
VidyaGyan

Spirals of Aspiration



VIDYAGYAN

|| VIDYA PARAMAISHWARYAM ||

www.VidyaGyan.in

(A) Harvard Internship at VidyaGyan

Organization: Shiv Nadar Foundation ([www. ShivNadarFoundation.org](http://www.ShivNadarFoundation.org))

Institution offered: VidyaGyan, a radical school program for rural underprivileged children

(www.VidyaGyan.in)

Location: Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh (90 minutes drive from New Delhi)

Stipend: \$200 per month

Lodging & Boarding: VidyaGyan residential school premises (will be taken care by the Foundation)

Other expenses:

- During the internship travel for official purposes will be borne by the Foundation
- Travel to and from New Delhi to VidyaGyan will be taken care by the Foundation

Safety & Security: Full care will be taken by the Foundation for the safety of the Intern

Position: Harvard Intern (Nurture rural talent for leadership)

Time period: 1st June 2012 – 31st August 2012 (flexible according to intern)

Internship Offer:

1. **15 days:** Orientation and participation in processes to ensure “*The Top of the Bottom of the Pyramid*” - participation in a unique and extensive admission process being conducted to get the best students from rural areas (going into the villages)
2. **60 days:** Mentoring the rural students and faculty (for e.g. English classes, mentorship, theatre etc)
3. **15 days:** Part of strategy development for the way forward for these students after school

Primary Responsibilities of the Internship:

- To be a part of the system of enrolment to VidyaGyan - admission process conducted in rural districts of Uttar Pradesh
- To share global learning with the rural students in order to make them more aware

- Help prepare the children to match their urban counterpart. (In the large scheme of things, academics are a small part. the ultimate goal of VidyaGyan is to prepare these children for leadership in the 'real' world and to enhance their survival instincts)
- Develop social skills among VG students
 - Exposure to public speaking
 - Exposure to competitions
 - Community service
- Develop skills with VG Students (developing skill set)
 - Training children for lateral thinking
 - Develop critical thinking
 - Personality development for VG student
 - Develop higher order thinking skills
 - Communication development
 - Encourage to Interaction/asking questions
 - Role play within the classes to develop interaction and participation
 - Need to speak the language(English) as teaching & learning don't go side by side
 - Take learning's as journey, not a destination
 - Involvement of vocational subjects
- To discuss, debate and develop the future for VidyaGyan Students - equip them with the knowledge, processes and tools to shape their destinies

Apply through:

Pamela Srivastava, (pamela.s@ShivNadarFoundation.org)

(B) About the Shiv Nadar Foundation

The Shiv Nadar Foundation has been established since 1996 by Shiv Nadar, the Founder of HCL - a \$6.2 billion leading global technology and IT enterprise, which employs over 88,000 employees across 31 countries. The 3-decade-old enterprise, founded in 1976, is one of India's original IT garage start-ups and offers diverse business aligned technology solutions spanning the entire hardware and software spectrum, to a focused range of industry verticals.

Envisioned to bring about Leadership for change through transformational education, the Foundation is committed to creating equitable opportunities for leadership through focused **philanthropy in research-led education, creativity and art**. The Foundation aims to achieve these primarily through outstanding educational institutions, which provide meritorious students from all walks of life the opportunity to receive world class education. (www.ShivNadarFoundation.org)

The Shiv Nadar Foundation is a strong believer of “**Creative Philanthropy**”. The most common approach to philanthropy has been to identify gaps and address them through time-bound project based large scale initiatives. This is the corrective route. Governments, corporate and several foundations globally have been following this approach and working in the areas of education, health, environment, among others. The most common approach is towards correcting social ills through strategic intervention initiatives.

Creative philanthropy is a powerful model that has its roots in the US and exists in the form of institutions that go beyond the lifetime of individuals who have set these up and continue to impact generations. American steel baron Andrew Carnegie, one of the most respected philanthropists in the world, built lasting institutions of excellence across the United States and the UK in the form of libraries, music halls and education institutes. The Carnegie Institute of Technology was established at Pittsburg in 1901 with a huge endowment from Carnegie and is now part of the Carnegie Mellon University.

It is an approach that allows sustained institutionalized philanthropy for long-term high impact socio-economic transformation. The avenues of transformation can be many but the Foundation believes that education has the power to be the single-largest tool for socio-economic transformation. Education empowers individuals and is vital to reap our demographic dividend.

Creative philanthropy has the power to drive long term, sustainable, catalytic and multiplier impact for socio-economic transformation and change the future.

A unique model of creative philanthropy is ‘VidyaGyan’, rural initiative in the state of Uttar Pradesh which is one of India’s most populous and one of the most illiterate states.



VidyaGyan is envisioned as a strong catalyst of transformation in the larger community.

VidyaGyan radical and innovative set of schools covering all districts of Uttar Pradesh that handpicks rural meritorious children and takes them through transformational education to bring them at par with their privileged counterparts. VidyaGyan is not any other school for the underprivileged but a state-of-the-art institution that addresses social imbalances and nurtures leaders for tomorrow.

It has a force multiplier effect, where every beneficiary acts as a catalyst of sustained transformation for many more, and is a critical element of creative philanthropy.

(C) About VidyaGyan

The vision of the VidyaGyan schools is to build future leaders from rural India through high quality school education as a tool to bridge the rural-urban divide. It is a concept, which in partnership with the Government of Uttar Pradesh aims to select, induct and transform meritorious rural children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Vision

The vision of the VidyaGyan schools is *to build future leaders from rural India*, using high quality school education as a tool to bridge the rural-urban divide. The program aims to bring students from rural India, potential high achievers who lack the advantage of exposure to a competitive environment, up to the level of their urban counterparts.

