

Vidnyanvahini Annual Report 2015-2016



The year in pictures



Air pressure expt at vidnyan melava at Aurangabad school



Transverse wave demo in vidnyan melava at Dundge school, Gadahinglaj.



Chemistry experiment at Halkarni school, Gadahinglaj



Smoke without fire – Chemistry expt at vidnyan melava Dundge school, Gadahinglaj



Experiments in progress at Hidadugi school, Gadahinglaj

Front cover photos (clockwise from top): Dr Jayant Narlikar and Dr Mangala Narlikar at IUCAA with students of Arunachal Pradesh shibir; Ohms's Law expt in progress ; Arunachal Pradesh students display their traditional dance

Vidnyanvahini
Members of Dialogue & Action group

President : Pushpa Deshpande

Secretary : Sharad Godse

Aparna Ambekar	Rohini Atre	Kirti Bapat
Mukund Bhadbhade	Narendra Bhide	Madhukar Deshpande
Pradnya Deshpande	Dattatray Dewal	Vinayak Dixit
Vivek Erande	Satish Ghamande	Umesh Godbole
Snehal Godse	Shailaja Joshi	Suvarnalata Kandalgaoonkar
Meghana Mhaskar	Shirish Mokashi	Nalini Mungel
S.R.Mysorekar	Pushpa Palkar	Nandan Pande
Preetima Pande	Urmila Parachure	Shubhangi Parkar
Jayant Phalke	Kiran Phatak	Ashok Prabhu
Nirmal Rege	Ashok Rupner	Achut Sapre
Nirmala Sathe	Atik Shaikh	Ulhas Vaishampayan
Suresh Yerunkar		

VIDNYANVAHINI, PUNE

Public Trust Registration No E 2024, Pune
Donations tax exempt under section 80G

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Vidnyanvahini Mobile Science Laboratory

Annual Report for the period April 2015 to March 2016

About Vidnyanvahini

Vidnyanvahini's mission is to reduce the gap in the standards of science teaching between rural and urban schools by offering rural school children a means of learning science through laboratory experiments.

The flagship project of Vidnyanvahini is the Mobile Science Laboratory (MSL): a minibus designed to accommodate storage for lab apparatus, audio-visual equipment, laptops, an uninterruptible power supply powered by the engine battery, a generator, portable lab tables and an overhead water tank.

The backbone of Vidnyanvahini is its team of volunteers consisting of retired scientists, engineers, and science teachers collectively called the Dialogue and Action Group (DAG). The MSL carries a team of six members of DAG to the selected school on a given day. Priority is given to small rural high schools, which lack a science laboratory and do not enjoy state grants. During a tightly organised full-day session, students perform some science experiments themselves in groups of 4 to 6 and observe demonstration of others. The theoretical principles underlying the experiments are explained to them with the aid of educational audio-visual material. Students are also provided guidance on issues faced during adolescence.

“During this period (of 21 years) the Mobile Science Laboratory has travelled about 2,94,000 kms while making 2900 school visits and touching the lives of about 3,24,000 rural students spread over 24 districts of Maharashtra”

In addition to school visits, a few teacher-training workshops are held to enhance science-teaching skills among rural school teachers. An annual student camp seeks to expose rural students to a wide variety of science and technology related topics through presentations from subject experts and visits to factories/ laboratories. Several book-bags are also circulated among schools to act as mobile libraries.

Vidnyanvahini is a not-for-profit organization constituted as a public trust, which does not charge schools for its visits and operates solely on public donations. In January 2016 Vidnyanvahini completed 21 years of service. During this period the Mobile Science Laboratory travelled about 2,95,000 kms while making 2900 school visits and touching the lives of about 3,24,000 rural students spread over 24 districts of Maharashtra. Over the last few years Vidnyanvahini has also been venturing out of Maharashtra through school visits in the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Assam, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka.

This report summarises the activities of the organisation for the period April 2015 to March 2016.

