



## **VISWA BHARATI VIDYODAYA TRUST**

Gudalur, The Nilgiris

### **Annual Report of Activities**

2019-20

## **Table of Contents**

1. Introduction
2. On Vidyodaya Nursery and Primary School
3. On SSA Residential School
4. On Vidyodaya Resource Center
5. On Community Outreach
6. On Foundation Course
7. On Early Childhood Education
8. Conclusion

## 1.Introduction

The Viswa Bharati Vidyodaya Trust is a charitable body registered (no.41 of 1993) under the Indian Trusts Act. Its registered office is 12/669B, Thottamoola, Gudalur – 643 212, The Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu. The Trust was started in 1993 in order to address widespread educational deprivation amongst adivasis in the Gudalur valley. Since then we have focused all our energies on the development of innovative, alternative and supplementary educational systems for adivasi children who are frequently first-generation learners.

We have been working over the last 30 years with a vision of improving 'quality' in education -- one that is meaningful and relevant -- for the adivasi communities with their active participation. Towards achieving this, two approaches have been adopted-- one, through community approach and secondly, an institutional approach. These are not exclusive approaches as the institutional approach is through the community and the community' approaches through the institutional inputs that are built in. Here are 2 videos that give a glimpse into the work we do here. [About Us](#); [Ashoka Changemaker School](#)

We have been able to actively engage the communities in the process of education of their children -- driving 100% enrolment of all 3000 children in schools and strengthening the communities consciousness about education in the minds of the adivasi communities; now what may be called as education seeking behaviour is the norm rather than an exception.

However, at the same time, we also observe that nearly 40% of adivasi children continue to 'drop-out' (or end up being pushed-out of the system) from schooling. Hence there still remains a need for good quality teaching and learning happening in schools and for teachers being sensitive to context and the cultural hurdles that adivasi children face. It is in this context that going forward we intend to strengthen our existing programs while also beginning to work together with the community on teacher education, outreach to government schools as well as strengthening village-level institutions to strengthen educational systems.

## 2. Vidyodaya Nursery and Primary School

Viswa Bharati Vidyodaya's Trust mission is to improve the quality of education received by children from Adivasi communities; and to establish a culturally appropriate learning system with active participation from the community. We want to ensure that

- every Adivasi child completes schooling
- every Adivasi child gets a good education
- Every Adivasi child can pursue learning (not only schooling) upto whatever level they desire
- and a supportive cultural environment is facilitated

In 1996, on a request from the Adivasi community, VBVT took Adivasi children into Vidyodaya School. Soon VBVT became a school run by Adivasis, for Adivasis. The Trust also took on Adivasi educated youth to train as Teachers. Today they form the Education Team, which handles the entire education programme.

At Vidyodaya School importance is given to the all-round development of the child, which involves academics, handicrafts, innovative project work, drawing, painting and theatre. Great importance is also given to Adivasi traditional songs, dance and story-telling. The teachers at Vidyodaya School are drawn from Adivasi and non-Adivasi communities. Some were themselves trained through the school. Today the school functions as an example of what can be achieved: the school is distinctive for its atmosphere of peaceful cooperation, near absence of disciplinary problems, and sky- high retention rates.

The school is recognised by the Government of India under the 2009 Right To Education Act.

### 2.1 Student Strength 2019-20

#### 3.1.1. Overall Student Strength

Grade	Boys	Girls	Total
LKG	11	10	21
UKG	5	7	12
I	4	5	9
II	6	8	14
III	8	4	12
IV	2	6	8
V	5	2	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>83</b>

3.1.2. Tribe-wise Student Distribution

Class	Paniya		Bettakurmba		Kaatunayaka		Non Tribal		Total
	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	
LKG	6	5	2	1	2	3	1	1	21
UKG	2	3	2	2	1	2	0	0	12
I	2	3	0	1	1	1	1	0	9
II	3	6	3	2	0	0	0	0	14
III	6	2	2	0	0	1	0	1	12
IV	0	3	2	1	0	1	0	1	8
V	2	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	7
Total	21	24	12	7	6	8	2	3	83

2.2 New Admissions

This year, 24 new students joined Vidyodaya School.

