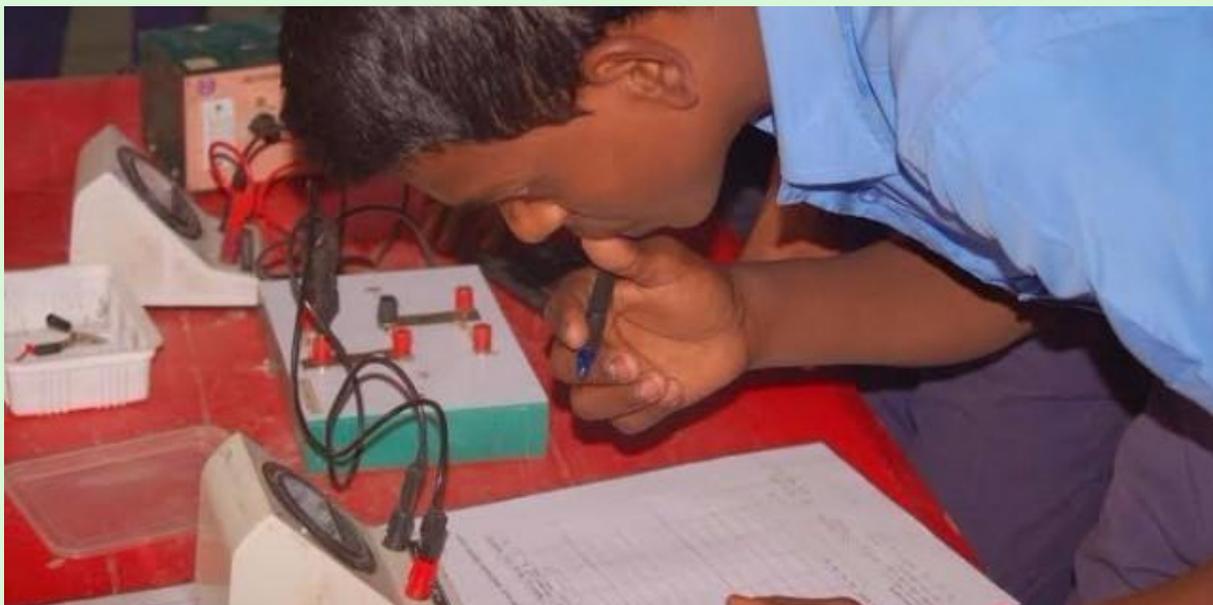




Vidnyanvahini Annual Report 2017-2018



The year in pictures



“Did I get the voltage reading right ?”



“Wow! Watch those magnets hanging from both the sides of my palm!”

Cover page shows the Mobile Science Laboratory bus and various experiments being demonstrated by students

Vidnyanvahini
Members of Dialogue & Action group

President : Pushpa Deshpande

Secretary : Sharad Godse

Aparna Ambekar	Kirti Bapat	Mukund Bhadbhade
Madhukar Deshpande	Pradnya Deshpande	Dattatray Dewal
Vinayak Dixit	Vivek Erande	Satish Ghamande
Umesh Godbole	Snehal Godse	Shailaja Joshi
Suvarnalata Kandalgaonkar	Sandhya Khasnis	Shirish Mokashi
Nalini Mungel	Shreedhar Maisurkar	Pushpa Palkar
Nandan Pande	Preetima Pande	Urmila Parchure
Shubhangi Parkar	Jayant Phalke	Kiran Phatak
Ashok Prabhu	Nirmala Rege	Achyut Sapre
Anita Sathe	Atik Shaikh	Ulhas Vaishampayan
Yashashri Wagh	Suresh Yerunkar	

VIDNYANVAHINI, PUNE

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

Address: Rajashree-C, Suvarna-nagari,
Survey No 669, Bibwewadi Pune 411037

Email: sngodse@gmail.com, madhu36@yahoo.com
www.vidnyanvahini.org

Vidnyanvahini Mobile Science Laboratory

Annual Report for the period April 2017to March 2018

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 or seven 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 and/or models.

