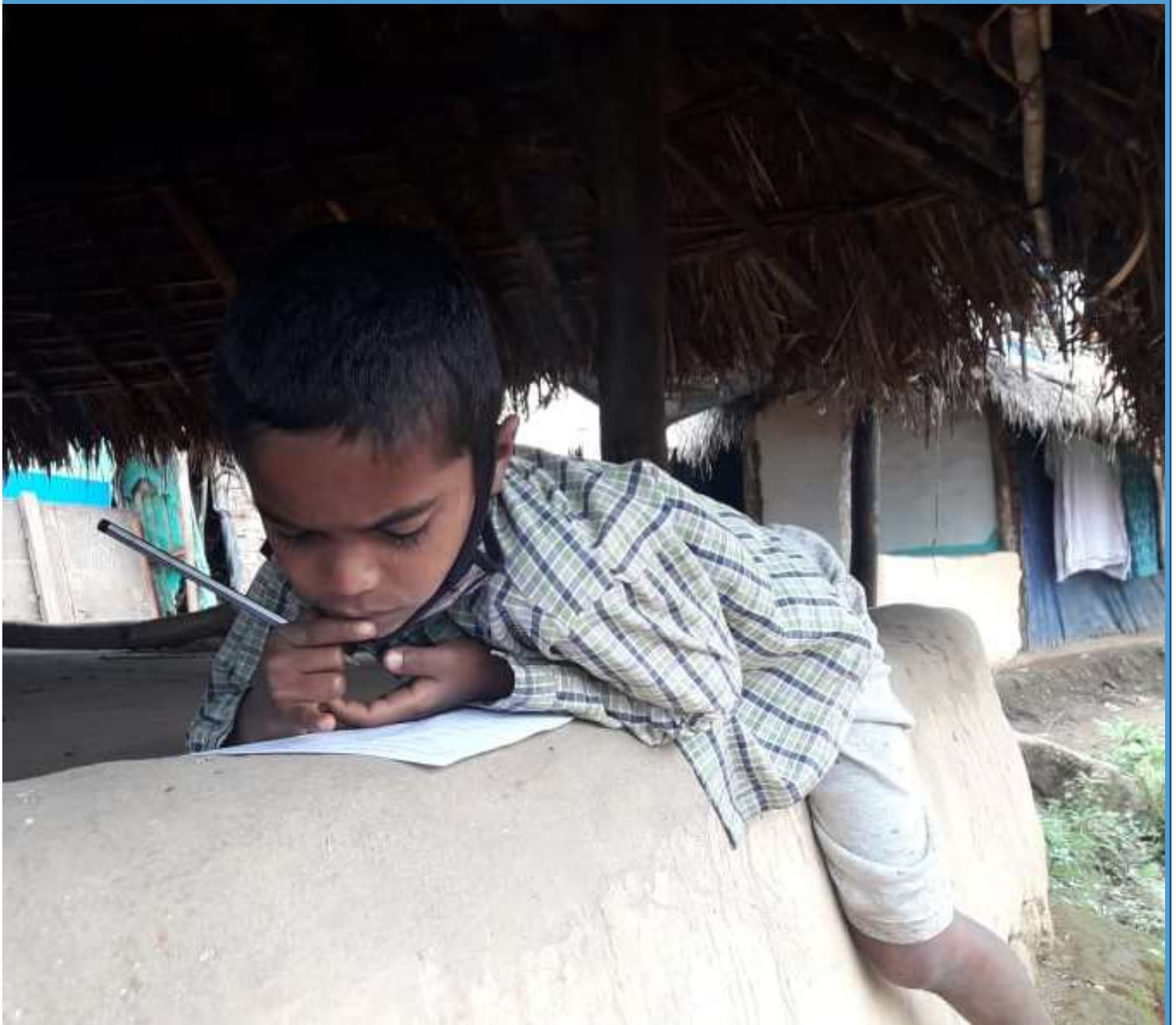


Viswa Bharati Vidyodaya Trust



Annual Report for the Financial Year
2020 -21

Registered under Indian Trust Act. 12A, 80G and FCRA approved

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Viswa Bharati Vidyodaya Trust
An Education Innovation Of Adivasi



**Adivasi
Munnetra
Sangam**

A year of evolving in the pandemic

Our focus this financial year was largely dictated by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. With the absence of physical learning spaces, devising a pandemic-friendly programme was the first need of the hour.

We had to shut our schools for the first 4 months. This gave us an opportunity to assess how the needs of our students and the community were changing. We strengthened our existing programs along these lines, as well as pivoted our focus to some new ideas.

For this, our staff went above and beyond. The dynamic nature of the last year meant that our goals and agenda kept evolving and compounding. Further, the restrictions of a new pandemic put our team's morale and patience to the test. Despite these novel obstacles, we have come away with a clear vision for our journey over the next decade.

