

Vidya Varta

AUGUST 2019



**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT
TO EMPOWER THE WOMEN
OF OUR COMMUNITIES!**

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Dear friends,

Women are the pillars of our Indian Society and when they are empowered, an entire generation is empowered. Through this newsletter, we wish to celebrate our women and encourage people to help secure a bright future for them.

VIDYA puts in concerted efforts to promote the independence of the women in the neighboring communities. Our two initiatives- Mandira Margam and Pappankalan- aim to empower women to achieve independence, become entrepreneurs and build capability to secure a promising future. The Mandira Margam, which is located in the VIDYA School Campus runs the Shringar and the Singer Silai programs for the women and the Pappankalan branch runs the Silai Kendra for the women of the neighboring communities. Both the centers now boast of a good strength of students and have placed them in impressive employment opportunities.

The month of August rang in the Independence Day and numerous celebrations were conducted in the different centers of VIDYA, the Vidya School, Bal Vihar and its SDMC Schools. Numerous volunteering activities were conducted as well and the students benefited by learning new skills, from the volunteers.

Happy Reading!

MANDIRA MARGAM

Mandira Margam is the Women's Training Centre of VIDYA. It was initiated by the organization, as an ambitious project, focusing on the empowerment of women, by training them, with various vocational skills, so that they could train themselves, in their respective areas of interest and be empowered and surge towards an employment opportunity, in the future. In the year 2017 December,

Ms Charu Sangal joined the organization. She established the Shringar and the Ahaar Programs in the center. She recruited instructors and primarily focused on the mobilization of the neighboring communities, so that they develop a faith towards VIDYA and understand as to how much benefit, the women would be attaining, after completing the courses.

The Shringar program students completed a 6 months Basic Course, post which they gave an exam, conducted by the Shehnaz Beauty Academy. The Ahaar program became a success as many of the pass outs became home chefs and made Cakes and Chocolates, or started working in high end households, which required, Intercontinental Cooking prowess. In fact, one of the students is having her own Business Card too! She proudly flaunts it when she meets a prospective client and cracks a deal, after she understands her requirements, along with the financial nitty gritty.

A survey was conducted in relation to any requirement or interest of the women of the communities and it focused on gauging the needs of the women and what more did they want to learn and what was their inclination. After this survey the Silai Kendra was established, along with a tie-up of Singer and students were admitted for a Sewing course as well.

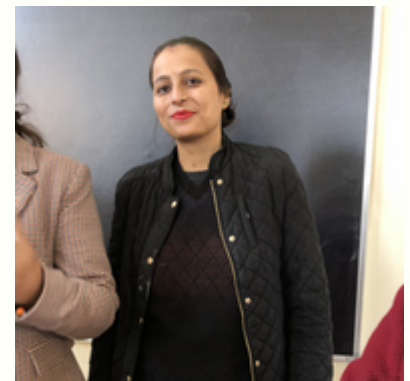
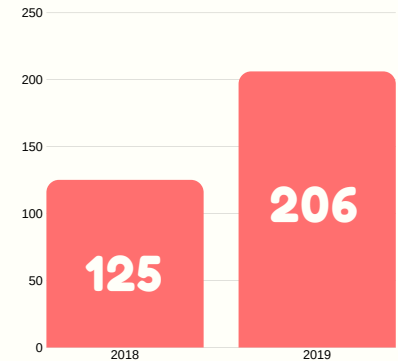
After the batches completed courses, extremely positive developments took place and students got placed in UrbanClap, some opened their own set ups in their homes, while others started freelancing and provided home visits to their clients. The women are now earning anywhere between 10000 to 80000 per month!

Usha, a Shringar student, joined Mandira Margam, when she was unsuccessful in running her own parlour, due to lack of adequate training. Now she has joined Urbanclap and she is earning Rs 70,000 to 80,000 per month.. Similarly Sudha, our ambitious student, from Nathupur village, was in a serious financial problem, when she joined us, but due to her continued determination, to amke ends meet, she trained hard, at the institute and joined Urbanclap and is now comfortably earning Rs 50,000 per month.

. Our success stories inspire us to keep working towards making a bright future for the ladies who approach us and we take utmost care to give them all the confidence they need to make a life for themselves.

.Charu Sangal and her team have put extreme efforts in making the center reach its present state and they certainly are charged up, by seeing the futures secure of their students. Henceforth they are doubling their efforts, in further mobilizing the neighboring communities, to enroll more and more students for the courses offered at the center.

BENEFICIARIES IMPACTED



Usha a former parlour owner, now an Urbanclap Employee



Sudha a successful Urbanclap Employee



PAPPANKALAN

VIDYA had a vision, a vision wherein it envisaged the future of not only the children of the underprivileged communities, but of the women too, as it strongly believed in the fact that once the women of a household are empowered, then the entire family is empowered and it progresses towards a bright future. VIDYA Pappankala opened its doors way back in 1997, with a progressive Adult Literacy Program for the women, exclusively. The program focused on developing the basic knowledge of the women and how they handled their day to day issues, like reading the bills, doctors' prescriptions, reading Bus route numbers, calculating the money transactions, filling in bank details and a number of other basic needs, wherein their being educated was imperative. The course ran smoothly for a few years. But, during the duration of the course, there was constant feeler from the students, that they wanted to learn sewing skills and ultimately after conducting a survey, in the neighboring community, the center started a sewing program in 2010, which primarily focused on imparting embroidery skills.

In 2011, five sewing machines were procured and a trained instructor was employed to teach them the sewing skills. But, this course was not granting them any certificates for the courses, offered to them.



