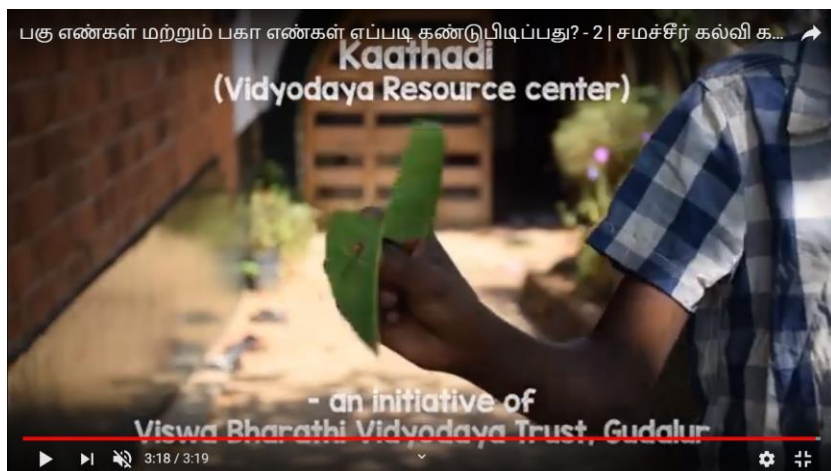
- *Science exhibition at SSA*

To commemorate National Science Day, a Science, Maths and Craft exhibition was organized on February 28, 2019 at SSA Kozhykolly, the government residential school that is managed by VBVT. As part of the Resource centre, we provided support to the Science teacher with ideas and preparation of the exhibits.



- *Launch of YouTube channel - Kaathadi*

To reach out to more students and teachers in resource-crunch schools, the YouTube channel “Kaathadi” was started on February 28, 2019. It contains short videos of simple experiments/activities on basic concepts in Maths and Science. It is a matter of recognition that our videos can be found on Tamilnadu Teachers Platform.





- *Science exhibition at Vidyodaya*

On March 17, 2019, an educational exhibition, “Makkala Keeche” (meaning a child’s pocket) was organized at Vidyodaya School. The exhibition consisted of children presenting Science experiments, Maths puzzles and concepts, display of children’s paintings and craft. The Resource centre provided support to the children for preparing and presenting the exhibits and models.



- *Maths and Science experiments during the Summer camp*

During the summer camp held in May 2019, centre planned a session to get children thinking, questioning and enjoy Maths and Science. Since the number of children was more than 100, we had 6 stations where children explored several concepts.



- *Looking ahead*

Vidyodaya Maths and Science Resource Centre will continue to work with the children in Vidyodaya and SSA schools. Additionally it will expand its work to Government tribal schools and study centres.

## 6. OUTREACH

- New enrollment - 276 children have enrolled in 1st standard in different schools at the start of the academic year 2018 – 19.
- School going Adivasi students – At the start of every academic year, VBVT conducts a survey to find out the number of students going to school out of all children covering adivasi hamlets in Gudalur and Pandalur taluks.  
In the survey, it was found that 2992 students going to school out of total 3324 students from 298 Tribal Hamlets.
- Scholarship for 22 student Rs.80900/- (Arode 10 th std) (devala). Scholarship give 2000/- (D'Shola).
- 58 students got community certificate
- 30 children join in Frisbee game
- One students meeting conducted (koottat)27 students attended, 27 students coming to class

Below table has the details of students appeared and cleared 10<sup>th</sup> standard exams.

Area	Total students	Students appeared	Pass
Ayyankolly	24	24	11
Devala	21	12	9
Devarshola	9	9	6
Erumad	17	16	14
Gudalur	31	27	23
Pattavayal	14	8	2
Ponnani	10	9	6
Srimadurai	18	13	12
Total	144	118	83

A pass percentage of 70% for 10<sup>th</sup> standard adivasi students.



Below table has the details of students appeared and cleared 12<sup>th</sup> standard exams.

Area	Total students	Students appeared	Pass
Ayyankolly	19	19	15
Devala	9	7	6
Devarshola	9	9	8
Erumad	17	17	11
Gudalur	16	16	12
Pattavayal	9	8	7
Ponnani	9	9	8
Srimadurai	2	2	2
Total	90	87	69

A 79% pass rate for 12<sup>th</sup> standard students.

- Students Counselling : We have realized the importance of counselling students with respect to importance of continuing higher education and the opportunities thereafter. Towards the same, a counselling session was conducted in Devala area on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018. This was attended by 20 students of whom 12 Boys and 8 Girls. 2 from 9<sup>th</sup>, 10 from 10<sup>th</sup>, 5 from 11<sup>th</sup> and 3 from 12<sup>th</sup> standard attending the session.
- Parents meeting : Apart from counselling students, parents meetings are held periodically to understand 2 Parents meetings were conducted, 34 Parents were involved. It was discussed about quality Education and regularity in school.
- 4 teams participated in the football tournament organized by Gamesa and slum soccer. The teams consisted of 33 participants from 10 villages. Among the Above-17 boys, Under-17 boys, Under -14 boys and girls teams that participated, the Under-14 and Under-17 teams won prizes. Children were also taught life skills here.
- 25 youth from Ponnani area have formed a Kabadi team and have participated in games organized in different villages. VBVT provided them with jerseys.
- 25 youth from Ambalapaadi, Ponnani, Sakkarakulam, Gundilkadavu have also been participating in Kabadi matches.

