



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



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President's Letter	3
About Bhuvana Foundation	5
About Vidya Vanam	5
Students and Staff at Vidya Vanam	6
Highlights of the Year	8
Academic Highlights	8
Celebrations at Vidya Vanam	9
Developments at School	10
Visits	13
Future Plans	15
Financials	15
Board Members	16
Trustees	16

# PRESIDENT'S LETTER



*Dear Readers*

As we review the myriad activities in the past year, we feel very proud of the way we do things and the results we see. The exposure given to the children through their visits to different places, interaction with many visitors both from India and overseas, and participation in internal and external programmes would have helped them to recognize that the world is bigger than what they see around them.

We were able to give them opportunities to learn about Nature, biodiversity and conservation, gender equality and equity, the rights of children and the importance of educating girls. Their involvement in drawing, painting, craft work, sports and performing arts is more than encouraging; a few of them seem to have abundant talent that we are uncovering. It is indeed joyful!

Vidya Vanam has consistently performed well in academics and 100% of our students have always cleared the board exams in X & XII standards. The credit for this goes to the students and teachers. We are also pleased to note that the graduating students get into courses of their choice in higher education institutions.

Our teachers are offered abundant opportunities to upgrade and enrich themselves in training programmes, workshops and visits to other institutions.

Two standard highlights held in alternate years are the National Conference on Education and the Annual Training Programmes for teachers. These two events bring experts to give meaningful insight to educators from different schools into specific themes covered, besides enriching them through their mutual interactions.

As we quietly render our service to the tribal children, we also receive our recognition in different ways. We were happy to receive visitors from the English and Foreign Languages University and Centre for Innovations in Public Systems, Hyderabad, and educators from the Unitarian Church of Washington D.C. as well as a few schools to learn about our methodology. Our Director, Ms. Prema Rangachary was awarded with a Certificate of Excellence by the Rotary Club of Chennai Spotlight. The proudest moment was her recognition by The Hindu with 'The World of Women Excellence in Academics and Education Award 2023'.

We are not resting on our laurels as we recognize that much more needs to be done to reach what we set out to do for our children. We are thankful to the parents for their cooperation and understanding. We are so touched by the untiring efforts of our teachers and staff at Vidya Vanam who rise to any occasion with their prompt responses, besides carrying out their core responsibility with the children. We are grateful to our donors, both India and overseas, for their continued support.

We will be happy to receive your comments and suggestions.

Kind Regards

*For Bhuvana Foundation*

*Bhooma Parthasarathy*

*President*

# ABOUT BHUVANA FOUNDATION



**Bhuvana Foundation** is a non-profit organisation founded in the year 2007. The Foundation is based in Anaikatti, Coimbatore and aims to provide comprehensive education and vocational training to the underprivileged and marginalised sections of society.

## ABOUT VIDYA VANAM

**Vidya Vanam** is the flagship project of Bhuvana Foundation. The school was started in 2007 with the aim of catering to the educational needs of the local tribal population. It is affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education and follows the NCERT curriculum. The school adopts a bilingual teaching approach, with classes conducted in Tamil and English.

The majority of the students are first-generation learners from communities in and around Anaikatti. Vidya Vanam prepares children for self-learning while acknowledging the rich cultural traditions of their village and the world in which they live. Here, each child is given the opportunity to form opinions and articulate them, thereby fostering a generation of unabashed dreamers.

## VISION

To nurture tribal children to become self-confident, motivated, knowledgeable and emotionally stable adults who will be the leaders and entrepreneurs of tomorrow

## MISSION

To provide a fear-free learning environment and a specially designed curriculum that integrates today's educational requirements with the community's unique needs

## OBJECTIVES

To build an integrated personality; achieved only when the intellectual, emotional and the physical needs are fulfilled.

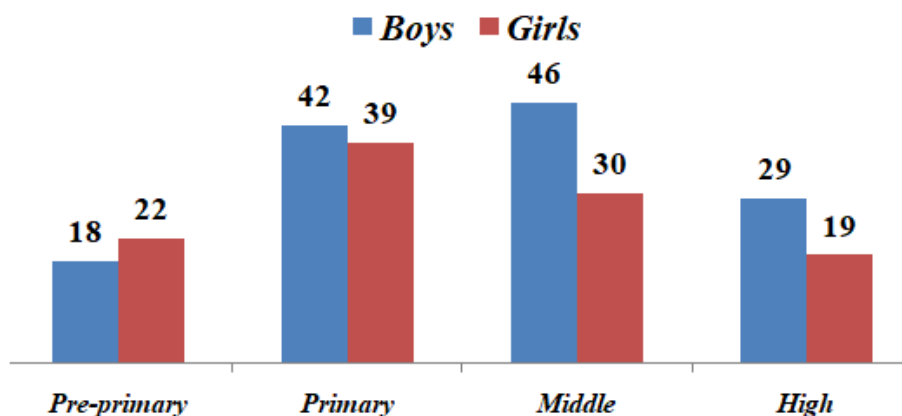
To build empathy for the environment, the community and all living creatures.