Vidnyanvahini activities at-a-glance

Number of Mobile Science Laboratory (MSL) visits to rural schools	155
Number of schools visited*	130
Number of schools visited once in the year	105
Number of schools visited twice in the year	25
Number of visits to unaided or partly aided schools	27
Number of students who benefited by the MSL visits	19625
Number of outstation visits (each lasting 3 to 5 days)	10
Number of Kms logged by the MSL	15000
Number of science teachers' workshop days	9
Number of student camp days	12
Number of schools using mobile library	6

These activities are described in detail in the following paragraphs.

School visits

During the year 155 visits were made to rural schools falling in states of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh by the Vidnyanvahini team.

* Some schools are visited twice in the year. Hence the number of school visits is less than the number of MSL visits

Apart from visits to schools in and around Pune (which are covered during a single day) Vidnyanvahini also undertook 10 out-of-town visits, typically lasting three to five days each, to the following places: Kada (Beed district), Aurangabad, Pen (Raigad District), Islampur (Sangli District) twice, Bhusaval (Jalgaon district), Ratnagari (Ratnagiri District), Akole (Ahmednagar District), Chandgad (Kolhapur District), Basarge (Kolhapur District) .

These visits were sponsored by organisations/schools in those places and were used to cover rural schools in the surrounding areas. In addition to the above visits 10 schools were visited using a hired vehicle to schools whose requests for Vidnyanvahini visits could not be fitted in the regular schedule of MSL visits.

“आपल्या संवादकानी कृती व संवाद या दोन्ही माध्यमातून आम्हाला व आमच्या विद्यार्थ्यांना खरे विज्ञान दर्शन घडवले ” Extract from a letter from the Head Mistress, Sharadabai Chavan-Patil High School, Nittur, Kolhapur distt.

In a new initiative, lady volunteers from Vidnyanvahini reached out to ladies of some of the villages to educate them about breast cancer. A film educating them on superstition was also shown.

As in the previous year, Vidnyanvahini continued to visit schools located in the thickly forested areas of Pench district of Madhya Pradesh at the invitation of the NGO ‘Conservation Wildlands Trust’ which is active in the area. During the year two visits were made to this backward district covering seven schools.

Teacher training workshops

Vidnyanvahini conducted three teacher training workshops during the year lasting three days each. Of these two were held at Chiplun and one at Dhule. In all around 150 teachers attended these workshops. The subjects covered included atomic structure, radioactivity, chemical bonds, periodic table, electricity and light.

Twenty years of Vidnyanvahini

Vidnyanvahini completed two decades of its existence during the year. A function to mark the occasion was held on 27 October 2015 at Pune. The function was presided over by the well-known scientist Dr. Mohan Apte . He spoke about the falling standards of science teaching in schools and lauded the role of Vidnyanvahini. A panel discussion on ‘Current status of science

teaching’ was also held. The participants were Dr Suman Karandikar, Shri C K Desai, Shri A L Deshmukh and Shri Jayant Phalke. The event was widely covered in the local media.

Student camp

Vidnyanvahini has been conducting an annual *Vidyarthi Shibir* (student camp) in Pune for many years. The camp attended by students of rural schools seeks to widen their knowledge horizon by exposing them to a diverse range of experiences through factory visits, presentations from experts and so on.

This year two such camps were held – one for the students of rural schools of Maharashtra as usual and, for the first time, another camp was held for students of schools from Arunachal Pradesh.

The seven day camp for the students of Arunachal Pradesh from 31 May to 7 June 2015 was an exciting event in the lives of the participants on many counts. It was for the first time that the students – all of them from remote areas of the state - had ventured out of their state. It was their first experience of train travel and their first sight of the sea (while visiting Mumbai during the course of the camp) and so on. It was attended by 17 students and 2 teachers. For the last two days of the camp the students stayed in the homes of citizens of Pune who had volunteered to act as their local guardians thus acquainting them with a culture dramatically different from their own.

