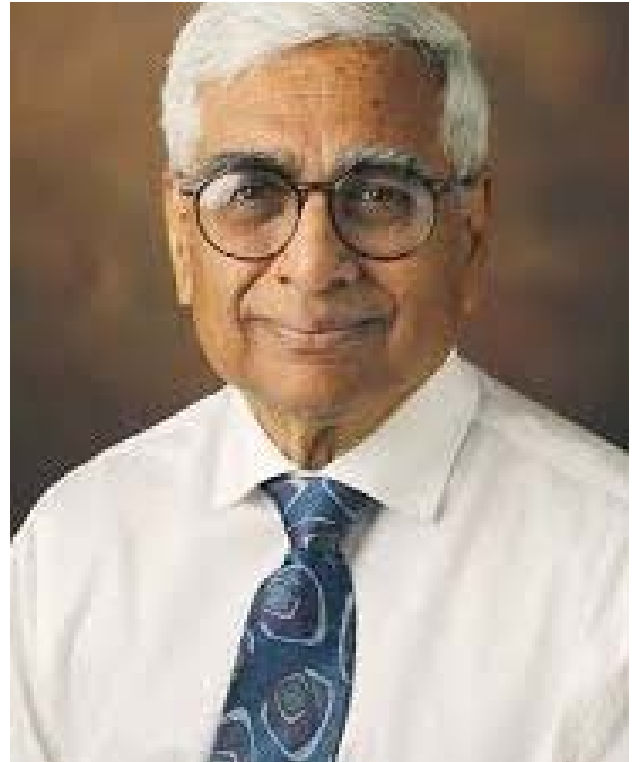


ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are entering our second decade of our enterprise. It has not gone unnoticed among the individuals in the trenches and doing the work, a recollection and of what we thought we would be 10 years ago was vague. It will be safe to say that we have exceeded our dreams and expectations in a number of ways. We have brought to the children of the rural and tribal community a learning centre, which is predicated on the ethos “Learn without fear”. We implemented a curriculum that put the children in the centre of the learning process, did away with rote learning and emphasised a culture of self-confidence, questioning and critical thinking. We have cultivated a culture in which the teacher is a guide to the learning and not an authority to be feared and perhaps revered.



After 10 years we know a learning centre as ours is possible. We do not have to churn out students like products in an assembly line but instead to give the opportunity for individuals to be confident within themselves of their capacity to grow and become key members of society.

That is not to say that we have compromised on the testing requirement either. Our students have taken the EDEXCEL IGCSE exam offered by the Pearson group and done very well. The exams were in English and they took the challenge and did exceedingly well. We confounded many of the pundits including the regional educational authorities here in Coimbatore with the outcome. I am hopeful that other schools will adopt the methodology and, more important, the culture of what it means to be educated. This is perhaps reflected in the visitors from different educational institutions who have come here and seen the happenings in person.

What are our next goals? We plan to present to the board centres of learning that focus on the arts and science. To this end I plan to propose the development and implementation of a “Visual Arts Centre” for a “Makers Workshop” where the creative talents of the children can be harnessed.

I will keep you apprised of these developments in the years to come.

Dr Sriram Subramaniam

ABOUT BHUVANA FOUNDATION



The Bhuvana Foundation is dedicated to serving the underprivileged and marginalised sections of society in rural India. The foundation focuses its efforts in the areas of education and vocational training. The foundation is registered under Section 12AA of the Income Tax Act, 1961, vide C.No. 627/07-08 dated 06-12-2007. Donations are exempt under Sec 80g of the Income Tax Act, 1961. Bhuvana Foundation is authorised to receive foreign donations under the FCRA Act, 2010 vide Registration No. 075901291.

Location

Bhuvana Foundation Registered office: 2A, 115A, Sivaswamy Salai, Chennai 600004.

