

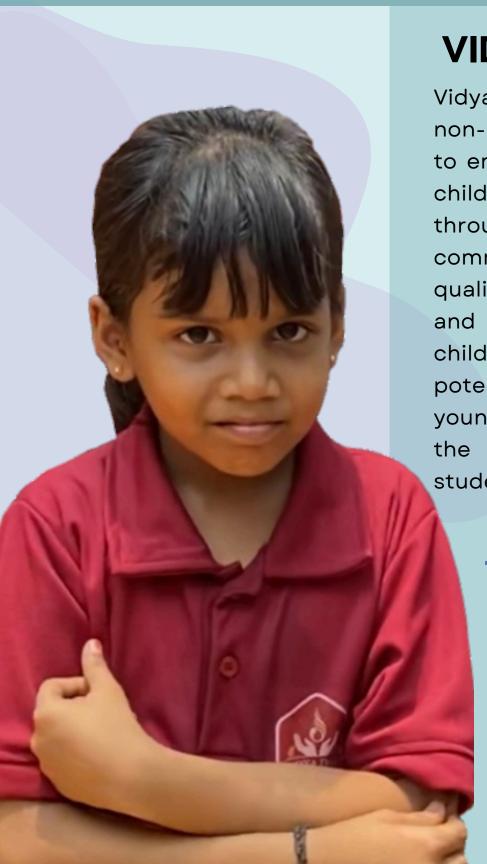








ANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF VIDYADAAN



VIDYADAAN

VidyaDaan Foundation, non-profit organization, aims to empower underprivileged children, youth and women through education. We are committed to providing quality education in India and helping disadvantaged children to realize their full to inspire the potential young generation to work for the development of rural students.

"Empowering minds, enriching through education"

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Reflecting on a Year of Impact: A Message from the Chief Editor

"The best way to predict the future is to create it." - Peter Drucker

As we turn the page on another remarkable year, I am both honoured and excited to share the highlights of our journey through this annual newsletter. Serving as the chief editor has granted me the privilege of witnessing firsthand the extraordinary work being done across various programs, and I am thrilled to present the fruits of our collective labour.

This past year has been one of growth, resilience, and unwavering commitment. From innovative initiatives to impactful outreach, each program has contributed to our vision of creating a lasting difference in the communities we serve. The success of these programs underscores our ability to adapt and thrive, even in the face of challenges.

We are proud to have expanded our outreach, connecting with more individuals and groups than ever before. This year, we embarked on several new projects designed to address emerging needs and opportunities. Our ISEP, The Language Toolkit, Legal Literacy, Financial Literacy and many other have already begun to show promising results, and we are excited about the potential for future impact.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the dedication of our volunteers, staff, and supporters. The tireless efforts, creative ideas, and generous contributions have been the driving force behind the

As we look forward to the coming year, we remain committed to our mission and eager to build on our successes. We have ambitious plans and new goals that will guide us as we continue to serve our community and make a positive difference.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey. Together, we are not just imagining a better future-we are actively creating it.



Shweta Batra Chief Editor, ARPAN Program Coordinator, VidyaDaan Foundation

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ARPAN 2024 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear all, Greetings from VidyaDaan!

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude and joy, seeing the impact of our collective efforts. Our annual newsletter, ARPAN 2024, showcases our journey, milestones, and the lives we've touched.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to our dedicated volunteers and supporters, who are the backbone of our organization. Your selfless contributions have enabled us to empower underprivileged children and youth through education.

At VidyaDaan, our vision is to create a society where every individual has access to quality education, unlocking their full potential. Our mission is to bridge the educational gap, fostering a culture of learning, growth, and development.

We believe that education is the cornerstone of empowerment, and we are committed to making a difference in the lives of rural children and youth. Through our programs and initiatives, we strive to create a ripple effect of positive change, impacting generations to come.



Prashanth Belinja

Founder & President VidyaDaan Foundation

As we look to the future, I invite you to join us in our quest to educate, empower, and transform. Together, let us create a brighter tomorrow for all.

Thank you for your unwavering support.

VIDYADAAN'S IN-SERVICE SKILLS ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME (ISEP) FOR EDUCATORS RECEIVES **OVERWHELMING RESPONSE**

VidyaDaan's ISEP training sessions exceeded my expectations! The wellstructure, knowledgeable organized facilitators, and engaging activities made for a valuable learning experience. Highlights included relevant content and practical strategies. I highly recommend this program for professional growth and development.

