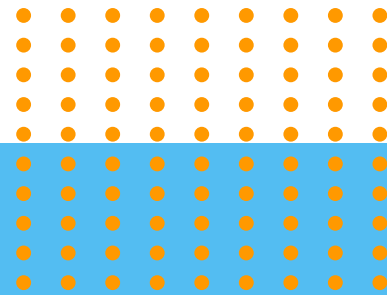
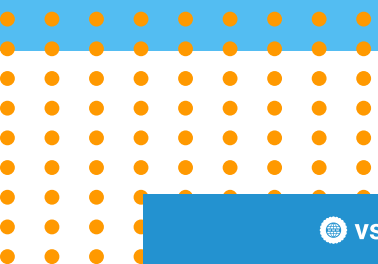




Index



- VSM in Numbers
- Editor's Desk
- Main Feature: VSM's 14th Vardhaapan Diwas
- Alumni Corner
- Event Calendar





Students
475



Villages
230



Volunteers
325



Alumni
648



Branches
6

- Website: www.vsmthane.org
- YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/vsmthane
- FB: www.facebook.com/vsmthane
- Twitter: www.twitter.com/vsmthane
- LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/vsmthane/
- Instagram: www.instagram.com/vsmthane
- www.vawesomes.wordpress.com

Contact details - Head Office: 102, 1st Floor, S.T. Stand Bldg., Khopat, Thane (West),
Maharashtra, Pin - 400 602.

Tel: +91 9987437446 (Trust Reg. No. E-6717 (Thane) dated 21/03/2011)

Email: connect@vsmthane.org

Namaskar. Greetings to all of you for the festive season!

This 24th issue of our Quarterly Newsletter VSM CONNECT comes to you with the blessings of Lord Ganesha whose festival we just celebrated with lot of fun and fervour after the decline of the pandemic.

During this festive season, we have been running a donation campaign "Utsavatoon Samaajakade" (From Festivities to Society) from the onset of Ganeshotsav till Deepawali. All of you must have received our various fliers espousing everyone to contribute handsomely for this noble cause. We earnestly request you to spread the word about this campaign to your friends, relatives, office colleagues so that they too know about VSM and its work in the field of education.

The current issue of VSM CONNECT covers the following topics:

- Main Feature: VSM's 14th Vardhaapan Diwas (Foundation Day) celebration on 15th August 2022
- VSM Alumni Corner
- Other regular features such as Calendar of Events and VSM in numbers.

We are also attaching with this newsletter VSM's Annual Report (Varshik Aadhwaa) for the Year 2021-22. We sincerely request you all to respond to us with your critique, suggestions and recommendations to make Newsletter better

& more meaningful.

Till we meet next in January 2023, we wish you & your families a Happy Dussehra and Joyful Diwali!

Thank you.



The 14th Vardhaapan Diwas of VSM

VSM's 14th Vardhaapan Diwas coinciding with India's 75th Swatantrya Din was celebrated with great vigor and joy on 15th August 2022. The online event started with the melodious and soulful rendition of the recorded Vidyadaan theme song. More than 360 VSM family members comprising Students, Alumni, Volunteers and Karyakarta Palaks witnessed an inspiring collage of VSM's colorful activities. The event was hosted by VSM alumnus, Pankaj Chavan.



Pankaj Chavan - Compere for Vardhaapan Diwas

VSM Annual Report- 2021-2022

The event kicked off with the comprehensive and beautifully compiled presentation of the "VSM Annual Report - 2021-2022" by our volunteer, Deepali Sarpotdar. She lucidly detailed all the work done during the academic year.

It was a post-Covid "scale-up" year for VSM. The student strength increased from 335 to 425 and with sustained campaigning efforts, 100 New Karyakarta Palak were enrolled during this period.

