



12 years of Educating Rural India

Annual Report 2018



MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER

Whatever we do, our commitment is to move from untruth to truth, to move from what does not work to what works. This is especially relevant in the field of education because it will determine the future of life on this planet. What kind of world we will have in another twenty-five years will be determined by what we are doing right now in our schools and homes in the form of education.

Education becomes important because a human being is not born like other creatures. If a tiger, an elephant, or some other animal is born, they are quite complete at birth. Human beings are the only ones who have problems. For all other creatures, nature has drawn two lines within



which they live and die. For a human being, there is only a bottom line; there is no top line. Because there is no top line, human life becomes a continuous process of evolution. It does not matter what we do or how we do it; there is still room to do it better.

Education becomes of supreme importance, particularly in our country, because we are 1.25 billion people – a fifth of the world's population. If we transform this population into a stable, focused, inspired and skilled population, we will be the greatest miracle. In the next twenty-five years, the entire world will be looking towards us. But if we leave our population unskilled, unfocused, unstable, and uninspired, we will be the greatest disaster unfolding on this planet.

Education is one aspect of life in which people are involved for fifteen to twenty years. Many people don't stick around in their jobs or even their marriages for that long these days. This is a place where people spend the maximum amount of time. So, this must be the best place because this is where everything is getting moulded and shaped. We need to transform the education process because one thing about this nation is we have been a land of seekers for thousands of years. No one could figure out who we are. That is the reason we have still maintained our culture, despite the fact that we have been occupied and reoccupied by many people.

Even when so-called divine entities came, all we did was ask questions and quiz them to distraction. No divine entity could give a commandment to this culture – they only got endless debate. An endless debate means this is coming from an active intelligence – that means you are seeking. To be in a seeking mode means you have come to a place where your education never stops and you have a living, active intelligence, which has not been fixed. To be in a seeking mode means you are on the path to liberation and freedom. This is what education should facilitate.

This is a land which has grown out of individual genius. However, the system of education that we have now is aspiring to reach the same level of organization that the West has. We need organization, both in our schools and in the country as a whole, no question about it. But we will not flourish without attending to individual genius. This is something that all of you should focus on because without allowing individual genius to flower, there will be no great people. And we will have a great nation only if we build great human beings – not otherwise.

- Sadhguru

Founder, Isha Education



Isha Vidhya- an introduction and what we do!

Sadhguru established Isha Vidhya in 2006 with the aim of building an India where high-quality education is accessible and affordable to all children. The project took its first steps in the remote districts of Tamil Nadu, and is now growing at accelerated pace through the support of millions of volunteers and generous donors.



To realize this vision, Isha Vidhya has evolved a scalable model for providing quality education within the limitations of underdeveloped, rural communities. The model creates a holistic and nurturing environment in which youth can learn in a joyful manner and realize their full potential.

Isha Vidhya's Focus

- Building high-quality school infrastructure in rural areas
- Using innovative methodologies to teach and train local teachers
- Developing the students' fluency in English and computer skills
- Ensuring all-round development through emphasis on extracurricular activities such as sports, yoga, arts and music
- Creating a learning environment for the students to acquire life skills through vocational, visual and Montessori training from an early age.

K. Subalakshmi was born to Mr. Kandiban and Mrs. Panchali and is the eldest of her three siblings. She is currently studying in 9th standard at Isha Vidhya School. Her mother is mentally challenged and needs a caretaker to look after her. Her father is the breadwinner of the family and earns a living by supplying mineral water cans to offices and homes in the city. Subalakshmi's day begins a bit differently when compared to her friends as she is responsible for the household chores, such as cooking, cleaning, washing clothes, etc. She also tends to her mother's needs to some extent.



She was granted a scholarship so that she could continue her studies without any hindrance. Subalakshmi also regularly provides tutoring support to her sister, Nithiya who studies in 8th standard in a government school and her brother Surender, who studies in 3rd standard at Isha Vidhya.

Subalakshmi has proven herself as a bright student with a talent for drawing. Her drawings were published in the Thanthi Daily, a Tamil newspaper from May 2016 to November 2017. With the scholarship granted to her from the school, she is able to continue her studies which otherwise would not have been possible.

In Partnership with Government; “Government School Support Program”



Isha Vidhya has evolved a scalable model for providing quality education within the limitations of underdeveloped, rural communities. The model creates a holistic and nurturing environment in which youth can learn joyfully and realise their full potential. Isha Vidhya supports government schools in selected and critical areas to bring about significant enhancement in the quality of education and to help trigger overall change in the public education system.