To ensure that children are free to voice their opinions, think critically and pursue their individual passions.

## STUDENTS & STAFF IN VIDYA VANAM

In 2007, Vidya Vanam started to function with 40 children and 4 teachers. Today, the student population at the school has increased upto 245. At present, the school has 25 full-time teachers and 21 non-teaching staff. Students are from the local tribal population, with a majority belonging to the Irula tribe, the Adi Dravidar communities and the OBC categories.

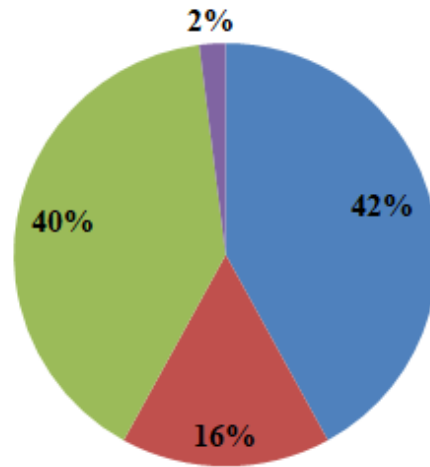
STUDENTS' PROFILE: GENDER DISTRIBUTION



Vidya Vanam's 245 children are distributed across LKG to Class 12, with 135 boys and 110 girls.

## COMMUNITY DISTRIBUTION

■ *ST* ■ *SC* ■ *BC* ■ *MBC*



Vidya Vanam has children from SC, ST, BC and MBC communities. They mainly hail from surrounding villages on both the Kerala and Tamilnadu sides of the border.

## NEW FACULTY LIST 2022-2023

NAME	SUBJECT
Y Nithya	English
G Prakash	Physics
S Kalpana	Mathematics
Kakuli Chatterjee	Hindi
Tharun Oommen	Physical Education
M Petchiammal	Special Education

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

## ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

### *Excelling in Exams*

In May 2022, the third batch of Class 10 and the second batch of Class 12 students who appeared for the CBSE board exams have passed. In February 2023, the next batch of Classes 10 and 12 appeared for the CBSE Board Exams as well.



### *Awards & Recognitions*

The Year 2022-23 was a celebratory one for our Director, Prema Rangachary. In August 2022, the Rotary Club of Chennai Spotlight presented her with a certificate of excellence for her work in the field of education. In March 2023, she also received The Hindu World of Women Excellence in Academics and Education Award at a function in Chennai.



### *Pursuing Higher Education*

All the students who graduated from Class XII (2021-22 batch) secured admission in well-known institutions such as Kumaraguru College of Liberal Arts, Avinashilingam College for Women, Kongunadu College and Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai, where two of our students M. Parameswari and R. Vaideki are pursuing programmes in Bharatanatyam and Carnatic Music .



### *National Conference & Project Day 2022*

In May 2022, Vidya Vanam conducted its Fourth National Conference on Education on the theme 'Technology in Education'. Dr. Sundar Sarukkai gave the keynote address and other speakers included Dr. B.S. Rishikesh, Sudarshana Srinivasan, Yashasvini Rajeshwar, Dr. Sriram Subramaniam, Dr. Mohan Raj, Dr. Karthikayani, Pankaja Srinivasan, Vishnu Thozhur Kolleru, Kanak Kataria and Lamia Bagasrawala.



In December 2022, Vidya Vanam celebrated Arivu 2022 on the theme 'Butterfly' for the Junior School and 'Clothes' for the Senior School. The event was inaugurated by Ms. Aparna Sunku, Coimbatore-based Fashion Designer and Jewellery Curator. Among the visitors were professors from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International School of Textiles and Management.



# CELEBRATIONS AT VIDYA VANAM

## ***World Indigenous People's Day***

On August 9, 2022 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples was celebrated. The chief guest, writer and poet Odian Lakshmanan, spoke to and interacted with the students.



## ***Independence Day Celebrations***

On August 15, 2022, Independence Day was celebrated at Vidya Vanam by hoisting the National Flag and singing the National Anthem.

## ***Sports Day 2022***

The school's 15th Sports Day was conducted on August 18. The chief guest Abdul Hakkim, former football player inaugurated the meet and gave away the prizes.