Career Team Interventions

With the addition of two new teams viz. Law and Medical Lab Technology, VSM now has 14 Career Guidance Teams (Arts, Science, Commerce, Medicine, Physio and Occupational Therapy, Nursing, Medical Laboratory Technology, Social Work, Architecture, Fine and Applied Arts, Law, Engineering, BSc IT and ITI) working relentlessly for the academic well-being of students.

Regular sessions focusing on Exam related guidance, doubt solving, management of stress during exams, various career opportunities, interaction with alumni students for knowledge and experience sharing, online learning courses etc were conducted by individual teams throughout the year.

Many New Initiatives were undertaken by the Career Guidance Teams for the overall academic development of the students. These included Virtual visits to industries, Methods to increase employability, Social responsibilities of Engineers, Moot Court competition, Picture speak, Medical Technology- Kal, Aaj aur Kal, Patient Management, STEP (Social work Theory to Effective Practice) Conference, Social Stock Exchange and CSR etc.

Strengthening the Organization

VSM strived throughout the year 2021-22 to widen its reach and strengthen the support system for students and their families. Also, lot of efforts were put in to improve upon the internal processes for efficient functioning of the organization.

Increasing our Outreach & ATMANIRBHAR Initiative

This year VSM got an opportunity to increase its outreach through various novel platforms. With the aim of reaching out to the masses, VSM put up a stall and actively participated in the Event “Dene Samaajache” at Thane organized by Artistry Foundation, Pune in Feb. 2022.



VSM Team - At Dene Samaajache Event Stall

The one-on-one interactions with visitors at our stall gave us a chance to explain them the work of VSM and appeal them to contribute for the upliftment of the society through education of the underprivileged and deserving students.

“Viskatlele Savartana” an event of Institute of Psychological Health (IPH) Thane, founded by Dr. Anand Nadkarni, gave us an opportunity to explain about VSM in detail, right from its inception to the mammoth efforts put in by all to overcome the challenges faced during COVID-19 pandemic. The individual video sessions of the speakers (Volunteers and Students) were aired on IPH official YouTube channel “Avaahan” for mass outreach.



Viskatlele Savartana - Geeta Shah

“STEP Conference” organized by Social Work Team of VSM saw the participation of several NGOs, Students of Social Work Field, Experts and Invited Dignitaries.

During the pandemic affected lockdown phase, VSM interacted with the parents (250 families) of our students through online “Palak Melava” and the ATMANIRBHAR program of VSM lent a helping hand to the needy families through financial assistance and providing equipment for sustainable self-earning options (Sewing machine and Gharghanti). A concentrated effort “Chala Karyakarta Joduya” by VSM to reach society through its volunteers for onboarding and engaging new KPs resulted in significant increase in the numbers.

Events & Digital Support

The Digital Empowerment of students which was started by VSM during Covid outbreak continued post-pandemic with distribution of mobile phones and Laptops for coping with the online studies.

In addition to the academic interventions, various other events were conducted with active participation of the students as follows:

The English Fest- English Language classes were conducted across all branches throughout the year culminating in the Fest, where students showcased their acquired English skills.

Library Day- An offline session to inculcate and develop good reading habit in students especially in today's online social media era.

An online fun filled event "MEHFIL" to welcome the New year, gave a ready platform to all students and volunteers to showcase their varied creative talents (Singing, Dancing, Art work, Poetry Recitation etc.) in front of the entire VSM family.

Book Bite sessions by Mr. Ajit Joshi (a C-suite executive with global experience) for students wherein the inspiring life stories of eminent personalities were narrated in a very interactive and enjoyable format with lot of learnings for the students.

In line with the VSM Mission of creating socially sensitive citizens, students were sent to various **Social, Medico-social camps** to inculcate social awareness, community living, resilience and leadership skills.

Process Strengthening

As part of the "Chala Boluya" initiative regular online sessions were taken wherein the KPs shared their experiences and difficulties related to communication with their students or complying to the various responsibilities and processes. These were addressed by respective teams and created a continuous interactive platform further making the Mentoring process more effective.