2.3 Teacher Details

S.No	Teachers' Name	Subject Taught
1.	P.Shanti	Maths
2.	Suja	English, EVS
3	Sivagami	Tamil, Science
4	R.Shanti	Science, Maths
5	R. Parvathi	Social, Tamil

6	Radha	Librarian
7	Janaki	KG

## 2.4 Exposure Visits

1. Children from Guava and Papaya groups along with 4 teachers, visited the SSA school for the Science, Maths and Craft exhibition held on January 30,2020



Exposure trip: (From the left) , Picture 1: Children in the Mysore palace, Picture 2: Children at the Mysore zoo

2. Children from class 3, 4 and 5 went for an exposure trip to Mysore on February 13 and 14, 2020.

## 2.5 Library Books Read

Number of stories read -Tamil	Number of stories read -English	Total Number of stories read
587	524	1111

## 2.6 Craft

In the afternoons, the students are engaged in craft work. The children from class 1-5 are divided into groups and work individually with the guidance of the teachers. The children work on making bead chains, macrame,



paintings, bracelets, string art, coconut shell painting etc. New crafts like making paper mats and woolen birds were also introduced. 5 children from class 4 have started learning spinning and making thread from cotton.

## 2.7 Parents Teachers Meeting

- A parents-teachers meeting was held on July 19, 2019. 60 parents and 4 teachers attended the meeting. The topics discussed at the meeting included new admissions, post-office savings accounts, health check-up, transport etc.



- On September 30, 2019, a meeting was held for parents of children traveling from Vadavayal and Manvayal
- On November 29, 2019 another parents' meeting was conducted. 45 parents and 4 teachers attended the meeting.



## 2.8 Exposure Classes

In this academic year, an “Exposure class” was included for students of classes 4 and 5, once a week. As part of this class, guest speakers were invited to the class to talk to children about any general topic or perform an activity. Through this, the children got perspectives about a wide variety of topics beyond their curriculum.

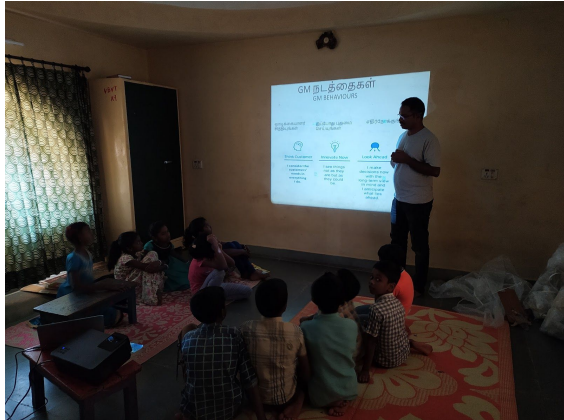
Following were some of the classes conducted:

<b>Guest</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Deepak (Vidyodaya Resource Centre)	Making own rain gauge, Session on Gravity How things are made
Chimayee (Azim Premji University)	Vocabulary building activities, rhythm and singing
Rama (Co-Founder, Vidyodaya School)	Geography – map activity
Senthil (Volunteer)	Making music using day-to-day objects
John (Blue Mountain Trust)	Spiders of Gudalur
Nikhil (Blue Mountain Trust)	Guitar classes
Yazmin (Visitor)	Life of indigenous Australian people
Philip Hilton ( Retired Biochemist)	Life in the UK
Mohan (General Motors)	Products and processes of General Motors
Martin ( Molecular Biologist)	Introduction to Microbiology
Rebecca Sloane (Teacher, London)	Glimpses of a typical school day in London

Other than these, the following classes were conducted by visitors and volunteers this year:

- Chinmayi, an undergraduate student from Azim Premji University, worked with the school as an intern for a period of one-and half months in June and July,2019. She worked with the children in the library classes to create their own story books.
- Cooking class activity was done for 3 groups of children by Suganya, a volunteer from Vellore in August 2019.
- Keerthana, a teacher by profession, volunteered with the school from October 2019 to March, 2020. During these classes, she taught children theatre with a focus on English communication skills.
- Brigitte Hilton, a visitor from the UK, did a story reading session with the children of Guava group in November,2019.
- Mohan, an engineer by profession, working in General Motors, Bengaluru volunteered with the school from 20-24 January, 2020 and did workshops on Science concepts such as center of gravity and electric circuits.
- Jack and Ro, visitors from England, interacted with the students of Guava group on January 21, 2020. They did some fun vocabulary building and communication activities with the children.
- Susie,a visitor from England, conducted English classes for children of Guava group (class 3 and 4) in February 2020. In the classes, the children engaged in a variety of activities like story-telling, reading comprehension and word search activities, using picture clues to write stories etc.
- A session on Awareness of child rights and safety was conducted by advocate, Mr.Malaichamy on November 15, 2019 for the children of grades 2 to 5.







## 2.9 Prayer Activities

Prayer activities are conducted every day from 9:00 to 9:30 am. All the teachers and the students get together for these activities. Every term a schedule of activities is prepared and followed. Two new activities were introduced in the morning assembly this year, namely show-and-tell and news discussion.

This year activities were as follows

Days	Activities
Monday	Songs in all the tribal languages and in Tamil, English or Malayalam.
Tuesday	Show and tell
Wednesday	Children asking riddles or narrating stories in English, Tamil or any tribal language
Thursday	News discussion/ view a video and discuss the topic
Friday	Cultural Dance

## 2.10 Health

- On August 21, 2019 first year ANM (Auxilliary Nursing and Mid-wifery) students from the Gudalur Adivasi Hospital visited the school and did a complete health check-up for all the students.



Health check-up: ANM students from the hospital giving a presentation about healthy habits

- Blood groups of all the newly admitted students was checked and noted in the school records.

## 2.11 Teacher training

- Rebecca Sloane, a visitor from England, conducted a session for teachers on teaching children with dyslexia in February 2019.
- Session on Basic Economics: 5 sessions on economics in our day-to-day life were conducted in June and July 2019, by Chinmayi, an intern from Azim Premji University.

### 2.12 Art classes:

Ananthu, an artist by profession volunteered with the school to teach a group of 12 children painting during the Arts and Crafts class every afternoon.

### 2.13 Paintings for calendar 2020

Year 2020's AMS calendar features art-work done by the children of Vidyodaya, celebrating the 3 pillars of Adivasi society -- cooperation, inclusivity and harmonious relationship with nature. The children expressed how they saw their society. At a time when climate change and modern development are serious issues, they have captured through art, how they have always lived sustainably.



Paintings for the calendar: Picture 1: Children who made the paintings, Picture 2: AMS calendar 2020 with the children's paintings

### 2.14 Post Office Savings Account

This year it was decided to open individual post-office savings accounts for all the students. The advantage of this scheme is that parents can continue the savings account even after the child leaves school, which would be helpful for the child's higher studies. This year, post-office savings accounts were started for 48 students.

### 2.15 Learning Exhibition

On November 19, 2019 a Maths and Science exhibition was held at school to showcase the Science and Maths activities being done by children in the classrooms. Children presented their exhibits ranging from a simple model of a lung, finding prime and composite numbers using seeds, puzzles, how day and night occur etc.





### 2.16 Cooking activity:

On October 31, 2019 a cooking activity was done with classes 4 and 5 related to their Science lesson. This activity took 4 classes to conclude. It included activities like buying and measuring the required materials, following all the processes required before cooking, steaming and serving the cooked dish to the rest of the students during lunch time.

### 2.17 Visits by other organizations:

- *Clowns without Borders:* A group of 4 artists from Clowns without Borders, Germany visited the school and performed a show on December 21, 2019. The show included acrobatics, clowning and magic tricks.



- *Awareness about Solar eclipse:* Representatives from the Tamil Nadu Science Form visited the school on December 24, 2019. They conducted an awareness program about the solar eclipse and how to view it.

### 2.18. Celebrations

- *Onam celebration:* On September 7, 2019 Onam was celebrated in the school. Children and teachers presented various cultural programs including dances, drama and songs related to Onam.



- *Adivasi day celebration:* Children and teachers participated in the Adivasi day celebrations held at Puliymvayal village, Devala on December 5, 2019.



