

‘Quality education is the only ladder that we can provide our rural children to help them and their families climb out of the vicious cycle of poverty.’ – Sadhguru

Background: The Isha Foundation, founded by Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, is a non-profit NGO headquartered at Coimbatore, India. For the last 30 years, Isha has been promoting the science of yoga throughout the world. It is Isha’s mission to provide methods of holistic development, enabling people to realize their true potential.

As a part of Isha’s social outreach programs, Isha Vidhya rural schools have been started in villages (under the umbrella of Isha Education, established in 2005) to provide high quality school education to underprivileged rural children who cannot otherwise access or afford it. In 2012, Isha Vidhya began to carry out critical interventions to improve the quality of education in rural Government schools.

Isha Vidhya:

- 9 rural schools (8 in TN in districts of Coimbatore, Erode, Salem, Cuddalore, Villupuram, Tuticorin, Nagercoil & Dharmapuri, 1 in AP in Chittoor Dt.), creating a bright future for 7,115 children
- Many of the students are first-generation school-goers
- About 61% of the students are supported by full tuition scholarships. The rest pay a subsidised fee
- Actively promote education of female children (46% are girls) by visiting villages & counselling parents of girls to send their children to our schools and by providing proper toilet facilities for girls.
- Transforming parental attitudes to education & increasing educational awareness in rural communities while striving to preserve village identities and culture

Highlights

- Infrastructure by way of clean and spacious classrooms
- Science, maths and computer labs, digital classroom, library, playground and play equipment
- Extensive audio, video and computer material augment English-medium education
- Education beyond literacy and rudimentary skills by following a holistic approach
 - Attention to sports, arts & crafts, environmental awareness, health and yoga
- Balanced mid-day meals containing proteins and salt fortified with 7 micro-nutrients
 - For most children, this is the only wholesome meal of the day.
- Most students learn even basic hygiene only in the school
- Student teacher ratio is 18:1, with special care for slow learners
- Total no. of employees – 326 teachers and 207 other non-academic staff.

Government School Intervention Program in Tamil Nadu & Andhra Pradesh:

With experience in setting up and running schools in rural areas, Isha Vidhya is only too aware of the challenges faced by government schools. These include a high student-teacher ratio, unmotivated teachers, lack of basic facilities, gaps in teacher recruitment & training and a high student drop-out rate.

Isha is, therefore, currently carrying out critical interventions in 56 rural government schools in the districts of Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Kanchipuram, Villupuram and Salem of Tamil Nadu, benefiting over 34,000 students. In Andhra Pradesh, a project for direct intervention in 460 Govt. schools in Kuppam, Chittoor Dt. is also benefiting over 38000 children and 2000 Govt. teachers.

Initiatives include:

- Extensive Teacher Training using Isha Vidhya methods.
- Special assistance to slow learners, who constitute 25% of class, through critical Remedial interventions
- Improving children’s English language skills through special methodologies
- Supporting holistic development through sports, yoga, environmental education, health awareness
- Ongoing monitoring & feedback support to teachers

Guides and Supports: Prominent individuals including Deepak Satwalekar, (former MD of HDFC & HDFC Standard Life), Prahlad Kakkar (Ad Guru), Vellayan Subbiah (MD of Cholamandalam Finance & Investments) serve on our Board of Trustees & Advisory Committee.

Institutional sponsors over the last 3 years include Infosys Foundation, Apollo Hospitals, Agility Logistics, LIC of India, L&T, SBI Life, Cognizant Foundation, BPCL, HP, ICICI Lombard, ICICI Prudential Life, India Infoline, Indian Diamond Industry, Yatra Foundation, IDBI Bank, L&T Financial Services, Engineers India Ltd, Sharekhan, Chola Finance, HDFC Bank, HDFC Securities, HDB Financial Services, HDFC Life, All Cargo, State Bank of India, IEX, etc.

Accreditations:

Reputed donation platforms Give India, Global Giving, CAF (India), United Way of Mumbai, CAF (America), National CSR Hub (Tata Institute of Social Sciences), FICCI CSR Cell, Guidestar India.

Student Performance:

The 2nd batch of students from Isha Vidhya schools wrote their 10th Standard Public Exams this year in March 2016. They have performed remarkably well belying their disadvantaged background. The highest aggregate marks scored were 492/500. 100% pass results were achieved with the overall aggregate of all the students together being 86.6%, a vindication of the dedicated efforts of the teachers and students. The 1st batch of 10th Std. Students last year, was also a 100% success with an aggregate of 89.8% and highest marks of 494/500.

Impact – Isha Vidhya:

- Arming students with curiosity and thinking skills; encourage inquiry from children who are inquisitive by nature;
- Bridging the growing socioeconomic divide between urban and rural India;
- Leverage cost-effective technologies to disseminate innovative, high-impact learning tools and methods;

Impact – Govt. School Intervention program:

- Academic success of students: finding gainful employment or pursuing higher education
- The overall well-being of the student, apart from academic or job-focused success
- Training of teachers in rural areas, which would impact the very way teaching is imparted and the attitude of both teachers and parents to schooling.

School visits:

We encourage donors and corporate partners to visit our schools and see the work being done first hand. Our team will facilitate school visits on working days. School address & contact details given in this link: www.ishavidhya.org/contact-us.html

Volunteering Opportunities:

We also encourage corporate teams to volunteer for the projects in a variety of ways, most of them being onsite half-day or one-day programs where they help implement modules of the program or even off-site events at the Company's campus making learning aids and materials for the schools.

Key funding requirements (2016-17):

- School Infrastructure for Isha Vidhya Rural Schools:
 - Classrooms (28 new classrooms needed in 4 schools)-Rs.7.65 lakhs each,
 - School Buses (8 new school buses for 7 schools) – Rs. 17.3 lakhs each,
 - Laptops (30 needed) – Rs. 9.30 lakhs
 - Digital Classroom eqpt – Rs. 75000 each (one for each of 8 schools)
 - Learning aids – Rs.12.27 lakhs
- Govt School Intervention in TN – Avg.Rs. 5-6 lakhs/ school/year
- Govt. School Intervention in AP – Joint-funding with GoAP
- Scholarship support for poor children – Rs.12,000/child/year (4,019 students in Isha Vidhya schools)

Reporting and due diligence:

All positive impact achieved as proposed in measurable indicators, will be analyzed & recorded at the project and the same will be reported to corporate in interim and final fund utilization reports as requested by the donor. We will submit half yearly and annual progress reports.

General Info: Isha Education is a registered Trust with **12A, 80G, FCRA** & other statutory approvals..

Please visit: www.ishavidhya.org; <https://facebook.com/ishavidhya>, [www.twitter.com/ishavidhya](https://twitter.com/ishavidhya)

Video link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jkMmCbILWr4&feature=youtu.be> (5 mins)

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