

# Expression through holistic education

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



## THE HEJAMADY-KODI VIDYAPRASARA FOUNDATION

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



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A note from the Editors

## Innovation in rural schooling is the key to India's transformation

Dear Readers,

We draw your attention to an article in India Today recently authored by Dr. Neelam Gupta who is the President and CEO of AROH Foundation. It says the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) shows that even though the number of rural students attending schools is rising, more than half of the students in fifth grade are unable to read a second grade text book and are not able to solve simple mathematical problems. Not only this, the level of maths and reading is declining at an alarming rate.

Some of the major problems that plague the rural education system in India are related to both quality and access of teaching learning facilities and basic infrastructure. While dearth of teachers and poor quality of teaching directly affects learning outcomes, poor infrastructural facilities in terms of classrooms and benches, blackboards, playgrounds, toilets, water, etc, also hamper the delivery of quality education and make the school unattractive to a child.

The foundation to turn India into a strong nation has to be laid down at primary and rural levels and so the quality of education right from the beginning should be excellent. A complete reform in education system is required which should start from policies which promote talent in teaching system. Teachers are the backbone of education.

We at HKVP are striving hard to emulate this vision echoed by the likes of Dr. Neelam Gupta who share the same passion of empowering the new India. We value our teaching community and believe in enhancing their teaching skills and their overall personality. We believe in the cascading effect this focus brings on the overall well-being of our students.

With innovative steps taken to incorporate STEM labs, digitalizing the classrooms, encouraging intra and inter school competitions as well as sporting events, we want our students to be ready to handle what life throws at them. We want them to learn by questioning and reasoning and enjoy a holistic learning experience that stays with them beyond school.

We are also deeply grateful to our academic partners like Pearson, Multibhashi and eVidyaloka, our CSR partners like Quinnox Consultancy Services Ltd., Mahindra Holidays & Resorts India Limited, Brillio Technologies Private Limited and Bellary Oxygen Company Private Limited, and other non - corporate and individual donors, members and volunteers who have opened the world of possibilities to our students.

The entire HKVP team expresses their gratitude to you all. Let us continue together with a renewed strength on this journey to transform lives through education."

**Ravindra Puthran**  
Co-President  
& Editor

**Prof. Max William D'Costa**  
Academic Advisor  
& Co-editor







Photograph: Students in a morning assembly gearing up for the day

## Brief overview of our journey so far

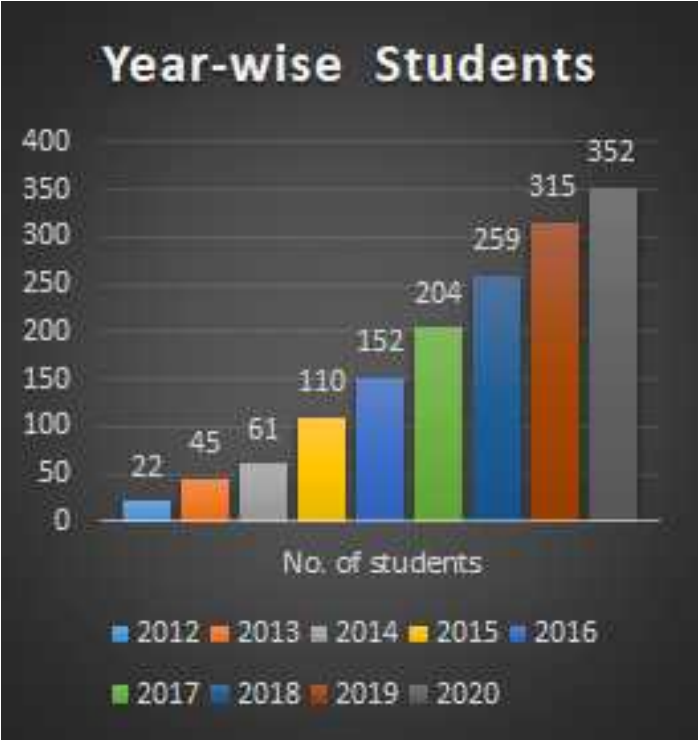
According to the 2011 census of India, 68.84% of Indians live in villages. The quality and access to education is major concern in most of villages. Hejamadi-Kodi is one such village in coastal Karnataka, where children had no access to quality education and had to travel over 2 hours to nearby cities for primary and secondary education. To address this problem as well as other issues like school drop outs, education to the girl child, child labour, an initiative was undertaken in 2011 by the Hejamady-Kodi Vidyaprasara Foundation (“HKVP”), a non-profit organization, of setting up of an English medium school to provide high quality and value based education in this village. The beginning was made with a single teacher school with 22 students. Now the school has completed 8 years of successful operations and has established itself as one of the best center of education in the region.