Finance & Accounts: Regular audits, upgradation of Tally system software updates were carried out to provide student-wise, branch-wise data/ budgets and to take care of individual dedicated and CSR donations. For 6 years in a row, VSM has got recognition as a credible NGO and has been certified with the prestigious **Guide Star India Transparency Key Award**.

Awards Session: V- Samvardhan

Various Awards were given to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of meritorious students in academic and extra-curricular activities. These included the following:

Academic Excellence Awards - The selection process was explained by Dr. Narayan Ponshe and the awards were given to 78 students across 14 Career Streams of VSM.

STEP Conference Awards - included Best Poster, Best Abstract and Research Award.

Awards were also announced for the various competitions held on Library Day.

Two new awards were announced from this year to VSM Students.



Neelima Kadhe - Judge for Fine & Applied Arts Awards

The first one was the “**Jayashri Mokashi Kala Paritoshik**” sponsored by the Mokashi family from Thane who since past several years have been closely associated with VSM. This award was given to students of Fine and Applied Arts. External Experts from the field of Fine and Applied Arts Mr. Vijayraj Bodhankar and Smt. Neelima Kadhe judged the students work and declared two winners, **Hemraj Chavan and Uma Nandini**.

The second award was the “**Dhanvantari Award**” for the Best Outgoing MBBS Student of 2022. This was sponsored by the Healthcare firm Health “N” U Therapeutics Pvt. Ltd. The founder of the firm, Shri. Deepak Naik explained the objective and the thought process behind giving this award. The selection process was explained in details by VSM Medical Team member, Dr. Rajashekharrao, which took into account academic performance for all the four years,

participation in college and VSM events, extracurricular, sports activities and also contribution towards social activities. Total 11 students successfully cleared their MBBS final exams in this academic year. Three students were shortlisted and a panel of 2 External and 1 Internal Expert (Dr. Ashutosh Kelkar - an eminent Surgeon, Dr. Vaishali Wavikar - Anesthesiologist and Joint Director, Wavikar Eye Institute and Smt. Vidya Jathar, Retd Nursing Superintendent, Reliance Hospital, Mumbai and Karyakarta Palak,



Presentation of Dhanwantari Award to Dr Vijay Tadvi

WE ARE
PROUD.

Successful MBBS Students





Best MBBS Student Award Ceremony

Nursing Career Team Lead, VSM) interviewed the 3 students and finally declared **Dr. Vijay Tadvi** as the best outgoing MBBS student. The award comprising of a Gold Medal, Prize money of Rs. 50,000/- and a Certificate was given to Dr. Vijay Tadvi at a special award ceremony during Medical Team's monthly meeting.



BE FRANK - VSM in One Word

V-Awesome

The Be Frank program - By the Students and For the Students - was conceptualized by our very own alumni, Anand Sapate and Karan Pardeshi for developing camaraderie and is an open forum for discussions and personality development. These sessions help students to get over their inhibitions and gives a platform to express themselves

freely through interesting and fun filled activities.

Anand Sapate hosted Be Frank - **V Awesome** - a Vardhaapan Din special session to explore VSM students' perspective about VSM. When asked to describe VSM in one word, the students spoke from their hearts and individually expressed that **VSM is a Flight** in an aircraft to fly high in life, a Father who fulfills my needs and cares for me, a **Compass** that shows me the right direction and right vision, an **Easy chair** where I can relax and find peace and much more.

Next, students were asked to describe the VSM Interventions which shaped their lives and groomed their personalities and they were; financial help and KP guidance like parental support, developing good reading habit, learning new skills, enhancing spoken English, lot of learnings from expert guest speakers, attending seminars / shibirs for creating and increasing social awareness and invaluable/ high Return in the form of Sanskar, love and guidance etc. These were just a few examples and students took this opportunity to convey their genuine gratitude through this interactive session.

