



Vidya Shakti for Girls Foundation
Zandig Knowledge Management Foundation

**Vidya Shakti for Girls/Zandig Knowledge Management Foundation
Annual Newsletter and Report 2021 – 2022**

Vidya Shakti Foundation established in NC as a Non-Profit Organization. All your contributions may be tax deductible. Our Tax ID is 84-2821278.

Message from Vidya Shakti & Zandig Foundation Management Team:

Thanks to all the generous contributions and support, Vidya Shakti sponsored 67 girls during the 2021 – 2022 academic year. We are looking forward to sponsor all the 67 students during the 2022 - 2023 academic year. Most of our students are back to in person learning for the last quarter of 2021-2022 academic year to learn and achieve their full potential.

Did you know?

According to a policy brief issued by the Right to Education Forum in January 2021, **10 million girls in India could drop out of secondary school due to Covid-19**. Some recent studies show that there existed a 'gender-based digital divide' in education that made the situation worse for female students. Many of the girls who were studying before the Covid-19 pandemic didn't return to classes again as their families didn't want to invest their savings in their education. – [India today report in 2021](#).

The pandemic led to 27% rise in Child marriages

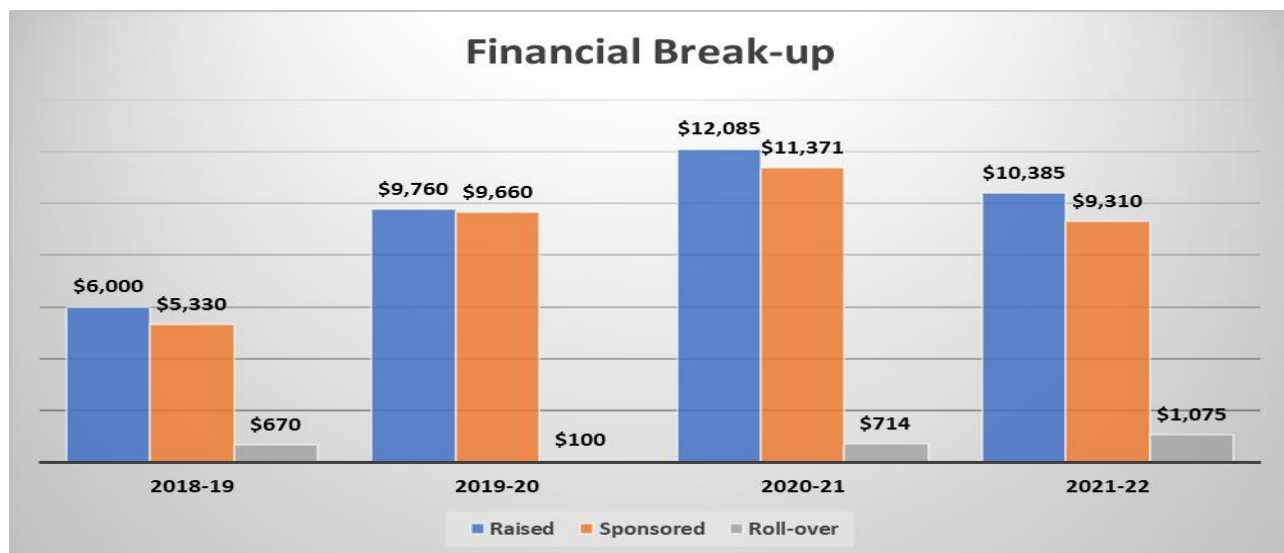
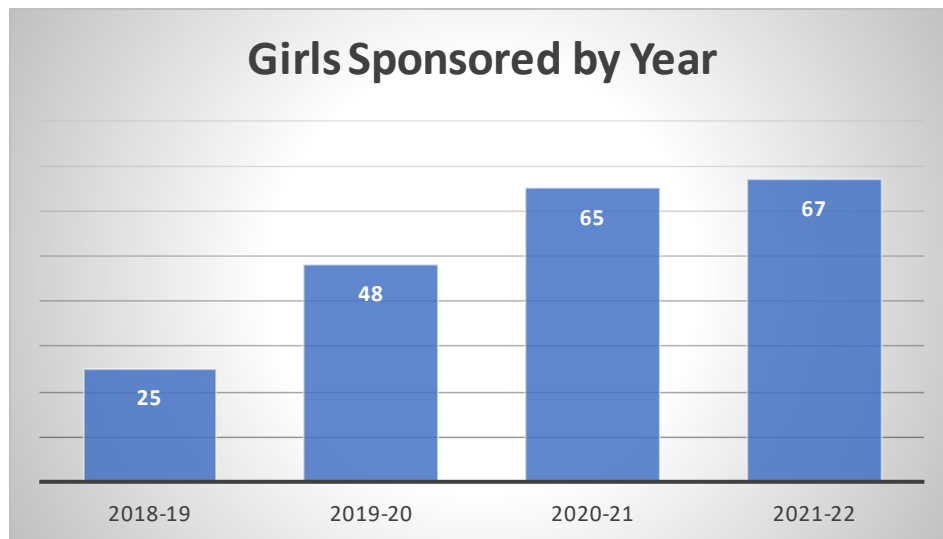
Top Achievements by Vidya Shakti Students