The interventions in Tamil Nadu

In 2012, Isha Vidhya began to carry out critical interventions in rural, government schools in Tamil Nadu, including:

- English language program – Magic English
- Remedial program for students substantially behind their learning level.
- Happy Classroom Training for teachers
- Extra-curricular enhancements through sports, yoga, environmental education, health awareness, career counselling and summer camps



Due to the efforts of our Government project staff, Karthick, a mentally challenged student learned alphabets and to write numerical letters 1-100 through the interactive learning methods used in our projects along with the usage of learning materials. It was seen as a great achievement and appreciated by the school Headmaster in the School Assembly and gift was provided to the student.

- **G. Karthick, 8th STD, Ulunderpet School, Villupuram.**



Vijay, 11th std, Salem School.

Vijay couldn't frame sentences in Tamil and was also not able to read with a clear pronunciation. He also couldn't do basic arithmetic calculations. His English was well below average as he knew only the alphabets. During his 6th std, he was enrolled under our remedial program and through the methodology & teaching techniques he slowly improved. He was under the program for two years, got mainstreamed and moved onto the regular class. He passed the 10th std public examination this year with 316 marks out of 500, which is a great achievement.

The impact in Andhra Pradesh



Based on the positive outcomes in Tamil Nadu, the Government School Support Program was extended to Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh in 2015. Based on its success and positive feedback from teachers and parents, the program was extended to 3000 Govt. schools across Chittoor district in 2017-18, impacting over 157,000 children and 10400 teachers. In Andhra Pradesh, Isha Vidhya works directly with the government teachers and headmasters, who then implement the intervention programs with Isha Vidhya's on-going guidance.

In 2018, Isha Vidhya has taken up a pilot program with child care centres or anganwadis in Chittoor district and Andhra Pradesh to bring about a significant change in the learning outcomes of the children belonging to the age group of 2 ½ to 5 years.



“Children are responding to our commands and they are also learning simple sentences in Magic English. They are enjoying listening to songs and reading small stories in this Magic English program. This is very useful to our children and helps the teachers improve their own English too”

- **Mrs. Chandrakala, English Teacher, Govt. School, Andhrapradesh**



Isha Education in the Govt. School Support Program has brought tremendous change in Remedial Children. The Happy Classroom (HCR) techniques made a teacher to improve the child's self-confidence, restore the dropouts, and improve the attendance in the school, because of joyful learning in the class through activities, games, discipline plan tools and techniques. The Magic English program in rural area schools developed Spoken Skills (Communication Skills) through Actions and Reading skills through Story books.

- **A. Guru Prasad, Government School Coordinator, Andhrapradesh.**

Unique Methodology for Rural Schools

Isha Vidhya teachers receive extensive, on-going training to enhance their capabilities. At the same time, the scalable methodology is designed to reduce students' dependence on the teachers for learning.

The Right Environment and Holistic Approach; Isha Vidhya's modern infrastructure includes spacious, well-lit classrooms and clean toilets, which are rarities in a village setting. Isha Vidhya students are given relevant exposure and equipped with essential skills for the 21st century, yet without losing sight of their traditional culture.

Transforming Teacher through training; Isha Vidhya teachers receive extensive, on-going training to enhance their capabilities. At the same time, the scalable methodology is designed to reduce students' dependence on the teachers for learning.

They also follow Power English training sessions which enhance their command over the English language, thus helping them to teach and reach better.



Impact's & Achievements;



- Isha Vidhya currently runs 9 schools in Coimbatore, Erode, Nagercoil, Tuticorin, Cuddalore, Villupuram, Salem, Dharmapuri, & Chittoor, A.P and serves 8145 rural children from LKG to 12th standard. About 62% of these children are supported on full tuition scholarships. Most of them are first generation learners.

- The Government School Support project is currently underway in 32 government schools in Coimbatore, Salem, Tirupur & Kanchipuram districts in Tamil Nadu, impacting over 10,000 children and 3000 government schools in Chittoor district, and Andhra Pradesh impacting 1,57,000 children.



- Isha Vidhya has taken up a pilot program with 90 child care centres or anganwadis in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh impacting about 3400 children.
- **SSLC Board Examination Results 2017-18 – Isha Vidhya:** With optimum utilisation of time and resources, our students at Isha Vidhya in 10th and 11th standards were able to achieve 100% pass result with exceptional grades and in 12th Standard, all but one of the 102 students passed.
- **SSLC Board Examination Results 2017-18 – GSSP Program;** 10th standard students of the Government schools who were a -part of our remedial program in the past, 141 out of 162 (85%) passed the Public Exams conducted in March 2018.

