Redefining Education

Annual Report 2016 - 17

eVidyaloka
To Educate - Anywhere Anytime

Contents

Director's Message

"Basic education links the children, whether of the cities or the villages, to all that is best and lasting in India*. **The future of India lies in its villages.**"*

- M.K. Gandhi

Marking six years of completion, since the inception of eVidyaloka Trust in 2011, Academic Year 2016-17 has been a game changer for eVidyaloka. Building on the momentum from the previous year, 2016 ended on a high note of producing Student Progress Report for over 6000+ children across 7 states spanning Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka, in the new states of operations namely, Telangana, West Bengal and Maharashtra.

I invite your further involvement in reaching out to many more curious, education-hungry children in remote villages of India.

I thank each and every one of you again, for enriching children's lives with education, and for your support towards eVidyaloka Trust. Every child deserves quality education, especially those studying in rural villages.

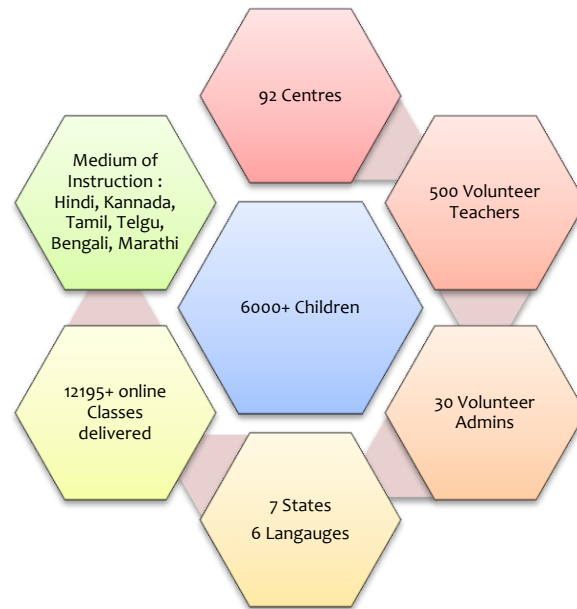Join the journey to nurture every child in rural India with quality education.

Venkat Sriraman

Introduction

The year completed on a record high of 12195+ classes conducted by 500+ teachers benefitting 6000+ children across 7 states of Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Maharashtra and West Bengal.

Summary of Academic Year 16-17

Volunteering

eVidyaloka continues to teach children in rural areas with the massive support of our volunteer teachers. 2016-17 was complete with all round efforts to ramp up volunteer support for teaching, managing classes and content development.

3276 volunteers registered during April 2015 - March 2016. Of these, 552 were on-boarded as volunteer teachers and 33+ as Class Admins. These volunteers are spread across 11 different countries in 5 continents.
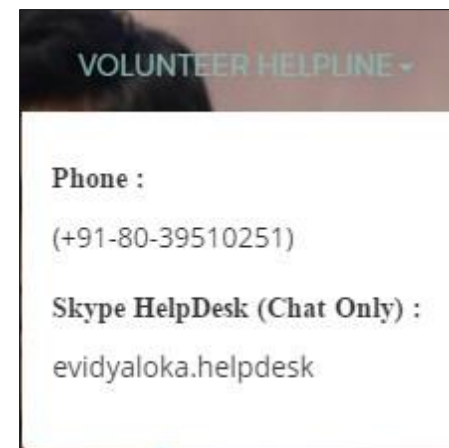
To improve the volunteer acquisition process, the eVidyaloka web platform was upgraded to create a more simplified and engaging experience for the volunteers that significantly increased volunteer sign ups online.

A new functionality has also been added on our website to support the prospective volunteers, Helpline Chat - 'Talk to Someone'. It allows potential volunteer teachers to engage in a live chat with an eVidyaloka coordinator to resolve their doubts during sign ups, thereby significantly increasing TSD candidates, post sign up. This helps eliminate volunteers who may slip away as the Live Chat option hand-holds them through the process. Every prospective volunteer is given due attention and offered a one-stop solution.

To increase and maintain a steady flow of volunteers, a *Volunteer Helpline* has also been established to improve the on-boarding process through a dedicated support framework that allows potential volunteers to interface with eVidyaloka through phone and online mediums.

To improve Volunteer On-boarding after sign up, a structured approach was adopted. This involved:

- Re-connecting with inactive sign ups, to ensure profile completion by volunteers post sign up to take the volunteers to recommend for teaching (RFT) level
- Mobilized Corporate Volunteers
- Establishing a process for Volunteer Utilization and Engagement post on-boarding

Showcased below is the break-up of the total **volunteers** engaged across various mediums of instruction:

Total	Hindi	Telugu	Tamil	Kannada	Bengali	Marathi	Others
Total Sign Ups	2909	729	720	688	307	304	360
Actively Engaged Teachers	128	77	90	71	24	11	N/A
Actively Engaged Class Admins	09	07	02	02	01	02	N/A

A structured approach for Volunteer Sourcing was established. The following channels of sourcing were adopted:

- Online digital campaigns via Google AdWords, Facebook Advertisements
- United Nations Volunteering system online
- Corporate Volunteering model
- Social Media via Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, WhatsApp
- Word of Mouth
- Email Campaigns
- Online Platforms: Youth Ki Awaaz, The Better India, Social AppHub

Partnership

- **Delivery Partners**

  In 2016, we worked closely with a variety of allies in the private sectors, civil society, and foundations to improve access to quality in education amongst schools in rural India. The mutual partnership also enables eVidyaloka to track the progress of the children till they pass out of school.