Radhika KC, Teacher, KEM Secondary School



Mrs. Padmaja Marathe Resource Person

All of us don't have equal talents, but all of us have an equal opportunity to develop our talents." - APJ Abdul Kalam This statement stands as a true testimony for ISEP, organized VidyaDaan. It manifests that promises and commitments made to ourselves are not to repeat the shortcomings but to equip ourselves for a better teaching-learning process. It is said that learning is an ever-going process; it never ends. Being associated as a resource person, I have equally got a platform to share my experiences and have many takeaways from the programs to excel as an educator.

In a bid to enhance the skills of educators in line with National Education Policy (NEP) In-Service VidyaDaan's Skills **Enhancement** Programme (ISEP) has emerged as a grand success. The ongoing programme, which conducts sessions every Saturday from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., has already benefited over 15,000 teachers.

ISEP's comprehensive training sessions cover various topics, empowering educators to upgrade their skills and stay updated with the latest teaching Upon successful methodologies. completion, participants are awarded e-certificates, recognizing their enhanced expertise.

The programme's impact is evident in the overwhelming response from educators, with over 14,000 teachers having attended the training sessions so far. As ISEP continues to thrive, VidyaDaan remains committed to supporting educators in their professional growth, ultimately contributing to the betterment of the education sector.



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THE LANGUAGE TOOLKIT





"Empowering Communities through Language"

We are excited to share the progress of 'The Language Toolkit' programme, a collaborative effort between VidyaDaan Foundation and StoryHour UK. This comprehensive 5-session programme is ongoing, empowering individuals to enhance their English language skills, build confidence in communication, and unlock new opportunities.

Through interactive sessions and engaging activities, participants are improving their listening and reading comprehension, expanding their vocabulary, and gaining clarity of speech. The programme is also encouraging creative writing and self-expression, unleashing the potential of our participants.

I'm really enjoying the Language Toolkit Workshops arranged by Vidyadaan. It's wonderful to see the children's faces light up with possibilities and interest as we explore each aspect of Language and Communication. They're a great bunch of kids from varied backgrounds!

Neelima Penumarthy Director, StoryHour UK



We are grateful for the support and look forward to continuing to empower communities through language. Stay tuned for updates on the programme's progress!



The Language Toolkit is making a significant impact, enabling participants to:

- Improve their language skills and communication confidence.
- Enhance their personal and professional growth.
- Connect with diverse cultures and ideas.

I benefited from VidyaDaan and StoryHour UK's Language Toolkit program, led by Neelima ma'am, which enhanced my English skills through engaging sessions, improving my speaking, listening, reading, and writing abilities, with significant impact.

Pranathi R Ranjeev, Student Chinmaya Vidyalaya Kasaragod



ADOPTING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE: 'SEEDS OF SUSTAINABILITY' SUMMER CAMP INSPIRES YOUNG MINDS

The VidyaDaan Foundation's 'Seeds of Sustainability' Summer Camp concluded on March 30, 2024, leaving a lasting impact on its young participants. The three-day camp, held at Good Shepherd School, Hosapete, Karnataka, aimed to instill principles of sustainability and environmental stewardship in children aged 8-12.



CAMP HIGHLIGHTS:

- Guided nature walks and eco-hikes to explore local biodiversity.
- Hands-on activities like leaf painting, clay modeling, and nature journaling.
- Outdoor adventure games promoting teamwork and physical activity.
- Healthy and sustainable food options, including a picnic lunch.



In a bid to cultivate eco-consciousness and environmental stewardship among the next generation, VidyaDaan Foundation organized a transformative "Seeds of Sustainability" Summer Camp. Held at the Good Shepherd School in Hosapete, Karnataka, this threeday camp concluded on March 30, 2024. The camp's mission was clear: to instil principles of sustainability in children aged 8-12. Through guided nature walks, handson activities like leaf painting and clay modelling, and outdoor adventure games that fostered teamwork, young participants not only had fun but also imbibed valuable lessons. The commitment of the VidyaDaan Foundation extends beyond this camp—it marks the beginning of their efforts to inspire a new generation of environmentally conscious leaders. Ms. Sarah Patnaik, the camp coordinator, emphasized that the "Seeds of Sustainability" Summer Camp is more than just recreation; it's a vital step toward a greener, more sustainable future.



Kshama Bhat A Blue Print for Success



Academic Excellence

Kshama Bhat, a CBSE Class 12 topper from Chinmaya Vidyalaya Kasaragod and dedicated volunteer of VidyaDaan, shares her inspiring journey. She emphasizes consistent study, deep understanding, balance as key factors in her Kshama success. credits her teachers and family for their unwavering support and guidance.