Some of the main presentations/ activities at the camp were:

- ‘Map reading’ by Shri Raman Chitale
- Archery and rifle shooting by Shri Ranjit Chamle
- ‘Antarctica’ by Shri Suhas Kane
- ‘Plastics’ by Dr O.Yemul
- ‘Birds, animals, trees of Sahyadri’ by Shri Mandar Datar
- ‘Self-defence techniques’ by Shri C. Bhosale
- ‘Origami’ by Shri Milind Kelkar
- Visit to IUCAA and interaction with Dr Jayant Narlikar and Dr Mangala Narlikar
- ‘Economic literacy’ by Shri Yamaji Malkar

“ The way we were loved and cared and the way the workshop was planned and arranged built unforgettable memories in our life.”

Extract from the report on the student camp by Shri Rajib Prasad, teacher, Vivekanand Kendra Vidyalaya, Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh

- ‘Life in space’ by Dr Yogesh Shouche
- ‘Conventional and non-conventional energy’ by Dr D Bankar
- ‘Nano-technology’ by Dr Sulabha Kulkarni

The participants also visited IAF airbase at Lohegaon, Nehru Planetarium and Naval docks at Mazgaon in Mumbai and the Tata Motors plant at Akurdi.

This camp was followed by the one held for students from rural schools of Maharashtra which was held from 15 to 19 June 2015. It was attended by 32 students and 8 teachers selected from schools visited by Vidnyanvahini. The highlights of the camp were the following presentations/ activities:

- ‘A day in Space’ by Dr Prakash Tupe,
- Origami workshop by Shri Milind Kulkarni,
- Interaction with Dr Jayant Narlikar and Dr Mangala Narlikar ,
- Science experiments at IUCAA
- An interview with Ms Hansa Padmanabhan,
- ‘Nano Technology’ by Dr Sulabha Kulkarni,
- ‘Opportunities to serve in the Indian Army’ by Col Bramhankar,
- ‘Birds, plants and animals of Sahyadri’ by Dr Mandar Datar,
- ‘Genetics’ by Dr Yogesh Gurjar,
- Self defence techniques by Shri Bhosale

The participants were also taken for visits to the IAF airbase at Lohegaon, MCC Laboratory and Godrej and Boyce factory.

Mobile library

To encourage the habit of reading among students, Vidnyanvahini has been circulating book bags among schools. The bag contains about forty books on science and related subjects and is kept in a school for a term. During 2015-16 this ‘Mobile Library’ was used by six schools.

Meetings of the Dialogue and Action Group

The Dialogue and Action Group (DAG), comprising volunteers who work with Vidnyanvahini, meets periodically to review performance and discuss operational changes. During 2015-16 these meetings were held 5 times.

The 21st annual meeting of DAG was held on 12 and 13 March 2016 at the Dhayari office of Vidnyanvahini. This meeting was utilized to review the activities of the previous year, make plans for the activities of next year, make changes to the list of schools and outstation visits, decide on changes to curricula and experiments etc.

Surodi

Vidnyanvahini has been involved in a watershed development project at Surodi, a village in Ahmednagar district about 120 kms from Pune, with financial support by Association for India's Development (AID), USA. As described in the previous annual reports this project has been highly successful with the village showing significant increase in the household incomes as a result of the increased availability of water for farming. During last year, when the whole state of Maharashtra has been in the grip of a severe draught, drinking water scarcity was not felt in the village.

Anadur Grameen Vidnyan Kendra

The *Vidnyan Kendra* at Anadur in Osmanabad district, jointly operated by Vidnyanvahini with Halo Medical Foundation, is running quite well. Students from nearby schools come regularly to the Vidnyan Kendra for doing experiments and learning science.

Recognition

- A.K.Pariwar, Mumbai gave a special award to Vidnyanvahini for its work among students of rural schools of Maharashtra
- Mrs Pushpa Deshpande, President of Vidnyanvahini was awarded the Hema Sadanand Chandekar Puraskar in Pune

Benefactors

Numerous donors and well-wishers have been helping Vidnyanvahini through contributions in cash and kind. We are grateful for their generous gestures and the trust they have reposed in Vidnyanvahini. Some of the prominent benefactors are mentioned below.