Vidya Vanam is located on Thuvaipathy Road, Anaikatti, Coimbatore 641108

VISION, MISSION & OBJECTIVES

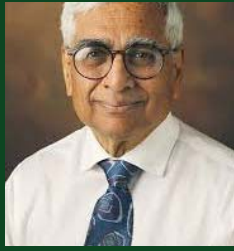
Vision: To nurture tribal children to become self-confident, motivated, knowledgeable, and emotionally stable adults who will be the leaders and entrepreneurs of tomorrow

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; To inculcate appreciation and respect for their culture, their knowledge base and the environment

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
- To ensure the cultural heritage of the tribal communities is weaved into the educational and academic curriculum

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF BHUVANA FOUNDATION INDIA



DR. SUBRAMANIAN SRIRAM

President
internationally recognised neuroscientist currently holding the William Weaver Chair in Experimental Neurology at Vanderbilt Medical Centre, Nashville, USA



PREMA RANGACHARY

Secretary & Director
Engineers innovative programmes by which art can enhance the understanding of language and sciences.



SHANTHI RANGANATHAN

Vice President
Social worker and the founder of T. T. Ranganathan Clinical Research Foundation. She is the first recipient of the UN Vienna Civil Society Award and also received the Padma Shri in 1992.

TRUSTEES

SUSHEELA RAGHAVAN

Chennai-based educational consultant

VASANTHA LAKSHMINARAYAN

Retired Science teacher

BHOOMA PARTHASASRATHY

Director, Thirumalai Charity Trust

JAGDISH V DORÉ

Sidvim LifeSciences

DR. N. UMA

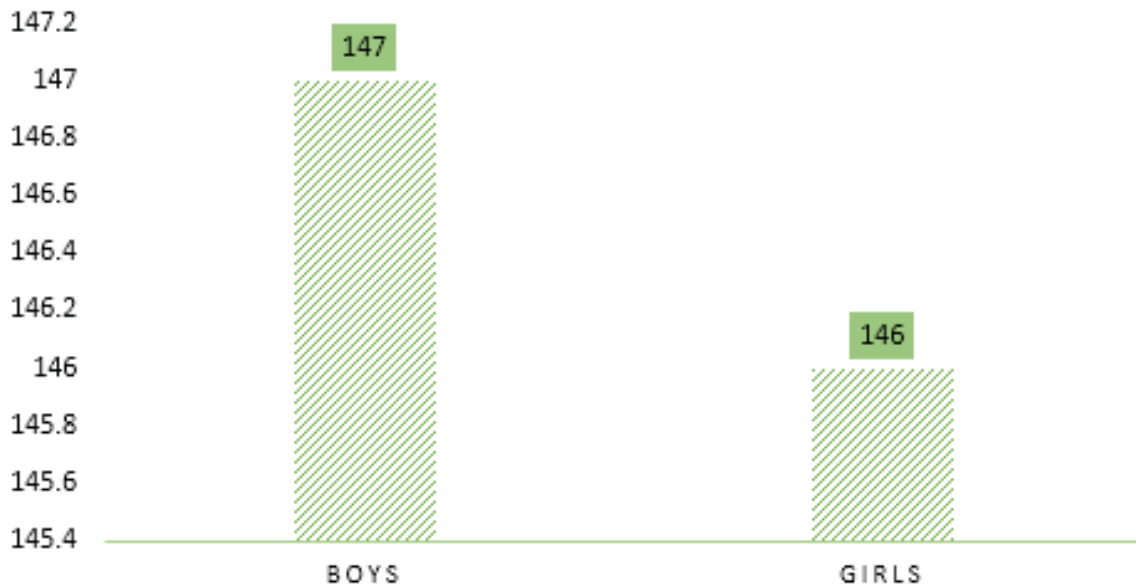
Paediatrician, Apollo Hospitals

PROFILE OF THE CHILDREN

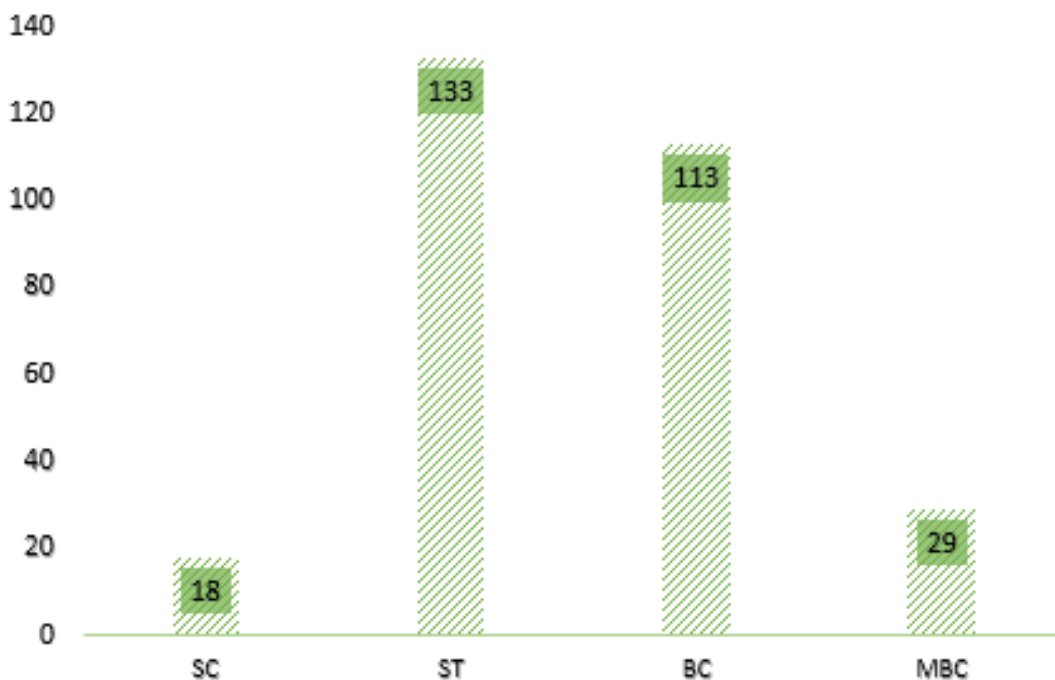
Anaikatti being on the border of Tamil Nadu and Kerala, Vidya Vanam has children coming from both states. The villages on the Tamil Nadu side are Anaikatti, Vadakalur, Thekkalur, KK Nagar, Arnatkadu, Kallkadu, Thuvaipathy, Jambukandi, Aalamaramedu, Kondanur, Pudur, Kandivali, Mangarai, Veerapandi, Thiruvalluvar Nagar, Singuli, Pattisalai, Kalany Pudur, and Aalangadi.