## ***Pongal Celebrations***

On January 13, 2023, students and teachers celebrated the Tamil harvest festival Pongal. They made delicious pongal and decorated the classrooms with kolams (traditional decorative art using rice flour and color powders).

## ***Republic Day***

On January 26, 2023, the school celebrated Republic Day. Prema Rangachary, director of Vidya Vanam, hoisted the national flag. All the students and staff participated.



## ***International Women's Day & Holi Celebrations***

On March 8, 2023 Vidya Vanam celebrated International Women's Day. Chief Guest P. Sangeetha, Assistant Editor, Times of India, Coimbatore, spoke about child rights and importance of education for girls. This was followed by the screening of the documentary film, 'He Named me Malala'. Students also celebrated Holi, the festival of colours, by smearing coloured powder on each other.

## ***World Book Day***

On April 21, the school celebrated World Book Day 2023. Students of Classes 7, 8, 9 and 11 participated in quizzes (English and Tamil) and art competitions and won prizes and certificates.



# DEVELOPMENTS AT SCHOOL

## ***Students exposing their talents***

In July, 2022, the school's volleyball team was placed fourth at an inter-school match held at Velammal Bodhi Campus, Erode.



Veda Prasad R. from class 8, M. Dharun from class 10 and R. Nishanth of class 12 were placed fourth in an inter-school chess competition held at Coimbatore Public School on July 30, 2022.



In December 2022, Methellesh GRS. and Shivesh K. from Class 9 won the third prize in the SATNC 2022 Quiz Competition held at SACON.

## ***Virtual meet***

In September 2022, Prema Rangachary spoke about the challenges of educating tribal children during a virtual meet with teachers from Lok Biradari Prakalp, which works for tribal education in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra.

## ***Board meeting***

Bhuvana Foundation, the parent body for Vidya Vanam, had its board meeting on December 9, 2022. The board members met the students and spoke to them about their studies, exam preparation and other activities.



## ***Teachers trip to Tilonia***

In the end of September 2022, the director, principal and a group of teachers visited Barefoot College and its Rural Education Centre at Tilonia, Jaipur, as part of the school's teacher enrichment programme.



## ***Teacher's workshop***

In the end of April 2023, the school conducted a series of workshops for teachers on topics such as Drama in the classroom (Kalieswari S.), Teaching Maths (Meena Suresh), Socio-emotional learning (Aruna Sankaranarayanan), Teaching Social Science (Anna Chandy) and Teaching Science (Jubimol J.).



## ***Reopening of the School***

Vidya Vanam reopened on June 13, 2022 for all the students after the COVID-induced break.

## ***An educational trip to Kanyakumari***

In July 2022, students from Class 12 went on a field trip to Kanyakumari accompanied by the Principal TM Srikanth and three other teachers. During their trip, they visited Maruthuva Malai, Kalikesam Forest, Vivekananda Rock, Devasahayam Pillai Church, Padmamabhapuram Palace and the office of Kalachuvadu Publications, a well-known publisher of Tamil books.



## ***Book Festival***

On July 30, 2022, students from Classes 7, 8, and 9 visited the Coimbatore Book Festival 2022 held at Codissia.

## ***Open library***

In December 2022, Dr. G.S. Sameeran, Collector, Coimbatore District, inaugurated an 'Open Library' at Vidya Vanam. Situated just outside the school gate, this initiative hopes to promote reading among the local community.



## ***Industrial Visits***

On December 15, 2022, students of Food Production from Classes 10 to 12 visited Welcomhotel by ITC and the Spar Hypermarket at Brookefields Mall in Coimbatore along with Mohamed Rafi, the Food Production teacher. They learnt about the various aspects of running a five-star hotel and how a departmental store arranges food products and produce for customers.



On December 21, 50 students from Classes 8, 9 and 11 and four teachers visited the Air Force Administrative College (AFAC) Museum and the GeeDee Car and Science Museum in Coimbatore. They saw models of helicopters and aircraft used in the Air Force and different models of vintage cars and G.D. Naidu's inventions and collections of electrical and electronic things.



On March 31, students of Automotive Engineering from Classes 9 and 11 visited the showroom of Detailing Wolves, a car servicing centre in Coimbatore.



## ***National Eco-fest***

On January 19, 2023 Students of Class 6 participated in the 'National Eco-Fest' conducted by AADI Foundation at Mattathukad, Kerala, and won prizes.



## ***Experiential learning to SACON***

On October 19, 2022 Ashiq P.P., research scholar from SACON, conducted a workshop about butterflies. The students later visited the Nilgiri Biosphere Nature Park (NBNP) for a Nature walk.