The school currently provides high quality education to 352 rural students from underprivileged background, from nursery up to the 7th standard. The school now has well-furnished and well lit 10 classrooms, well stocked library with over 2,500 books, Science Labs, STEM laboratory, Computer laboratory, over an acre of sports ground and sports facilities, spacious auditorium and facilities to provide digital and distant education in classrooms. Since the vision was to provide high quality education comparable to that imparted by schools in the cities, HKVP has undertaken various academic initiatives to continually improve the quality of primary education.

## Student admissions and teacher recruitments

The new academic year 2019-20 saw 57 new student admissions and recruitment of 2 teachers. Now, the school has 15 teachers and 2 non-teaching staff on its rolls.

Standard	Boys	Girls	Total
Nursery	10	12	22
L.K.G.	23	26	49
U.K.G.	25	19	44
1st Standard	19	17	36
2nd Standard	28	16	44
3rd Standard	13	17	30
4th Standard	25	18	43
5th Standard	11	13	24
6th Standard	17	11	28
7th Standard	17	15	32
Total	188	164	352



## Training and Personality Development programs



**Photograph: Training session with our teachers**

Dr. G. Bhaskar - the trainer (standing), Teachers from left to right: Sahana Acharya, Sukeshini, Surekha Arun Kumar, Vanishree P, Pavitra, Arpitha, Nishmitha, Vinutha, Sangeetha and Rajeshwari Salian (the Principal).

To ensure that high quality of education is provided in the school, it is important to focus on skill-building of teachers by providing continuous trainings. It is well recognized that lack of trained teachers in the country, particularly in rural India, is a major issue in school education, which directly affect the quality of education being imparted to students. To address this issue, HKVP has provided special emphasis on training and development of teachers. During this academic year, so far, the following training and development programs have been undertaken:

- 1. Pedagogy, Classroom management and skill development training** by experts of Pearson during the months of May, June and August. Pearson is regularly providing this training since last 4 years and also measuring the effectiveness of training by classroom observation on ongoing basis. They provide key insights on teacher strengths and areas that need more focus. This helps us in building teacher's competencies and empowering them to apply their newfound skills in the classroom to make a difference to the students as well as for themselves.
- 2. English language skill development training** by professionals of M/s Multibhashi Solutions Pvt. Ltd., to 9 teachers. This training is regular and ongoing since last 4 years and has significantly helped in improving English language skills of teachers. This initiative directly contributes to the teacher's confidence building and ability to articulate their thoughts through effective communication with their stakeholders like peers, students as well as the school management.
- 3. Workshop on Classroom management** to help manage a class full of students, addresses one of the biggest challenges faced by teachers. If teachers do not have an effective plan in place, there will not be much opportunities for students to engage in meaningful learning experiences. A workshop was conducted in April, 2019, by Dr. G.Bhaskar, an Academician ( M.Sc., M.End., M.Phil., Ph.D., M.B.A.) from Bengaluru University. The focus was to enable teachers to carefully study their students and identify students who may be slow learners or who need to be engaged with, differently and then impart attention and learnings to them accordingly. Teachers are provided with various group activities, exercises and projects during the workshop. The impact of this workshop was felt during the last few months as we could now observe improved classroom management across the school.
- 4. Workshop on handwriting** to help all teachers to follow uniform handwriting practices in all classes. Normally teachers follow different styles of handwriting, which creates difficulties to students during learning process. Hence, it is important to bring uniformity in handwriting in all the teachers. To achieve this objective, a workshop was arranged in the school for the teachers by Mrs. Indu Nagabhushan Thirthalli, (B' com PGDBA/Trainer in Writing Skill Development) a trained professional in handwriting. This training was also very effective, as it brought about an awareness of handwriting best practices among teachers.
- 5. Other training programs planned** for teachers across all classes to help them develop skills like patience, accountability, imagination, teamwork, risk taking, constant learning, communication, mentoring and leadership. We have planned teachers training programs to develop and enhance these skills on-going basis.



## Effective utilisation of Mini Science Centre (MSC) of STEM Learning



Teacher explaining the derivation of algebraic formula  $(A+B)^2 = A^2 + B^2 + 2AB$  using STEM model in STEM Laboratory

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, our corporate social responsibility partner, M/s Brillio Technology Private Limited, sponsored the setting up of Mini Science Centre (MSC) of STEM Learning at our school. This MSC along with few other such initiatives are aimed at 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, learning from these failures and work their way through the problems. This helps the students to learn by exploratory way and encourage them to become thinkers.

STEM learning fosters ingenuity and creativity that leads to new ideas and innovations, builds resilience which allows students to fail and try again, encourages experimentation and the art of risk taking to give things a 'Let's try and see what happens', encourages teamwork by allowing students of varying levels of ability to work together, encourages knowledge application and skills that they can use in real world, encourages use of technology, teaches problem solving by using critical thinking, and finally encourages adoption of all this knowledge gained in the real world.