Partners

■NGOs : 16
■Corporate (Volunteering): 04
■ Academic (Volunteering): 1

eVidyaloka partnered with 16 local, non-profit organizations based at the grassroots, to deliver more than 12195 classes across 75 centres. New partners were identified and engaged in Karnataka, West Bengal and Maharashtra.

States& Partners					
Andhra Pradesh/ Telangana	Jharkhand	Karnataka	Tamil Nadu	West Bengal	Maharashtra
IDEAS	Sahyog Mitra	Vidyaposhak	AID India	Centre for Environmental and Socio-Economic Regeneration(CESR)	Pragti Vidya Prasarak Sanstha (PVPS)
Parivartan	Samajik Parivartan Sansthan	Need Base India	UNCS		Vanchit Vikas Sansthan (VVS)
	Network for Enterprise Enhancement and Development Support (NEEDS)	Hanasoge Charitable Trust (HCT)	Wild Wings Society		
			Payir Trust		
			Society For Women And Downtrodden Development (SWADD)		
			AIM		

The Partner Organisations (P.O) are identified and engaged based on a robust diligence procedure.

Based at the grassroots, the Partner Organization plays a key role in identifying potential schools, setting up the Digital Classrooms after seeking prior approvals from the local government, and also maintain the classroom in the respective village-schools. The P.O. also works in tandem with the school administration, local community including parents, and internet service providers and other vendors to ensure smooth delivery of classes at the Centre.

Lab for Experiments: In Chengarbasa, a remote village in Jharkhand, eVidyaloka Teachers along with the Class Assistant worked to make the School Lab operational. Students are now able to learn from the educational experiments carried out in the lab, equipments for which are now being regularly bought by the School Headmaster.

Pilot training conducted with SPS, Girdih to build capacity of local partner to train other Field personnel.

Content Partners

- **Volunteering Partners: Corporate and Student Volunteering**
  Social change is possible only with a catalytic approach, therefore thrives on involvement of volunteers across sectors.
  eVidyaloka engaged corporate employees as volunteer teachers across multiple centers in India. The key ones included:
  - L&T Infotech Ltd. - Corporate Volunteering Initiative continued with support from more employees in their Bangalore office.
  - Brillio Technologies
  - Williams Lea Tag
  - Cognizant Technology Solutions (CTS) - Senior leaders of CTS participated in a 48-hour online marathon on 15th - 16th July 2016. Six senior managers, ranging from Directors to AVP, connected with students across Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu and shared knowledge through 10 sessions on topics such as importance of education, value-based education, health and hygiene; importance of continuing education, empowered country through empowered students. The entire experience of watching a new teacher who talks to them beyond text books, who narrates stories and snippets from life, made for a truly fulfilling experience for the students, away from the daily classes of eVidyaloka which are textual-based. The students were overwhelmed and eager to listen to the speakers who engaged them with their insights on the respective topics. The sessions offered a refreshing break from the regular classes and books for the students.
  - XLRI SIGMA - eVidyaloka partnered with XLRI's Social Initiative Group for Managerial Assistance (SIGMA) for educating children in rural India. Student volunteers from XLRI signed up to teach children online along with regular education.

  .

- **Government**

Synergy with local NGOs leverages a well-established trust & relationship that makes the eVidyaloka initiative sustainable at the field level. Local NGO partners take consent from local SMC/equivalent body and the Block Education Officer for operating the Digital Classroom in government schools, located in remote, rural villages. This bottoms-up approach helps to build value-acceptance amongst the beneficiaries, drives sustainability and accountability. Support from Government Agencies has also been encouraging, especially in Jharkhand.

eVidyaloka's initiative was established in KGBV Schools in Deogarh and Giridih districts of Jharkhand, a recognition of our intervention by the Government Administration. The classes are being delivered on a self-sustaining model, where the Government has come forth to set up the Digital Classroom Infrastructure and support

some of the operational expenses of running online classes. eVidyaloka is honored to be the platform that connects passionate volunteer teachers to education-hungry girl children in KGBVs.

- **Academic Partners:**
  - XLRI, Jamshedpur - 2 XLRI students from India's premier Business School developed a *Framework for Measuring Teacher Quality* (TQF) during their summer internship at eVidyaloka during Academic Year 2016-17.
  - BITS, Pilani – Three students from BITS Pilani were selected for summer internship at eVidyaloka. They contributed towards development of an *Impact Analysis Framework*, streamlining Corporate Volunteering, researching for kick starting operations in Odisha. They also took special interest towards making the National Partner Summit a grand success.
  - Jindal Global Law University – A student from premier law University contributed towards development of a *Risk Management Framework and Standard Operating Procedure* for eVidyaloka.

Overview of Schools/Centers/Digital Classrooms:

To establish new classrooms in new geographies, the methodology involved identifying local partners in remote rural areas, having a strong field presence. The year started with 39 centers existing across rural villages of Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

47 more centers were initiated during April 2016-March 2017 across these three states, with the addition of Maharashtra, West Bengal and Telangana.