- Akhila K (EEE), Dhanya P K (EEE), Riza Mohammed (Civil), Yukthadas (EEE) and Shabna (EEE) successfully graduated Engineering from GECT, Kerala
- Anjana V and Asha S are new girls from GECT this year
- 9 Vidya Shakti students discontinued as we are unable to locate their families, and 11 new girls added this year
- Technology support to needy girls
- Technology support to Government aided school in Choolaimedu, Chennai
- Support Lakshmi to achieve her dream of starting home based tailoring business.
- Introduced scholarships in name of Mrs, Thangam and Mrs. Nalini



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Vidya Shakti Financial Report



Vision: To empower under privileged Women in India and make them economically and socially independent
Mission: To Provide financial help to educate under privileged girls and help them achieve their dreams



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New Girls in Vidya Shakti Family – 2021-22



Lakshmi receiving the Thangam Scholarship



Likitha recipient of the Nalini Scholarship



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In Loving Memory of Mrs. Thangam, founder and pillar of Vidya Shakti



Thangam awarding scholarship in 2019

July 11th 2021 - It was a Saturday evening. We were cherishing the big family zoom gathering in the morning. Suddenly, I got an unusual call from Arvind, my niece's husband. I heard him saying my sister was not responding and taken to the emergency. I was totally confused for a second and then I realized something is wrong with my sister. I initially thought she was just unconscious, and she will recover soon. Within few minutes, he confirmed that she had passed.

It's been 10 months, I still cannot believe my sister, Thangam, is no more. She was a Guardian Angel and Godmother for our family, extended family members and friends around her. As the name implies, she had a heart of pure gold. She was the greatest soul who was genuinely kind and compassionate. She was always willing to help needy people. I have never heard her say "no" to anyone who comes for help. I was always amazed to see how quickly she pulled together the finances and other resources.

Thangam was always there to support others for any reason at any time. She used to support so many daily vendors especially women near her

home by providing financial assistance. There are so many incidents that are still fresh in my mind.

I wanted to share one such small incident how she goes beyond her duties to support others. While she was working at the bank, she went above and beyond her job duties to support her customers needs. That is how, she introduced Aruna (Vidya Shakti co-founder) to me when she came here to do master's in NCSU. Aruna's dad was a customer at her bank since 1983 and they all always checked on each other's family. In 2006, when Aruna was moving to US to peruse her masters at NC State, her dad and mom were very worried to send Aruna so far away as she was the first one in her family to step out of India. Thangam immediately called me and connected both of us. This was a very small gesture but meant a lot to Aruna's parents. Because of her open heart, our families have been close since then. Her life was filled with similar incidents helping others within the family, friends, and community.