V-Sanskar

In a first of its kind process, **VSM Alumni** (Vaibhav Sonone, Bharat Kadam and Gauri Vaidys) **evaluated the Reports written by students who had attended the One-Week-For-Nation Sevankur Medico-Social camp and the Shrama Sanskar Shibir of Somnath.** Students were felicitated for their outstanding reports about experiences in these camps. Three awards were given to

the Best Reports for each of the camp.

The learnings of students from these camps reflected the core objective and mission of VSM to create "Empowered Students, Empowered Nation"



Medico Social Camp- Sevankur -One Week for Nation



Utsavatun Samaajakade

Utsavatun Samaajakade (Festivity to Society) - Mission 2022

Dr. Amit Karkare, our KP explained the objective of the unique fund raising campaign which has been carried out in VSM since past few years during Ganapati Festival. He made an earnest appeal to all KPs, Volunteers and Donors to spread the message of "Festivity to Society Mission 2022" and make the campaign a great success.

VSM Vardhaapan Diwas reflected a truly joyous celebration of the spirit of a vibrant and colorful journey of VSM and culminated in welcoming the New Academic Year with great enthusiasm and aspirations for a bright future.



Festivity to Society

VSM is an NGO, relentlessly working since 2008, supporting needy, underprivileged and deserving students across Maharashtra, to fulfil their dreams of pursuing higher education.

Through 6 branches across Maharashtra, VSM is currently supporting 450 students from 14 career streams with financial support and the unique mentorship model. During the last 14 years, 650 students have successfully completed their education with the help of VSM. Today, these students are remarkably excelling in several strata of society while responsibly taking care of their families.

For the last 4 years, we have been running the novel campaign around Navratri Festival "Utsavatun Samaajakade (Festivity to Society)" to encourage active participation from all sections of the society to join us as volunteers and donors, in order to continue the trend of supporting more students each year. The donation campaign will be enormously conducted this year too.

We humbly request your cordial support by donating generously for the noble cause of Vidyadaan!

For more information please visit our website: www.vsmthane.org
For any queries contact : 99874 37446



When I was around six years old, my mother, to provide me with a bright future, got me admitted in Dadar Balika Ashram. I was happy there as I got to meet 50 other girls who were just like me. I studied from 1st to 7th standard at this ashram and had the foundation of good education and moral values. My later education from 8th to 12th standard, was at Navarange Balakashram in Pandharpur. Till 12th standard, my studies were in Marathi medium and was avoiding to take up further studies due to fear of English language. Also, my family's financial condition wasn't very good and these reasons led to a two-year gap in my education.

However, my passion to study further didn't dwindle. I continued to read newspapers, magazines, and books to gain knowledge and also persisted with my artistic pursuits. One day, I came across an interesting article about Fine Arts in a magazine and my mind firmed up for pursuing a career in Fine Arts. I called up Just Dial and sourced information of all Fine Arts Colleges in Mumbai. I applied and finally took admission in Bandra's Raheja School of Arts. During my college days, me and my mother lived in a rented accommodation, initially at Navi Mumbai and

later at Thane. Since my mother is blind, I had to shoulder all the responsibilities singlehandedly. Having spent my childhood living in ashrams, I had no clue on the workings of the outside world. But as they say, unless you plunge into the water, you cannot learn to swim. I took up part-time jobs to take care of my college and household expenses. While in the second year of college, one of my friend spoke to Radha Ambekar Madam about my hardships and was recommended to approach VSM. Geeta Shah Madam interviewed me and assigned me two very loving mentors, Manjiri Saraf and Ajay Saraf. They as guardians not only gave me unconditional emotional support but also provided me with all care and attention as a family member. VSM, in addition to sponsoring my education, also gave me a platform to learn and evolve as a self-reliant confident individual. I will always remember and cherish my days spent amidst a huge VSM family of selfless Kaka's, Maushi's and friends.