Rubina , who has her own home set-up



Sangeeta an ambitious boutique owner

Sangeeta, the eldest among her siblings, belonged to a humble background. She joined VIDYA Pappankala, with a lot of apprehensions, but at the end of the course, she mustered a lot of confidence and now she is a proud owner of a Boutique of her own!

Rubina is similar example of a success story, of this branch, wherein she joined the centre, due to financial issues. at her home and after the course, she opened her own set up at her home.

Today many of the centre's passouts are comfortably placed, and working according to their own dreams and aspirations.

In 2018 along with a tie-up with USHA, a course was initiated in the center and students took to it, with full enthusiasm and were keener on learning the course, rather than continuing with the literacy program. In the beginning, around 16 women registered for the course, which increased to 30 in the coming months.

After a 6 Month Course, the students felt confident enough to open their own boutiques, in their homes! Some began sewing for individual clients on a free hand basis, while others, joined boutiques and tailoring units. Presently around 30 to 35 students pass out from the center, and are armed with certificates from USHA and either they earn from their own set ups or work for clients, who provide them with orders.

Indu Ma'am, the coordinator of this Branch derives extreme satisfaction from the fact that the women, who are now proudly running their own boutiques, were once so shy, that wouldn't even talk openly to their fellow students.

Volunteering Activities



LODESTAR

The Lodestar volunteers conducted a workshop on menstrual hygiene, on the 21st of August 2019. In Mandira Margam, the workshop had volunteers, who discussed, at length about the precautions that the women must exercise, in relation to their menstrual hygiene. The women were explained, as to how the use of cloth was not good for their health and how the use of pads was very safe.

The age-old myths, surrounding the menstrual cycle were busted and a discussion was made, in relation to their authenticity. The School students were also exposed to a similar talk and at the end of the session, Stayfree pads packets were distributed to the students and women.



SRF WORKSHOP

The SRF Volunteers conducted an interesting workshop for the students of class 8, where the Microsoft professionals guided them to hone their skills in Excel and explained to them, how to do a detailed study of the graphs, how to record age and different subjects. They were taught how to type on an Excel sheet. The students were excited to learn these new skills and tried to learn to the best of their capabilities.



MOODY'S

The Mandira Margam women learned a lot about the latest financial procedures and apps, from the Moody's Coordinators at a workshop conducted at the campus. They were taught, as to how net banking was extremely convenient. How the use and knowledge, of Google Maps was the need of the hour for all individuals.

Paytm has made life easier, for one and all, henceforth the women were taught how to use the app. They were explained the difference between debit cards and credit cards. Each woman especially, should be made aware of these basic financial apps and transactions, as they would be using them in their day to day lives.

Moody's coordinators conducted the workshop in an informal and interactive manner so that the women clarified all their doubts without any hesitation.





An Interview with our devoted employee Hansi Devi Ghugtyal

Hansi Devi, our very sincere and devoted employee of the Bal Vihar Branch, is a prime example, of devoted service, towards her employers and VIDYA. She joined VIDYA, way back in 1995 and is with us, since then. She is an extremely affectionate and highly responsible employee, who takes care of the meals, of the children and of the various other kitchen responsibilities and cleaning chores of the centre.

She takes utmost care of the children, when they get injured during play and provides them with first-aid care, quickly. The guests which arrive at the centre are well taken care of by her, as she provides them with tea and refreshments, as guided by the teachers. She is of constant help to the staff, at various junctures and takes care of their needs too. The centre remains spic and span and well taken care of under the careful and responsible aegis of Hansi Devi.

VIDYA values such employees and appreciates the fact that they are completely devoted towards their purpose and provide exemplary service to one and all.



INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION



Flag Hoisting by our chief guest Sangeeta Sindhi Bahl



Hauz Khas Independence day Celebrations



Flag Hoisting by Anil Sharmaji at the Sarvapriya Vihar Branch

The events of the day unfolded, with numerous songs and dances and the highlight of the event was an amusing play presented by the senior students.

They made an attempt to depict, as to what Independence Day, meant in the modern times, by presenting the mindset of the youngsters and how the thought process has changed gradually through the years.

The event came to a closure with another amazing play conducted by the NIOS Students, wherein, they depicted the gender bias and how the education of the girl child is of paramount importance.

Independence Day was celebrated in the Bal Vihar and the SDMC Schools as well, with equal fervour and excitement as the ViDYA School. There were numerous dances, speeches, poem recitals and entertaining plays, conducted all through the centers and schools alike.

Each student showed deep interest in participation and enjoyed every moment of all the activities conducted for the events. Independence Day is always celebrated with joy and complete involvement of the staff and the students alike, this time it was no

Independence Day was celebrated with immense fervor and joy, in the VIDYA School Gurugram and the Bal Vihar and SDMC Schools(Delhi-NCR), on 15 th August 2019.

The air was thick with excitement and the children were fully prepared with their respective acts, on this day . At the VIDYA School Gurugram, the preparations started quite a few days, before the actual event. On 15 th August the event was one of its kind, with an exceptional Chief Guest, Sangeeta Sindhi Bahl, the oldest Indian Woman to scale the Mount Everest.

After the flag hoisting, she stepped onto the stage and filled the atmosphere with her inspiring talk and joyous interaction, with the students, by relating her experiences of her extraordinary journey, of climbing the Everest and other peaks, in an excited manner.



Patriotic Song sung by the students of VIDYA School Gurugram



Dance by Grade 2 at VIDYA Sarvapriya Vihar



Song by Music Basti at the PTS Branch

VIDYA is grateful to its supporters for their contribution. Your kind gesture creates an opportunity for imparting quality education and earning a respectful livelihood to those who were otherwise denied it. Thank you so much for believing in our vision. We look forward to your continuous encouragement, as none of what we do shall be possible without it.

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