

# Expression through holistic education

Engaging students in the teaching-learning process  
and encouraging personal and collective  
responsibility

Newsletter Issue Dec 2018



**THE HEJAMADY-KODI**  
**VIDYAPRASARA FOUNDATION**

(Registered under Karnataka Societies Registration Act, 1960)  
'Vidyaprasara Vidyamandira', Hejamady-Kodi - 574 103,  
Dist. Udupi, Karnataka

Dec  
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## A note from the Editor

### Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

HKVP Foundation's Vidyaprasara Vidyamandira is not just another school, but one that focuses on providing a world class education, celebrating the fact that each student is different, as a person and as a learner. We believe that immersive learning and teaching creates a passionate schooling experience one that inculcates exploration, collaboration and excellence. Here we value both our teachers and students and we give them the opportunities to fulfil their potential. We continue to focus on providing a holistic environment to help children develop as a whole individuals.

We foster a positive spirit and believe in partnership between students, parents, teachers and our donors striving to create an Institution that pursues and sustains excellence.

With effective academic interventions like MyPedia, STEM labs and Social Awareness Initiatives, the students are helped to focus on creative learning tools & techniques, confidence building, while nurturing a strong sense of social and environmental responsibility through academic and co-curricular activities.

We strongly believe that education is a collaborative effort that involves passionate academicians, visionary corporates, committed teachers and motivated students. HKVP remains committed to creating a dynamic education programme empowering the students in a global perspective.

We are a group of diverse experiences and outlooks, committed to excellence in preparing our students for enriched education and a meaningful life. In short, studying at HKVP's Vidyaprasara Vidya Mandira is an opportunity to bring a change in one's self and within the society.

**Ravindra Puthran**  
Co-President



Progress so far in brief

This project has commenced in 2011, as a single teacher school with a small batch of 22 students in the kindergarten. Now the school has 315 students studying from Nursery to 6th standard. The vision of the school is to provide high quality of education to students, and even focus on the underprivileged children whose parents have very limited or zero financial capacity by way of minimum fee or zero fees.

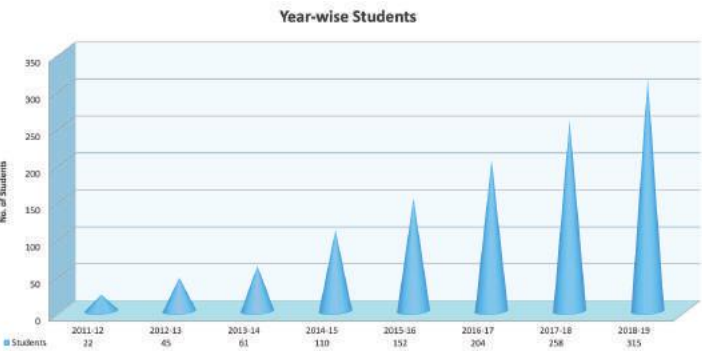
Before we have started this school, the parents had to send their small children to distant schools in cities, travelling about 2 hours. Our school has become a boon to the parents of these children by addressing key factors like proximity, low fee structure, high quality standards of education – all resulting in a rich learning environment with no worries of children dropping out.

The School Management has put in a cogent effort to promote the education of girl child too. Out of the envisioned school project cost of Rs. 4.25 crores, the Management so far collected Rs.3 crores from corporate houses and philanthropic individuals.

The construction of school building of over 20,000 square feet was completed in December, 2017. Now the school has fully functional Computer and Science Laboratories, Mini Science Centre of STEM Laboratories, well stocked library of over 1,200 square feet with 2500 books and facilities to provide digital education.

Student Strength 2018-19

Standard	Boys	Girls	Total
Nursery	10	14	24
L.K.G.	26	19	45
U.K.G.	20	22	42
I Standard	25	16	41
II Standard	12	16	28
III Standard	24	16	40
IV Standard	18	16	34
V Standard	18	12	30
VI Standard	17	14	31
Total	170	145	315



## Teachers recruitment, training and overall development



**First row left to right in seated order:**

Apitha K.R. (6th Std. Class teacher), Rajeshwari Salian (Principal), Jayasheela Bangera (Secretary and Correspondent), Manoj Kumar (Physical Training and Sports) and Irene Rodrigues (Nursery teacher)