39 Centers continued to operate in 2016-17 are showcased below:

Cluster	Andhra Pradesh	Jharkhand	Tamil Nadu	Karnataka
Repalle, AP	1. Juvvalapalem 2. Kishkindapalem			
Tiruvuru, AP	1. Rolupadi 2. Chittela 3. Mallela - Vajralu 4. Mallela - Mutyalu 5. Laxmipuram 6. Vamakuntla			
Gampalagudem, AP	1. Konijerela 2. Gosaveedu			
Ranchi, JH		1. Itki - Hira 2. Itki - Moti		

Cluster		Jharkhand	Tamil Nadu	Karnataka
		3. Chachgura - Hira 4. Chachgura - Moti 5. Bero - Hira 6. Bero - Moti		
Girdih, JH		1. Mirzaganj - Hira 2. Mirzaganj - Moti 3. Koyritola - Hira 4. Koyritola - Moti 5. Shitalpur - Hira 6. Shitalpur - Moti 7. Udnabad 8. Sonbad - Hira 9. Sonbad - Moti 10. Jhalakdiha 11. Chengarbasa 12. Koymara		
Coimbatore, TN			1. TopSlip	
Lalgudi, TN			1. Sathamangalam 2. Ariyur 3. Esanaikorai	
Koppal, KA				1. Hanumasagara - V 2. Hanumasagara - M 3. Halagondanahalli
Dharwad, KA				1. Baad 2. Benakanakatti 3. Managundi - V 4. Mugad - V

eVidyaloka exited from the following Schools/Centers in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand during 2016-17.

- Pesarlanka - Hira and Moti; Tikratoli - Hira and Moti; Agalanganallur; Vidyashram

In 2016-17, 47 digital classrooms were established across various states. In Maharashtra, West Bengal and Telangana operational foundations were made for the first time, as showcased below:

	States						
Cluster	Andhra Pradesh	Jharkhand	Karnataka	Tamil Nadu	Maharashtra	West Bengal	Telangana
Tiruvuru, AP	1. Vavilala						

District					
Nandurbar, MH				1. Nandarkhe 2. Kolda	
Ahmednagar, MH				1. HivareZare 2. Baburdi Ghumat 3. Sonewadi 4. Ukkadgaon	
Puruliya, West Bengal					1. Dumdumi 2. Chargali 3. Jabarrah 4. Podlara - H 5. Podlara - M
Ranchi, JH	1. Bajpur				
Girdih, JH * KGBV	1. Giridih - H* 2. Giridih - M* 3. Bengabad - H* 4. Bengabad - M* 5. Jamua - H*				
Deogarh, JH * KGBV	1. Sarwa - H* 2. Sarwa - M* 3. Karon - H* 4. Karon - M* 5. Mohanpur - H 6. Mohanpur - M				
Koppal, KA		1. Miyapur 2. Bevur 3. Putagamari 4. Kolihal 5. Alanagar 6. Taralakatti 7. Harijanwada			
Dharwad, KA		1. Managundi - V 2. Mugad - M 3. Hanumakoppa 4. Uppi-Betageri - Boys 5. Kallur 6. Marewad 7. Nigadi			
KR Nagar, KA		1. Hanasoge			
Kottagiri, TN			1. Aravenu 2. Sulligodu		
Coimbatore, TN Tiruvannamalai, TN			1. Echanari 2. Vembakkam 3. Semambadi		
Trichy, TN			1. Thenur		
Khammam, TE					1. Ganeshunipadu 2. KandimalaVariBanjar

Class Delivery Summary

A state-wise summary of classes delivered, number of children enrolled, a volunteer teacher allotted is shared below:

AY 16-17 depicts an increase in students across states and an above average attendance is indicative of joyful learning delivered by dedicated, passionate online eVidyaloka teachers.

S. No	State	No. of Teachers	No. of Centers	Sessions Delivered	Enrolled Students	Attendance
1.	Tamil Nadu	90	12	2936 (66%)	606	86%
2.	Karnataka	51	24	1978 (49%)	1490	87%
3.	Jharkhand	140	29	3972	2138	75%
4.	Andhra Pradesh	80	11	2601	580	80%
5.	Maharashtra	11	2	173 (62%)	188	68%
6.	West Bengal	14	2	208	134	63%
	Total	**386**	**80**	**11868**	**5136**	***76%**

*(average)

Highlights

- Class Delivery Framework was successfully implemented in Maharashtra, West Bengal and Telangana, new states for centre operations in eVidyaloka.
- eVidyaloka's initiative was established and scaled in six Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) in Deogarh and Giridih district of Jharkhand for the first time, as per the request of the Deputy Commissioner. The value creation for students is also being replicated in schools that help in education of girl children, irrespective of the social and economic background.
- eVidyaloka trained Field Delivery Coordinators in Giridih district, Jharkhand to build capacity of Delivery Partners in the field
- Teacher Quality Framework piloted across the states for a 360 degree feedback on Volunteer Teachers. It is based on well-known Centa standards.
- eVidyaloka Volunteer teacher Seemakurthy Hupesh, conducted a Workshop on Robotics for the students of Chittela, in Andhra Pradesh. Students of grade 7 and 8, who started with almost no exposure to robotics, participated in this workshop. The children got a glimpse and brief insight of what a robot is, its advantages and applications, how to build the robots and factors to be considered while building them.

Each one of them participated in the workshop and gained unique skills and experience in the most exciting and effervescent manner. A large part of this can be credited to passionate volunteer teachers who take time out of their busy schedules to reach out to the children in the best way possible.

Learning Outcome

Scholastic Assessment measured the performance of students in the subjects of English and or, Mathematics and or, Science through two Term Assessments, conducted during October and February.

