



ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024



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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Readers

As we look back at the recent year, we are happy to note that our children received many opportunities to excel. It is heartening that Vidya Vanam is increasingly getting recognized as a school that provides relevant and meaningful education to each child.

I am happy to highlight a few notable recognitions for the year:

- Mrs. Prema Rangachary, Secretary of Bhuvana Foundation, received the prestigious NGO Leadership award on World CSR Day from Coimbatore NGO Leadership Awards 2023 for providing quality education to the children.

- She also spoke to the Unitarian Universalist congregation in Bethesda, Maryland, the U.S., about Vidya Vanam and its methodology.

- We hosted exposure visits for students and teachers from well-known institutions from Coimbatore like Avanashilingam University, PSG Institute of Architecture and Planning, G. R. Damodaran College of Education and from Digantar Shiksha Evam Khelkud Samiti, Jaipur.

- Dr. S. Thirumalmurugan, Founder Chairman, Adhiyaman Educational Institutions, Tamilnadu, Dr. Rudrayya Hiremath, Founder Principal & CEO, Indian Public School, Karnataka, and Dr. H.N. Chandrashekar, Administrator, The Scholars' World School, Karnataka, visited us to observe our methodology.

Such visits greatly encourage for our staff and students to continue to innovate and pursue excellence.

Svanubhava was an expose of different forms of music, dance and drama for 700 students from different schools of Coimbatore.

Our children won awards in many inter-school sports, art, craft and cultural competitions conducted by other schools.

They also participated in many in-house competitions, co-curricular activities and festivals. They also get a variety of experiences in observing special days like World Book Day, Mathematics Day, Teachers' Day, Children's Day, Women's Day, International Mother Language Day and many more.

The Project Days for Junior School & Senior School helped students to understand in depth the chosen themes. We were honoured to get the Tamilnadu's Honourable Minister for Information Technology, Dr. Palanivel Thiyagarajan as the Chief Guest for our Senior School's Project Day 'Arivu'.

Our students interacted with many visitors like the author-scholar Mr. Perumal Murugan; the Head of Tamil Department of the University of Madras, Dr. Y. Manikandan; and theatre artists Mr. Dharanidharan and Ms. Maya Hariharan.

New programmes provide teachers and students fresh energy and excitement. This year, we introduced Robotics for classes IV to IX.

Teacher training as an annual affair is a special offering not only to the teachers of Vidya Vanam, but also to the teachers of other schools. In the five-day workshop held at Anaikatti, the participants got insight into emerging new trends and methodologies in different subjects from experts in the field.

We rejoice about everything that we do. But for teachers, what better happiness is possible when the final results of the CBSE Board examinations reveal that we once again got 100 % pass results in both X & XII standards! Nothing else makes them feel their hard work was well worth it.

I can't but wonder how the teachers and staff are able to pack so many activities within a year and yet do their core job of preparing the children in classrooms so well.

We thank the parents, children and the staff of Vidya Vanam for making this yet another eventful year. We are grateful to the many overseas and Indian donors, who make this journey possible for Vidya Vanam. We count on their continued support to scale new heights from time to time.

It is indeed a great joy to be amidst children and that's what keeps Vidya Vanam such a vibrant and happy place.

Yours in the Service of Children



Bhooma Parthasarathy
President, Bhuvana Foundation

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.

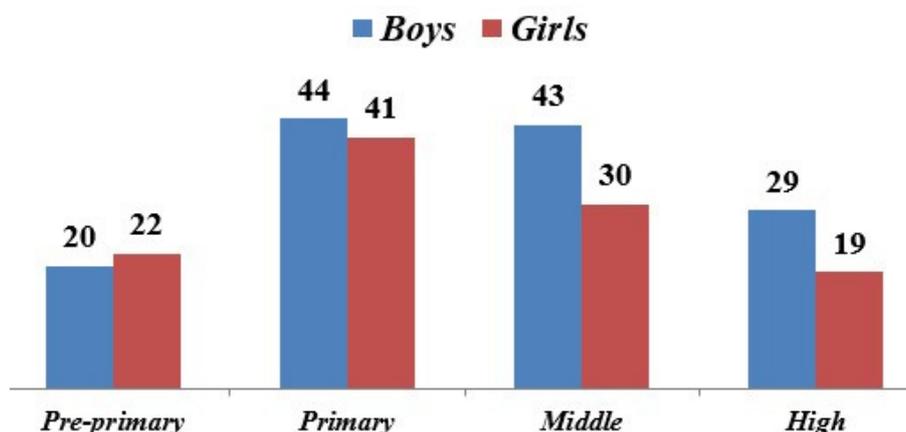
To build empathy for the environment, the community and all living creatures.