Holistic Development

Beyond academics, Kshama values extracurricular involvement in shaping a well-rounded personality. Her volunteer work with VidyaDaan has helped her develop empathy and social responsibility, instilling a sense of purpose. Kshama prioritizes mental health, using mindfulness practices and regular breaks to maintain well-being.

Inspiring Future Generations

Kshama aspires to pursue higher education and make a meaningful impact. She commits to lifelong learning, societal contribution, and volunteerism. Her journey shows that success requires strategic planning, balance, and resilience. Kshama inspires students to aim for academic excellence and a holistic approach to life, unlocking their full potential.

VIDYADAAN CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP A RESOUNDING SUCCESS



CATEGORIES AND WINNERS

The tournament was conducted in various categories, with winners receiving trophies and merit certificates.

All participants were awarded participation certificates, acknowledging their enthusiasm and involvement in the championship.



We are thrilled with the response to the tournament and look forward to organizing more such events in the future," said Mr. Prashanth Belinja, President of VidyaDaan Foundation Over 300 participants from Kerala and Karnataka battled it out in Badiadka, Kasaragod District, at the VidyaDaan Chess Championship, organized by VidyaDaan Foundation on 13 May, 2023. The tournament, held at Chinmaya Vidyalaya Badiadka, saw an impressive turnout and was conducted smoothly under the guidance of Chief Arbiter Mr. Prasanna Kumar Rao from Mangalore.



VidyaDaan Foundation's initiative to promote chess among the youth has received widespread appreciation. The foundation aims to support and develop young talent in various fields, including sports and games.



VidyaDaan Summer Camp 2024 Empowers Young Minds with Creativity and Learning



The Ira Auditorium in Badiadka was abuzz with excitement over the weekend as the VidyaDaan Summer Camp 2024 took place on April 12th and 13th. The two-day camp offered children an enriching experience, combining creativity, teamwork, and exploration.





Day 1 began with icebreaker games, setting the tone for a fun and interactive environment. Participants in various engaged activities, including canvas painting, envelope making, and clay modeling. Refreshing breaks and additional icebreaker fostered games camaraderie and teamwork.





Day 2 started with an adrenaline-packed adventure games session, followed by an exhibition showcasing diverse art forms and a hands-on book-making activity. The day concluded with a cooking without fire session, where children learned to prepare delicious dishes using simple techniques.

Empowering young minds is our mission! Vidyadaan Summer Camp was a resounding success, thanks to our dedicated team and enthusiastic participants. We witnessed creativity, laughter, and growth. Together, let's continue to inspire and educate, creating a ripple effect of positive change in our community!

Sandeep P, Executive Member, VidyaDaan



culminated in a vibrant valedictory ceremony, with certificate distribution and words of appreciation. A lively campfire with songs, dances, and games provided a memorable closing to the event. As participants departed, they carried with them cherished memories, newfound friendships, valuable lessons, and the spirit of the VidyaDaan Foundation's motto: Empowerment Through Education.

Financial Literacy Empowering Your Financial Future Prashanth Relinia VIDYADAAN FOUNDATION

VIDYADAAN LAUNCHES FINANCIAL LITERACY **TOOL FOR CHILDREN**

VidyaDaan introduces a self-learning module to teach children personal finance basics like saving, investing, and budgeting. This innovative tool promotes critical thinking and competency, empowering kids to make informed money management decisions. By offering free access, VidyaDaan aims to bridge the financial education gap and make it an essential part of school curriculum, equipping future generations with confidence in personal finance.



UPCOMING VIDYADAAN STUDENT RESEARCH PROGRAM (VSRP)

The Vidyadaan Student Research Programme (VSRP) is a pioneering initiative that empowers students with hands-on research experience, critical thinking skills, and the opportunity to publish their paper under expert guidance. Through this programme, students in classes 6 and above are paired with experienced mentors for a flexible 3–12 month duration, allowing them to explore the world of research, develop essential skills, and unlock their full potential.

Research is where your ideas today would shape the world tomorrow. It is the gateway to invention and innovation. While you, as students, explore your interests to solve reallife world problems, you are also contributing to make this world a better place. It helps carve your place in the world.