■ **Assessments**

Overview of Scholastic Assessment scores obtained across 6 states is shown below:
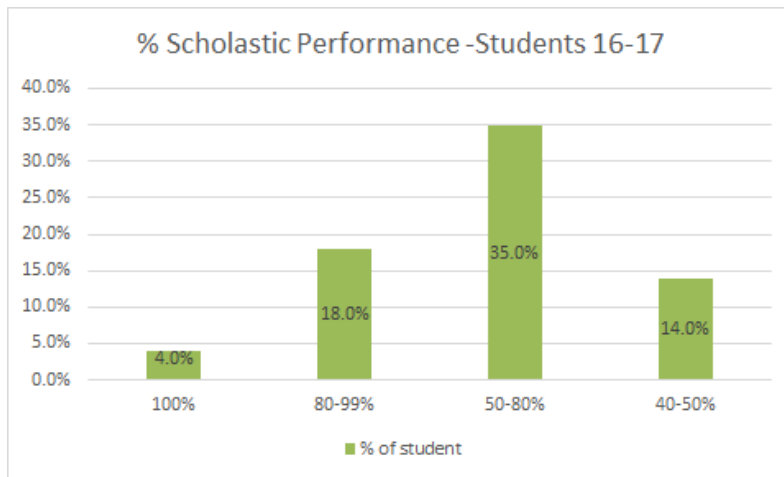

Figure 1 - Student Performance in Term Assessment (Scholastic)

- Scholastic Assessments were administered over 4557+ students.

- The performance of the students has been captured in *Student Report Cards*, generated for over 4800+ children. Reports were also shared with teachers and local partners, to ensure that guidance is made available to improve performance of weak students and to encourage sustained performance by outstanding students.

Highlights of Class Delivery

- Delivery of **30 child learning hours** per offering was met for 67% of the offerings (subjects).
- Delivery of **40 sessions per offering** was met for **74% offerings**.
- **12,195 classes** delivered online across 78 centers in 7 states.

Summary of Assessment

- 772 children out of 4800 awarded recognition certificates for holistic development in categories of *inspirational student, significant improvement, regular student, participative student* based on their Scholastic Assessment.

Scholastic Performance:

Marks	Students Scored
- 100%   : 4%
- 80-99% : 18%
- 50-80% : 35%
- 40-50% : 14%

- Detailed assessment outcome and progress report card of individual children are available in the eVidyaloka Trust's One Drive account hosted on Microsoft Cloud.
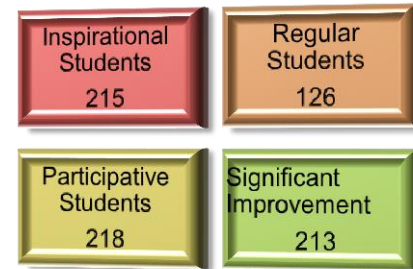
  The Co-Scholastic section provides a holistic view of the child's performance in school. It also gives a glimpse into qualities where the child is exceptionally skilled.

- **Impact Summary:**
  - Improving Academic Performance: 4% of the students scored full 100% while a majority of 35% scored 50-80%. This indicates improved comprehension and learning of subjects taught by eVidyaloka teachers.

  - Curious in Class: Interactive teaching methodology used in eVidyaloka classes is making the students more curious in other classes being provided by the school. This inquisitiveness in class is being reported by school teachers.

Inspirational Students	Regular Students
215	126
Participative Students	Significant Improvement
218	213

  - Scholarships for Continued Education: **9 students** in Tiruvuru Mandal, Andhra Pradesh and Semmambadi in Tamil Nadu won the **National Means cum Merit Scholarship (NMMS).** The students in Andhra Pradesh were coached in logical reasoning by a volunteer teacher, in addition to regular eVidyaloka classes. They will be receiving a valuable amount of INR 750 per month for the next 5 years. This helps them in continuing their education.

  - Self-Sustainable Schools: Increasing value acceptance of eVidyaloka model by the District Administration in KGBV schools validates the requirement of quality teaching in remote villages, as well as impact on the students. Government support in setting up and running the Digital Classroom for the Girl children in remote areas makes these schools sustainable and more participatory in the long run.

  - *772* students were awarded certificates for their outstanding performance under various categories of *Inspirational, Regular, Participative and Significant Improvement.*

  - Impact Analysis Framework was piloted across six centers in Karnataka, Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh to assess the impact of eVidyaloka classes on students in their final year of eVidyaloka classes. The Impact Framework was developed with the objective of tracking progress of the eVidyaloka alumni students for

further interventions and support once they move out of eVidyaloka. The Study highlights that student aspirations are not inhibited by socio-economic factors, when quality teaching is made available. Sample testimonials for 2 students are showcased here.

Pravee Kumar, Chengarbasa aspires to be a Scientist

SureshTudu, Chengarbasa aspires to be a Teacher

- o <u>Higher Student enrollment</u> in centers such as Aravenu, Bero, Chachgura, across all the other states, indicates growing popularity of eVidyaloka classes amongst children in rural India.
- o High student retention every year indicates classes being valued and enjoyed by the students and support of the parent community.
- o Existing students are demanding offerings in higher grades from eVidyaloka.