**Standing order from left to right:**

Saritha D (Teacher & Librarian), Vanishree P.N. (1st Std. Class Teacher), Nishmitha Shetty (3rd Std. Class Teacher), Sarika H (Computer Teacher), Pavithra K (2nd Std. Class Teacher), Sahana Acharya (4th Std. Class Teacher), Sowmya (Clerk), Sukeshini D (Language Teacher), Vinutha Suvarna (Lower Kindergarten Teacher), Sangeetha Puthran (5th Std. Class Teacher) and Surekha Arun Kumar (Upper Kindergarten Class Teacher)

We have recruited 3 more teachers during 2018-19 taking total strength of teaching and other staff to 15. In order to provide high quality of education to students, it is much important for teachers to be adequately trained and their skills regularly enhanced and updated.

With this objective in mind, we have partnered with M/s Pearson India Education Services Pvt. Ltd., for professional development program, under which the specialists from Pearson provide training sessions to teachers on using MyPedia curriculum in the classroom, teaching strategies, pedagogy, classroom management etc. and also conduct school support visits through-out the year and such interventions include circle time with teachers, classroom observation, demo classes etc.

Continuous upskilling of teaching faculty in English language proficiency is very important since it has direct impact on the development of proper language skills of the students. Hence, we have signed up for a training program with M/s Multibhashi Solutions Private Limited to improve the language skills in English for all the teachers.

Under this program a mentor (subject matter expert) was identified from Multibhashi to engage, assess, design the curriculum for each teacher and deploy the same through Skype. After conducting the pre-assessment, a personalized course plan for each teacher was prepared and training sessions were conducted regularly. All sessions were recorded for audit transparency and future reference. Also, the progress achieved by the teachers are regularly assessed by conducting the tests and reported to management for its review.

The objective of these tests is to measure the level across parameters like listening, reading, speaking, grammar and vocabulary. The teachers proficiency level of English was measured periodically against CEFR (The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) which is the international standard for describing English language ability. We monitor their progress very closely and encourage our teachers to move to higher levels of proficiency in English by implementing various measures like additional coaching and incentive plans etc.

## Celebrating Strengths using Appreciative Inquiry

### Using Appreciative Inquiry to drive desired behaviors and amplify student motivation and engagement



Photograph:

Principal Rajeshwari Salian appreciating students to encourage desired behaviors and drive student belongingness and motivation.

From academic year 2018-19, we have instituted on an experimental basis the process of Appreciative Inquiry to achieve overall improvement. Appreciative Inquiry is a positive, strength based alternative to problem solving as a means of driving and managing change in organizations. It builds on the belief that for an organization to be healthy and productive it must seek out and build on the best ideas and full participation of all the people who work for or interface with the organization.

Applied in the education sector, Appreciative Inquiry is a cooperative search for the best in children, their school, their teachers, their classmates, their parents and this discovery influences and helps shape their image of the future. This used as an academic intervention can amplify the motivation of the students and help them become most alive and effective. It brings about a social change in the pupil as the emphasis is on what is good and the belief that people nurture what they appreciate, than what they are not happy about. The students are able to understand their strengths everytime their potentials are amplified thereby giving students an opportunity to showcase their innovative side rather than just rote memory.

At our school we are attempting to use the Appreciative Inquiry process to transform the age old practice of conducting performance appraisals of the teaching staff.

**The Appreciative Inquiry based performance appraisal questions are framed around 5 competencies namely:**

1. Core knowledge
2. Effective knowledge delivery
3. Transforming classroom learning
4. Building rapport with students and
5. Self-development

We are hopeful that the process of Appreciative Inquiry will bring about an all-round positive change in the school over a period of time and have direct impact on improving the quality of education being imparted at the school. We thank Prof. Max William D'costa, our Academic Advisor for introducing this intervention at the school.

## Establishment of Mini Science Center (MSC) of STEM Learning

### Inspiring Students and Powering Innovation through STEM labs



Photograph:  
Students discussing a project in the mini science center at the school.

HKVP's Vidyaprasara Vidya Mandira believes in providing 'Critical Thinking Spaces' that are both student-centered and student-driven, where students are allowed to critically think and have them productively struggle and fail, learn from those failures and work their way through the problems. It's really a creative and exploratory way of learning, one that they will never forget.