Dr. Indira VMD

Programme Coordinator, VSRP Academic Advisor, VidyaDaan

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SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED

The Vidyadaan Scholarship Program is set to launch on November 18th, 2024, coinciding with the VidyaDaan Foundation Day. This initiative aims to support meritorious students from economically backward backgrounds in classes 3 to 10, who have secured a minimum of 80% marks in their examinations. Exceptional cases, including students with special talents, disabilities, or those without parental support, will be considered with relaxed percentage criteria. **UPCOMING**

Applications will be available on the VidyaDaan official website: www.vidyadaanfoundation.org from November 18th, 2024.



EMPOWERING DREAMS VIDYADAAN FOUNDATION'S INITIATIVE



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GET IN TOUCH! hello@drawmycareer.com On October 20, 2023, VidyaDaan Foundation distributed study materials to underprivileged children at No. 5 Anjukpani LP School in Nagaon, Assam. Mr. Damodar Bhattrai led the distribution, filling the school with joy and gratitude. Children expressed sincere thanks, acknowledging the impact on their lives. They offered prayers for the foundation's prosperity, recognizing President Mr. Prashanth Belinja's dedication. This milestone affirms the foundation's commitment to crafting a brighter future for underprivileged children in Assam. VidyaDaan continues to empower rural children through online and offline sessions, shaping a hopeful tomorrow.



Schools now teach Legal Literacy as part of the Curriculum

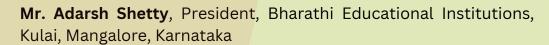




VidyaDaan Foundation's School-Based Legal Literacy Program (SBLLP) has made a significant impact on the educational landscape in India. This pioneering initiative has successfully integrated legal literacy into the school curriculum, empowering grade IX students with essential knowledge of legal concepts and rights. The program's unique features, including a 10-hour short duration certificate course, self-learning modules in pictorial format, and an examination on Legal Literacy, have made it an engaging and effective learning experience for students. The SBLLP has been implemented by numerous CBSE, ICSE, and State Board schools across India, demonstrating its adaptability and relevance in diverse educational settings. By partnering with VidyaDaan Foundation has ensured that legal literacy becomes an integral part of the curriculum, rather than a standalone program. This approach has enhanced students' understanding of legal concepts but also fostered critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and responsible citizenship.

The program's impact extends beyond the classroom, as students become more aware of their rights and responsibilities, enabling them to navigate everyday legal situations with confidence. The certificate jointly awarded by VidyaDaan and the school serves as a testament to the students' newfound knowledge and skills, preparing them for a more informed and engaged participation in civic life. As the SBLLP continues to expand its reach, it is poised to shape the minds of future generations and create a more informed and responsible citizenry in India.

The SBLLP has been a game-changer for our students. It has not only made them aware of their rights and responsibilities but also instilled in them a sense of civic duty and social responsibility. We are proud to partner with the VidyaDaan Foundation in this initiative.







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Exploring Nature's Wonders

A Walk with Ms. Sarah Patnaik



On a crisp morning in late March, children aged 8 to 12 gathered at the heart of pampavana park, hosapete, eager for an adventure. Miss Sarah Patnaik, a passionate environmental enthusiast, led them on a transformative journey through the park.

The purpose of this nature walk was twofold: to impart essential knowledge about the ecosystem and to instill a deep appreciation for the delicate balance of nature. Here's what the young explorers learned:

Biodiversity Unveiled

As they stepped onto the forest path, Miss Patnaik pointed out native trees, wildflowers, and bird species. She explained how each organism played a vital role in maintaining ecological harmony. Children marveled at the intricate web of life—the interdependence of plants, animals, and microorganisms.



Flora's Fragile Beauty

The children discovered that every leaf, every fern, and every blade of grass contributed to the ecosystem's resilience. Miss Patnaik emphasized the need to protect these green guardians. "Our forests breathe for us," she said. "They absorb carbon dioxide and release lifegiving oxygen."

Guardians of Tomorrow

The young participants listened intently as Miss Patnaik shared stories of deforestation, habitat loss, and endangered species. They vowed to become stewards of the environment, promising to plant trees, reduce waste, and advocate for conservation.

As the sun filtered through the leaves, Ms. Sarah Patnaik's passion ignited curiosity in young hearts. The nature walk wasn't just a stroll—it was a call to action. These budding environmentalists left with a newfound understanding: preserving flora isn't a choice; it's our responsibility for a sustainable future.







VIDYADAAN FOUNDATION ORGANISES MEMORABLE TREK TO RANIPURAM HILL FOR RURAL STUDENTS





VidyaDaan Foundation organized a trekking trip to Ranipuram Hill for rural students in Kasaragod District on April 28, 2024. About 25 students and their parents participated in this exciting adventure, covering a total distance of 8 kilometers. The journey was not easy, as the paths were difficult and challenging, but the determination and enthusiasm of the students and their parents pushed them to reach the top of the hill.



adventure!

