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Official Newsletter of eVidyaloka Trust





### FIRSTS OF THE YEAR

The start of a new academic year is always filled with excitement, especially for volunteers stepping into their roles for the first time.

This year, we are delighted to share the exciting stories of some of our volunteers who embarked on their teaching journeys with eVidyaloka. Their experiences reflect the transformative impact of volunteer teaching in rural education.

Volunteer Teacher Madhumathi Krishna Kumar was in for a pleasant surprise when she began to teach English to the 6th grade students at GHPS Nigadi this academic year. Her first class was an opportunity to understand her students, and she was thrilled to discover their comfort with English.

The Volunteer teachers before her, along with the school teachers had laid a strong foundation on which Madhumathi is excited to build on.

Madhumathi's initial apprehensions turned into enthusiasm as she aimed to further enhance the students' language skills, ensuring a successful and enriching academic journey.

Madhumathi is a homemaker who is passionate about teaching. In 2023, she won the 'Teacher of the Decade' award at eVidyaloka's Teachers Day event for having taught over 750 hours.

Madhumathi is one of many such passionate volunteers who create lasting change.

<u>Read about more teachers like</u> <u>Madhumathi in our blog.</u>





#### A VOLUNTEER TEACHER. A DROPLET. AN OCEAN.



Jesstlin Thomas is an Instructional Designer located in Navi Mumbai. She teaches English at Chaksu, Rajasthan in the Hindi language. Here's a first hand account of her experience of volunteering with eVidyaloka.

My first day of the class began with an introduction and I asked the students to introduce themselves. A little prompting and they managed to introduce themselves, tell me about their dreams and hobbies. Some were shy while others were confident. I ended the class with the action song 'It's me who builds community' wherein I shared my screen on Google Meet and we danced to the song.

The first day ended but the journey had just begun.

I learnt that most of my kids had to struggle to reach the school. For most, the school was located at least five kilometres (5kms) away from the school.

Many get up early, help their parents with household or construction work and then pedal or walk to the school.

Here I was, knowing the circumstances the children start out from and I wanted to make them fall in love with English when they had hardly any exposure to the language.

Personally, my journey as a Volunteer Teacher taught me the value of perseverance and patience.

'We went there with a droplet, but they were in need of the ocean.'
~Jesstlin Thomas

## BEST NGO OF THE YEAR IN EDUCATION SECTOR





Ramesha C, Head of Shared Services at eVidyaloka receiving the award on behalf of eVidyaloka Trust.

eVidyaloka Trust Wins "Best NGO of the Year in Education Sector" at the 11th Edition CSR Summit and Awards 2024

We are thrilled to announce that eVidyaloka Trust has been honored with the "Best NGO of the Year in Education Sector" award at the 11th Edition CSR Summit and Awards 2024, organized by UBS Forums.

The event, held on 28th August 2024 at Vivanta New Delhi, Dwarka, brought together leading CSR professionals, corporate leaders, NGOs, and policymakers to celebrate impactful initiatives in corporate social responsibility.

Ramesha C, Head of Shared Services at eVidyaloka received the award on behalf of eVidyaloka Trust.

This prestigious award recognizes eVidyaloka's innovative and sustainable contributions to improving education in underserved communities. By leveraging digital technology and volunteer efforts, eVidyaloka has made significant strides in enhancing educational access and quality in rural India, setting new standards of excellence in the sector.

We are proud of this recognition and remain committed to empowering students through our transformative education initiatives.



### MRS. SUDHA MURTY INAUGURATES 'EmpowerED' IN ASSAM

eVidyaloka proudly announces the launch of its groundbreaking 'EmpowerED' program in Assam.

The program, aimed at enhancing digital literacy among rural students with a special focus on girls, was inaugurated by celebrated author and philanthropist **Mrs. Sudha Murty**.

Running from August 2024 to March 2027, the initiative will impact approximately 1,200 girls across 10 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) in Assam.





Mrs. Sudha Murty inaugurating EmpowerED in Assam virtually

Ravichandran V., Chairperson of eVidyaloka, emphasized that this marks a significant milestone in the organization's mission.

"By integrating digital literacy into the curriculum, we are equipping rural students with essential skills for the future," he said, highlighting the importance of preparing students for technological advancements.

Mrs. Sudha Murty, in her address to the participating schools, underscored the transformative power of digital literacy, particularly for girls. She stressed the importance of computer proficiency and English skills in securing employment opportunities and empowering young women to become economically independent.

After her speech, Mrs. Murty interacted with the students, signed books, and engaged with the eVidyaloka team.





Mrs. Sudha Murty interacting with children at the eVidyaloka office, Bengaluru.

The EmpowerED program addresses critical challenges such as limited technology access, digital literacy gaps, and gender disparity in STEM education. With a curriculum focused on digital literacy, coding, and AI for Grades 6 to 9, the program fosters holistic development, aligns with key UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and contributes to community empowerment by training women from the local community as Class Assistants.

The phased curriculum will introduce students to basic digital literacy in the first year, progress to coding in the second year, and provide AI awareness in the third year, preparing them for future technological challenges.

"Education is the cornerstone of a brighter future. I am happy to see eVidyaloka's dedication to bringing education to remote corners of the country and empowering communities." ~Mrs. Sudha Murty

Over the past decade, eVidyaloka has impacted 1.89 lakh rural students, reaching 734 schools across 14 states and 67 districts through virtual teaching in multiple languages.



Mrs. Sudha Murty with students and team eVidyaloka at Bengaluru.



Watch the EmpowerED inauguration film here.

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### MORE HANDS. MORE HEARTS.

We are excited to announce the commencement of partnerships with several NGOs who share our vision for an empowered rural India and are keen on introducing online learning opportunities for students in their region.

Aman Foundation in Assam
Give Future Trust in Tamil Nadu
Inclusive Social Development Foundation in Andhra Pradesh
Rising Aryavarta Welfare Society in Madhya Pradesh
Sevasta Trust in Karnataka

These collaborations are a testament to our commitment to building sustainable relationships at the grassroots level, ensuring long-term accessibility for students in remote locations.

## CELEBRATING THE 78TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

Children from the eVidyaloka schools across various states celebrated the 78th Independence Day in style. Here are a few glimpses of the fun filled activities the students enjoyed.













### eleVate Webinar Series for eVidyaloka Volunteers

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Introducing **eleVate**, eVidyaloka's exclusive webinar series designed to empower and support our global community of volunteer teachers.

As part of eVidyaloka's commitment to delivering quality education to children in rural India, eleVate provides volunteers with the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to thrive in a digital classroom.

Through a range of expert-led sessions, volunteers will gain insights into innovative teaching methods, classroom management techniques, and student engagement strategies.

Whether you're new to online teaching or an experienced educator, eleVate offers valuable guidance to enhance your impact and build a meaningful connection with your students.

The webinar series began on the 10th of August 2024, completing 4 of the 10 webinars in this series.



eVidyaloka is able to transform the educational landscape of rural India with access to quality education because of the unwavering support of our patrons and volunteers.

#### Support us in this mission.