Our corporate partner **M/s Brillio Technologies Private Limited**, under their CSR program sponsored the setting up of **Mini Science Centres (MSC) of STEM Learning** at our school. MSC is innovative and interactive with a hands-on approach to teach students the concepts of Science and Math. This modern way of teaching not only helps students to understand the concepts easily but also to implement them for the progress of the society.

MSC consists of 65 table-top working Science models which are informative, easy to grasp and have in-depth manuals. MSCs help students learn difficult scientific and mathematical concepts with ease. MSC's Plug & Play models and actually observing concepts, which are often only read in books, ignites the children's inquisitiveness, thus resulting in engagement.

Inauguration of MSC was held on 15th September, 2018. We express our sincere appreciation and thanks to M/s Brillio Technologies Private Limited for their continued support and encouragement to the school.

#### MSC projects done so far

1. Newton's disk
2. Floating magnet
3. Wind Mill
4. Solar light
5. Day and Night
6. Rock and Minerals

#### Projects planned in next 6 months

1. Periscope
2. Kaleidoscope
3. Simple camera
4. Viscosity tube
5. Tangram

## Library Updates

### Empowering the Librarian to transform teaching-learning and making reading fun



Photograph:  
Students engaged in a library session.

Studies show that children who read for pleasure from a young age are much more likely to do well throughout their academic life. We firmly endorse the fact that the enthusiasm and responsiveness of the librarian generally had a direct impact on the attitudes of the students towards the library and reading. We set up the library last year, with aid from **M/s Mahindra Holidays & Resorts Ltd.** At our school, library is an integral part of the learning process. The Librarian will collaboratively plan and teach with the classroom teachers. Library activities will be tailored to:

- a) arouse curiosity, creativity & develop imagination
- b) encourage collaboration and co-operation
- c) promote digital citizenship and safety
- f) promote reading for education & pleasure

The mission of the library program is to empower students to be critical thinkers, effective and ethical users and producers of ideas and information, and lifelong readers and learners so that they become productive citizens in a global society. We have appointed a qualified librarian and established necessary processes for effective utilization of the library. We want our students to get attracted to visit the library as a fun place, stay back and explore the huge sea of learning. Following are the few highlights:

#### Book grading

*Book titles selected from each Publisher are graded on a simple heuristic: the average number of sentences per page. Books are graded into six levels, based on this heuristic measure. Each level of book also receives a coloured sticker along its spine. The is called the GROWBY – Green, Red, Orange, While, Blue and Yellow. Grading of the book allows the child to make an intelligent choice of books at a particular reading level, helps the child to achieve a sense of progress and improvement and also helps the Librarian watch and track each child's reading ability.*

#### Library set up

*Steps are taken to ensure that the Library is welcoming and comfortable for the children, clean and dust-free and books are stacked up in the racks in an orderly fashion.*

#### Book Display

*A wire is stretched along the wall of the Library room and books are hung along this wire such that the Book Covers are visible from the doorway of the Library. Children are encouraged to take books off this hanging display to read.*

#### Drawings and Charts

*Creations by Children adorn in the walls of the Library room.*

#### Library Time Table for every class in school

*The Time Table specifies when each Class in a school visits the library. This also reinforces the status of the Librarian as a peer to the regular teachers in the school.*

#### Library Class

*This consists of two periods (1) Creative Activity Period (30 minutes) and (2) Book Checkout period (15 minutes). Creative Activity Period involves several creative activities like book based role plays, Lego model building and exposition, Storytelling etc.*

## Abacus Classes, Competitions and more...



Introduction of Abacus

We have introduced Abacus in our school in this academic year 2018-19 as an aid in teaching the numeral system and arithmetic. There are two levels - Level One which is an elementary level for students aged between 5 to 8 years. There are a total of 73 students in this level. Level Two is a regular level for students aged between 9 to 13 years. There are a total of 54 students in this level.

On 27th October our students participated in the 13th state level Abacus competition, which had about 1,200 participants.



Our Abacus champions with their trophies

HKVP's Vidyaprasara Vidyamandira students bagged several prizes in various categories as under.

**2nd Position** - won by *one* student

**4th Position** - won by *three* students

**5th Position** - won by *four* students

All our remaining student participants were awarded consolation prizes.

## Karate Competition



2nd State Level Inter Dojo Karate Championship - Budokan Dhamaka 2018

### State level Karate competition held in Aug 2018

In the State Level Karate competition held at Ken-E-Mabuni-Shi-tu-Ryu-Karate School of India in Manipal our students won 5 first prices, 3 second prices and 4 third prices.