- *Christmas celebration:* Various activities including singing Christmas carols, making caps and gift packets were carried out by the children in preparation for Christmas celebration. On December 24, Christmas was celebrated at school.

- *Sports day:* On January 14, 2019 Sports day was celebrated in the school.



- *Science day celebration:* National Science day was celebrated in the school on February 28, 2020. A Science quiz was conducted for children of class 4 and 5.

### 3. SSA Residential School

The Access Residential School programme has been a huge and timely boon for the Adivasi community in the Gudalur Block. Considering the fact that almost 100% of the drop-outs are from this community due to distance from regular schools or insufficient support at the parental level, the residential aspect has helped to give these first-generation learners a new life and new hope for their future. This building was inaugurated by the then Hon'ble Chief Minister on 18th of July 2016. Now, three years later, an additional building has also been constructed. Today we can state confidently that with the support of the SSA these children are provided with quality education in a well-established and well-managed residential school.

#### 3.1 Enrollment in the school

District	Block	Location	Children Enrolled					
			Gender			Social Category		
			Boys	Girls	Total	SC	ST	Total
Nilgiris	Gudalur and Pandalur	Gudalur	50	50	100	4	96	100

#### 3.2 Staff Details

S.No	Name	Qualification	Designation
1	Mr. Suresh Kannan	MPhil, B.Ed	Teacher
2	Mrs. Velangani	MA, B.Ed	Teacher
3	Mrs. Divya	MSc, B.Ed	Teacher
4	Mrs. Mahalakshmi	MA, B.Ed	HM - Warden
5	Mrs. Lakshmi Devi	MA. B.Ed	Teacher
6	Mrs. Sharmila	MSc, B.Ed	Teacher
7	Mrs. Vijitha	MSc, B.Ed	Teacher
8	Mrs. Udhayambika	HSC	Craft Teacher
9	Mr. Christopher	M.Com, CA	Accountant
10	Mr. Senthil	MA, B.PEd	Sports Teacher
11	Mrs. Selvarani	SSLC	Cook
12	Mrs. Koima	5th Standard	Cook



13	Mrs. Padmini	5th Standard	Asst Cook
14	Mr. Shekar	SSLC	Office Assistant
15	Mr. Chandran	5th Std	Watchman

### 3.3 Pedagogy

- Activity Based Learning  
The teachers use activity-based learning methods to teach the students of all classes.
- Dictionary Usage  
A dictionary is one of the most important tools that help students to understand their subject better and improve communication skills. Students are asked to write and remember at least 10 words per a day
- Maths and Science Kit  
A comprehensive range of Maths and Science kits are used in the classroom. The Maths kit such as the place value strips, 3D/2D shapes, geo board gives the students a concrete understanding of the concepts and deriving solutions using the same. Students can explore their favorite science topics using hands-on activities from the experiment kits.
- Language Kit  
Students are using Tamil and English language kits to improve their vocabulary skills.
- Library Activities  
The library provides resources and services in a variety of media to meet the needs of students for education, information and personal development including recreation and leisure. They also play an important role in developing the literacy skills in learners. The goal of the school is to grow a community of enthusiastic readers by making accessible a wide range of different reading materials that reflect both the students' interests and their reading abilities.
- News Paper Reading  
Everyday in school there is time allocated for students to read newspapers -- in Tamil and in English -- and have a discussion around what they read.

### 3.4 Specific Skill Training

- Vermicompost Training  
Vermicompost training was demonstrated in front of students. The students understood about organic cultivation and how the compost improves soil texture and adds nutrients to the garden.
- Child Helpline Awareness  
Mrs. Janaki from VBVT gave awareness about child helpline ,when and how to reach out for help if necessary
- Law and Order Awareness Camp  
Mr. Malaichamy shared about fundamental rights and simple laws in day to day life. He also facilitated a discussion on facing social challenges with the students.

- Bank and Post Office Challan Filling  
Students were trained on how to fill bank and post office challans and thereby about saving money.
- Self Defense Training  
Students are taught Karate thrice a week post school hours by Mr. Velanganni Joseph.
- Computer Education and Training  
Regular classes are held for students to teach them computer skills according to their grade levels.

