



ANNUAL REPORT

2019 -2020

VIDYA VARDHINI FOUNDATION TRUST



Address: G Sector , I -1 Line Room No. 2&3
Cheeta Camp, Trombay, Mumbai- 88
Tel. 9820002916

Website: www.vidyavardhini.org

Email: lak.chitra@gmail.com
chitra@vidyavardhini.org

VIDYA VARDHINI FOUNDATION TRUST

Trustees:

Dr. ShubhadaGandbhir(Pathologist)

Dr. VishalamMani(Medical Practitioner)

Ramesh Lakshman (Chartered Accountant)

Dr. Srilatha Juvva(Professor Tata Institute of

Social Sciences, Mumbai

Hon. Director:

Mrs. Chitra R. Lakshman

Registered Office

13/ 14 “Gulistan”

Sasmira Marg,Worli

Mumbai 400 025

Project Office :

c/o

G - Sector I-1 Line

Room NO. 2 &3

Cheeta Camp Trombay

Mumbai- 400 088

Bankers to the Trust:

The Saraswat Co-operative Bank

Auditors:

Mr. V. Rajwade& Co.

Foreword:

The year April 2019 to March 2020 was a period of emergence in our work where we had our activities and services aligned for the betterment of the community. We linked our programs so that the families could reap greater benefits and all members of the families were involved in the programs or services.

This was clearly evident from our alignment between our Disability Program and the Mental Health and Wellbeing program. Families of children with disability faced issues of neglect, domestic violence, financial distress due to substance abuse and by receiving support from our mental health clinic the families started showing improvement and thus strengthening the emotional bond in families.

The Pandemic emerged in March end and put a lot of our activities and services into a last minute trouble . The special schools had to close , the National Institute of Open Schooling examinations were postponed and Vision Centre had to temporarily close down until the COVID 19 situation eased out.

I.Disability Project Update and report on the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) Examination :

- The flagship project of our Organization has been the Disability Project and a number of children and young adults with disability have been benefitted over the past twelve years. During the year students were supported for their educational needs. This included their fees , travel to special schools and institutions , stationery support. The medical support included medicines, aids and appliances and reconstructive surgery for some children.
- A special Dental Camp was organized in collaboration with D.Y.Patil College of Dentistry and this was only for children and young adults with disability. Tow children were referred for dental surgery at the Hospital post check up.
- The students enrolled in the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) who had appeared for their A , B and X standard examinations in March 2019 , had their results declared during the month of June 2019 . Under the NIOS examination , all 4 students who appeared for Level A were declared successful. Three students who appeared for Level B also cleared their examination. Students of Std. X 2 students passed in all subjects (out of 5 subjects) and the remaining 6 students who had to clear two to three subjects were declared successful with only their Project submission and the COVID -19 canceling their examinations in June 2020.

The students had to learn how to write online examination for Level A and B and were trained by the Special educator and teachers and family members were very cooperative

- The Adult Education classes designed by NGO PRATHAM were conducted for community women including mothers of children with disability and they also wrote their examination and received their Certificates from the Inner Wheel Club of Deonar, who supported this initiative .

- **World Disability Day 2019** was celebration with a Disability Sensitization program for students of SNDT College , Matunga. The program was implemented by student interns from TISS. The activities included sensitization of students for understanding challenges face d by person with physical impairment (foot writing), learning disability(mirror and maze), visual impairment (identification of pulses, spices etc.) Nearly 100 students participated in the program and it was well received.

- Meeting with parents of children with disability was done to understand that the challenges they faced on day to day basis. 22 mothers and or older siblings of our children with disability attended the meeting. Mothers had issues of domestic violence, financial difficulties, problems from other children in the family, lack of support from extended family members etc. The Counsellor is resolving these issues by meeting family members and seeking help from the doctor, family members wherever necessary.

- An interactive session with staff and community of Azim Premji Foundation was held to apprise them of various community related issues and challenges. Disability sensitization was done by Vidya Vardhini Foundation Trust with a special focus on Inclusive skill training and inclusive employment. The session was held on February 22nd 2020. The other topics for discussion were education and health care in urban slum communities.

- Parents of children with disability studying in BMC Schools in Chembur and Govandi were sensitized on “**Inclusive Education and Role of Parents**” as part of **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan** campaign of BMC.

II. Community Mental Health Program - The “SAMATA” Project :

Post a research carried out in the community in 2018 on the prevalence of mental health issues and the data showing the rate as high as 14% of people having Mental health issues motivated us in setting of the community Mental Health clinic in partnership with Sion Hospital, Mumbai. The patients had issues ranging from mild mental illness to severe mental illness.

Over the past one year the number of beneficiaries has only been on the rise and we were able to attend to 430 patients out of whom 65% were men and 35% were women. Approximately 60% of the patients were for follow up and 40 % patients of them were new.

Some of the challenges we faced were high dropout rates in people on substance abuse as they would be unable to attend the clinic during the day time due to coming home in the wee hours of the morning after their bout of consumption.

III. Community Vision Centre :

The Community Vision Centre in partnership with KBHB Hospital, Parel has been functioning since 2009 . The services offered are eye check-up, cataract surgery, corrective eye surgery if any (squint , etc) and spectacles at subsidized rates. During the period April 2019 to March 2020 , 530 patients were examined at the Vision Centre. The Vision Centre services had to be abruptly stopped owing to the Pandemic and complete lockdown from March 23rd 2020.

IV. Student Placements from TISS:

- 2 student interns from Tata Institute of social Sciences (TISS) joined for a one-year Field work assignment for the academic 2019 – 2020. They undertook individual case studies, counseling with clients and families, School Mental Health survey , disability sensitization, and other community activities.

V. Science For Girls:

- A group of 7 students from University of Michigan, USA came to conduct a three-day program "SCIENCE FOR GIRLS " to encourage girls from the Trombay community to take up Science for higher studies and look at career options in the field of Science. They conducted simple experiments to make it an interesting learning for the girls in the field of Physics and Chemistry.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF VARIOUS ACTIVITIES DURING THE YEAR



SCIENCE FOR GIRLS of Cheeta Camp/ Trombay ... with students of Univ. of Michigan



Adult Education for women...including our mothers



With students of SNTD College , Matunga on World Disability Day 2019



Block printed cloth bags made for Chatrapati Shivaji Mahatraj Vastu Sangrahalaya,(Museum), Mumbai.



At the Tech Mahinda Foundation workshop



Parents' Support Program



BMC School (Chembur and Govandi) – Orientation session for parents