Teachers' Stories

- *"These 2 years were the most treasured days, filled with wonderful memories to cherish for a lifetime. I got inspired by their enthusiasm and affection towards teachers, and the curiosity to learn things, and their quest for knowledge."*
  Raghu, Volunteer Teacher, Andhra Pradesh

- *"Teaching these smart children from remote Indian villages gives a real perspective of what a different world we live in. While they are still new to the concept of computer, internet and the technology boom outside their world, the curiosity is what leaves you enchanted. I started teaching at the Nandarkhe school in Maharashtra. I was excited as I got to teach in my mother tongue. I thought it would be a cake walk but it was equally tough to read and teach anything in Marathi after all these years, almost like teaching in Hindi."*
  Shweta Angne, Volunteer Teacher Nandarkhe, Maharashtra

- *"Introducing English to 5th grade for the first time and motivating them to talk in English becomes more challenging for rural students. Due to eVidyaloka's efforts one more positive step in rural society, is that Girls are encouraged for going to school. Previously they were denied this and told to work in fields. Initially, in my class, I observed only 1-2 regular girl students, but at the end of the year I could see the increase in number of girl students and better participation from their side. With young children eager to learn, there are innumerable memorable experiences that I have grown to cherish, which is also my motivation to teach them for every class."*
  Dr. Preeta Deshmukh, Volunteer Teacher, Nandarkhe, Maharashtra

- *Apart from feeling a sense of satisfaction, teaching at eVidyaloka has helped me improve my Hindi. As someone who moved overseas at a young age, volunteering at eVidyaloka has provided me a way to stay connected to India and make a positive contribution in a sustainable manner."*
  Nishtha, Volunteer Teacher, Itki, Jharkhand

- *"At every instance of my life, I wanted to make a real difference in the world. Working as a volunteer teacher helped me reach out to a new generation of underprivileged children who are in dire need of real guidance and care. These kids are amazing - bright, cheery and full of affection. It was wonderful to see that despite their challenging backgrounds, all of them were so full of hope and were eager to learn.* Working with eVidyaloka has given me an inexplicable sense of satisfaction. It has also helped me reduce my stress level at work. Imagine a world where every person is well-educated, and people are capable of creating opportunities, if they can't find any. I am sure several problems that the society faces today will vanish. I am working toward that mission and eVidyaloka has helped me provide a platform to achieve that."
  Ashish, Volunteer Teacher, Bero, Jharkhand

- *"I have seen many students from government schools being talented but they seldom have sufficient funds to learn advanced technologies like robotics. So I thought of encouraging them by sharing the knowledge that I have, with the hope that this kind of education will increase the number of children enrolling in government schools. There are many people who are sending their kids to private schools because there are sub-standard facilities in a government school. When we offer the same quality of education and the same resources to the children of a Government school, it reduces the financial burden on parents, and they can send children to government schools and be rid of high fees."*
Hupesh, Volunteer Teacher, Chittela, Andhra Pradesh

Children Speak

"eVidyaloka classes helped me in getting the NMMS scholarship and the Robotic workshop has inspired me to study Robotics"
Sandeep, *8th Standard,* Andhra Pradesh

"Madhumathi madam has taught us English through Computer (online). We got to know many things which we were unaware of. As part of the syllabus she discussed Verbs, Body Parts, Opposite Words, etc. She has covered subjects other than the syllabus. She helped us in introducing ourselves in English. She also taught how to make 10 simple sentences on any subject."
Bindu, 8th Standard, Chittela, *Andhra Pradesh*

Partners' Speak

"Over 630 students in 7 KGBV Schools of Deoghar have improved access to teachers. This is helping students to catch up with their missed sessions & lessons in the syllabus. This initiative has started creating impact in the students by improving access to teachers from a distance. Students are finding this way of learning quite interesting."
NEEDS, Deogarh, Jharkhand

"Student regularity to school has increased. The Headmaster is more alert. Parents regularly show up for meetings now, when called. More importantly, the children are very curious to study in these classes."
Sahyog Mitra, Chengarbasa, Jharkhand

Today Baad is a buzzing school, with full children attendance. While the government teachers are doing their part, the classroom are buzzing online with the eVidyaloka remote volunteer teachers performing together as a system. Its bringing shine on the faces of the villagers and parents, as their children confidently start speaking in English and feel optimistic about their future."
Vidya Poshak, Baad, Karnataka

- ■ Children's Participation – Making Education Participatory

Prabhu a student of Topslip, Tamil Nadu, is no less than a 'miracle child'. Every time the internet connectivity had issues, he would observe what the problem could be and after 4 to 5 months of permutations and combinations, he mended the hidden cable and made the classroom GO LIVE, one fine day. From then on, it was a spree of online classes in Topslip with a devoted Class Assistant in place.

Balamurugan, a student of Sathamangalam, Tamil Nadu, lives by a 'Don't Give up' attitude. He took the responsibility of making the digital classes a reality in Sathamangalam. Inspite of internet issues and absence of a Class Assistant, Bala routinely reached the school at 9.00 a.m, sharp daily, switched on the system and sat with the hope of the connection getting through. Things fell in place eventually and classes started buzzing. He continued this routine even after the appointment of Class Assistants, till the assessments got over.

Students of Shitalpur, a center in rural Jharkhand demanded a computer to improve their learning of computers. They are learning to operate the machine now. An example of allowing the light of education and curiosity to transform rural India.

Events at eVidyaloka

- • **National Partner Summit, May 2016**

NGO partners of eVidyaloka came together on 27-28th May 2016, to share ideas, experiences that unite us to achieve common objectives. The event saw Chandra Sekhar Kakal, ex COOLTI share his views on how education can make life changing difference to the lives of children. A powered Panel Discussion saw representatives from Corporates such as Brillio, LTI, Congnizant Technology Solutions share their take on volunteer teaching vs. traditional teaching and the reasons for it becoming popular in the society.

eVidyaloka Workplace hosted by Facebook was also launched during the Summit. This meet was conducive in enabling local Class coordinators to share classroom activities on Workplace which brought eVidyaloka classes on the virtual platform, connecting remote teachers, class assistants in the field and remote well-wishers on a common platform. The meeting ended with insights into best practices across states and expected impacts of eVidyaloka classes on children and their ownership. The biggest takeaway was the awarding of Certificates and medals for best performing children for further distribution to the children in rural centers.