Thangam was one of the pillars of Zandig/Vidya Shakti foundation. She and I started as a small initiative almost 10 years back supporting a handful of children. As we were getting more and more requests for education help, we decided to expand by reaching out to friends in the Triangle community. The expansion wouldn't have been possible without all your overwhelming support.

We miss her a lot! We are committed to continue her passion and grow the seed she planted into an everlasting tree providing nourishment to many more children and families.



Thangam teaching children in the community

Nitya Ganapathy, Co-founder of Vidya Shakti and Zandig Foundations



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In Loving Memory of Mrs. Nalini, another pillar of Vidya Shakthi.



Always smiling, cooking, cleaning, helping. My mom's kindness had no bounds. Anybody who came home left with a full heart and stomach. No matter what time we had guests she will have a full spread of food for the guests. Helping the needy and volunteering was just in her nature. My mom did not wait till she had all the money in the world to help family and friends in need. Growing up with limited income, I still remember my mom helping the families in need. Necessities like grocery for family, textbooks or uniforms for students. I remember she would pack an extra lunch every day for my friend when I was in school. It was the little things that made a difference to somebody's life. All her good deeds were paying off and my family was doing much better financially, and both my parents dedicated themselves to volunteering through Lions Club. They ran several blood donation camps and eye camps in villages, organized mass wedding events, setting up homes for new married couples. They adopted a Government School in Ulsoor Bangalore where my mom studied when she was a little girl, improved the infrastructure, provided school supplies and technology, got jobs for several teaching assistants. She always focused to empower women to have their own source of income, try to get them jobs, and to advise them about finances. The list is endless. With a dimple smile and kind words she has made a difference in so many lives. She has taught me the only ingredient to make the world a better place is the desire to help.

My mom has been a part of Vidya Shakti since 2018, identifying students and families in need and providing guidance. She did not have the opportunity to continue her studies when she was 16 but she made sure I got a great education so I can be independent. She also made every effort to encourage families to send their daughters to school and get a good education. She met several Vidya Shakti students based out of Bangalore, encouraged them to work hard. We will forever miss her smile and guidance.

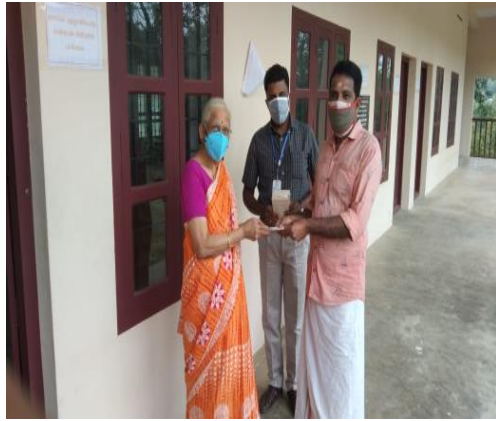
~ Aruna Munikrishna, Co-founder of Vidya Shakti Foundation



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Adopt a School Program

MAI School 2021-22



2021-22 VS scholarship amount distribution



Extra curricular Achievements by MAI girls in 2021-22

Vidya Shakti team is in discussion with MAI school administration to implement a pilot communication advancement program for MAI school (about 20 students) in the next academic year.

Corporation School, Choolaimedu, Chennai



Corporation School Visit – Provided technology support (Internet connection and computer) to the school



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Appreciation from Students...