- M/s Cognizant Foundation have donated a mobile science laboratory vehicle and related equipment.

- M/s Saraswat Bank have sponsored the *Vidyarthi shibir* for students from schools in Arunachal Pradesh this year.
- .M/s Godrej and Boyce have sponsored the *Vidyarthi shibir* for students of rural schools in Maharashtra this year.
- M/s Saraswat Hitawardhak Mandal, Mumbai have provided staunch support for many years by sponsoring school visits and teacher workshops in Ratnagiri district of the Konkan belt in the state.
- Shri Ambar Naik and his associate Shri Jitendra Salunkhe have prepared the financial accounts and audit reports and Shri Anoop Naik has prepared annual tax document of Vidnyanvahini at no cost to the Trust.
- The Vidyarthi Sahayyak Samiti, Pune has helped by providing lodging facility at their hostel at concessional charges for Vidnyanvahini's *Vidyarthi Shibir* year after year.
- Shri Namadeo Salunkhe of Sahyadri Chemicals has been supplying the chemicals required for Chemistry experiments free of cost.
- Shri Vasant Nehate of Corona Systems has been supplying equipment required for some Physics experiments free of cost.

In addition to the above, donor agencies based in USA (such as India Development Service), Indian corporates, and charitable trusts as well as many individual donors have made financial donations to Vidnyanvahini. A list of donors is enclosed at annexure 1.

Financial statements

Copies of the audited balance sheet and income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 March 2016 are enclosed.

List of donors

Rs 10000/- and above

Shri A. Ravikumar Purnam
M/s Saraswat Bank
M/s Godrej and Boyce
Shri N W Bhagwat
Ms Rajashri Goregaonkar
Shri Suresh Hegde
Rotary Club of Pune, Katraj
Shri Arun Phalke
Shri Rohan Bhutkar
Shri Vijay Deshpande
Ms Nalini Mungel
A.K.Pariwar, Mumbai
Shri Jagjit Singh
Shri Parshuram Deshprabhu
V.S.Kulkarni Trust
Ms Jayashri Visal

Rs. 5000/- and above but less than Rs 10000/-

Inner Wheel Club, Bhusawal
Manas, Chiplun
Shri A G Khandekar
Ms Aru Tarr
Shri Neel Vora
Saraswat Hitawardhak Mandal, Mumbai
Garware Community Centre, Aurangabad
Ms Smita Marathe
Shri Ganesh Karhe-Patil
Ms Vasumati Kulkarni
Shri V A Sant
Rotary Club, Pune
Ms Aruna Prabhu
Shri S S Gurjar
Ms Anjali Badwe

Less than Rs 5000/-

**Shri Avinash Joag
Shri R T Mane
M/s Reliance Trading Corporation, Sangli
Ms Kiran Phatak
Ms Veena Bhat
Ms Rohini Atre
Shri Sanjay Soman
Shri Harishankar Nagarkar
Ms Anjali Bapat
Shri R N Agarwal
Shri Mandalkar
Chittapawan Mitramandal, Pune
Ms Sania Patankar
C.S.Vidyalaya, Kanhe
Shri Amit Gharpure
Shri S. Bhilwadikar
Shri Yogesh Gurjar
Shri Achyut Sapre
Rupeenagar High School, Pimpri-Chinchwad**