“During this period (of 23 years) the Mobile Science Laboratory has travelled about 3,23,400 kms while making 3204 school visits and touching the lives of about 3,62,400 rural students spread over 25 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/ Defence Establishments etc. 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 2018 Vidnyanvahini completed 23 years of service. During this period the Mobile Science

Laboratory has travelled about 3,23,400 kms while making 3204 school visits and touching the lives of about 3,62,400 rural students spread over 25 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, Bihar, Nagaland, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Karnataka.

This report summarises the activities of the organisation for the period April 2017 to March 2018.

Vidnyanvahini activities at-a-glance

Number of Mobile Science Laboratory (MSL) visits to rural schools	148
Number of schools visited*	113
Number of schools visited once in the year	78
Number of schools visited twice in the year	35
Number of visits to unaided or partly aided schools	31
Number of students who benefited by the MSL visits	19739
Number of outstation visits (each lasting 3 to 5 days)	7
Number of Kms logged by the MSL	14416
Number of science teachers' workshop days	-
Number of student camp days	11
Number of schools using mobile library	4

These activities are described in detail in the following paragraphs.

School visits

During the year 148 visits were made to rural schools falling in states of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar and Jharkhand by the Vidnyanvahini team.

Apart from visits to schools in and around Pune (which are covered during a single day) Vidnyanvahini also undertook 7 out-of-town visits, typically lasting three to five days each, to the following places: Wai , Jalgaon, Mangaon, Ratnagiri , Lanja, Gadhinglaj, and Chiplun .

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

These visits were sponsored by organisations/ schools in those places and were used to cover rural schools in the surrounding areas. Of the above school-visits 19 schools were visited using a hired vehicle. These were schools whose requests for Vidnyanvahini visits could not be fitted in the regular schedule of MSL visits.

Vidnyanvahini broke fresh ground this year by visiting schools in Bihar at the invitation of Bhrigu Universe who wanted to set up a similar mobile science laboratory. The team of 3 members of Vidnyanvahini carried essential experimental apparatus all the way from Pune to Patna and stayed there from 31 August to 18 September 2017. They visited 13 high schools in and around Patna and around 2000 students participated in the sessions. Unsurprisingly, there was high praise from everyone for the devotion and tenacity of our group members, who conducted classes non-stop for 7-8 hours, except for short breaks during change of class rooms. One remarkable feature of the schools visited was that a majority of the students had a good understanding of the topics, they were bold, asked questions and were well disciplined. Further, unlike in Maharashtra schools these students were also well aware of competitive examinations such as UPSC, IIT and even girls expressed their goal of becoming IPS, IAS officers!

Science Centres at schools

Many schools in rural areas do not have adequately equipped laboratories. Students of schools visited by our MSL get opportunity to perform various experiments only once or twice a year. Further, the science teachers also cannot demonstrate relevant experiments adequately due to lack of science apparatus, chemicals and so on while teaching topic. We, therefore, decided to form a group of a few schools and provide all necessary apparatus/equipment needed for a laboratory which would be kept in one of the schools. Whenever a teacher from any of the group of schools needs to demonstrate an experiment he would then take the required material. Also the school would be expected to keep the apparatus long enough to enable each student to perform the experiment. This method could be adopted by a proper co-ordination among the participant schools.

We approached Pune based ARAI (Automotive Research Association of India) with this proposal last year. ARAI accepted our request for financial support.

We started first such 'Science Centre' in Ratnagiri District. A group of four schools was formed. We provided all the necessary equipment for the centre. It was decided to replace any damaged apparatus or replenish chemicals as needed for two years. The schools agreed to make their arrangement for such replacement after two years.

The second centre was started in Islampur this year. Both the centres are working satisfactorily. During this academic year, 2017-18, six schools in Ratnagiri District took advantage of the Science Centre. The number of students covered was more than 600. The second science centre in Islampur has also performed well. Ten schools in and around Islampur used the facility and the students covered were more than 1000.

Student camps

Vidnyanvahini has been conducting an annual *Vidyarthi Shibir* (student camp) in Pune from 1996. 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, lectures from experts, introduction to activities such as origami, yoga, archery, and so on.