10th Std Public Exam- 100% Pass- Avg score 408/500,
No. of Centums: Science -1, Social Studies – 16

11th Std Public Exam- 100% Pass–Avg score 396/600,
No.of Centums:Commerce – 1, Business Math – 1

12th Std Public Exam-99% Pass– Avg score 827/1200



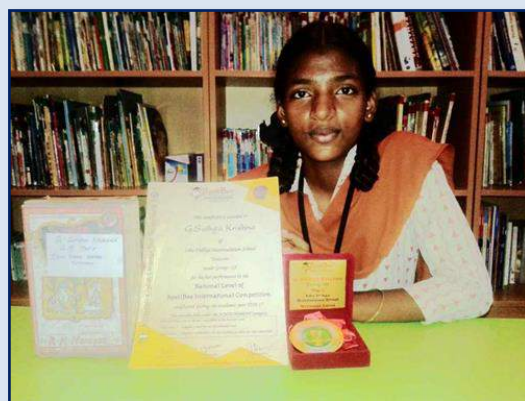
- **International Level Archery Competition:** Many students of Isha Vidhya achieved great heights in sports in the last year. To cite few examples, P.T.Perumal of Salem School participated and won the third place in Archery Under-18 age group (International level), conducted by Ministry of Education Malaysia, on 3rd March 2018.

- **State level Athletics Sports meet:** Jebin from Tuticorin School won 3rd place in the high jump event & Thiruvesh from Nagercoil School won 2nd place in the Shot-put event at the 60th State level Athletics Sports meet held in Trichy.



- **Inter Isha Vidhya Schools Athletic Meet:** First Inter School Athletics Meet was organized among the 9 Isha Vidhya schools. Salem school won the overall championship.

- **Spell Bee Competition;** G.Sathya Krishna (9th std) of Tuticorin School has come 5th in the National Level of Spell Bee International Competition.



Isha Vidhya in Marathon!

Volunteers participated in the Marathons across states to create awareness and raise funds for Isha Vidhya in 2018.

(No of participants; Tata Mumbai Marathon – 420 volunteers; Wipro Chennai Marathon – 1200 volunteers; Airtel Delhi half Marathon – 150 volunteers, TCS World 10K Bangalore Marathon – volunteers, & Airtel Hyderabad Marathon – 225 volunteers)



- Sadhguru's ***Rally for Rivers campaign*** has fired the imagination of Isha Vidhya Students, teachers and other staff members. People in rural India have a deep relationship with rivers, as a large number of them are involved with farming including many parents of our Isha Vidhya students. The health of rivers and normal climatic conditions are crucial for our villagers. Our farmers have been facing the brunt of floods, drought and changed rainfall patterns, so this nationwide campaign to restore the river system to their former glory found deep resonance with them.



- Coimbatore Isha Vidhya School – Over 600 students in the age group of 8 to 16 choose to sweat it out in the sun to draw a **6 km long Rangoli**.



- The catastrophic destruction due to the 2004 tsunami deeply scarred Cuddalore coast villagers. Apart from losing all their worldly possessions during the Tsunami, many of them lost family members and others who were dear to them. Some studies have shown that palm trees might help prevent such disasters. On learning about this Cuddalore School students were keen to plant palm trees near the seashore. Public were also encouraged to participate in this initiative. The school students covered almost one km of the beach within an hour!



Volunteers and Donors Make it Happen

Towards our goal of eventually having 32 Isha Vidhya schools, one per district of Tamilnadu, plans are underway for opening a new school for the academic year 2019-20 in Karur District.

Volunteers from around the worlds make Isha Vidhya possible. Hundreds of volunteers support directly in the schools as well as remotely. Isha Vidhya's Management is comprised fully of volunteers. Land, infrastructure and student scholarships are all realised through the generosity of donors, both individuals and Corporate CSR donations.

The continuous and uninterrupted donations help Isha Vidhya raise the number of scholarships provided every year. It can be said that the volunteers and the donors are the bedrock of support for Isha Vidhya to continue delivering meaningful social impact.



Isha Vidhya is accredited with the following fundraising platforms

- Give India – Tier 1 certification
- Global Giving – Top NGO in 2018 listing
- GuideStar India Platinum level certification (for 2017-18)
- CAF India
- CAF America
- Letz Change
- United Way of Mumbai
- National CSR HUB (Tata Institute of Social Sciences)

We are deeply grateful to our sponsors:



Sadhguru and Isha Foundation

Sadhguru is a yogi, mystic, and visionary who is the founder of Isha Vidhya, as well as Isha Foundation, a non-profit organisation dedicated to the wellbeing of the individual and the world for the past three decades. Sadhguru's life and work have focused on helping human beings reach their ultimate potential through the inner science of yoga. A versatile speaker, his speaking engagements at global forums like the United Nations, TED, & the World Economic Forum, discuss issues as diverse as human rights, business values, and social, environmental and existential matters.



Isha Education

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*“How deeply you can touch another life
is how rich your life is.”
- Sadhguru*



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