### **3.5 Exposure Visit**

An exposure visit to the Post Office and Panchayat Office was facilitated for students from grade 8.

### **3.6 Health**

1 medical camps was organized this year

- Mr. Mohan Kumar organized a medical check-up and also held an awareness campaign about Dengue

A basic first aid kit with a few ointments, bandages, tablets etc is kept in the school

### **3.7 Details of insurance given to children**

All children having insurance coverage through National Insurance Company limited Chennai

### **3.8 Vocational Activities**

- Arts and Crafts  
In every arts and craft class, different activities are planned according to students' grade levels like beads making for the younger students and knitting scarves for the elder ones. Students are also taught to make woolen scarves, curtains, making plastic wire bags, decorative craft items like artificial flowers, handkerchief and pillow cover making, embroidery work and woolen thread work.

### **3.9 Physical Education**

Students are taught various sports and games, their rules and the values behind playing the game by the Physical Education teacher. Their athletic talents are exhibited during the sports day every year.

### **3.10 Parents and Teachers Association Meeting**

PTA [Parents Teachers Association] meetings are conducted every quarter in the school. Parents and the community being on the major stakeholder for these students education, we consider that making the parents aware of the facilities, the changes and growth of the students in the school will ensure the retention and infuse a strong need to education amongst the parents

### **3.11 Celebrations**

- The annual sports day of ARS Kozhikolly was celebrated on the 23rd of February 2020
- On 14th November 2019, Children's day was celebrated
- On December 21, 2019, Christmas day was celebrated. Students made the Christmas tree by hand.

- Every year, on the 5th of December the school celebrates Adivasi day. On the 7th of December the students and teachers together organized an Adivasi exhibition portraying the lifestyle of different tribes namely the Paniyas, Bettakurumbas, Kattunaickans and the Mullakurumbas. There were various displays ranging from the traditional food, hunting tools, kitchen utilities etc
- Independence Day was celebrated on the 15th of August 2019.
- Republic Day was celebrated on the 26th January 2020.
- Pongal Day was celebrated on 14th January 2020.
- Consumer Protection Celebration was held by the Center for consumer protection, Gudalur. A session on consumer rights was facilitated for the students.

### **3.12 Club Activities**

- Tamil Club - Children are given opportunities to showcase the talents in debate, drama, poem recitation and writing
- Math Club - Children are given the opportunity to play games using math to create works of art, or make up puzzles and riddles that use math as part of the education.
- Science Club - Children are given opportunities to explain science concepts using practical demonstrations and quiz competitions are conducted.
- Social Club - Children are given opportunities to various issues pertaining to their day-to-day life and issues of civics and national importance.

### **3.13 Learning Exhibition**

The Annual Science, Maths and Arts Exhibition in SSA was held on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. VBVT worked closely with SSA Science and Maths teachers in designing the exhibits and rehearsing with the students. The feedback received for the exhibition was that the children were more confident in demonstrating and responding to the questions than the previous year.

### **3.14 Quality Food Provision**

The school ensures procuring quality provisions from the market and keeps track of the expiry dates of the same. All the provisions bought are stored in clean and closed containers. The staffs monitor the quality of vegetables that are used for every meal.

### **3.15 Maintenance Work**

As part of yearly maintenance work,

- Entire school building painting work was completed
- All electrical work was checked and completed
- Pipes in Septic tank was replaced
- New building has been constructed.
- The weeds around the school campus were removed.
- Glasses in the bathroom were replaced

### **3.16 Children post office savings**

34 new students were enrolled in the postal savings initiative.

#### 4. Vidyodaya Resource Center

Vidyodaya Maths and Science Resource Centre's vision is to bring about a change in Maths and Science teaching such that it bridges the gap between the real world and the textbook, builds a sense of inquiry and scientific temper in the child and hence, enables the child to learn concepts in a meaningful manner.

Below are the major activities of the Resource Center:

##### 4.1 Kaathadi YouTube Channel:

Realizing the need to reach out to more children and teachers, an educational YouTube channel was launched on 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2019. The channel contains short videos of simple activities/experiments on basic concepts in Maths and Science. In the academic year 2019 - 20, Maths and Science videos were designed and produced aligned to the curriculum, as this would help the students and teachers connect to the curriculum.