- • **eVidyaloka Teachers Meet, June 2016**

June 11th 2016 was the first time when many remote volunteer teachers of eVidyaloka gathered across states. Spread across cities to ensure maximum turnout of volunteer teachers, the event was held in Bangalore, Hyderabad, and Tamil Nadu. The interactions focused on using interactive methods of teaching to fuel learning. Guest speakers insisted on establishing connect with the children as they come from different backgrounds, to ease them into a conducive

environment of learning. The Event served as an eye opener for new volunteer teachers and existing ones as they shared best practices, techniques for connecting with children who are shy, and ways to improve their teaching.

- **E-Teachers Day / Teachers' Day, Sep. 2016**

eVidyaloka celebrated e-Teachers Day with the theme – *Inspire to Teach and Innovate*, live across centers on Google Hangouts **on September 5th 2016.** The celebrations were divided into morning and evening sessions to enable online teachers to connect across time zones. Satish Viswanathan, Co-Founder of eVidyaloka, an ardent volunteer teacher himself, shared the critical role that teaching plays in student lives, even though the session lasts for an hour. Students from Managundi in Karnataka performed cultural activities to honor their online teachers.

40 long serving volunteer teachers and center administrators were recognized for completing 3 years and above with digital souvenirs.

Watch e-Teachers Day'16 Celebrations on YouTube:
Morning Session: https://youtu.be/QLZCxndOigI
Evening Session: https://youtu.be/05GXt8M3pwE

■ **Online Rural – Urban Student Exchange, Oct. 2016**

A rural-urban child connect saw students from various village schools of eVidyaloka have a wonderful exchange with their counterpart students from Public schools in Bangalore in real-time. A true RUBARU moment - catch a glimpse here

Students from Managundi, in Karnataka & Utkramit Madya Vidyalaya Bero and Utkramit Madya Vidyalaya Chengarbasa in Jharkhand interacted with students of Podar International School and Sri Kumarans' children, Bangalore for a unique online student exchange that involved sharing their daily life, specialities about their village, its culture and a powerful debate on Topics of Mobile Phone usage. They even shared virtual gifts for their urban friends!

■ **Robotics Workshop**

Technical literacy is fast becoming an essential skill. eVidyaloka, in collaboration with S. Hupesh, a volunteer teacher, conducted a 'Workshop on Robotics' for students of Chittela in Andhra Pradesh. The Workshop was conducted with the objective of improving student learning through Digital Technology and connecting classroom practices, technology to bridge the gap between rural and urban education. Students of 7th and 8th standard participated

in learning about robots, what goes into their making and process of building robots and its applications in real life. The Workshop ended with an exhibition of a drone.

- **Rubaru'16, Dec. 2016**

Rubaru '16 is a unique 'rural-urban children connect' event, organised by eVidyaloka on Dec. 3, 2016 to promote eQuality in education. The event brought together students from eminent schools across rural and urban India for a cultural exchange. A panel of eminent academicians and thought leaders from BillionLives, IIM-Bangalore, L&T Infotech & Azim Premji Foundation shared their views and perspectives on the 'Digital Highway to Bridge the Rural-Urban Education Divide'. It was followed by an ensemble of cultural performances by school children from 4 leading schools in Bangalore, namely *Podar International School, Sri Kumarans Children's Home, Indus International School* and *Vidyaniketan Public School;* and 4 schools from rural villages across Jharkhand, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Recordings of eVidyaloka students were also broadcasted for the audience to cherish.

The event was attended by more than 250+ well-wishers, including the parents. As a run up to this event, a series of online student exchanges were conducted in the participating schools, cherishing the spirit of Joy of Giving. eVidyaloka is honored to have the contributions of L&T Infotech, NSDL, BillionLives Business Initiatives, Flatpebble and Buzzinga as well as the parents of students in Podar International School in making this event a grand success.

We are also proud of the students of Podar International School who went out of their way, to sponsor education of 47 children in rural India, by raising funds worth INR 1.88 L. This would not have been possible without the unwavering support of School Management of Podar International School.

■   **Managundi students grace L&T Annual Day 2017, January 2017**

An all-girls team travelled all the way to Bangalore for the very first time, out of their village - Managundi, a rural village in Karnataka. Beaming with confidence, the talented lot danced to their own song, excitedly performing their traditional folk dance-Kolata at L&T Infotech's Annual Day.

The exposure to Bangalore city and to an applauding audience of L&T employees has made these children very popular amongst their peers in their village and surrounding areas. They are keen to participate in more such events and are already practicing for similar opportunities. It was a moment of pride for eVidyaloka to be honored with the performance of confident and talented children from rural Karnataka.

■   **TCS 10K**

Supporters from all walks of life spent some high-on-energy hours to run at the TCS World 10K Bengaluru on 15th May 2016. 50 runners supported the cause of 'quality education in rural India'.

Industry Forums:

■   **NASSCOM CSR Leadership Conference 2016 attended by eVidyaloka.**

■   **IIM Calcutta, Dec 2016**

eVidyaloka was invited to present its model to a One Day Symposium on 'Inclusive Education in a Connected World: Social Innovations to Exploit Pedagogical Potentials of Digital Age Learning' on Dec 28th. eVidyaloka model was shared by Venkat Sriraman, Executive Director of eVidyaloka, as one of the internet-enabled social innovations in education that is helping to promote quality learning in rural India. The platform was shared by other social scientists, technologists and policy makers.