The School has effectively leveraged the MSC during this year by undertaking many projects.

Here are some of the MSC projects taken up so far during the course of the year:

1. Pythagoras Theoram
2.  $(A+B)^2 = A^2 + B^2 + 2AB$
3. Area of Circle
4. Viscosity tube
5. Tangram
6. Sum of the angles of a triangle
7. Simple Camera
8. Pin Screen
9. Solar Light

Following projects are planned to be undertaken during second semester:

1. Angular Vision
2. Periscope
3. Kaleidoscope
4. Parrot in the cage
5. Viscosity tube
6. Rock and Minerals

Our school has been short listed for the Model school's category for this Academic year by STEM Learning Private Limited recognizing the best usage of Stem Learning - MSC.

## The School Library Media Center



Students in the library

### Photograph:

Students engaged in the school library

A library is an important source of knowledge for young minds in schools. It develops the important habit of reading among the students. The school librarian engages students in many ways and help students learn best ways to access and use quality information and resources and help them enhance their study and research skills while allowing them to harness the latest technologies and the internet to find what they are looking for. In our library, we have a section called 'e-library' where we have provided students access to laptops connected to the internet. Students make use of this facility regularly to research the internet on various topics and for school projects. During this year, the library carried out many projects and activities like Book face, Legos, Story Telling and Online story reading exercises.



The playground

### Photograph:

The HKVP School Playground

Play is the key to physical, mental, intellectual and social wellbeing of children. It impacts hugely on almost every developmental aspect of children's lives holistically and in multifaceted ways. Young children spend a reasonable amount of time in school. Besides, for many children, school play time is the most active part of their day. Therefore, school playground and school playtime are vitally important to children for their fun and relaxation as well as for their good health and well-being. School playgrounds play important role in their daily life for fulfilling their interest, development and learning needs. To make play as part of study, HKVP has recently acquired an acre of land and is in the process of setting up various sports facilities.



## Competitions and Events

### Karate

On 18-07-2019, the Department of Education, Karnataka Government, has conducted Taluk level inter-school Karate competition at our school. 350 students from over 50 schools participated in the event, which was a grand success.

The officials of education department and the principals, parents of other schools appreciated the infrastructure provided by the school and for organizing the event in a exemplary manner.



Photograph: Inter-School Karate Competition held at HKVP School



Photograph: Winners of the Pratibha Karanji Event

### Pratibha Karanji Competition 2019-20

1st prize – 3 students | 2nd prize – 5 students | 3rd prize – 8 students

Pratibha Karanji is an innovative program where cultural and literary competitions are conducted at cluster, block, district and state levels. It provides a common platform for students for various competitions in which successful students are awarded certificates of appreciation and prizes and selected students are sent to higher level competitions.

30 students from our school participated in the cluster level completion held at Padubidri on 27th August and bagged 16 prizes. Kudos to the students and teachers.

Sr.	Student Name	Standard	Competition Name	Place
01	Aashritha, Halima Manha, Sanvi, Gagan, Rithika, Fazil	1 to 4	Quiz	3rd
02	Prithal Y	1 to 4	English recitation	2nd
03	Trijal	1 to 4	Tulu recitation	3rd
04	Harshal	1 to 4	Devotional song	2nd
05	Gagan	1 to 4	Lagu sangeetha	3rd
06	Vaishnavi	1 to 4	Pick and speak	2nd
07	Chaithanya	1 to 4	Bhagavad Geetha	2nd
08	Dhanush	1 to 4	Drawing	3rd
09	Shamith, Fazil ,Parth, Vaishnavi , Ashritha, Faziya	1 to 4	Patriotic Song	1st
10	Pranath	5 to 7	Clay Modeling	1st
11	Sinchana, Keerthana, Vrushanka , Zakiya, Trisha p , Srushti	5 to 7	Kolata Dance	1st
12	Anush	5 to 7	Drawing	1st
13	Smrithi	5 to 7	Tulu Recitation	3rd
14	Ananya	5 to 7	Devotional Song	3rd
15	Shristi K	5 to 7	Hindi Recitation	3rd
16	Vrashanka	5 to 7	Action Song	2nd



## Abacus State Level Competition



### Photograph:

From left to right standing: Vineet, Pratham, Smrithi, Mohammed, Thanish, Rajeshwari Salian (Principal) Yashaswi, Anvitha, Nafeesothu Zokhiya, Srushti, Vrashanka, Sitting: Left to right: Shreya, Prarthana, Anvitha, Deepak, Ananya

15 students from our school participated in 14th Karnataka State Level Abacus and Mental Arithmetic Competition, 2019, held at Mysore, Karnataka on 8th September, 2019 and won prizes