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

STUDENTS & STAFF IN VIDYA VANAM

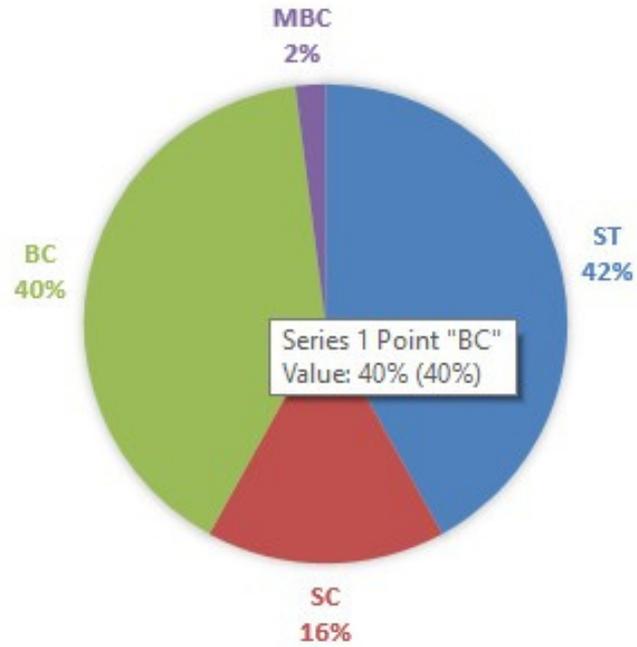
In 2007, Vidya Vanam started to function with 40 children and 4 teachers. Today, the student population at the school has increased upto 248. At present, the school has 25 full-time teachers and 21 non-teaching staff. Students are from the local tribal population, with a majority belonging to the Irula tribe, the Adi Dravidar communities and the OBC categories.

STUDENTS' PROFILE: GENDER DISTRIBUTION



Vidya Vanam's 248 children are distributed across LKG to Class 12, with 136 boys and 112 girls.

COMMUNITY DISTRIBUTION



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 2023-2024

NAME	SUBJECT
Anushya	Special Education
Janani	Special Education

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

Excelling in Exams

In May 2023, the fourth batch of Class 10 and the third batch of Class 12 students who appeared for the CBSE board exams have passed. In February 2024, the next batch of Classes 10 and 12 appeared for the CBSE Board Exams as well.

Awards & Recognitions

On May 11, Bhuvana Foundation (Vidya Vanam's parent organisation) was awarded the prestigious NGO Leadership Award for providing quality education to the children. Prema Rangachary, Secretary of Bhuvana Foundation, received the award on World CSR Day.



On May 21, Prema Rangachary spoke to the Unitarian Universalist congregation in Bethesda, Maryland, the U.S., about Vidya Vanam and its methodology.



Annual Day 2023

In September, school celebrated the Junior School and Senior School Annual Days. The Juniors performed a musical based on The Elves and the Shoemaker, a harvest dance, Stone Soup drama, and a pageant on costumes of India. The seniors performed dances from Assam, Goa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Japan. They presented plays based on the Tamil epic Manimegalai and the famous scene from the Tamil film Thiruvilaiyadal. Two choirs of students from Class 12 and Class 6 respectively performed songs in English.



Potato festival

On March 14, students from the Junior School hosted an exhibition on the Potato, the theme for the month. The chief guest Ms. Lavanya, Chief Coordinator of National Model School inaugurated the programme.



Svanubhava 2023

In June, Vidya Vanam conducted the fourth edition of Svanubhava, a festival of art and culture. Performances included folk music from Rajasthan, Bharatanatyam, Carnatic music, dances from Kerala such as Opana and Kolkali, a Tamil play Sangeetha Payithiyam and more. More than 700 students from various schools around Coimbatore participated.



Project Day 2023



In December 2023, Vidya Vanam celebrated Arivu 2023 for the Junior School. The Junior School Project on “Seeds” was inaugurated by Sreedevi Lakshmi Kutty, Co-founder of Bio Basics and Advisory Board Member of Bharat Agro-Ecology Fund.



On December 9, Vidya Vanam celebrated Arivu 2023 for the Senior School. Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, Minister for IT & Digital Services, Government of Tamil Nadu, was the Chief Guest for the Senior School project themed around “Money”. The Minister released the newspaper titled “Matters of Money” prepared by the middle & senior school students of Vidya Vanam and he also opened the wall painting done by the art students.



CELEBRATIONS AT VIDYA VANAM

Colours week

Vidya Vanam Junior School Students celebrated Colours Week from August 8 to 17 by conducting various games in the classroom.



Independence Day Celebrations

On August 15, 77th Independence Day was celebrated. The chief guest was Chennai-based theatre person Pralayan. After the National Flag was hoisted, the Junior School conducted a Science and Math Mela.

Sports Day 2023



On July 8, Vidya Vanam conducted its 16th Sports Day. The chief guest, R. Raju Srinivasan, Wing Commander (retd). from the Indian Air Force, inaugurated the meet and gave away the certificates and medals to the winners. The school gave gifts and certificates to all the students who participated in various sports and also honoured the non-teaching staff who have served for more than 10 years in Vidya Vanam.

Onam Celebration

On August 25, the school celebrating Onam. The students decorated classrooms with various pookolams and a sadya was served for lunch.