THE BOMBAY PUBLIC TRUSTS ACT, 1950

SCHEDULE IX

Name of the Trust : Vidnyan Vahini

Registration Number: E-2024/Pune

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended on 31st March 2016

Particulars	Amount(Rs)	Particulars	Amount(Rs)
To Expenditure in respect of properties:-	2,63,502.45	By Rent [accrued]	Nil
Rates, Taxes, Cess	-	By Interest [accrued] (Refer Schedule 6)	3,56,176.00
Repairs and Maintenance	37,178.00	On Securities	-
Depreciation	1,92,659.45	On Bank Fds	3,38,057.00
RTO Taxes paid	4,500.00	On Loans	-
Vehicle Insurance	29,165.00	On Bank Account (Saving Bank)	18,119.00
Depreciation [by way of provision or adjustment]	-	On FCRA Saving	-
To Establishment Expenses	-	By Dividend	Nil
To Remuneration to Trustees	-	By Donations is cash or kind	6,25,825.00
To Remuneration [in case of a math] to the head of the math including his household expenditure, if any	-	By Income from other Sources [in details as far as possible] Interest on Bond	1,44,000.00
To Legal Expenses	-	By Sale of Books	4,350.00
To Audit Fees	-	By DVD's and CD's Sales	544.00
To Contribution and Fees	-	By Misc Income	1,59,470.36
To Amount written off	-	(Y20 Receipts)	-
(a) Bad Debts	-		
(b) Loan Scholarships	-		
(c) Irrecoverable Items	-		
(d) Other items	-		
To Miscellaneous Expenses	1,77,339.00		
To Expenditure on objects of the trust	9,44,671.00		
(a) Religious	-		
(b) Educational (incl.surodi activity) (Schedule 7)	9,44,671.00		
(c) Medical Relief	-		
(d) Relief of poverty	-		
(e) Other Charitable objects	-		
To Surplus carried to Balance Sheet	-	By Transfers from Reserve	-
		By Deficit carried over to Balance Sheet	95,147.09
Total (Rs.)	13,85,512.45	Total (Rs.)	13,85,512.45

Ambar
19/09/16
आवक जावक लिपिक
सार्वजनिक न्यास नोंदणी कार्यालय
पुणे

For **Ambar Naik & Associates**
Chartered Accountants
ICAI FRN - 137450W



Ambar Naik
Ambar S Naik
Membership No. 157493
Place : Pune
Date :

For **Vidnyan Vahini**

Pradip
Trustee

Place: Pune
Date :

शारदा गोखले
Trustee

Place: Pune
Date :

विज्ञानवाहिनी
701/ब, "क्षितीज", सहकारनगर क्र.२,
पुणे-411009
☎:(020)-2422-2127 9623670049

THE BOMBAY PUBLIC TRUSTS ACT, 1950

SCHEDULE VIII

Name of the Trust : Vidnyan Vahini

Registration Number: E - 2024 / Pune

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2016

Funds and Liabilities	Amount(Rs)	Fixed Assets	Amount(Rs)
Trusts Funds or Corpus	96,19,970	Immovable Properties - (at cost)	11,33,240
Schedule 1		Bal. as per last Balance Sheet	11,05,730
Bal. as per last Balance Sheet	96,19,970	Additions during the year	27,510
Add: During the year	-	Less : Sales during the year	-
		Less : Depreciation upto date	-
Other Earmarked Funds (Schedule 2)	70,344	Movable Fixed Assets	
(Created under the provisions of the Trust deed or scheme or out of the Income)		Bal. as per last Balance Sheet	10,46,218
Opening Balance	70,344	Additions during the year	2,328
ADD: During the Year	-	Less : Sales during the year	-
Less: Transfer	-	Less : Depreciation upto date	1,92,659
			8,55,887
Loans (Secured or Unsecured)		Investments	57,26,222
From Trustees		Schedule 4	
From Others		HDFC and RBI Bonds	18,00,000
Add : During the year		Bank fixed Deposits	39,26,222
Liabilities		Loans (Secured or Unsecured) :	
For Expenses		Loan Scholarships	-
For Advances		Other Loans	-
For Rent and other deposits			
For Sundry Credit Balance		Advances Schedule 5	
		To TDS	3,11,285
		To Trustees	-
		To Employees	-
		To Contractors	-
		To Lawyers	-
		To Others	11,00,000
			14,11,285
		Income Outstanding	
		Rent	-
		Interest	9,410
		Other Income - cheque in hand	20,000
			29,410
		Cash & Bank Balances	
		(a) In Current / Saving account	1,22,349
		(b) With the trustee	-
		(c) With the Manager	-
		(d) Cash Balance	51,381
			1,73,730
		Grant Receivable (From ICSSR)	
Income and Expenditure Account		Income and Expenditure Account	
Bal. as per last Balance Sheet	-	Bal. as per last Balance Sheet	2,65,394
Less : Appropriation if any	-	Less : Surplus	-
Add : Surplus	-	Add : Deficit	95,147
Less : Deficit	-		3,60,541

Total (Rs.)