*First of all, I would like to thank you for being so generous and sponsoring us scholarship. It truly means a lot to me...No words could possibly express how happy I was when I was informed that I had been chosen to receive a scholarship . Thank you a lot for your precious contribution. I may not be able to say /show this enough to you, but that you so much for your kindness. With many thanks and prayers. – **Megha C, GEC Thrissur***

I hope that you are reading this in good health.I am Anjana.V,student of S2 EEE 2021 batch of GEC Thrissur.I am writing this letter to express my heartfelt gratitude and respect to you.I was thrilled to learn of my selection for Vidyasakthi scholarship.It is such an honour and I am deeply appreciative of your support. The financial assistance you provided will be of great help to me in paying my educational expenses-including the hostel fees and tuition fees, and it will allow me to concentrate more of my time on studying. I am very much blessed to know that there are people like you who are kind , generous and not hesitant to lend a helping hand for the students from poor financial backgrounds and support them.I kindly request you to continue whatever you are doing and help the students in the future also,let your help and support be a stepping stone to their success. Thank you once again.I promise you I will workhard and taking you as a role model eventually give it back to students in need like me.

*Yours sincerely, **Anjana.V GEC Thrissur***

*I am Divya V S,3rd year Civil engineering student of GEC Thrissur.I'm writing this to express my sincere gratitude to you for providing vidyasakthi scholarship. This scholarship money really helped me to pay my semester fees. I was able to buy textbooks and I never troubled my parents much.The financial assistance you provided was of great help to me and allowed me to concentrate on my studies. Thank you again for your generosity and support.I promise I will work hard and eventually give back to others,possibly as a scholarship to future students like myself. Sincerely, **Divya VS, GEC Thrissur***

I was selected as recipient of Vidyasakthi scholarship during the academic year 2021-2022. I am sincerely honored that you found me worthy of esteemed scholarship. Thank you for your generosity and thoughtfulness. This funding will help me for further studies.

Thank you again for your consideration and support. Apologies for my late response.

*Sincerely, **Shibitha P N, B.tech CE, 3rd year***

Me Athulya Subash, Btech Production Engineering student first year, GEC Thrissur. I am very glad that you are helping me in my studies by giving a financial support. Thanking you from my bottom of the heart and wishing you all happiness and prayer for you and your family.



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THANKING YOU

My name is Sowmya A. I am studying in 8th Std now I am promoting to 9th Std in K.R.L.S Patel Rama Reddy School. I want to become a Software engineering in my future. And I will be thankful to Vidya Shakti / Zandig Knowledge foundation for their support.

Dear Sir/Madam

Myself Tharu Shree.S of class 10thA from Amara Tipathi English School. I have been Completed my board Exams and I had written very well and I shall come out with good marks. I really must express my gratitude for the help you had given us. It has helped us very much. Through the pandemic the foundation has provided us a very big help. Though it was a very tough time. From the bottom of my heart I would thank the foundation for helping us in paying fees. And being there for our need. I'll always be thankful for your help and I shall work hard and study well and make my future bright. Due to your help I would have completed my schooling and entering to the collage. Till the date your foundation has helped us very much we will always be thankful for you.

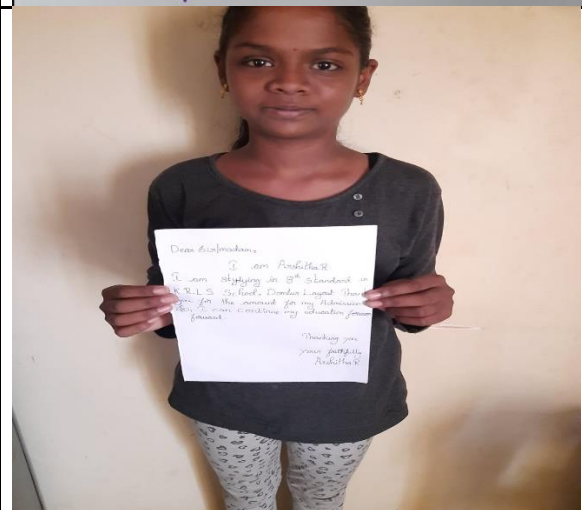
THANK YOU

Dear Sir/Madam

I am Yafreen Taj studying in KLE College, pursuing BCA VIth Sem [Final Year]. This Letter is to inform you that I am very grateful to you for helping me in my studies. I am very thankful to you. I am putting my efforts too to score better marks in my final year. you have been helping a lot in my studies and I guarantee you that I will put my level best and fulfill your expectations. I Once Again Thank you for helping us.