On the Kerala side, the villages are Anaikatti, Mandiamman Koil, Dasanur, Lakshamveedu, Vattalakki, Mattathukadu, Kallmukayur, Kottathora, Sandhakadai, Gulikadavu, Agali, Boothavali, Seerakadavu, Chavadiyur, Pudur, Aalamaran, Pattimelam, Vadakoththorai

GENDER DISTRIBUTION



COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION



FACULTY & STAFF

Vidya Vanam has full-time teachers for arts and crafts and physical education and part-time consultants for special educational needs assessment, dance, vocal and instrumental music. Pre-KG and primary teachers, classroom assistants are recruited locally so they are familiar with the tribal dialect. Middle and High School faculty are recruited from across India. The full-time faculty has the following levels of certification: UG & B.Ed, ECEd, BA, MA & B.Ed, PG & B.Ed, D. Ted; and MBA. Vidya Vanam also has part-time volunteers who come from India and abroad for short spells and help in various ways.

Vidya Vanam's staff, both teaching and non-teaching, is given medical insurance through the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC). The employee contribution is 1.75 per cent of his/her salary while the management contributes 4.75%.

Vidya Vanam's faculty saw the addition of three new teachers: Ms R. Rekha and Mr Sarbamit Chowdhury for senior school science; Ms Rashmi Rozario for senior school English.



SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Members present: TM Srikanth, Academic Head; Prema Rangachari, Director, Vidya Vanam; Uma Maheshwari and Prema Surendran, Teacher Representatives; Bindu, Parent Representative

The following points were discussed:

It was decided to declare all Saturdays as holidays and to make up the number of working days by working until the end of April.

It was also decided to have the sports day in the end of the first term in September.

It was decided to initiate the NIOS Diploma in Basic Rural Training (DBRT) as a pilot programme on the school campus. This will be for children above the age of 15 who will also be trained to take the Samacheer 10th std exam in March 2019. This way, when they will not only clear the 10th standard but also have a Diploma.