96,90,314

Total (Rs.)

96,90,314

For **Ambar Naik & Associates**
Chartered Accountants
ICAI FRN - 137450W



Ambar S Naik
Membership No. 157493
Place : Pune
Date :

For **Vidnyan Vahini**

Place: Pune
Trustee
Date:
701/ब, "क्षितीज", सहकारनगर क्र.२,
पुणे-411009
(020)-2422-2127 9623676949

शरद गोडसे
Place : Pune
Trustee
Date :

The year in pictures



Biology class at Nandanwad school, Kolhapur dist.



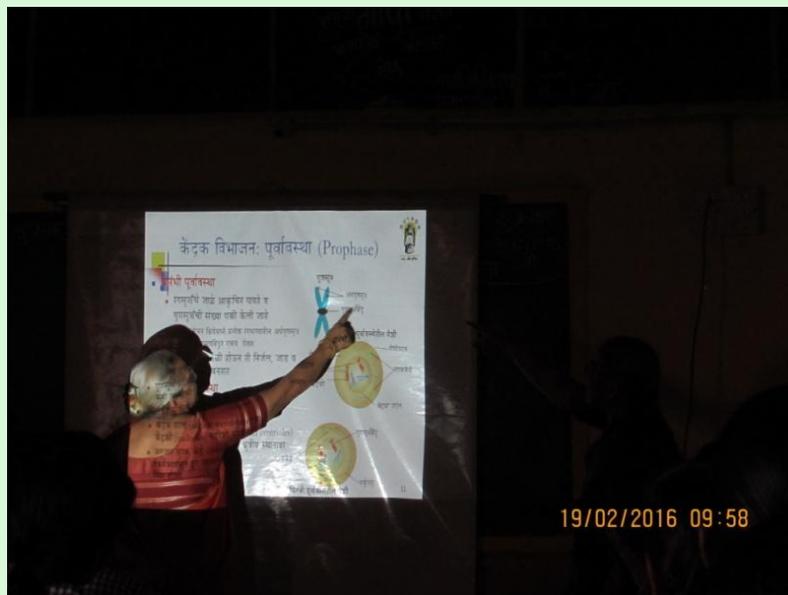
Hands go up in Chemistry class at Mulshi student camp



Lezim group welcoming Vidnyanvahini team at Basarge.



Women of Basarge village being shown film on breast cancer awareness



Cell division being explained using PowerPoint presentation at Nandanwad school

मराठी माध्यमाच्या ग्रामीण शाळांमधील विद्यार्थ्यांना प्रयोगाद्वारे विज्ञान शिकण्याचा, कांही प्रयोग स्वतः करून पाहण्याची अनुभुती देण्याचा आणि त्यांना विचार करायला लावून त्यांच्यात वैज्ञानिक दृष्टिकोन निर्माण करण्याचा वसा घेऊन विज्ञानवाहिनी गेली अनेक वर्षे कार्यरत आहे....आपण लगेच प्रतिसाद देऊन विद्यार्थ्यांना स्वतः प्रयोग करण्यात किती आनंद असतो हे दाखवून दिलेत... सकाळी ११:३० ते सायंकाळी ५:३० या वेळेत आपण विद्यार्थ्यांना विज्ञानातील प्रयोग करण्याची अनुभुती व संधी उपलब्ध करून दिली. विद्यार्थी व शिक्षक खूप आनंदी व समाधानी होते...

मुख्याध्यापक,
राजर्षी शाहू विद्या मंदिर, आंबेगांव बुद्रुक