

# Encourage Education. Cultivate Knowledge. Enable Development.

(Established November 2014) <http://www.vidya-gyan.org/>

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2016

## CELEBRATE and EDUCATE GIRLS: OFFER HOPE and AFFECT CHANGE

Children are children everywhere who deserve to realize their full potential. However, in the 21st century, many families in rural India still practice an unintended “discriminatory” behavior for girls. Consequently, they become the second thought in education, financial inclusion, and health care, etc. Together, we can change one village school at a time. No girl has to feel underserving of education and childhood dignity.



A Minnesota based non-profit charitable organization founded in November 2014, Vidya Gyan is aimed at educating and empowering underprivileged girls, currently in government rural primary schools (grades 1-5). Our approach is different than many worthy organizations. How?

**SAVE TO SECURE :1000 Scholarships for Girls:** In its pilot program in January 2016, Vidya Gyan offered modest scholarships to 233 girls (<https://her.yourstory.com/vidya-gyan-0424>) in 18 rural schools enabling them to be a proud owner of a “Small Savings: Big Rewards” account. These accounts, opened in the post offices, are designed to offer financial security and keep girls in the school at least for five years through an incentivized partnership with parents. We believe that five years is a stepping stone for the girls to demonstrate potential for further education and for us to be their advocate in case parents have reservation in their daughter’s further education.

Encouraged by our success in the pilot program, **Vidya Gyan plans to offer 1000 additional scholarships across 30-35 rural primary schools in December.**

**PENCIL TO POWER:** At the most basic level writing/learning begins with a pencil and paper. Yet, millions in rural schools miss out on developing age appropriate writing skill which is as critical as speaking, reading, and listening for the holistic development of children. Our goal is to **distribute 5000 writing kits** so children can learn writing alphabets, words, and numbers; practice math problems, and express thoughts through stories and/or sketches. Follow the link: <https://www.facebook.com/Vidya-Gyan-436259489875015/>

**YOUR GENEROSITY** is critical to positively influence girls, build their self-esteem, and offer hope for a better future. The return on your donation- more educated and socially and economically empowered girls. We welcome and appreciate donations of all magnitude. As an example, your donation of **\$10/month (or \$100/year)** will induct you as a valued member of Vidya Gyan which comes with the privilege of helping the needy girls in rural India. Another model: **\$1/day for one year (\$ 365/year)** will support Pencil to Power and Save to Secure for about a dozen children. Your donations (tax-deductible) will also help improve the shocking statistical facts below because EDUCATION matters for all children:



- Nearly 8 million Indian girls under the age of 10 and as many as 102 million girls under 18 were married in 2011.
- More than 24% girls discontinue education at 5<sup>th</sup> grade, about 40% at 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and only 1% complete 12<sup>th</sup> grade in rural India.
- The level of teenage pregnancy and motherhood is nine times higher among uneducated women than those with 12 or more years of education.



was a proud host of India's 2014 Noble Laureate Satyarthi in Minnesota in June. In his words, "***Every single minute matters, every single child matters, every single childhood matters.***"

Therefore, please contribute generously to help educate and celebrate every girl's childhood.

Please feel free to call [701 200 1960](tel:7012001960), write ([vidyagyan2014@gmail.com](mailto:vidyagyan2014@gmail.com)) and/or visit [www.vidyagyan.org](http://www.vidyagyan.org). Thank you.