We will travel slowly but we too shall arrive.
- Kwei Armah



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Educational Institutions

Vidyodaya primary school, an alternate school where Adivasi culture is integrated within the teaching practices.

In partnership with the government, SSA residential school for dropout children is managed by VBVT. Close to 200 children are a part of these schools.

As most schools responded to the closures by moving to an online medium, most of the children in our Adivasi communities could not access an online medium because of the existing inequities

Once the initial lockdown eased in Gudalur from July, we decentralized our schools, teachers in groups of two or three, started travelling to the villages to meet the children at their home, with the initial focus on just establishing a connection with the child and getting to know their context after 5 months of not coming to schools. These visits allowed for the teachers to interact with the



parents. It was noticed that after 5 months, children's academic learning levels had regressed due to the lack of input, but at the same time the rich exposure to many practices like fishing in the their environment kept them occupied, engaged and happy.

As the first wave waned, from November we started gathering children from nearby villages' to start with localized classes. In these spaces, 3 teachers worked 15 to 20 children each. The teachers, with insight from the village visits, had started to work with the children from a foundational learning level irrespective of their age or grade. Between the teachers at Vidyodaya and SSA, we were able to work with around 30 villages and reach out to 175+ children in enrolled in our schools



<i>Children studying at our Educational Institutions at VBV</i>				
	<i>Total children</i>	<i>Adivasi Children</i>	<i>Teachers</i>	<i>Villages covered</i>
<i>Vidyodaya Nursery and Primary School</i>	99	94	8	25
<i>SSA Residential School (till 8th Grade)</i>	100	95	7	29



Community Initiatives

In addition to these schools, our organisation also works with the larger community of 300+ Adivasi villages. Here, our focus is primarily on increasing access to formal education and building awareness of the community on education. Through these initiatives, we reach 3000+ children.

Community Learning Spaces

While our teachers at the schools were able to work with children from ~35 villages, but the majority of the children were left without any kind of access to learning.

To address this, we focussed on mobilizing community members across the villages to create a space for learning in their own village. These volunteers were equipped with worksheets and other material across various learning levels in Math, English and Tamil, which were collated and created by our resource centre at the school. To further support these volunteers, we had conducted workshops, providing support on how best to engage with children, ways to teach certain subjects.



Created by our volunteers, these Community Learning Spaces (CLS) were located in the villages themselves. This allowed parents to participate in the learning process and understand how to support the learning needs of their children.



Further, the CLS provided a nourishing environment that allowed students to express themselves without fear. Soon, we found our students' confidence began to strengthen.

While they were initially created as an answer to our circumstances, the community saw value in the CLS beyond the pandemic. Even after schools resumed, they could act as a support system during the unique challenges that Adivasi children face within the formal schooling system. Such support systems that are designed for the specific experiences of the community can help reduce the chances of dropping out. For this long-term vision, we worked towards making the CLS more sustainable. We have established 7 such permanent Community Learning Spaces. Currently run by our community staff, they serve as models to the volunteers who will help scale-up this initiative.

50+
Villages

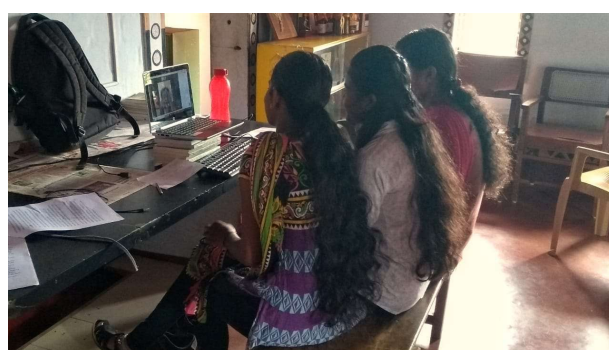
45+
Volunteers

500+
Children



Online Learning Spaces

While the Community Learning Spaces primarily helped children learn foundational topics. However, we were looking for a different programme to address the more advanced and specialised subjects. We gathered teacher volunteers from across the world to connect with 30 students who had access to the internet. Through regular online sessions, the students learnt a variety of subjects such as Communication English to Computer Programming.



Community Infrastructure

With the help of SELCO Bangalore and ACCORD, we built a specially-designed child-friendly Anganwadis in two Adivasi villages, Chembakolli and Kozhikolli. The current template design for government-run Anganwadis is unwelcoming and unimaginative. We hope our infrastructure will serve as models for future Anganwadi buildings. The Anganwadis which are situated in these remote villages act as an important step towards ensures the children are well nourished from an early age, enabling to be better equipped for school



Scholarships

Most of our programmes cater to primary and middle-school students. In 2019, we decided to expand our activities to higher education as well.

