

# ANNUAL REPORT (October 2019)

Vidya Gyan....  ...Vidya Gyan India



**ADOPT A SCHOOL  
PENCIL TO POWER  
SAVINGS TO SECURE  
COMPUTER LITERACY  
LIBRARY FOR LEARNING**



**ENCOURAGE EDUCATION. CULTIVATE KNOWLEDGE. ENABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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**VIDYA GYAN's FIFTH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL**  
"The 555" = 5 grants up to Rs. 5 lacs (~ \$7,500) each for up to 5 years for teacher directed transformational change, building pride, and improved learning

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Voice/ What's App: +701 200 1960 [DONATE](#) (Tax Deductible) Contact us for [Bank Transfer](#)

## OUR BEST WISHES FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON AND YEAR 2020



**Greetings** to friends, donors and volunteers worldwide on behalf of Vidya Gyan and Vidya Gyan India. We celebrate our strong union for making a difference in the learning environments in rural government primary schools and beyond. In that, we are firmly committed to learning opportunities, financial security, and wellbeing of girl child in India who is often neglected in families with limited resources.

Our current initiatives (next page) are approved by the Home Ministry in India under FCRA (Foreign Currency Regulations Act). The FCRA and "tax-exempt" status for both organizations differentiate us from others and accord greater legitimacy/ transparency.

**Computer Literacy:** This year, we embarked on a [new initiative](#) under which two rural government schools (Biharigadh and Doobhar Kishanpur) will be equipped with computers to transition children into the 21<sup>st</sup> century learning. The former is a large English medium elementary school (> 250 students), and the latter is a composite school with grades 1-8.

Our volunteers and donors are the greatest asset and source of inspiration. With their blessings, Vidya Gyan is pleased to celebrate 5 year of successful journey and offer GRANTS (next page) for teacher directed changes and building pride ([Hamara School: Hamara Gaurav](#) ; [Our School: Our Pride](#)).

**EVERY CHILD, TEACHER, DONOR, AND VOLUNTEER IS THE BACKBONE OF VIDYA GYAN.**

## PROMOTING EDUCATION and EMPOWERMENT in RURAL areas



### INITIATIVES IN RURAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS



#### Library and Learning

Books for school library and teaching aids that impact learning and promote STEM culture among girls.



#### Adopt a School

Bench for three kids; a school with 100 kids is given ~35 sets of furniture and a steel cabinet for library.



#### Saving to Secure

Supplement girl's saving account for 5 years to insure her education and provide financial security for future.



#### Pencil to Power

Provide notebooks, pencil and eraser; Writing empowers them to express their thoughts.

EVERY CHILD MATTERS

## DO YOU DREAM?

### TRANSFORMATIONAL "555 GRANTS" Commitment, Collaboration, and Community

A sustained transformation necessitates bigger investment by Vidya Gyan, teamwork and commitment by teachers, and the community engagement for building pride. With that in mind, our donors/friends dared us dream a bold move i.e. to encourage and empower teachers to think "outside the box" to foster partnerships with community/parents and create engaging learning environment.

**Vidya Gyan's Dream is to award 5 grants up to Rupees 5 lacs each for a period of up to 5 years ("555") to affect teacher-directed change toward a sustainable improvement.**

We believe that the teachers know best why students don't learn, and what and how to motivate them? Can classroom furniture and fans, playground equipment, teaching aids, technology, water-purification, books, etc. help improve learning? Can the competitive and leadership activities lead to deeper and better engagement? Can greater parental and community engagement affect change and how? The "555" grants may fund everything with appropriate justification except the construction projects.

We are seeking big ideas in which the team of teachers must dream and make time commitment to affect change. The time to be used for meeting with parents/community, extracurricular and competitive activities etc. for students committed to learning. Students may be hired as teacher assistants.