47 videos were uploaded to the Kaathadi Channel.

13.7K views, 252.5 hours watched and 162 new subscribers in this period.



##### 4.2 Maths and Science workshop during summer camp:

During the summer camp held in May 2019, a session was planned to get children thinking, questioning and enjoying Maths and Science. More than 100 children worked in 6 stations. A question corner was put up for children to write the questions about things they wanted to know. Some of these questions have been made into videos on the YouTube channel.



### 4.3 Vidyodaya Exposure classes:

The Resource centre worked with the children of Grade 4 & 5 at Vidyodaya School. The focus was to get the children to ask questions (beyond the textbook) and to explore the answers through activities.

Some of the questions explored were:

How does day and night occur on earth?

How do we measure rainfall? What is the device to do the same?

Why do things fall down? Do objects of different sizes fall together or take different time?



Children with their crude model of Rain Gauge.



Demonstration to understand gravity.

### 4.4 Baseline assessments at Vidyodaya:

In June 2019, baseline assessments were designed and conducted for grade 4 and 5 in both Maths and Science. It was observed that overall mastery in Maths and Science improved from Grade 4 to 5 but there were certain concepts in which children had low mastery or misconceptions. The data was shared with the teachers and the intervention was planned. The end of year assessment could not be carried out due to early school closure because of Covid-19.



#### 4.5 Problem-solving challenge for ANM students:



During the Foundation course for the incoming batch of ANM (Auxiliary Nursing and Midwife) students, the Resource centre conducted two sessions on problem solving involving the “Marshmallow challenge”.

#### 4.6 Resource Center working with Govt Tribal Residential School, Kanjikolly

The Resource centre received permission from Tribal welfare Officer, Udagamandalam to conduct Maths and Science workshops in Government Tribal Residential (GTR) Schools.

As a pilot, GTR, Kanjikolly was chosen and 8 workshops were conducted between January to March 2020.



Children finding perimeter using a tape.



Children counting play money in mind.



#### 4.7 National Science Day in Vidyodaya School:



National Science day was celebrated in the Vidyodaya School on February 28, 2020. A Science quiz was conducted for class 4 and 5 students.

#### 4.8 Science Exhibition in SSA:

The Annual Science, Maths and Arts Exhibition in SSA was held on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Resource persons worked closely with SSA Science and Maths teachers in designing the exhibits and rehearsing with the students.



#### 4.9 Kaathadi Science and Maths videos on TNTP:

In collaboration with the team working on the Tamil Nadu Teachers platform (TNTP), videos aligned to the new state curriculum were designed. These videos are being accessed by government and government-aided teachers all over Tamil Nadu.

## 5. Community Outreach

In the year 2000, with the support of SRTT, VBVT launched a major programme of ensuring enrollment in schools. From 737 children in 2000, by 2016 it had covered almost all the 303 villages ensuring education to around 2980 children. A key thrust of VBVT's work has been to ensure 100% enrollment in all these villages. In order to provide motivational and academic backup to these children who were going to school, additional community outreach programmes of children camps, mobile and village library, Science workshops at government schools, and village level institutions such as community learning centres were initiated.

Over the years, VBVT through its community outreach program have been able to support and track the educational progress of 3000 adivasi children attending a variety of schools -- from government to low-income private schools -- in this region. Through a strong network of education coordinators who have been the backbone of the program, we have been able to ensure children get to school and also gather data and insights on their experiences with schools and perceptions towards learning from the ground. However the challenge of today is that around 50% of the children and youth are discontinuing their education as they progress to higher education. For the community too this increasing drop-out rates has been a great disappointment because it has cost them a lot to send these children to schools.

we realize that community ownership and community interventions will play a crucial role in preventing drop-outs, in addition to being a space for drop-out children to return to learning. Given this understanding, the only way forward is to "...develop teachers from their own communities acting as community leaders and role models, improve the quality of their teaching through rigorous and appropriate training and provide required support to children to pursue education..." VBVT has decided to launch a programme which can ensure that the teaching and development of these children (academic, emotional and social) is left with well-trained, motivated and capable individuals from their own communities at their villages. It is in this context that VBVT intends to draw up a long-term program to enhance the capabilities of the communities through teacher education and community development.