Higher Education for Adivasi Girls

Through this programme, VBVT provides monetary, academic, and mentorship support to girl-students looking to pursue higher secondary schooling. Initiated in 2019, VBVT has helped 15 girls from the community join Fathima Higher Secondary School as residential students in grades 9 to 11. There are currently 9 VBVT students at the school.

A part of this scholarships' agenda is to sensitize the school administrations to the need for a safe space for Adivasi girls to learn.



Scholarships have also been awarded to students, who need support to pursue their undergraduate level education.

Scholarships Awarded in 2020-21		
21 Scholarships	INR 2.1 lakhs	15 High School Scholarship 6 Under Graduate Scholarships

Adivasi Innovation Hub

The present options for Adivasi youth after the 10th grade are limited. The most common next step is to find employment as a daily wage labourer. In this situation, there is little room to negotiate for the kind of career or future our students want.



To counter this, we have partnered with ACCORD to establish the Adivasi Innovation Hub. This is a space for Adivasi youth to not only acquire skills which can help them set up their own micro enterprises. The outcome is twofold, not only do young people learn more skills and gain confidence but also they start becoming self-reliant, when it comes to finding a livelihood. For example, 9 young boys enrolled in this programme have been training as solar technicians, and set up their own *Adivasi Aditya Amaizphu* (a solar micro enterprise)

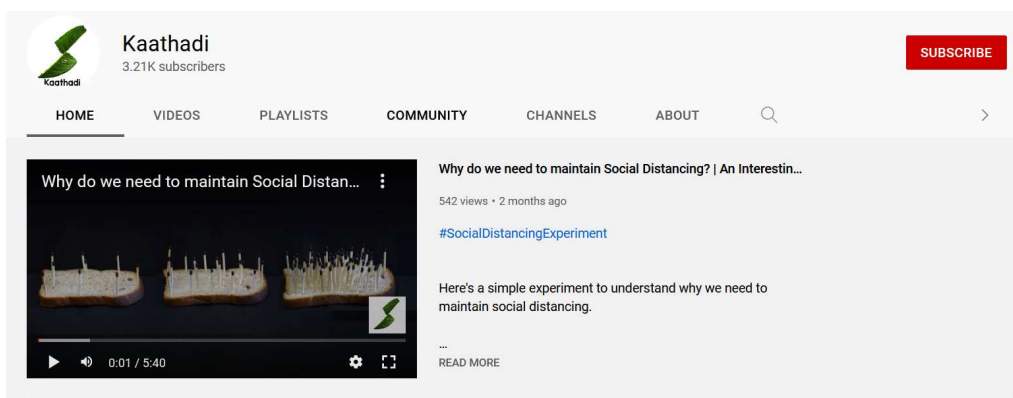


Vidyodaya Resource Centre

The Vidyodaya resource centre, which focuses on creating resources in maths and science based on the educational philosophies embodied in our school

Like every other program, the resource centre too, had pivoted during the pandemic, where a lot of focus was given to the creating and sharing online resources across many platforms.

- 1) To support the community learning centres and the volunteers as mentioned in the previous section, the resource centre collated relevant resources and worksheets for the same, a [Resource Portal](#) was set-up and was shared with the volunteers to access during the pandemic.
- 2) Vidyadaan is a Government of India's initiative to crowdsource educational videos towards giving a thrust to online learning. Vidyodaya Resource Centre participated and 8 videos were selected to be on the platform
- 3) Kaathadi YouTube Channel – A channel which focuses on math and science learning, through educational videos which are interactive and activity based. Through the pandemic the YouTube channel saw huge rise in viewership as more people turned to online learning.



<i>Kaathadi YouTube Channel Data</i>		
<i>Metric</i>	<i>Apr '19 – Mar '20</i>	<i>Apr '20 – Mar '21</i>
<i>Videos</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>54</i>
<i>Views</i>	<i>13700</i>	<i>137,100</i>
<i>Hours watched</i>	<i>252 hours</i>	<i>3500 hours</i>
<i>Subscribers</i>	<i>162</i>	<i>1700</i>

VISWA BHARATHI VIDYODAYA TRUST, GUDALUR, THE NILGIRIS									
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2021									
RECEIPTS		SCH	Rs.P.	PAYMENTS		SCH	Rs.P.		
To	Opening Balance	I	7,99,257.03	By	Administration	III	1,41,141.22		
				By	Outreach Programme	IV	1,54,659.00		
		IC & SSA & SRTT							
To	Interest on Savings Bank		26,375.00	By	Vidyodaya School Expenses	V	1,00,264.00		
To	Interest on Fixed Deposits	IC	75,093.00	By	SSA Access Residential School Expenses	VI	26,11,353.00		
To	Interest on TDS		430.00	By	Capital Payments	VII	45,26,408.00		
To	Donations Received	IC	52,63,781.58						
To	SSA Grant Received		25,38,040.00						
To	Programme Advance Refunded	IC,SRTT	16,590.00		Earmarked Fund				
To	Fixed Deposits Matured	IC	13,74,586.00	By	Non Formal Educational Project Expenses		69,96,572.50		
To	TDS Refund Received		10,610.00	By	Programme Advance Paid - Earmarked		9,44,323.00		
	Earmarked Fund			By	Fixed Deposits Made - Earmarked		20,20,797.50		
To	Non Formal Education Project Fund	II	65,93,233.58						
To	PF Recovery		1,76,925.00						
To	Fixed Deposits Matured - Earmarked		22,09,935.00	By	Closing Balances	VIII	25,33,660.97		
To	Programme Advance Returned - Earmarked		9,44,323.00						
			2,00,29,179.19				2,00,29,179.19		
									-