State Level Karate Competition - Manipal

### State level Karate competition held in Oct 2018

State level Budokan Karate & Self Defence dhamaka was held on October, 2018 at Udupi, in which our students participated and won 11 gold medals, 6 silver medals and 5 bronze medals.

## Other Inter-School and cluster level Competitions



Prathibha Karanji 2018-19: In cluster level Prathibha Karanji our school students bagged many prizes, (See the list below)

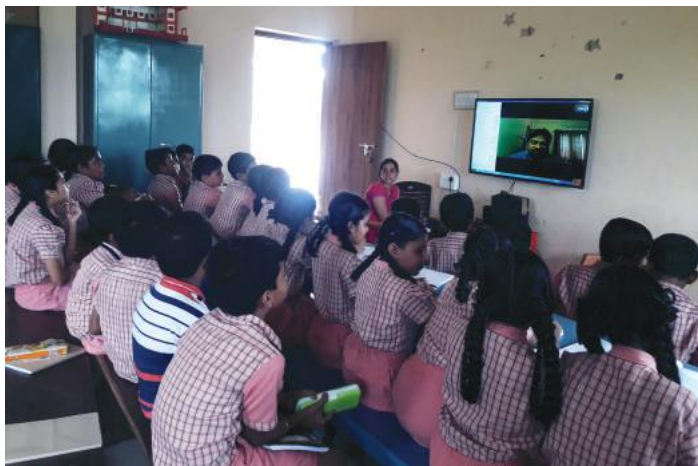
### Primary School, 1st - 4th Standard

Sr.	Competition Name	Student Name	Place
01	Laghu Sangeetha	Gagan S Poojary	1st
02	Action Songs	Harshal M Kotian	1st
03	Fancy Dress	Preethal Y Ameen	1st
04	Tulu (Recitation)	Trijal Kumar	2nd
05	Hindi (Recitation)	Rithika M	3rd
06	Sanskrit (Darmika Patana)	Dhanvi U P	3rd
07	Bhakthi Geethe	Ananya R	2nd
08	Kolata (Group Dance)	Rishika C Suvarna & Group	3rd
09	Pick and speak	Trisha Devadiga	2nd

### Higher Primary School, 5th - 6th Standard

Sr.	Competition Name	Student Name	Place
01	Clay Modeling	Pranath S Amin	2nd
02	Hindi (Recitation)	Shrusti K P	2nd
03	Lagu Sangeetha	Sinchana P	3rd
04	Fancy Dress	Vrushanka S	1st
05	Drawing	Anush D Kotian	2nd
06	Kolata	Keerthana J	1st
07	Kawali	Mohammad Muzammil	2nd
08	Arabic (Darmic Patana)	Nafisathu Zakiya M	2nd

## Digital Classrooms, Teacher-Student Awards & more...



Students enjoying a digital classroom session run by our remote education partner eVidyaloka

### Remote education delivered digitally by voluntary teachers using eVidyaloka's IT Infrastructure

M/s Brillio Technologies Pvt. Ltd, continued their sponsorship of enabling the remote education to our students by voluntary teachers using IT platform of M/s eVidyaloka for the 2nd year. This has helped the students enhance their understanding of important subjects like Mathematics, Science and English, by supplementing the classroom education imparted at the school.

During 2018-19 so far 50 classes have been conducted in Science, Maths and English using this platform. Routine class tests and reviews are conducted regularly. The school remains thankful to Brillio for their continued patronage and commitment to education.



Teacher of the Year Award being presented to Ms. Sukeshini D during the School Annual Day

### Best Teacher Award for Academic Year 2018 - 19

In order to motivate and recognize the teachers for their meritorious performance, the school committee selects one of its teachers every year as 'best teacher' after undergoing strict evaluation process.

**Ms. Sukeshini D was awarded as "Best Teacher" during 2018-19.** She was honoured in the annual day with a Certificate and a monetary award for her outstanding contribution to school education. Through this newsletter we would like to acknowledge her dedication and passion towards her role as a teacher and congratulate her for earning this prestigious award. The school management and staff sincerely appreciates her for the excellent service rendered to the school.