Student Name	Prize won
Shrusti K Puthran	1st
Ananya Suvarna	2nd
Nafeesathu Zakiya	2nd
Deepak D Karkera	3rd
Shreya Sudhakar D	3rd
Yashaswi	3rd
Thanish L Amin	3rd

Student Name	Prize won
Mhd. Fazal	4th
Smrithi Loknath Gujarani	4th
Anvitha	4th
Prarthana	4th
Pratham Suvarna	5th
Vrashanka	5th
Vineeth G Acharya	5th

## Abacus State Level Competition



Photograph: Students Playing in mud

### Kesarinalli ondu dina (One Day to play in mud) on 10th July, 2019

It is important to allow children be as children and grow in the lap of nature. As a part of International Sports Day, the school has organised this event to play in the paddy field filled with monsoon water. Students are provided with information about cultivation, difference between organic and inorganic cultivation and identify the various types of crops. Various sports programs like dog and the bone, running race, treasure hunt are organised on this day to allow students to have fun while learning outside the classroom.



Photograph: Yoga Practice

### Yoga Day was celebrated on 21st June in our school

Yoga helps improves student behavior, overall physical health and academic performance, as well as student's attitudes toward themselves. For our youth to embrace a healthy lifestyle it is important to include yoga into the school's curriculum. At HKVP, Yoga education is an integral part of our school's curriculum.

Apart from the above, the school also organised various functions on Independence Day and Van Mahostava (Forest Day).



## Celebrating Meritorious Students



### Photograph:

Name of students from left to right: Harshal, Aashritha, Gagan, Trisha Devadiga, Rajeshwari Salian (Principal), Ananya, Mariyamma Alisha, Suhas, Srushti

We recognized 7 students this year, for their all-round meritorious performance. These students continue to make us proud and inspire their peers.

## Cluster Level Inter-School Athletic Competition



### Photograph:

Name of students from left to right : Ananya, Shrusti, Vrashanka, Sinchana, Pranath, Muzzamil with Rajeshwari Salian (Principal)

In the cluster level inter-school athletic competition held recently on September 17, 2019, six students from our school bagged the prizes:

Student Name	Competition	Place
Sinchana	Shot Put	1st
Ananya	Running Race	2nd
Ananya & team	Relay	3rd
Pranath	High Jump	3rd
Muzzamil	Shot Put	2nd
Vrashanka	Shot Put	3rd



## Testimonials by Visiting Dignitaries

Earlier this year, I visited the Vidyaprasara Vidyamandira English medium school in Hejamady Kodi village and was most impressed with what I saw. With over 350 students, the school is a model for what good education and equal opportunity for the underserved should be. Despite being a low cost school catering primarily to the fishing villages around, the quality of the infrastructure and the education is at par with any good private school in any city. The passion, commitment and dedication of the trustees, principal and staff was palpable. The students were happy, smart and confident and excited about being part of the institution. I wish the school all success as it grows into a high school in the coming years.



**Shoma Bakre**  
Managing Trustee,  
Let's Do Some Good Foundation

"A memorable visit to the HKVP Foundation's Vidyaprasara Vidyamandira on 8th July 2019."

I was fortunate to be associated with a school in Udupi (T.A.Pai Modern Higher Primary School, Vinobha Nagar, Kadabettu - a school that serves poor students free of cost ) as a volunteer in their fund raising efforts.

On July 8th, 2019 I had the opportunity to visit the Vidyaprasara Vidyamandira English Medium School along with Shri. G.D.Rao and Shri Ramesh Rao, two of the trustees of T.A.Pai Modern Higher Primary School, Udupi. One of our key objectives in that visit was to see what all can we learn and try to implement in the school in Udupi.

To me, it was a memorable experience, given the school's location, its wonderful premises, its facilities/amenities, interaction with founders/trustees, its initiatives/tie-ups with various institutions in enhancing the quality of education, the principal, teaching staff and to top it all..... its students. When we toured each of the classes, I cannot forget the warmth with which we were greeted by each of the students in all the classes. It just shows that the school excels not only in providing modern education but also in passing on culture/manners to the students, thus playing a key role in the overall personality development of the students. I then began to wonder about, and appreciate, the team that has put in so much of efforts to make this school a reality.

In my humble opinion, the educational efforts of Vidyaprasara Vidyamanidra English Medium School in our nation building are greater than even serving The Almighty, for The Almighty would be even more pleased when The Almighty's children are being groomed in a manner done by Vidyaprasara Vidyamandira. I returned to Udupi with so much of happiness and peace that I have finally found a school that can be called a role-model for providing affordable education to the ones who need it the most!

Kudos to the Vidyaprasara Vidyamanidra team!



**P.R. Sudarshan**  
ACA, ACS, ACMA, CPA (USA),  
Finance & Advisory Services



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