VISWA BHARATHI VIDYODAYA TRUST, GUDALUR, THE NILGIRIS						
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2021						
EXPENDITURE	SCH	Rs.P	INCOME		SCH	Rs.P
To Administration		1,41,141.22	By	Interest on Savings Bank		26,375.00
To Outreach Programme		1,54,659.00	By	Interest on Fixed Deposits		75,093.00
To Vidyodaya School Expenses		1,00,264.00	By	Interest on TDS		430.00
To SSA Access Residential School Expenses		26,11,353.00	By	Donations Received		52,63,781.58
Earmarked Fund			By	SSA Grant Received		25,38,040.00
To Non Formal Education Project Expenses	Less : Fixed assets Rs. 6,97,428	68,14,299.50		Earmarked Fund		
To Depreciation for the year		65,287.42	By	Non Formal Education Project Fund		
To Excess Income over Expenditure		46,09,949.02		- Non Formal Education Project Fund		65,44,438.08
				- Interest from SB Account		18,659.00
				- Interest on Fixed Deposits		30,136.50
		1,44,96,953.16				1,44,96,953.16
						-
To Surplus transfer to :-			By	Balance b/d		46,09,949.02
- Bank Interest fund (Earmarked Fund)		48,795.50	By	Deficit Transfer to		
- Capital Fund		48,31,833.44		- Non Formal Educational Project Fund		2,69,861.42
				- SRTT Project Fund		818.50
		48,80,628.94				48,80,628.94

VISWA BHARATHI VIDYODAYA TRUST, GUDALUR, THE NILGIRIS									
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH 2021									
	LIABILITIES	SCH	Rs.P	ASSETS	SCH			Rs.P	
	CAPITAL FUND	I	94,48,562.53	FIXED ASSETS	VI			24,04,888.15	
	CORPUS FUND	II	1,31,000.00	ADVANCES & DEPOSITS	VII			56,674.00	
	NON FORMAL EDUCATION PROJECT FUND	III	(0.00)	FIXED DEPOSITS	VIII			50,35,519.00	
	BANK INTEREST FUND	IV	4,51,179.59	CLOSING BALANCES	IX			25,33,660.97	
	SRTT PROJECT FUND	V	-						
	NOTES ON ACCOUNTS	X							
			1,00,30,742.12					1,00,30,742.12	

Detailed Audit reports along with schedules, are published [here](#).

As we look beyond the pandemic

The pandemic demanded us to be flexible with our approaches and change them as the context demanded. This also allowed us to understand the community better and refine our path for the next few years. This path will focus on:

The Cornerstone Project: An important step towards upgrading the school and creating hostel, which apart from working with children directly, also act as a space for resource creation which in turn can be used in the community initiatives. Further, these institutions act as learning space when we look to train young Adivasi to work with the community. This would involve moving to a bigger campus and building the necessary infrastructure over a 5 year period.

Creating support systems for the children at the community level – these support systems take on the form of learning centres which will focus on providing an educationally nourishing and self-confidence building space which will allow children to overcome the challenges which they will face when they step back into the schooling system. We have already created 5 such spaces which are basically community-led institutions. We plan on engaging with more children through camps and identifying village volunteers to create many more learning centres.

Creating a network of young Adivasis across the community - who are well equipped with both the skills and mind-set to work with children across different spaces, where they will support children through their education as well as being role models. With this in mind since the FY 21-22 we have piloted a year-long Education Facilitator training program with 8 Adivasi college graduates.



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Sangam**

Be Part of Our Journey

We couldn't have made it through this year without the support of our donors and volunteers from across the world.

The journey from here on is into uncharted territory. The pandemic has radically altered how inclusive education institutions in India can operate. We'd love for you to join us on this journey.

We hope you will support us by donating, volunteering, or spreading the word about our cause. Each contribution made, every hour devoted, every social media post shared makes a difference!

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

— Margaret Mead

Our Partners:



Adivasi-Tee-Projekt (ATP)



From Here to There

George Macdonald's
Endowment Fund

Hiltons International
Development Trust

JSK Foundation