Pongal Celebration



On January 12, the students celebrated Pongal, the harvest festival in Tamil Nadu. They made pongal (a rice-based dish) and decorated the classrooms with kolams (decorating the floor with patterns made in coloured powders).

Holi Celebration

On March 25, the Students and teachers of Vidya Vanam celebrated Holi, the festival of colours.



DEVELOPMENTS AT SCHOOL

Talent show

On July 28, students from classes 10 and 11 participated in the 44th Coimbatore Sahodaya Interschool Boys Throwball Tournament at Honey Bunch Sr. Sec. School, Pollachi.



On August 5, students from Classes 4 to 7 participated in an Inter-School Craft Competition for Girls in Sree Saraswathi Vidya Mandir School, Mettupalayam.



From August 30 to September 1, 16 students from classes 11 and 12 reached the quarter-finals in the Sahodaya Interschool U-19 Boys Football Tournament held at Chandrakanthi Public School, Coimbatore.



On March 9, students from classes 4 to 9 participated in the regional finals of the JSW Futurescapes, a painting competition held in association with The Hindu Young World at Avinashilingam University, Coimbatore. They received participation medals and certificates



Board meeting

Bhuvana Foundation, the parent body for Vidya Vanam, held its Annual Board Meeting on February 18.

Drama Festival

On February 21, the school celebrated International Mother Language Day by hosting an inter-school Drama Festival. The chief guest Dr. L. Ramraj, Assistant Professor, Department of Tamil and In-Charge of the Drama Club at PSG College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore inaugurated the programme. Students of Vidya Vanam performed the play, The Bishop's Candlesticks. Students from Helikx Open School, Salem, PSBB Millennium School and Vivekalaya Matric Hr Sec School, Coimbatore also performed plays.



Reopening of the School

Vidya Vanam reopened on June 12, 2023 for classes 6 to 12 and June 1, 2023 for classes 1 to 5.

Field trip to Karnataka

Class 12 students went on a field trip to Mysore, Karnataka, accompanied by teachers Aniket Nandy, A. Mohammed Rafi and Y. Nithya. They visited St. Philomena's Cathedral, the Mysore Palace, Lalit Mahal Palace, Jagannmohan Palace, Natural History Museum, Rail Museum and Brindavan Gardens.



Robotics Class



On July 10, Vidya Vanam introduced a weekly Robotics class for students from classes 4 to 9. This will consist of 20 sessions over the academic year. The classes are conducted by i-Robochakra group from Coimbatore.

Industrial Visits

On August 12, students from Classes 11 and 12 went an Industrial Visit to LMW at P.N. Palayam with Nithya Raj, Business Studies teacher. The students learned about goods were initially handmade and are now machine made. They also saw the raw material blow room, and the various ways of processing cotton yarn such as ginning, spinning, weaving and carding.



Craft Competition

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



VISITORS TO VIDYA VANAM

On July 14, trainee teachers from Dr. G.R. Damodaran College of Education, Coimbatore, visited Vidya Vanam and observed its theme-based methodology.



On July 26, Dr. S. Thirumalmurugan, Founder Chairman, Adhiyaman Educational Institutions, Tamilnadu; Dr. Rudrayya Hiremath, Founder Principal & CEO, Indian Public School, Karnataka and Dr. HN Chandrashekar, Administrator, The Scholars' World School, Karnataka visited Vidya Vanam to observe its methodology.

On October 5, a group of 38 students and two faculty members from PSG Institute of Architecture and Planning, Coimbatore, visited Vidya Vanam to study the school's theme-based learning.



On October 18, a group of 37 students and three faculty members from the Department of Biochemistry, Biotechnology and Bioinformatics, Avinashilingam University, Coimbatore visited Vidya Vanam as a part of their Community Engagement and Social Responsibility (CESR) programme and conducted awareness programmes on body safety, personal hygiene, menstrual hygiene, first-aid measures, kitchen gardening and vermicomposting.

On December 16, Perumal Murugan, author, scholar and literary chronicler visited Vidya Vanam and interacted with the students.



Dr. Y. Manikandan, Professor and Head of the Department of Tamil Language, University of Madras, visited Vidya Vanam and spoke to the students.

On February 14, the kindergarten students went a field trip to Nilgiri Biosphere Nature Park (NBNP) to learn more about plants and their importance in the environment. April 23, 2024 was the last working day for the students.



On February 15 & 16, Pragya and Maria from Digantar Shiksha Evam Khelkud Samiti, Jaipur, visited the school to interact with the students and teachers and to observe how Vidya Vanam's methodology was put into action in the classroom.



April 23, 2024 was the last working day for the students.

FINANCIALS

EXPENSES	TOTAL (INR)
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
GRAND TOTAL	19,884,226

BOARD MEMBERS



BHOOMA
PARTHASARATHY
President



PREMA
RANGACHARY
Secretary



Dr. SUBRAMANIAN
SRIRAM
Ex-Officio President



JAGDISH DORE

MEMBER TRUSTEES



NARAYANAN
SUBRAMANIAM



JAYASHREE VIVEK



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

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