VidyaDaan

Srujan Keshav, Participant

for a great





The trekking trip was a resounding success, and the students returned home with a newfound appreciation for nature and a sense of pride in their achievement. VidyaDaan Foundation's initiative provided a unique opportunity for rural students to explore the great outdoors and create lifelong memories.

I turned my doubts into achievement! Completing the trek was a thrilling experience, and I'm so grateful to VidyaDaan for making it happen. Their organization and support made all the difference.

in the forest and climbed the hill.

It was hard but fun! I felt proud

when we reached the top. Thanks



Shreya C P, Participant



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VOLUNTEERS AT VIDYADAAN



of Growth and Giving

At VidyaDaan, volunteering knows no age bounds! Our diverse community of volunteers comprises individuals from all walks of life - students, professionals, retired officials, and more. By joining our team, volunteers unlock a wealth of benefits, including:

- Personal happiness and fulfillment
- Skill development and enhancement
- Social exposure and networking opportunities
- · Leadership development and growth

We're proud to have hundreds of dedicated volunteers from various fields, including education, healthcare, journalism, and beyond. Their collective efforts enable us to reach a wider community and make a more significant impact.

By volunteering with VidyaDaan, individuals can discover new passions, develop new skills, and connect with like-minded individuals. Join our vibrant community today and embark on a journey of growth, giving, and making a difference

I'm thrilled to be a part of Vidyadaan as a volunteer! As Mahatma Gandhi once said, 'The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.' I'm eager to contribute my skills and support our mission to make a meaningful impact.







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VIDYADAAN INVITES YOUNG WRITERS AND EDUCATORS TO SHARE THEIR VOICES

VidyaDaan Foundation is excited announce the launch of its blog of www.vidyadaanfoundation.org, a platform dedicated to showcasing educational articles, social concern issues, and more. This initiative aims to benefit students. teachers. educators. and community.

We invite young writers and educators to share their thoughts, experiences, and expertise with us. If you have a passion for writing and want to make a positive impact, we encourage you to submit your articles to vidyadaanindia@gmail.com





CRAFT WORKSHOP FOR KG KIDS

VidyaDaan Foundation conducted a craft workshop for kindergarten kids at Diya Ghar, Bellandur, Bangalore on April 3, 2024. Led by volunteer Ms. Sneha, the event sparked imagination and creativity in the children through various craft activities. The workshop not only honed their artistic skills but also created cherished memories, showcasing VidyaDaan's commitment to nurturing young minds through education and creativity.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS AT VIDYADAAN

VidyaDaan offers a range of internship programs for students from schools and colleges, providing opportunities for both online and offline engagement. Our internships empower students to:

- Gain practical experience
- Develop valuable skills
- Make a positive impact in society
- Experience personal growth
- Feel a sense of fulfillment through their contributions
- Connect with like-minded individuals
- Enhance their portfolio

My online internship at VidyaDaan was transformative, offering meaningful projects, supportive guidance, and deepening my commitment to communication for social impact.



Interning at the VidyaDaan Foundation was an enriching and transformative experience, with several aspects that stood out as the best during my time there.



VidyaDaan Adventure Camp: Igniting Thrill and Teamwork in Young Minds



VidyaDaan recently organized an exhilarating adventure camp in collaboration with Fame Adventure, Mangalore, in the scenic Kasaragod District of Kerala. The camp, attended by 40 students from Kasaragod and Dakshina Kannada District, offered an array of thrilling activities that tested their physical and mental limits.





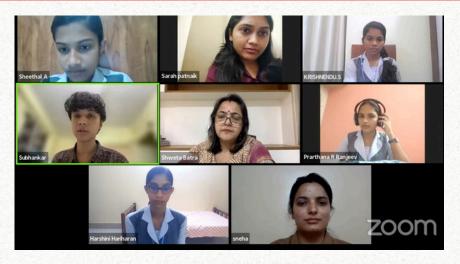


Nature walks, tent camping, rope walking, and rope climbing were among the main attractions that drew enthusiastic participation from the students. As they navigated through these challenges, the campers developed essential skills like teamwork, problem-solving, and adaptability, creating an unforgettable experience that will stay with them for a lifetime.

VidyaDaan's adventure activities like rope walking and nature walks were an exhilarating experience for me! I faced fears, built confidence, and connected with nature. The supportive team and fellow participants made it unforgettable. Thanks to VidyaDaan for the thrill and valuable life skills!



