

Isha Vidhya



"The basic purpose of life and the basic purpose of education is to enhance one's boundaries of perception. I don't want the children to just survive after ten years of schooling here. They must blossom and flower wherever they go."

- Sadhguru



206 schools, one per taluk (county) in Tamil Nadu

www.ishavidhya.org

India

Over 5000 years of evolution, the birthplace of 4 major religions, 17 major languages, 2,200 dialects... India's heritage, diversity, pluralism and its vibrant culture are just cause for pride. More recently, an emerging and vibrant economy - a cause for celebration.

Beneath this beautiful veil is an alarming rise in inequities

- ✿ India's population of over 1 billion
- ✿ More than 90% live below minimum subsistence levels of \$2 per day
- ✿ India still lives in its villages that lack basics such as water, power & education

India's rural masses have the latent potential to contribute and share in the growth of this country.

Rural Education... its current state

- ✿ 95% of the rural schools are run by the government & education is conducted in the local language
- ✿ Poor quality of education and high dropout rates
- ✿ Children in grade 8 can barely manage grade 2 levels of Mathematics and English skills
- ✿ Teachers not exposed to current teaching methodologies
- ✿ Graduating children lack basic skill sets, are incapable of pursuing higher education and are largely unemployable





Isha Vidhya – the vision

To bring about a noticeable change in the educational landscape of rural Tamil Nadu, Isha Vidhya will establish 206 schools in each of the state's taluks (counties), schools that will provide affordable, high quality education for rural children.

"By empowering the rural masses and providing a continuous stream of qualified personnel, this effort will be a vital contribution to India's growth."

Goals

- ✦ Creating confident, English-speaking, computer-skilled students
- ✦ Education that empowers rural children to participate globally
- ✦ Focusing on the education of girls
- ✦ Increasing educational awareness in rural societies



To do all the above while preserving the identities of their origin and culture



The Beginning

The project, conceived at the beginning of 2006, resulted in the first Isha Vidhya School being fully operational at Sandegoundenpalayam near Coimbatore on June 19, 2006. For the academic year 2007-08, three more schools have opened at Perumapalayam (Erode), Terur (Nagerkovil) and Kutambuli (Tuticorin). A comprehensive scholarship covers 32% of the 733 rural children presently at the schools. A nutritious meal and a health snack are also provided.



The Methodology

- ✦ Education delivered through multiple modes beyond the blackboard & books
- ✦ Over 50% of school hours spent on alternative and technology - enabled learning media using exclusive print, audio, video and computer - based learning content.
- ✦ Uniquely designed pedagogy to deliver high standards of English and computer skills

The Deliverables

- ✦ Children who are academically, physically and mentally capable of facing any situation with confidence and ease
- ✦ Competent, English - speaking and Computer - skilled youth
- ✦ A generation capable of productive participation in IT enabled services, Industry or higher education
- ✦ Joyous individuals with character, team spirit, dedication, self-reliance and dignity

The Difference

- ✦ A scalable model that can deliver results within the constraints of local resources
- ✦ Quality of output relies less on teacher quality, more on tools and methodology
- ✦ Optimized, standardized infrastructure resulting in lower costs
- ✦ Scholarships that enable the economically downtrodden to educate themselves



The Visionary

Yogi, mystic and visionary, Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev is a spiritual master with a difference. An arresting blend of profundity and pragmatism, his life and work serve as a reminder that yoga is not an esoteric discipline from an outdated past, but a contemporary science, vitally relevant to our times.



Founder of Isha Foundation, Sadguru has inspired the conception and execution of successful, large - scale humanitarian projects such as Action for Rural Rejuvenation, Project Green Hands, Isha Crafts and Disaster Relief & Rehabilitation (for more details visit www.ishafoundation.org).

With speaking engagements that take him around the world, Sadhguru is widely sought after by prestigious global forums to address issues as diverse as human rights, business values, social, environmental and existential issues. He has been a delegate to the United Nations Millennium Peace Summit, a member of the World Council of Religious Leaders, and has addressed forums such as the Australian Leadership Retreat, Tallberg Forum and the World Economic Forum.

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