



## VIDYODAYA NEWSLETTER

### Adivasi School

The current academic year saw an enrollment of 125 children, affirming the belief the community has in the school. The government recognition for the Adivasi primary school has also been renewed until June 2027.

Learning at Vidyodaya has always been experiential, keeping in mind the contextual and cultural relevance. During the first part of this academic year, the children had many enriching experiences, building on our core curriculum. They visited many local spaces - including a paper bag manufacturing unit, the market, the post office, and the fire station, among others. Observing, asking questions, and engaging with people and places in their locality - these visits provided opportunities for the children to make connections between classroom learning and institutions in everyday life.

During a workcamp, parents and teachers came together to support the cleaning and upkeep of the school campus. This brought the community together, nurturing a sense of shared responsibility and ownership towards the school.

Our teachers continued their visits to the villages, meeting with parents to understand life in the communities and encourage regular school attendance. This ensures that our work remains rooted in care, understanding, and shared responsibility for children's learning and growth.

We hosted and created mutual learning experiences with children and teachers from Centre for Learning and Ohana, and interns from Tata Institute of Social Sciences.



## Teacher Education

Our Teacher Education Program is aimed at nurturing Adivasi youth to become skilled teachers who blend strong curricular knowledge with teaching practices rooted in Adivasi values and culture. In doing so, the program enables culturally responsive classrooms where children see their lives and cultures reflected in learning, speak with confidence, and shape their learning journeys.

During this period, we also began a focused training programme for our young Adivasi teachers, already teaching with us. Aimed at strengthening their pedagogic content knowledge, this programme also provided opportunities for a month-long immersion in diverse educational settings. This allowed them to experience new approaches to teaching and reflect on how these could be meaningfully integrated into their own classrooms. Learning within the school and beyond it is enabling these young teachers to build their competence and become confident.

We began developing a repository of low-cost, context-specific teaching-learning materials.

## Community Education

The first half of this year was as exciting a period as it was challenging. With some members leaving, the community education team went through a phase of reflection and self-evaluation, while also articulating their educational goals. One aspect the team brainstormed on was what it means to deliver quality education.

The activities during this period focused both on strengthening the team and organizational processes as well as bringing these together to deliver impact in the communities.

The following is a summary of our key initiatives during this period:

- A sustainable and continuous development program for community teachers was initiated, including an exposure trip for 45 teachers.
- 31 camps covering 1,032 children from 59 villages were conducted during this period.
- The 29 active learning centres across the villages support 249 children.



## Hostel Support

Our intervention in the Fatima Secondary School continued to support the girls in their academic subjects as well as in life skills such as communication. In addition to the regular classes, the children had regular camps on Sundays, covering aspects of Adivasi culture and ways of life.

They also visited “En Ooru”, a tribal heritage village near Wayanad, where they could see aspects of their own traditions and culture. The visit to the tribal heritage village was particularly thought-provoking, and the children were inquiring into questions of what development and change mean.

They split into teams to fully plan and execute a community cooking event - to identify, estimate and buy ingredients traditional to their culture, and cook dinner together.



## Adivasi Day – December 5

Centered around the theme of Adivasi Knowledge, December 5 saw a celebration of Adivasi Day. The classrooms transformed into themed learning spaces featuring medicinal herbs, traditional crafts, and Adivasi cultural artifacts such as tools and jewellery.

- There were dramas presented by the children showcasing the distinct cultural practices, values, and lived traditions of their communities.
- Students from Fatima Higher Secondary School, who are part of our hostel program, also participated in the celebrations with vibrant dances.
- The entire community participated with members from our sister organizations also joining in.





## New Campus Approval

We are delighted to share that we have received approval from DTCP (Government) to start construction of our new education campus. One final approval from Gudalur Municipality is expected anytime soon.

This is an important milestone in the realization of a collective aspiration for a holistic, inclusive learning space.

## Organizational Updates

Senior members have joined the organisation to support overall operations as well as educational programmes. Through a series of internal discussions, the team has worked towards clarifying and strengthening the long term and short-term direction of our work.

The Trust has formally inducted professionals from diverse fields as Advisors and Associates, supporting across governance, strategy, and institutional development.

Our work was recently featured in [The Better India](#).

## Looking Ahead

- Construction of Phase 1 of our new education campus with spaces for classes KG-7, teacher education, resource centre and administration.
- Continuing to strengthen academic aspects of our school, teacher education, hostel and community education programs.
- Developing a new Adivasi Resource Centre, in partnership with the community and experts on indigenous culture and knowledge.
- Streamlining institutional processes and fundraising for ensuring sustainability.



For more information please visit:

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