## 7. ECE

While there have been many improvements against a variety of development indicators, this weakening of village and community structures has also resulted in problems like lack of access to ICDS centres resulting in growing malnutrition on the one hand and the deprival of early childhood education. The inappropriateness and lack of access to government programmes has meant that a large number of children do not avail of the ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services). Our challenge is to ensure that all barriers to the ICDS are removed. The scope and reach of the education programme is to be strengthened by getting involved with Early Childhood Education at one end of the education spectrum and with programmes to ensure that children do not drop out at the other end.

Below are some of the activities and highlights of our intervention in the Early Childhood Education.

- 305 Kids enrolled in 18 Balwadis from 25 villages. We are also working with parents to ensure the regularity of the children in attending balwadis.
- 15 ECE committee meetings were held, in which 239 people attended. We have discussed new balwadi building for Kadichankolly.
- We have applied for birth certificate of 20 children enrolled in balwadis.
- We are working with SELCO in building a model Balwadi at Chembakolli. We have applied for necessary permissions to Devarshola Panchayat.
- Distributed 20 sets of materials to Balwadis through District Collector Tmt. Innocent Divya. Each set consisting of Anjal pattarai, box 3x20, jug, number calendar, animal pictures, mammals pictures, birds pictures, fruits pictures, balls – 2 and rubber horse.
- 4 days of ECE coordinators training was held at Theppakadu and attended by 15 people. Some of the points came of the discussion post training were starting study center and classes in areas, conducting student camps, counselling for students, encouraging parents to involve in Balwadis, vocational training for students and to involve with local govt educational institutions.
- Following up with District Forest Officer (DFO) regarding Balwadi in Chembakolli village.



## 8. Foundation Programme

Initially we had a year-long Course running in the VBVT campus for around 20 youth. However, given the costs of the programme and the need to reach out to a larger number, the programme is now re-oriented. We now use the youth already trained through earlier two Foundation Courses to have a field based Foundational programme. VBVT now feels that given it's various interventions with the youth through the Industrial Training Institute and the interventions in the villages through games, the youth need more and more skills that match the local requirements so that they are not compelled to migrate to cities.

In this context VBVT has helped a group of girls to start a small enterprise in a village in Pattavayal Area to make greeting cards using the string art method. This was initiated last year and has been going on successfully giving employment to six girls and one boy. We hope we can initiate more of these joint ventures.

Below are some of the activities and highlights.

- ANM Foundation course – we conducted a foundational life skills programme to a new batch of 21 Auxiliary Nurse-Midwife (ANM) trainees for 45-days. ASHWINI has approached VBVT to conduct a similar session with the next batch too.

The students were involved in various activities, workshops and talks. They visited institutions like ACCORD, Just Change, SSA Kozhikolly, Lantana Elephant unit, villages named Kottaimedu, Chembakolli, Puzhlampatti, Panikal and Padichery. They also visited Gudalur all Women Police station.

They went on an exposure visit to Rural Literacy and Health Programme (RLHP) NGO

in Mysuru and interacted with the women who have been successful in stopping liquor consumption among their husbands.

- Started a small enterprise in Pattavayal area with 8 youth from Anappanshola and Thenagode villages. The youth make string art and other craft items.
- Unit In Pattavayal Area , 8 persons from Anappanshola and Thenagode villages, They Making Greeting cards.
- 11 people out of which 7 students and 4 trainers visited Marudam farm school for the annual craft mela. The students and trainers spent over a week and learnt variety of rural art and craft.
- Foundation programme is in constant touch with Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Uppati in offering support to the tribal students enrolled.



## 9. Summer Camp

A summer camp was held from 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> May 2018. The objective of the camp was “Shaping future leaders in their own villages”. A total of 73 youth ranging from 14 to 18 year old attended the camp enthusiastically.

Below are some of the sessions held during the camp.

a) Alcoholism is a major problem that we face in the Community - In this session Vijay Kumar shared his experience on his own struggles with alcoholism and how he came out of it with great determination.



- b) “To solve any problem in the village we need to be united. Unity brings strength” talk by Stan.
- c) “To fight injustice in the community we need to ask relevant questions” session by Ramdas.
- d) A workshop to understand the importance of traditional medicine and its uses by Rajeeva.



## 10. Study Centres

The Study Centre in Kootat village run by Prasath continues and it is these children who are attending the Government Tribal school in Kappala. No other children attend. There are 35 of them and the teachers there find Prasath’s work a great support.



## **11. Conclusion**

Like every year, the coming year is going to be challenging and we hope to look back on our work and take heart from all the achievements and learn from what didn't work and march towards our vision of providing quality education to all.