The objective is to neutralize that disadvantage on a scale large enough to have tangible impact across the state of Uttar Pradesh (UP); *the belief being that high quality education to a select few will take the positive impact of education to where it can truly uplift and transform lives; help narrow the socio-economic divide and bear forth India's future leaders from its rural heart.*

The VidyaGyan schools will run from the 6th to the 12th grade, scaled up each year. Three boarding schools geographically situated to cover all 70 districts of UP with a capacity of 1400 students each, at full strength will nurture 4200 responsible citizen leaders.



Objectives of VidyaGyan Schools

Students brought up in an urban environment have a distinct advantage over their rural counterpart - not only through access to superior quality education but also through direct exposure to a highly

competitive environment, which buttresses their schooling with added social and communication skills.

Broad Objectives:

1. Adding value to the government and Non government initiatives in promoting quality education
2. Creating leaders in their own rights from rural India
3. Identify and groom potential
4. Need to focus on excellence in quality and equity in education: VidyaGyan is an aspiration for all rural children and the communities they belong to

Specific Objectives:

1. Nurture talent : academically strong, physically well nourished and emotionally stable
2. Develop language skill
3. Personality development
4. Identify hidden talent and groom
5. Each VidyaGyan school to excel in two sports each
6. Replicate similar models in other parts of India and the world

Methodology

Target group & Selection methodology

- Children from strictly rural, low income (families with ~\$2000 p.a.) and government schools. Families are required to present a valid income certificate.
- Each school will service ~23 districts around it. The program will draw 2 merit scholars from each taluk or tehsil (district) per year. The selection process is based on the 5th grade junior state examination and an entrance test administered by each VidyaGyan in partnership with the Government of Uttar Pradesh. Only top scholars from the board exams merit lists are allowed to appear for the VidyaGyan admission test.
- To ensure fair selection a five-member state level selection panel is established, which may be chaired by a district magistrate or his representative. Remaining members may include potential local citizens of repute and representatives from the Shiv Nadar Foundation. Final selection of students is based on the entrance test results. Selection is limited to 10 students per district with a preference for equal number of boys and girls.

Key Highlights:

- Children from strictly rural, low income (families with ~\$2000 p.a.)



- 3 schools planned across the state of Uttar Pradesh in North India to absorb 4200 students
- Class 6-12, fully residential schools
- Best in education, mentoring and nurturance, completely free of cost
- Schools established in Bulandshahr (2009) and Sitapur (2011) catering to ~1200 students, and an upcoming school in Varanasi
- Values aside, students are from disadvantaged background, VidyaGyan is their utopia. VidyaGyan is a concept, it's an empowering movement

(D) Brief Note on the State of Uttar Pradesh

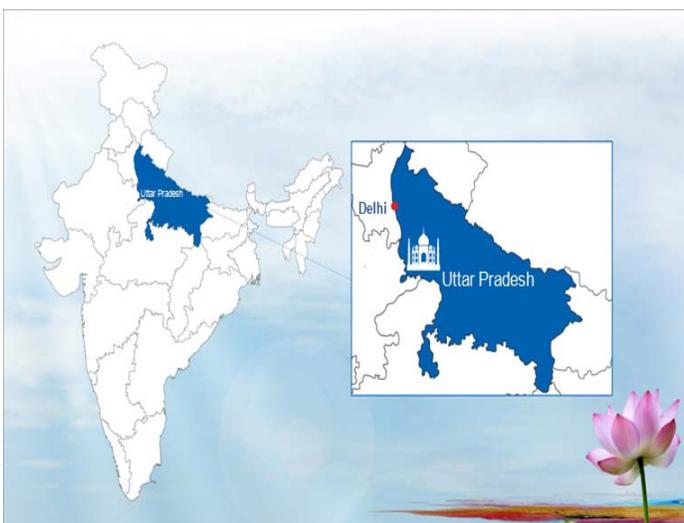
Uttar Pradesh is a state located in the northern part of India with a population of over 200 million people. It is India's most populous state, as well as the world's most populous sub-national entity.

With an area of 93,933 sq mi (243,290 km²), Uttar Pradesh covers a large part of the highly fertile and densely populated upper Gangetic plain. It shares an international border with Nepal to the north. Other states along Uttar Pradesh's border include Uttarakhand, Haryana and Delhi to the north and northwest; Rajasthan on the west; Madhya Pradesh on the south; Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand on the south east; and Bihar on the east. The administrative and legislative capital of Uttar Pradesh is Lucknow, the industrial and financial capital of the state is Kanpur.

Agriculture is a significant part of Uttar Pradesh's economy. The state was India's sixth largest producer of fruits, and became the largest producer of vegetables in 2010.

Uttar Pradesh can be divided into three distinct geographical regions:

1. The Himalayan region in the North
2. The Gangetic plain in the centre
3. The Vindya hills and plateau in the south



The state is home to many historical and culturally important cities such as Allahabad, Varanasi, Kanpur, Lucknow, Agra and Gorakhpur. Varanasi, known as Kashi in ancient times, is one of the holiest places for Hindus. Other important cities are Jhansi, Ayodhya where Lord Ram was born and Mathura where Lord Krishna was born. **The state is also home to Agra where the Taj Mahal - one of Seven Wonders of the World is located.**