After completing my Fine Arts degree, I worked as an Art Instructor at Alafiya Art Academy for two years. However, pandemic forced closure of this academy. During this jobless period, I learnt Digital Technology with the help of friend. I continued applying for jobs and finally got an offer from Reliance Animation. I worked as a Layout Artist for a year there and presently am working as the Creative Head at an organization of repute. In my journey so far, several people have helped and supported me and the contribution of VSM in shaping my career is unforgettable. I cannot thank them all enough and will remain eternally grateful to them.



I belong to a farmer's family from Ralegaon in Yavatmal district. During my growing years, my parents worked as labourers elsewhere as our own land was stuck in a legal dispute. We finally won the legal case and got our land back in 2019. In spite of family's difficult economic situation, my parents struggled and creditably managed to study till Class X.

My education till Higher Secondary was very checkered mainly due to financial constraints. So much so that after 12th standard, I had no hope of pursuing higher education. Apart from lack of funds, I didn't get proper career guidance either. However, luck favored me, and I came to Yavatmal to study Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) in Savitri Jyotirao College of Social Work. It was nothing short of a milestone in my life. I enjoyed my academic stint and won several elocution contests. The cash prizes helped me to partially bear some cost of my education. I also did a few odd jobs to meet my financial needs. After completing BSW, I joined for the LLB program in Yavatmal. This time, it was more difficult because of the semester system and the added financial burden. But I continued to strive and finished LLB. While I was doing BSW, I had met Ekalvya Foundation's Founder, Raju Kendre.

Thanks to his support and continuous guidance, I got selected for LLM in TISS, Mumbai. A lot of people have to be thanked in helping me secure admission in this prestigious institute - my parents sold their gold ornaments, my teacher stepped in to contribute some amount of money and my cousin too came forward with financial help.

I got to know about VSM through Bharat Kadam (VSM Alumni) and I applied for a Scholarship with them. Geeta maushi took my interview and after couple of days, I received a mail confirming my selection. That was perhaps the happiest moment of my life. As a first-generation learner, I faced big challenges in TISS, but I was able to overcome them thanks to the unconditional support of VSM. My KP, Padmja Maushi, and Anjali Chalisagonkar were constantly in touch with me, counselling me all throughout. I consider myself very lucky for becoming a part of the VSM family. At VSM, I was fortunate to interact with people from various backgrounds having rich experience and knowledge in different fields.

Presently, I am a practising Advocate in Yavatmal Court and a Forest Right and PESA Act Consultant at TRTI, Yavatmal Centre. I am also the leader of the Law Career Team in VSM. I have started writing blogs in the Marathi language regarding awareness about the different laws, the democratic system and policies. It is my dream to form an organisation which aims to deliver justice to the farmer community.

Past

- 3rd July - Debate on Pvt Practice option for OTPT students
- 10th July - Social Camps experience by Medico Students
- 29th July - Medical Technical Courses by Science Team
- 5th Aug - Career options for Psychology Students by Arts Team
- 15th Aug - VSM Vardhapan Diwas
- 21st Aug - Careers in Consumer Law by Legal Team
- 28th Aug - Award winners felicitation by Applied & Fine Arts Team
- 4th Sep - Orientation of New Students by Science Team
- 18th Sep - Judicial reforms in Law in last 75 years by Legal team

Forthcoming

- 1st Oct - Award presentation ceremony by Fine and Applied Arts Team
- 1st Oct - Interaction with students of Azim Premji University by Arts Team
- 2nd Oct - A journey with Science Achievers by Science Team
- 9th Oct - Financial planning for Young Engg. & Infotech students by Engg. team
- 16th Oct - Goal setting and Budgets for MSW students
- 30st Oct - Workshop on AETCOM (Attitude, Ethics & Communication) by Medical team
- 30th Nov - Folio presentation for Architecture Students
- 18th Nov - Discussion on Uniform Civil Code by Legal team
- 19th Nov - Guest Lecture on Animation for Applied & Fine Arts student
- 20th Nov - Necessity for Skills Development by ITI Team

The above events are in addition to the ongoing events like English Communication, Computer Basic skills, GST concepts, Be Frank and Book Byte which are conducted throughout the quarter.