This year two such camps were held – one for the students of rural schools of Maharashtra as usual, and another for differently-abled students supported by ‘Helpers of the Handicapped’ a Kolhapur-based NGO which is actively engaged in their welfare.

The six day camp for the students of ‘Helpers of the Handicapped’ was conducted from 28 May to 3 June 2017.

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

1. New methods of teaching – Rajiv Tambe
2. Music Orchestra – Saptasur pariwar
Sanskrutik Manch (by blind students)
3. Hasya Yog – Mukund Bhadabhade, Shailaja
Joshi and team
4. Archery, Rifle shooting – Ranjit Chamle and
team
5. Simple science toys – Shivaji Mane
6. Visit to polar region – Dr Chandashekhar
Deshpande
7. The life of bees and their language – Prof.
Purushottam Ghaisas
8. The wonderful world of the differently-abled-
Ganesh Kare Patil
9. Conversing in English – Anil Ghokhale
10. The environment – Abhijit Ghorpade
11. India and its neighbours – Alhad Godbole

“... खूप गोष्टी नव्याने समजल्या.
आमच्या ज्ञानात भर पडली . सर्व
व्याख्यानांबाबत बोलायचे झाले तर
माझ्याकडे शब्द अपुरे आहेत. प्रत्येक
वक्ता आपल्या ज्ञान आणि
अनुभवाची शिदोरी आम्हाला वाटत
होते. एवढ्या अनुभवी, ज्ञानी
मंडळीना पाहून मुलांसोबत
आम्हालाही नवा दृष्टीकोन लाभला...

Extract from a report by Mrs Vibhavari
Sawant, Teacher who attended the student
camp for students at the NGO ‘Helpers of
the Handicapped’, Kolhapur.

12. Screening of 'Yellow' a movie based on Gauri Gadgil, who overcame the handicap of Down's syndrome to become a champion swimmer. The participants were able to meet with Gauri and her mother.

The participants visited the Government Milk Dairy at Katraj, Tata Motors plant at Akurdi, and IISER at Pashan. The participants were also taken to Mumbai for a two day trip. The highlights of this trip were visits to Homi Bhabha Science Centre, TIFR and Nehru Planetarium. A particularly moving moment of the camp came when some of the participants spoke of their dreams for their future notwithstanding their disability.

This camp was followed by the one held for students from rural schools of Maharashtra which was held from 18 to 22 June 2017. 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:

1. Visit to Antarctica – Suhas Kane
2. The world of Plastic – Dr Yemul
3. Space and spacecraft – Dr Risbood
4. Origami – Prachi Sapre
5. The world of birds – Chandrakant Kolhatkar
6. About our brain – Dr Javadekar
7. 'Helpers of the Handicapped' – a documentary
8. An introduction to the universe – Dr Tupe
9. 'What is Chemistry?' by Prof Vinay R R
10. The heroes of Kargil – Anuradha Prabhudesai
11. Mathematics and Biology – Dr Milind Watve
12. Making an electronic educational tool by Vasant Nehate

The participants were also taken for visits to the IAF airbase at Lohegaon, College of Military Engineering at Dapodi, and a pharmaceutical unit at Bhosari.

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 2017-18 this 'Mobile Library' was used by four 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 2017-18 these meetings were held 5 times.

The 22nd annual meeting of DAG was held on 10 and 11 March 2018. 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. One of the major projects coming up for the next year would be collaborating with Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) to conduct a camp for specially selected meritorious students of rural schools.

Pushpa and Madhukar Deshpande, who founded Vidnyanvahini in the year 1995, have been the guiding force behind the institution all these years. Due to their age they have now decided to end their active involvement in the affairs of the Trust and return to the USA for good. A function to bid farewell to the couple was held in Pune which was attended by all the past and present members of Vidnyanvahini.

“You took an idea and managed to create something invaluable out of it. You also gave an opportunity to other like-minded individuals to come together and contribute. You gave us a cause worthy of pursuit which in turn enriched our lives. For that I am grateful.”