2nd State Level Inter Dojo Karate Championship - Budokan Dhamaka 2018

### Celebrating Meritorious Students

We recognised 8 students this year for their meritorious performance and have awarded them. These students continue to make us proud and inspire their peers.

### Kudos to our stars

From left to right...

1. Nafisathu Zakiya (5th Std.)
2. Thrisha Devadiga (3rd Std.)
3. Ashritha S K (1st Std.)
4. Anvitha R (L.K.G)
- Rajeshwari S (Principal)
5. Harshal M Kotian (U.K.G)
6. Gagan S Poojary (U.K.G)
7. Suhas J Kotian (4th std)
8. Gagan J (2nd std)



## An update on our funding arrangements

The Foundation relies on the grants, donations and sponsorships from individuals and corporates for meeting its financial requirements. Apart from philanthropic donors, many socially responsible corporates like Mahindra Holidays & Resorts Limited, Quinnox Consultancy Services Limited, Brillio Technologies Pvt. Ltd and Bellary Oxygen Pvt. Ltd., have continued their financial assistance under their corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs. This support and sponsorships have helped the Foundation in completing the construction of school building and establishing required facilities.

As this school caters to a large number of underprivileged children, the school fees are heavily subsidized. The concessional fees charged to students covers only a part of the operating cost of the school. The school relies on the donations mainly from individuals under its Child Education sponsorship programs, which allows the individuals to sponsor the education of children, to bridge the gap in the operational expenses for running the school. The Foundation looks forward for the continued support of its sponsors under the child education sponsorship program.

The Foundation seeks to raise funds for the following initiatives in the near future and appeals to philanthropists and corporates to support our funding requirements. These requirements are as below:

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**Acquisition of an acre of land for providing sporting facilities to the school in particular and the community at large, costing Rs. 40 to Rs. 45 lacs**

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**Acquisition of two school buses to help the students of the village, costing around Rs. 40 lacs**

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**To set up scholarship fund of Rs.100 lacs**

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**Digitization of the school and providing tablets to the students, costing Rs. 15 to 20 lacs**

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**To set up a teachers training and development fund of Rs. 15 lacs**

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## Our Partners Speak

“It was an amazing two years of productive engagement in up-skilling of teachers in English language with Vidyaprasara Vidyamandira school. Proactive and professional management's close involvement, close attention and continuous review by school Principal and enthusiastic participation and hard-work by the teachers contributed to the success of this program in achieving noticeable improvement by teachers.

Continued focus on skill building of teachers, including in language skills will directly contribute in enhancement of quality of education imparted to students.

I congratulate the school management for driving this initiative”

**Anuradha Agarwal,**

CEO - Multibhashi Solutions Pvt. Ltd.



“Vidya Prasara Vidya Mandira has been singularly devoted to the improvement of teaching-learning. We have seen the maturing of the teaching fraternity over the years as they have tirelessly worked towards upgrading their pedagogical and technological skills under the able and enthusiastic supervision of the Principal Mrs Rajeshwari Salian. The teachers are keen to learn new skills by adopting innovative methodologies suggested by the Pearson MyPedia program and have brought about measurable improvements in the learning of the students.

Starting from a focussed approach towards improving the students' communication and creative writing skills to making the atmosphere in the classroom one which is technologically advanced and also conducive to active learning, It is really great to see that students even in Grade 1 can confidently converse in English. Vidya Prasara has been fully supportive of implementing the MyPedia program. Kudos to the team for having worked towards this vision of raising children who think independently and own the responsibility of their individual learning.

Many cheers for the team Vidya Prasara that has taken the bold step of teaching the students how to learn rather than what to learn”.

**Anamika Pareek**

Dy. Manager - Accounts Relationship,  
Pearson India Education Services Pvt. Ltd.

**PEARSON**

## Parents Speak (translated from Kannada)



"This school in the village has very good environment for overall growth of children. Teachers treat children with love and care. School also has all required facilities for providing good education and teachers actively encourage children to participate in both curricular and extra-curricular activities. We thank the Foundation for setting up this school in the village."

### Mrs. Prakashini

Parent of 6<sup>th</sup> Standard Student



"My child loves to go to school. Teachers make learning a fun and allow children to learn and play. School has all facilities including smart class, computer and science laboratories. I am very happy to get such a high quality school right in the village".

### Mrs. Nirmala

Parent of 5<sup>th</sup> Standard Student



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