Insightful Field Visits:

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- **Trip to Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, 7 September, 2016**

  Nikitha along with GE Oil and Gas team visited Echanari Centre, one of our first centers to be set up in Coimbatore to interact with the local partner and school administration.

- **Trip to Giridih and Deogarh - Jharkhand and West Bengal, 26-27 December 2016**
  - Venkat from eVidyaloka visited 3 potential new schools in Purulia, Jharkhand. The meeting helped chalk out the plan for reaching out to more children in 2017-18 in Purulia, in partnership with CESR and the methodology for making this operationally and financially sustainable. During the visit to Girdih cluster, he met the SPS Team to understand the operational highlights and challenges in running digital centers in KGBV schools and the action plan for the next

term. Potential schools were shortlisted for scaling up in Giridih in AY 17-18 and a plan chalked out. To ensure remote delivery of eVidyaloka model, a capacity building strategy was formulated.

- Visit to Deogarh involved meeting NEEDS, our Partner NGO and evolving a partnership for further outreach. A meeting with the District Collector shed light on the Government support for setting up Digital Classroom Infrastructure in more schools, in addition to KGBV schools. This indicates support of Local Administration for eVidyaloka initiatives in such remote rural areas.

- *"Chargali is a story of hope and aspirations being delivered over 3G Networks – not just education."*
  - Ravichandaran Venkataraman, Member of Board of Trustees.
  A new Digital Classroom was established in Chargali during AY 16-17. We had the fortune of meeting Akbar Ansari, a community leader in Chargali village of Purulia District, West Bengal. A farmer by profession, but passionate about education, Akbar has taken it upon himself to make education a reality for the children of Chargali village. After toiling in the farm all day, he comes to the School and sleeps there itself to ensure the classroom infrastructure is safe. He has ensured that children in a rural India go to school than go to the fields.

- **Trip to Dharwad - Koppal, Karnataka , 22-25 January 2017**

An eye opener

- Ashwini, Venkat and Nagaraju from eVidyaloka visited centers in Karnataka including Hanamsagra. They interacted with the School Headmaster who was proud of eVidyaloka programs being implemented in his school and were also happy with the improving admission rate in the school.
  A Class Assistants' meeting was also organized for the CAs of Hanumasagara, Thopalakatti, Miyapur, Harijanwada while others from Harijanwada and Hosadurga joined online for the meeting which helped layout the plan and approach for identifying new schools.
  The Team also met the parent community to understand their perception about education of their children. The meeting helped highlight that many of the parents were not literate but did understand the importance of educating their children. They also desired that education would help their children get good jobs and appreciated eVidyaloka's efforts and are happy to send their children to school. Their happiness is reflected in the following insights they shared about their wards:

  o Online teaching is helping the student to speak more English words which is making parents feel proud.
  o Another child comes back home and shares the lessons he learnt in his eVidyaloka classes. These help children in the neighborhood become more curious about joining the school.

- A parent shared that while they had missed the opportunities in life, they whole-heartedly desire that their children do well in school and get employed in a good job, in contrast to the wage labor work they are doing. They are happy to see their daughter teach English words she learnt in the eVidyaloka classroom, to her younger   brother.

We are excited to learn that parents have found other ways of overcoming their literacy gaps. They take help of elder children or neighbors to understand the text messages sent by eVidyaloka.

Other schools also covered during this visit includes new schools such as Uppinabettegiri, Harijanwada, Miyapur, Baad, Benkankatti, Nigadi, and interaction with the School Management Committees, HMs and the Delivery Partner – Vidyaposhak.

- **Trip to Trichy, Tamil Nadu, 6 February 2017**
  Mr. Manikandan of CAMS and Gayathri and Shweta from eVidyaloka visited schools in Trichy, supported by CAMS. The visit involved interacting with the students enrolled in eVidyaloka Centers of Esanaikorai, Sathamangalam, Ariyur. Students of Ariyur and Thenur studying in Grade 7 in eVidyaloka classes demanded offerings for grade 8 as well for AY 17-18. The visit showcased high enthusiasm amongst students for their online teachers. The Team also met Payir Trust Founder and its Team.

- **Trip to Tiruvuru, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, 18 -19 March 2017**

  Nikitha and Nagaraju visited three eVidyaloka centers located in Tiruvuru - Gosaveedu, Konijerla and Vavilala and Laxmipuram. The team met the Schools' Headmasters and Class Assistants and chalked out various areas to work on during AY 17-18. The school HM of Vavilala, a new center of eVidyaloka operations, gave a positive feedback about eVidyaloka classes and felt it is an asset to the school. It is heartening to learn that more than half of the students were able to understand and respond in English.

  On 19th, they also visited one of the oldest eVidyaloka centers, Kishkindapalem and Juvalepalem, to plan the strategy for operations in AY 17-18 while meeting with the Village President. The meeting helped resolve operational challenges and evolving a strategy of deploying another Delivery Partner to stabilize operations at the field level in these centers.

- **Trip to Ahmednagar, Maharashtra 30-31 March 2017**
  Tejal visited Ahmednagar, new district in Maharashtra, for Class Delivery operations and to set up the new centers in Ahmednagar; also to explain the eVidyaloka Model to the new Delivery Partner. She also shared the responsibilities of a CA to the person-in-charge, and the importance of connecting classes. She also visited Nandarkhe and Kolda, and took feedback from the children who got enrolled in AY 2016 as well as discussed the plan for AY 17-18 with the Partner.

eVidyaloka in the News

eVidyaloka was featured in The Hindu, the Economic Times, Your Story, Indian Link and the Pune Mirror

- The Hindu: "Efforts to Attract Children towards Government Schools"
- Economic Times: "With the Advent of ed-Tech, Anyone Can Become a Teacher"
- Your Story:"How these students from 49 Remote Village Schools are Learning in state-of-the-art Digital Classrooms"
- Indian Link: "Taking the e-nitiative"
- Pune Mirror: "A Class Apart"

Governance

- **Employee Mix**

Staff Details			
Head Count Total	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**
Full Time Staff	2	12	14
Consultant	1	1	02

- **Air Travel**

  Domestic: Air travel Nil. All travel to the field was undertaken by train

  International: Air travel - Ni.