Sentiments expressed by Anita Sathe, member of Vidnyanvahini, during the farewell given to Pushpa and Madhukar Deshpande

Grameen Vidnyan Kendra, Anadur

In the year 2003 a Grameen Vidnyan Kendra was established by Vidnyanvahini jointly with Halo Medical Foundation at Anadur in Osmanabad district. Subsequently the Kendra has received help from Durgadevi Trust as well. This facility comprises a well equipped laboratory and is running quite well. Students from nearby schools come regularly to the Vidnyan Kendra for doing experiments and learning science. The centre also conducts various activities such as essay competition, science fair, quiz and so on.

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 Automative Research Association of India (ARAI) donated generously for the ‘Science Centre’ project of Vidnyanvahini.

- M/s Cognizant Foundation have donated a mobile science laboratory vehicle and related equipment.
- M/s Saraswat Hitawardhak Mandal, Mumbai have provided staunch support for many years by sponsoring school visits and teacher workshops in Ratnagiri and Raigad district of the Konkan belt in the state.
- Shri Ambar Naik and his associates have been preparing the financial accounts and audit reports of Vidnyanvahini at no cost to the Trust for many years now.
- 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.
- Jnan Prabodhini, Pune provided lodging facility for the participants of shibir for Helpers of the Handicapped and class room/auditorium for programs free of cost as was done last 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. This year, in particular, he designed and supplied battery eliminators for us.
- Shri Rambhau Dimbale provided his area's Community Hall for two full days for our annual meeting without any charge.

In addition to the above, a few Indian corporates, and charitable trusts as well as many individual donors have made generous 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 2018 are enclosed.

List of donors

Donations of Rs 10000/- and above

Automotive Research Association of India
Aarambh Gyanvikas Kendra
Generic Healthcare Pvt. Ltd., Pune
Pushpa Deshpande
Rotary Club of Pune, Westend Charitable Trust
Smita Sapre
Sujata Bapat
Suresh Ram Hegde
Sushma Kelkar
Technofour Electronics
Uday Paranjape
Ujwala Kelkar
Veena Joshi

Donations of Rs 5000/- and above but less than Rs 10000/-

A.G.Khandekar
Kantikumar Jain
Priyadarshan Phaltankar
Vasant Pendharkar

Donations of less than Rs 5000/-

Alap Javadekar
Anjali Bapat
Bhairavnath Vidyamandir, Warale
Bhas Bapat
Chandahas Kolhatkar
Prof. Ghaisas
Dr. N.V.Kulkarni
Dr. Prakash Tupe
Vasant Nehate
Pratik Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Nigde
Shaila Damle
Sonia Patankar
Sulabha Bhilawadikar
Sunil Godse

THE BOMBAY PUBLIC TRUSTS ACT, 1950

SCHEDULE IX

Name of the Trust : Vidnyan Vahini

Registration Number: E-2024/Pune

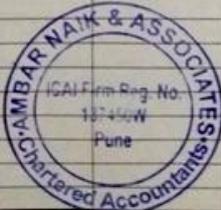
Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended on 31st March 2018

Particulars	Amount(Rs)	Particulars	Amount(Rs)
To Expenditure in respect of properties:-	2,44,724.52	By Rent [accrued]	Nil
Rates, Taxes, Cess	3,600.00	By Interest [accrued] (Refer Schedule 6)	4,42,427.45
Repairs and Maintenance	72,766.00	On Securities	-
Depreciation	1,30,067.52	On Bank Fds	4,21,351.45
RTO Taxes paid	-	On Loans	-
Vehicle Insurance	38,291.00	On Bank Account (Saving Bank)	11,308.00
		On Int Income Tax Refund	9,638.00
		On FCRA Saving	130.00
Depreciation [by way of provision or adjustment]	-	By Dividend	Nil
To Establishment Expenses	-	By Donations is cash or kind	6,63,480.00
To Remuneration to Trustees	-		
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	-
To Legal Expenses	-	By Sale of Books	-
To Audit Fees	-	By DVD's and CD's Sales	-
To Contribution and Fees	-	By Misc Income	-
To Amount written off		(Y20 Receipts)	
(a) Bad Debts	-		
(b) Loan Scholarships	-		
(c) Irrecoverable Items	-		
(d) Other Items	-		
To Miscellaneous Expenses	534.00		
To Expenditure on objects of the trust	12,24,307.00		
(a) Religious			
(b) Educational (incl.surodi activity (Schedule 7)	12,24,307.00		
(c) Medical Relief			
(d) Relief of poverty			
(e) Other Charitable objects		By Transfers from Reserve	
To Surplus carried to Balance Sheet		By Deficit carried over to Balance Sheet	3,63,658.07
Total (Rs.)	14,69,565.52	Total (Rs.)	14,69,565.52