THANK YOU

Yafreen Taj
KLE Society's S
Nijalingappa College





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Education interventions in the developing world and Vidya Shakthi's role

Education interventions have been a focus globally to improve outcomes of people living in developing communities. Since these interventions occur at younger ages, it is conceivable that they can have sustained long-term effects for the children who receive them. In general, the interventions can be split into two categories: (1) Demand side and (2) Supply side. Demand side interventions affect the ability of the individual to get an education, i.e., improving accessibility to schools. Supply side interventions deal with the quality of the schools, e.g., providing books, computers, tutoring, etc. Although intuitively supply-side interventions are attractive since they seek to improve the quality of the education children receive, the majority of development education research shows that demand side interventions have a larger and more significant effect on the children's future outcomes. Supply side interventions have a large cost and have no guarantee to work. For example, you can buy 15 computers for a school, but if students don't know how to use them, that is a small benefit given a huge cost. Worse yet if the students don't show up to the school, it will all be for nothing.

Demand side interventions increase accessibility to schools through methods such as attendance incentives, scholarships, and health interventions. In fact, one of the most effective interventions is deworming students[^]. For a small 10 cent deworming tablet, a child's attendance for a year will increase an average of 25%, leading to higher rates of future education.

Moreover, Demand-side interventions are also easier to execute and impose fewer "outside interventions" in the community it affects. They are easier to implement because supply side interventions require more logistics and cost. For example, if you wanted to buy books, you would have to decide which books to buy, where to buy them and if it matches their curriculum. Supply side interventions can be too imposing, i.e., it might assume people in the community don't know how to best educate their children.

Vidhya Shakti is following demand side intervention model by employing a scholarship-based intervention, specifically to secondary and higher education. Scholarship based interventions in Ghana have shown increases in "young people's educational attainment, knowledge, skills, and preventative health behaviors" ^{^^}. Similar results were shown in a national study of Colombia. Specifically, for women who received these scholarships, they were less likely to end up in teenage marriages or pregnancies and more likely to have a job post-education. Following this model, Vidya Shakthi hopes to provide the same.

[^] Deworm the World: <https://www.evidenceaction.org/dewormtheworld/>

^{^^} Returns to Secondary Schooling in Ghana: <https://www.poverty-action.org/study/returns-secondary-schooling-ghana>

By Nitin Krishnan – Development Economist



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Vidya Shakti 2022-23 Goals:

We have lost two of our biggest supporters and cheerleaders the past year but we move on with heavy hearts, inspiration and determination. We are looking forward to supporting all our girls and if possible support more students in need. Here are some of our goals for 2022 and we can use your help with any of these:

- Continue support for all our 67 girls in the 2022-2023 academic year
- Continuous monitoring, counseling, and support to Vidya Shakti girls and Families
- Stay in regular contact with students, parents and teachers to ensure the students' mental wellness
- Provide career counseling support for the graduates
- Implement the online training portal in MAI school to enhance communication skills of high school students <https://vidyashaktiforgirls.org/training/login/index.php>
- Continue focusing on Government school students

As we are in the last stretch of the pandemic, these families are still struggling to bring their lives back on track. Even though parents care deeply for their girls, a limited household income can deter them from prioritizing their daughter's education. This pandemic has disrupted all our lives, and these girls and families need our help now more than ever. Our girls' parents are still struggling to make ends meet due to the COVID for the past couple of years and have already started reaching out to us for next academic year support. Your contribution will make a huge difference while their parents are facing an uncertain future and new challenges. We hope you will continue to support them and make a positive impact in their lives.