

# Tirthankar Mahavir Vidya Mandir Veerayatan Palitana

## 2018-2019 School Update



***'Jaha Jinalay  
Vaha Vidyalay'  
- Acharya  
Chandanaji***

***"Where there  
is temple, there  
should be a  
school."***

Veerayatan made a firm resolve in 2017 to start **Tirthankar Mahavir Vidya Mandir Veerayatan Palitana ('TMVM')**, a school for the children of impoverished communities living in the villages in and around Palitana.

TMVM welcomes all with open arms - admission is without any distinction of caste, creed, race religion or socio-economic status. In the academic year 2018-2019, we added grade 6 and hence we covered grades 1-6 of the national education standard, and plan to keep growing every year.

### **Our Educational Outlook and Activities**

In the clean, crisp, open and spiritually calm environment of TMVM we try to ensure our children reach their full potential in whatever they do best. This means providing:



**A quality all round education** - TMVM has the aim of providing **quality education** in academic subjects such as English, Science and Mathematics, but combining it with a **moral and ethical outlook** with respect for humans, animals and the environment as a whole as well as self-respect in terms of personal hygiene, good manners etc. We recognise that not all children are academic but they may be good at other activities such as sports, art, music, yoga, etc. Our aim is to make their school days productive and enjoyable through a series of academic, sporting and cultural activities.



All children are provided with a **nutritional meal**. Children are allowed to eat as much as they want, as in some cases the children may not have received food at home. Our meals are supplemented with seasonal fruits and include favourite foods for children such as Pava, Upma, Dhokla and other healthy choices. We also provide filtered and cool water.

**School Essentials** - All school books, stationery, school bag, two sets of uniform, sports t-shirt, winter pants and sweaters, socks, and water bottles are supplied every year at the time of enrolment either free or at highly subsidized amounts. Only shoes are not currently provided but this is under consideration as some children come to school barefoot.

**Healthcare** - We provide first aid facilities for the children. This year the Gujarat Government ran a public health campaign to vaccinate all children against measles and rubella and the government officials and doctors came to TMVM to talk to the parents and vaccinated more than 90% of the children. Our aim is to extend the healthcare we provide to our children.

## **Our Achievements To Date**

### **Academic:**

We have enrolled 252 children (boys to girls ratio 50:50) from 18 different communities in and around Palitana without discrimination as to caste or creed.

- The highest ranking student achieved a score of 97.7% in the year end examination. One third of our students have attained end of year marks of over 90%.

- In both 2017 and 2018 we achieved over 95% average attendance.

## Social and Environmental:



Over 1500 trees have been planted around the campus in the past two years due to the loving efforts of children, parents and teachers, helping to create a lush and green environment which is conducive to learning.

There is close co-operation and communication with parents to create a partnership to promote the welfare of children. Six parent/teacher meetings have been held in the past year alone. Children are so proud to have the opportunity to attend TMVM that they have started a ripple effect and sought to bring change in others, as shown by the inspirational efforts of the following students attending the school:



**Mahera:** even though Mahera is physically handicapped she has become an inspiration to her family. The very shy, timid Mahera has blossomed mentally and physically after coming to TMVM. Her four siblings look up to her for guidance. She not only helps them with their school work but she is an advocate for cleanliness in and around the neighbourhood. She reminds everyone about the importance of health and hygiene. Her parents with tearful eyes cannot thank TMVM enough for the 180%

turnaround in Mahera's life and her attitude towards life, because she started the school at the age of 8 and picked up to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade level in 6 months and now is one of the smart girls at school.

**Namratta:** a student of TMVM, who has learnt the value of giving selflessly and each and every day after school she gathers all the children in her village and teaches them what she herself has learnt in school that day.

**Sana Fatema:** a very sincere and smart student who absorbs not only academic knowledge but also the values that are taught in school by the Sadhvijis. She has become our local ambassador for promoting vegetarianism and healthy diet. She and her family stopped eating meat soon after she joined the school. Now she makes great efforts in going around the community in her free time and promoting vegetarianism to her neighbours and friends.

## Vocational Training:

We promote children's rehabilitation after schooling is completed by providing them with some occupational skills, such as sewing, kitchen gardening and food preservation. We also arrange visits to local industries, hospitals, post offices, etc. to promote their job prospects and motivate them.

## Growing Staff and Infrastructure

- TMVM has highly motivated, dedicated and trained staff to teach the children. Regular teacher training sessions have been instituted and are compulsory to further improve and widen the skills of the teachers.
- We now have about 11 teaching and administrative staff at TMVM.
- TMVM is purpose built and has large classrooms which can accommodate up to 50 children, a sports field and well stocked library.

## TMVM as a hub for International Volunteering

This academic year has seen TMVM become a centre for volunteering. There was mutual benefit for the volunteers and the children of TMVM and we are hopeful that this is the start of regular interactions of this type:

- Seven undergraduates from the University of Worcester, UK volunteered at TMVM in July/August 2018 for a one-month period. There were two objectives: firstly for the volunteers to learn about the education system in India and take back to UK novel ideas to make learning even more effective; and secondly for the volunteers to train TMVM teachers and teach children Maths and English effectively.
- Veerayatan Global's second volunteer trip, aimed at giving young people an opportunity to volunteer their time successfully completed in August 2018. Thirty-two volunteers from the UK and Kenya spent one week at TMVM interacting with and teaching the children and creating a real bond of friendship.



Thank you all for all your generosity