For Ambar Naik & Associates

Chartered Accountants
ICAI FRN - 137450W

Ambar S Naik
Membership No. 157493
Place : Pune
Date : 01/09/18



For Vidnyan Vahini

रमेश गोडसे

विश्वस्त

Trustee विज्ञानवाहिनी, पुणे

Place: Pune

Date :

विश्वस्त

Trustee

Place: Pune

Date :

THE BOMBAY PUBLIC TRUSTS ACT, 1950

SCHEDULE VIII

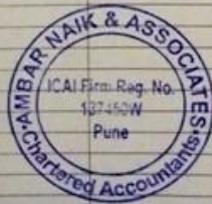
Name of the Trust : Vidnyan Vahini

Registration Number: E - 2024 / Pune

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2018

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	11,33,240
Bal. as per last Balance Sheet	96,19,970	Additions during the year	-
Add: During the year	-	Less : Sales during the year	-
		Less : Depreciation upto date	-
Other Earmarked Funds (Schedule 2)	63,494	Movable Fixed Assets	
(Created under the provisions of the Trust deed or scheme or out of the Income)		Bal. as per last Balance Sheet	7,00,993
Opening Balance	63,494	Additions during the year	49,588
ADD: During the Year	-	Less : Sales during the year	-
Less: Transfer	-	Less : Depreciation upto date	1,30,068
			6,20,514
Loans (Secured or Unsecured)		Investments	55,35,414
From Trustees		Schedule 4	
From Others		HDFC and RBI Bonds	-
Add : During the year		Bank fixed Deposits	55,35,414
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	2,65,857
		To Trustees	-
		To Employees	-
		To Contractors	-
		To Lawyers	-
		To Others	11,00,000
			13,65,857
		Income Outstanding	
		Rent	-
		Interest	37,511
		Other Income - cheque in hand	20,000
			57,511
		Cash & Bank Balances	
		(a) In Current / Saving account	1,98,192
		(b) With the trustee	-
		(c) With the Manager	-
		(d) Cash Balance	1,860
			2,00,052
		Grant Receivable (From ICSSR)	
			-
Income and Expenditure Account		Income and Expenditure Account	
Bal. as per last Balance Sheet	-	Bal. as per last Balance Sheet	4,07,218
Less : Appropriation if any	-	Less : Surplus	-
Add : Surplus	-	Add : Deficit	3,63,658
Less : Deficit	-		7,70,876
Total (Rs.)	96,83,464	Total (Rs.)	96,83,464

For **Ambar Naik & Associates**
Chartered Accountants
ICAI FRN - 137450W
Ambar Naik
Ambar S Naik
Membership No. 157493
Place : Pune
Date :



For **Vidnyan Vahini**
विद्ययानवाहिनी
Place : Pune
Trustee
Date : *विश्वस्त*
सांस्कृतिक मंत्रालय महाराष्ट्र सं. ३-2024

The year in pictures



Experiment to prove Ohm's Law in progress



Watching scientific video in the bus



Madhukar and Pushpa Deshpande at a stall run by Vidnyanvahini at the science exhibition at Khodad in 2015

...What makes Vidnyanvahini interesting is its volunteers. With an average age of 67 years among them, these retirees share a deep interest in education and a passion to make a difference using their skills and time. All of them majored in science subjects. Many were teachers, while others were researchers and engineers.

...the volunteers do not see this as work but an enjoyable activity that has a social cause.

Extracted from an article by Reshmi Chakraborty which appeared in the US-based Christian Science Monitor Weekly on October 23, 2017