EVENTS

Annual Day: In 2017 Vidya Vanam completed 10 years and a grand Annual Day function was held in the PSG College of Technology Coimbatore. Students performed a Sri Lankan dance, the Russian Bereska, the sailor dance from the comic opera HMS Pinafore; a Bharatanatyam dance drama based on Tamil poet Inquilab's work on Avvai; the famous courtroom scene from Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice; an English play The House Next Door among others. The finale, a play in the Irula dialect and Tamil and based on the Tamil epic Silappathikaram, was received with much applause.

Project Day: The theme this year was Time and the children had created a short performance with poetry recitations and dances. The chief guest MA Baby, CPI-M Politburo member, inaugurated the exhibition. In social sciences, models of the development of weaponry and tools, how the invention of the wheel changed the transport systems and the past, present and future dwellings of man were displayed. In Maths, the focus was on timetables and clocks while the sciences looked at Big Bang Theory, phases of the moon, zodiac signs, movement of tectonic plates, evolution of man, lifecycles of various living creatures and games of various kinds. The languages presented models based on the stories of Ray Bradbury and HG Wells. In the arts section, the children had drawn self-portraits of their looks in the future. Mr Baby released a coffee table book that the children had produced and praised the children for their confidence and knowledge.



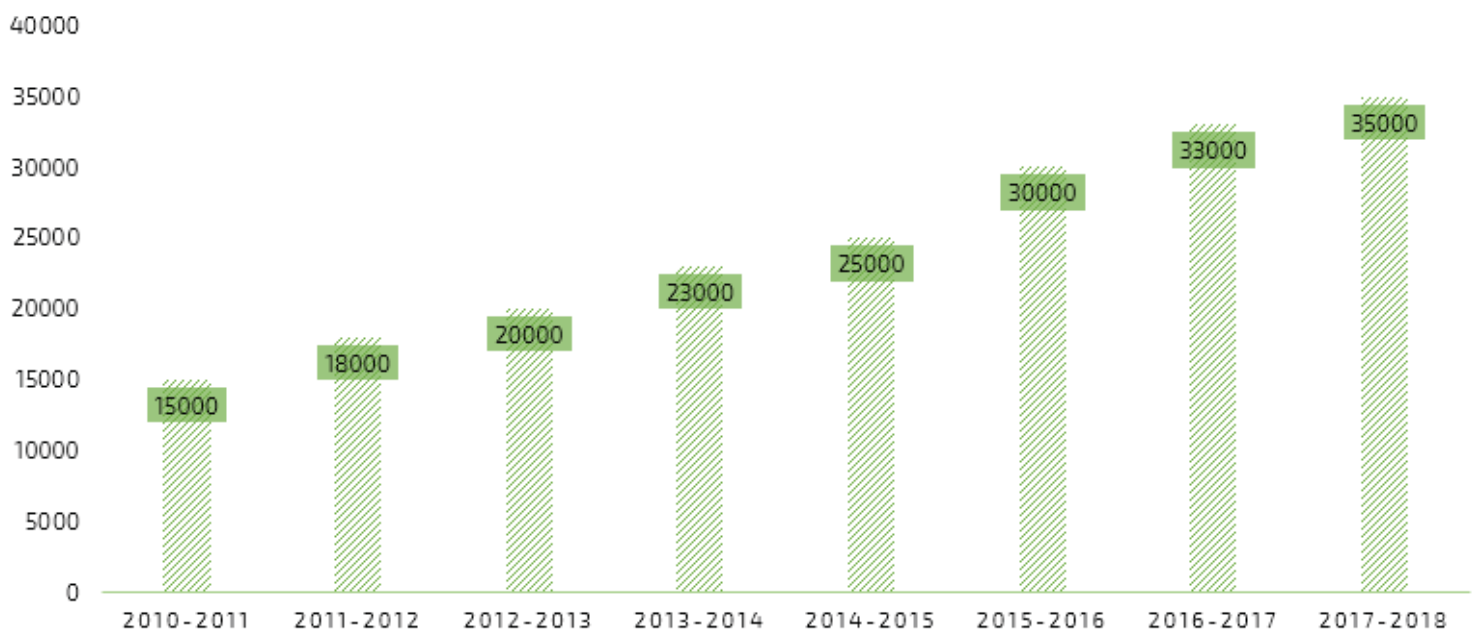
Svanubhava: In February Vidya Vanam over 700 students over two days for Svanubhava. Irula dances by Asad Kala Sangam, Tholpavaikoothu by Ramachandra Pulavar and troupe, Oyilattam and Paraiattam by Chennai-based Nanbargal Kalai Kuzhu, a nadaswaram recital by Kollengode Subramaniam, Yakshagana by a troupe from Purna Pragnya Yaksha Kala Kendra from Udupi, Kuchipudi by Kishore and Padmavani Mosilakanti, a rhythm ensemble and a street play by the drama club of PSG College of Arts and Science formed the programme. Stalls offered demonstrations of Irula food, Toda embroidery, Kota pottery, Kurumba paintings and Rajsthani lac bangles.