The proposal must include assessment measures to demonstrate improved learning. Two or more schools can collaborate with similar learning objectives. Proposals emphasizing girls' education and wellbeing, collaboration, and/or with financial support from village leadership/community will receive higher priority. Vidya Gyan will offer Grant writing help sessions to rural school teachers to realize the projects of their dream.

**TEACHER DIRECTED CHANGES ARE THE BEST HOPE FOR IMPROVED LEARNING IN SCHOOLS.**

## OTHER VIDYA GYAN PROJECTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

**Scholars to Schoolers (STS):** The individuals sharing their knowledge are the “Scholars” and the beneficiaries are the “Schoolers. Our focus is the leadership development of the youth by the youth but not at the exclusion of professionals. The examples include high schoolers (Scholars) mentoring younger children (Schoolers), students from prestigious institutions or a medical/professional program sharing their journey with aspiring students/parents, and professionals sharing their insight with youth on how to succeed.

STS is not “one size fits all” initiative but it has the potential for enrichment at all levels with no disciplinary, topical, and geographical boundaries. Vidya Gyan is exploring how STS can be implemented in its network of government primary schools with local Scholars in India.

**Building Cultural Bridge:** To promote handwriting under Pencil to Power initiative, Vidya Gyan engaged 5<sup>th</sup> graders in a Minnesota elementary school in exchanging letters (handwritten in English) with kids in select rural schools in India who in turn wrote mostly in Hindi. The kids introduced themselves and asked curious questions about each other’s school, surroundings, and weather etc.

This year, the project is aimed at building a cultural bridge (kids to kids) to better understand each other. The plan includes exchanging 4 write-ups (handwritten) on select topics like the celebration of Independence Days, major festivals, and about impactful leaders, etc. Vidya Gyan will translate the letters and coach the kids on both sides of the ocean about the similarities and differences.

## PROJECTS and RESOURCES for INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT and ENGAGEMENT (PRIDE): Beyond the Primary Education

**Library for Learning:** A rural high school has a fully furnished general library with a staff librarian, serving about 1000 students. It is aimed at building a culture of students borrowing books and become avid readers.

**Text Book Bank:** This allows the grade 9-12 students borrow science and mathematics textbooks for the semester or academic year to lessen the cost of education burden on parents. This year, ~1000 text books were made available to students including over 25% girls.

**Laboratories for Learning:** Vidya Gyan funded the laboratory equipment for physics, chemistry and biology classes. This is enabling students to learn science by doing (observing, collecting data and analysis).

**Extracurricular Activities:** Learning beyond the classroom engages students in extra curricular competitive activities such as essay writing, speech, and debate. A speech event in September focussed on the “Girls Safety: Our Duty.” This included students from 6 neighboring institutions and the winners were reconized.



OUR sincere gratitude to hundreds of donors, volunteers, and friends in many countries. The cumulative donations over five years have ranged from double digits to thousands of dollars. We particularly thank every volunteer for Baap Re Baap event. As we celebrate our landmark 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and offer the Transformational “555” grants for teacher-directed projects, our donors are ever more critical to drive the change and success. Please donate and become a Vidya Gyan Ambassador.

DONORS, you are decidedly making a difference in Lifting Lives through Learning of rural school children in India. Thank you.

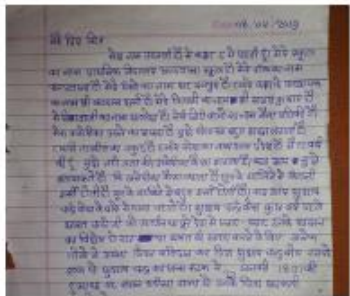
LAEARNING = Vidya (Education)+Gyan (Knowledge)





**TEACHING**  
IS A PROFESSION  
WHICH CREATES ALL  
THE OTHER PROFESSIONS

— YES, I'M A —  
**TEACHER**



विद्यया ग्यान  
एक सफल जीवन का आधार है।  
यहाँ हम आपको सही शिक्षण और सहायता देते हैं।  
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