Board Meetings

The Board of Trustees, the Governing board comprises of 4 members.

Apart from the quarterly Board Meetings for key governance priorities, the Board meets every week, on Saturdays, to discuss monitor and guide the Execution of eVidyaloka annual operating plan.

Key Board Meetings in FY 2016-17 Captured in Table below:

Year 2015-16 Board Meeting	Dates of Statutory Governing Body Meetings	Names of attending Statutory Governing Body Members		Minutes documented and circulated
1	21/05/2016	Ramkumar V, Viswanathan T	Ravichandran V	Yes

2	05/06/2016	Venkataramanan S, Ramkumar V	Viswanathan T, Ravichandran V	Yes
3	19/12/2015	VenkataramananS, Ramkumar V	Viswanathan T, Ravichandran V	Yes
4	23/01/2016	Venkataramanan S, Ramkumar V	Viswanathan T, Ravichandran V	Yes
5	23/01/2016	Venkataramanan S, Ramkumar V	Viswanathan T, Ravichandran V	Yes
6	07/02/2016	Venkataramanan S., Ramkumar V.	Viswanathan T., Ravichandran V.	Yes

Overview of Donations Received

Many more children in rural government schools were able to access Quality Education with generous support of eVidyaloka Donors - Corporates, High Net worth Individuals, Foundations and Individuals.

We thank all our Donors and Well-Wishers for believing in eVidyaloka and supporting us in redefining education through their contributions. An overview of our Institutional and Individual Donors is captured below.

- **Institutional Donors : 35 Centers supported**

Institutional Donor	# Centers Supported	State	Village
ANZ	3	Karnataka	Halgondanhalli, Miyapur, Hanasoge
BG Ramakrishnan Memorial Trust	1	Jharkhand	Bero - H
Computer Age Management Services Pvt Ltd (CAMS)	2	Tamil Nadu	Ariyur, Sathamangalam, Esanaikorai Thenur, Semambadi, Aravenu
Infosys BPO Ltd	5	Karnataka	Hosadurga, Toppalkatti Harijanwada, Marewad, Nigadi
	2	Andhra Pradesh	Chittella, Konijerela,
	6	Maharashtra	Baburdi Ghumat, Sonewadi, Ukkadgaon, Hivare Zahre Nandarkhe, Kolda
	2	Telangana	Ganeshunipadu, Kandimala Vari Banjar
	1	Tamil Nadu	Vembakkam

GE Oil & Gas	1	Tamil Nadu	Echanari
L&T Infotech Ltd	10	Karnataka	Hanumasagra, Managundi, Benkankatti, Baad, Mugad Uppinabettegiri, Kalluru, Hanumakoppa
Williamslea India Pvt. Ltd	2	Jharkhand	Mirzaganj
Other Donors • Accel • BlackBuck • Grant Thornton • Karuturi Global • RoviCorp • NSDL • BillionLives Business Initiatives • FlatPebble • Headrun • **India Cares**			

• **Individual Catalysts* - Helping us Redefine Education**

Individual Donors		
Manish Kotwala	Podar International School	Sijin Pisharody
Ramesh Murthy	Akshat Agarwal	Brinda Poornapragna
Raman Arunachalam	Ramya Ramnath	Manish Kotwal
Sampath Srinivasan	Abidal Abdullah	Usha Rao
Shankar A.	Sunanda	Mohan Pillitla
Satish Viswanathan	AbhinaySali	Deepti Sharma
Sreedhar Perim	Shankar Ananthanarayanan	Pradeep/Sneha Murthy
Vipul Shah	Anandh Rajappa	Ratnakar V.B.B
Viswanathan Thiagarajan	Badrish Agarwal	Bhushan Raghunath Rao Sathvik
Ravi V	Sandeep Rajkumar	As Rao
Ravichandran Venkataraman	Praveen Boda	Sumant Joshi
Anil Jain	Madhavi Malladi	Rohit Velluri
Debashish Negi	NK Srihari	Sriram Gullapali
Shivkumar Subramaniam	Rama Sudhakar	Prasanna Narayanan
Abhay Oltikar	Hema Veerakariyappa	Ravi Radhakrishnan
Jacob Ninan	Andrew Saldhana	Chandrika TS
Ashok	Madhusudan Pai	Kamini Shah
Cedric Lobo	N Sreehas	KARTIC V
Lakshman Iyer	SUKESH Kumar	James D'Souza
Gagan Goyal	Mohan P	Naman Varshney
	Aditya Gupta	Martin Joseph

Abishek Narayan	Sugantha Subramanian
Shweta Kulkarni	Vathsala Narsimman
Simmerjit Kaur	Ashutosh Mahamia
Lokesh Reddy	Satabdi Datta

*A sample representative list of Donors only

THANK YOU

Contact Us: eVidyaloka Trust, #122, 4th Cross, 35th main, BTM 2nd Stage, Bangalore – 560076 | Phone: 080-40903939 | www.evidyaloka.org