Below are the activities conducted as part of the community outreach program

- New enrollment  
248 adivasi children have been enrolled in various government schools at the start of the academic year 2020-21.
- School going adivasi children  
At the start of every academic year, we conduct a survey to find out the number of adivasi students going to schools covering all hamlets in the Gudalur Pandalur Taluk. In the survey conducted in 2019-20, it was found that 2858 students are going to school out of a total of 3623 students from 305 adivasi hamlets.
- Educational Scholarship Support  
Scholarships totalling INR 3,36,168 were provided for 100 students, enabling them to pursue their education.
- Community Certificates for 147 students were applied and received.

- 10th grade pass percentage among adivasi students in Gudalur Pandalur Taluks

Area	Total students	Students appeared	Pass
Ayyankolly	38	28	28
Devala	28	13	13
Devarshola	30	27	27
Erumad	30	24	24
Gudalur	42	28	28
Pattavayal	16	8	8
Ponnani	30	17	17
Srimadurai	24	15	15
Total	237	160	160

- 12th grade pass percentage among adivasi students in Gudalur Pandalur Taluks

Area	Total students	Students appeared	Pass
Ayyankolly	5	2	2
Devala	16	13	13
Devarshola	5	5	5
Erumad	16	14	14
Gudalur	29	17	17
Pattavayal	5	3	3
Ponnani	5	4	4
Srimadurai	6	5	5
Total	87	63	63

- We supported 25 youth from the Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI) to participate at the District Sports Tournament, in which they won prizes. We also had an opportunity to interact with all students studying there during their convocation ceremony, where our Founding Trustee Ramdas offered that VBVT and the ITI enter into an active collaboration. We hope to build a relationship with the ITI institute to continue to support and encourage the youth in pursuing their higher education and finding employment opportunities aligned with their interests.

## **6. Foundation Course**

Initially we had a year-long Course running in the VBVT campus for around 20 youth. However, given the costs of the programme and the need to reach out to a larger number of youth, the programme is now being re-oriented.

Below are some of the activities conducted this year

- ANM Foundation Course: We conducted a foundational life skills programme to a new batch of 21 Auxiliary Nurse-Midwife (ANM) trainees for 45-days. The students were involved in various activities, workshops and talks.
- The Foundation course is also in touch with the Industrial Training Institute working towards creating more opportunities of learning and support for the adivasi youth enrolled.

## **7. Early Childhood Education**

While there have been many improvements against a variety of development indicators, this weakening of village and community structures has resulted in problems like lack of access to ICDS centres resulting in growing malnutrition on the one hand and the deprival of early childhood education.

Our work on Early Childhood Education began in 2017 and has continued till date, with the focus being to ensure that all adivasi children have access to nutrition and education through the Integrated Child Development services . Towards this we have engaged with 18 anganwadi centers, getting involved in enrollment to nutrition to teacher training related activities.

Below are some of the activities and highlights of our intervention in Early Childhood Education.

- 434 adivasi children enrolled in 18 Balwadi's from 30 villages. From 2017 to 2019, enrollment in Balwadi has increased by 52% because of sustained efforts of community education workers. We are also working with parents to ensure the regularity of the children in attending the Balwadi's.
- We had applied for and received birth certificates for 32 children enrolled in balwadis.
- Created and distributed early childhood learning resources to 18 balwadis, 1 community learning center at Kottat and 1 SSA school at Gudalur. This was followed up with training on how to use the learning resources with the education coordinators and anganwadi teachers.
- 12 ECE committee meetings and 4 teacher trainings were conducted for the education coordinators and the anganwadi teachers.
- We have partnered with SELCO Foundation and constructed 2 model balwadi centers in 2 villages -- Chembakolli and Kozhikolly. These 2 villages were identified after analyzing where there were no balwadis but a high number of pre-school children.

## **8. Conclusion**

Like every year, the coming year is going to be challenging and we hope to look back on our work and take heart from all the achievements and learn from what didn't work and march towards our vision of providing quality education to all.