Chennai-based Perch Theatre performed Kira Kozhambu, a selection of tales from Ki Rajanarayanan's oeuvre at Vidya Vanam, while Theatre Nisha conducted a workshop on drama in the classroom for both students and teachers.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Expenses	Total
Affiliation expenses	94,835.00
Books, Stationery periodicals & examination fees	4,25,974.00
Building and garden maintenance	3,57,445.00
Kitchen expenses	1,44,863.00
Events	7,88,652.00
Educational training/excurison /workshop	4,65,281.00
Food & refreshments	14,69,909.00
Vehicle maintenance	9,32,623.00
Honararium & remuneration	5,43,635.00
Internet charges	1,84,580.00
Salary & wages	52,40,130.00
Sports Articles	30,790.00
Staff welfare expenses	2,68,435.00
Uniform expenses	32,389.00

COST PER CHILD 2017-18



ACHIEVEMENTS

- Prema Rangachary received two awards: Mahila Ratna Award for her Outstanding Contribution to Society in the field of Education given by the Bharathi Park Ladies Association, Coimbatore; and Woman Achiever award conferred by the Thrissur Obstetric and Gynaecological Association.
- She was also a delegate at two conferences on education: one in Chennai Children's Garden School, to celebrate its 80th Founder's Day, and the second held in Bengaluru by RV Education Consortium.
- Vidya Vanam was designated as the resource centre for training teachers from the government-run bridge schools and courses for dropouts in Attapadi district of Kerala. Around 125 teachers attended sessions on methodology, philosophy of education and child psychology.
- Vidya Vanam has initiated a teacher-training programme for those working in the villages around Gudalur in association with Vidyodaya Viswabharati.
- Yashasvini Rajeshwara, Senior English Teacher represented the school at an International Practicum on Innovative Solutions for Child Poverty conducted by Shanti Ashram
- Prakash of Aravalli (Std VIII) won the first prize for a painting on the theme "Stop violence" in Shanthi Ashram's Every Child is a Storyteller programme. Santosh of Krishna (std V) won the second prize in the Tamil storytelling competition on the same theme. In the Skill Angels programme, Shanthala and Dinesh of Vindhya (std IX) won the first and third prizes respectively. Prasanth of Hima (std X) also won the third prize. Ambika Lakshmi, Nishanth and Sanjay, all of Nilgri (std VII) were the school toppers at their level.
- In the National Geography Talent Test conducted by the Geography Association of India, Sharun of Nilgiri (std VII) won the first prize in the school.
- In September 2017, Basakhi Mehatori, Vidya Vanam's art teacher, was part of an exhibition, Perspectives, held at the Academy of Fine Arts in Kolkata. Her work was also showcased at the Art Revolution Taipei in May 2018.
- TM Srikanth, Vidya Vanam's Academic Director, was one of the delegates at a National Education Conference organised at the Mahatma Gandhi Hindi Vishwa Vidhyalaya at Wardha, Maharashtra. The theme was Schooling in the 21st Century, Changing Dimensions, Interventions and Emerging Alternatives. Srikanth spoke about attitudes to education and Vidya Vanam's work.



CONTACT US

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