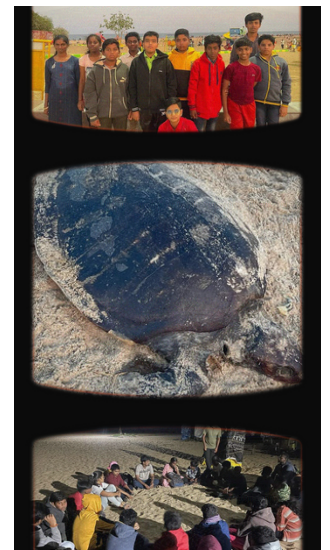


On February 17, 2023 students from Classes 3 to 5 participated in a nature walk at the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) and learnt about insects.



## ***Photography Exhibition***

On February 24, 2023, students from Classes 9 and 11 visited Kumaraguru College of Liberal Arts and Science for a photography exhibition conducted by Vaiyam, a Coimbatore-based creative collective.



## ***Turtle Walk***

On February 25, 2023, Class 8 students visited Chennai and went on a turtle walk organized by the Students Sea Turtle Conservation Network (SSCN).

## ***Craft Competition***

On July 23, 2022 students participated in Sahodaya Interschool Craft Competition at SSVN School of Excellence, Coimbatore.



# VISITS

On September 5, 2022, Well-known Tamil authors Salma and Kalanthai Peer Mohammed visited the school and interacted with the students.



In October 2022, Prof. V. Sudhakar from The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, and Prof. N. Upender Reddy, Advisor, Centre for Innovations in Public Systems (CIPS), visited the school to learn more about its methodology.



In October 2022, a group of final-year students from PSG College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore, conducted a programme on gender equality and equity for our Students. In November 2022, students and teachers from the PSG Music Department had a musical day with Vidya Vanam students.



On November 19, 2022 a group of 35 students accompanied by Dr. S. Sumathi and Dr. A. Shobana from the Department of Biochemistry, Biotechnology and Bioinformatics from Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore, visited the school and donated books for the library.



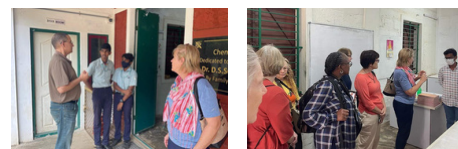
On November 25, 2022 students of Classes 6, 7, 8, 9 and 11 visited KKC & Sons, wholesale dealer of clothes in Erode, and learnt about weaving of saris and different types of silk used.



In February 2023, a group of 18 educators from the Unitarian Church, Washington D.C., the U.S., visited Vidya Vanam, interacted with students and spoke to the teachers to learn more about the school's methodology.



On February 10, 2023, Carnatic musician and author T.M. Krishna visited the school along with Palayam and Saravanan, two fishermen from Chennai. The two spoke to the students about the various kinds of fish found in the sea and the nets and tackles they used for fishing.



In March 2023, Prof. Dr. Kalyanaraman, author and Principal of Presidency College, Chennai, visited the school and spoke to the students about ancient and modern literature.



April 13, 2023 was the last working day for the students. On April 30, the school closed for the teachers.

# FUTURE PLANS

In the coming years, Vidya Vanam looks forward to bringing in plenty of resources to empower students. Particularly, we wish to:

- Expand the Math lab by providing additional learning materials for middle school.
- Enhance auditorium facilities by introducing a green room and wash rooms.
- To provide play area equipment exclusively for the kindergarten children .
- In addition to the sathu maavu kanji (health mix) already being provided, introducing protein supplements such as banana and egg during the morning break to overcome nutritional deficiencies.

## FINANCIALS

<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>TOTAL (INR)</b>
Affiliation Expenses	9200
Internet Charges	39,090
Sports Articles	56,551
Staff Welfare Expenses	1,89,350
Events	2,90,520
Kitchen Expenses	3,09,249
Uniform Expenses	4,31,555
Books, Stationery periodicals & Exam fees	7,05,041
Educational training/Excursion/Workshop	8,50,476
Building and Garden Maintenance	9,01,724
Honorarium & Remuneration	13,77,460
Vehicle Maintenance	14,29,109
Food & Refreshments	14,61,043
Salary & Wages	11,833,858
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>19,884,226</b>

# BOARD MEMBERS



BHOOMA  
PARTHASARATHY  
*President*



PREMA  
RANGACHARY  
*Secretary*



Dr. SUBRAMANIAN  
SRIRAM  
*Ex-Officio President*



JAGDISH DORE



V M KANNAN

# MEMBER TRUSTEES



NARAYANAN  
SUBRAMANIAM



MANISH SHAH



JAYASHREE VIVEK





VIDYA VANAM SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL  
(A UNIT OF BHUVANA FOUNDATION)

RECOGNISED BY GOVT. OF TAMILNADU  
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