- Pranathi N, Participant



MEDIA UNPLUGGED: NAVIGATING THE DIGITAL LANDSCAPE*

In a thought-provoking webinar titled "Media Unplugged," hosted by the Vidyadaan Foundation and the discussion moderator was Mrs. Shweta Batra, three distinguished speakers—Mr. Subhankar Subba, Ms. Sneha Suwasni Singh, and Ms. Sarah Patnaik—delved into the essentials of media and real journalism. The event shed light on critical aspects of our digital lives, emphasizing the importance of content creation and responsible internet usage.

The Changing Media Landscape:

The speakers highlighted how media consumption has transformed dramatically in recent years. Traditional journalism, once dominated by newspapers and television, now coexists with digital platforms, social media, and citizen journalism. Understanding this shift is crucial for both consumers and creators.

Real Journalism in the Digital Age

Ms. Sarah Patnaik eloquently discussed the role of journalists as truth-seekers and watchdogs. She emphasized the need for unbiased reporting, fact-checking, and ethical storytelling. In an era of misinformation, real journalism remains our compass.ellentesque.

Crafting Engaging Content

Ms. Sneha Suwasni Singh shared practical insights into content writing. She stressed the art of storytelling, brevity, and relatability. Whether it's a news article or a social media post, compelling content captures attention and drives meaningful conversations.

Navigating the Web Safely

Mr. Subhankar Subba cautioned against the pitfalls of the internet. From fake news to cyberbullying, he urged participants to be discerning users. His advice: verify sources, protect privacy, and think critically before sharing anything online.

VIDYADAAN'S "ASK A SCIENTIST" SEMINAR INSPIRES YOUNG MINDS



On the occasion of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai's birth anniversary, VidyaDaan hosted an online seminar titled "Ask a Scientist," featuring Padmashri Pramod Kale, former Director of ISRO-SAC (Ahmedabad). Moderated by NASA Space Educator and Academic Advisor, Ms. Leena Bokil, the event provided a unique opportunity for students to interact with a renowned space expert.

Live-streamed on YouTube, the session saw enthusiastic students posing questions about space science, India's space missions, and the future of space exploration. Padmashri Pramod Kale shared his vast knowledge and experience, offering insightful answers and highlighting the challenges and milestones of India's space program. He emphasized the importance of curiosity, scientific temper, and perseverance in pursuing a career in space science.

The seminar not only commemorated Dr. Sarabhai's legacy but also inspired the young audience to dream big and contribute to the future of space exploration. The interactive nature of the event made it an engaging and educational experience, further igniting the participants' passion for science and innovation.

Empowering Rural Children with Education: Vidyadaan Foundation

In the rural heartland of Badiadka, Kasaragod District, Kerala, the VidyaDaan Foundation shines as a beacon of hope for marginalized children. With a strong volunteer base across India, this NGO is dedicated to unlocking the potential of children through education, empowering them to build a brighter future.

Founded to combat educational inequity, VidyaDaan believes that education is the foundation of empowerment. The organization strives to create an inclusive environment where every child, regardless of economic background, has equal access to quality education and holistic development.

VidyaDaan offers a diverse range of programs to cater to the unique needs of rural children, including:

- Educational webinars and workshops
- Teacher training programs
- Legal and financial literacy initiatives
- Summer camps and trekking adventures
- Community outreach initiatives

Under the visionary leadership of founder Mr. Prashanth Belinja, VidyaDaan opens doors to thousands of underprivileged children, youth, and women, empowering them through education.

As the foundation looks to the future, it remains committed to expanding its reach, forging partnerships, and consolidating its programs. By building a better future through education, VidyaDaan is transforming lives and empowering rural children to reach their full potential.

Smitha K, Volunteer



Disseminating Knowledge through VidyaDaan Webinars

VidyaDaan volunteers have been actively engaging in knowledge sharing through regular webinars on various topics. These webinars are live-streamed on our official YouTube channel, making it accessible to a wider audience. By leveraging technology, we aim to bridge the knowledge gap and create a culture of continuous learning.

Our recent webinars have covered a range of thought-provoking subjects, including the pros and cons of technology, basics of python programming, machine learning, antibiotic resistance, cyber security, artificial intelligence, and many more. These sessions aim to educate, inform, and inspire our viewers, fostering a culture of lifelong learning and knowledge sharing. webinars provide a platform for experts to share their insights, and for attendees to engage in meaningful discussions exchange ideas.



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