

# Vidya Bhawan Society

*All-round education since 1931*



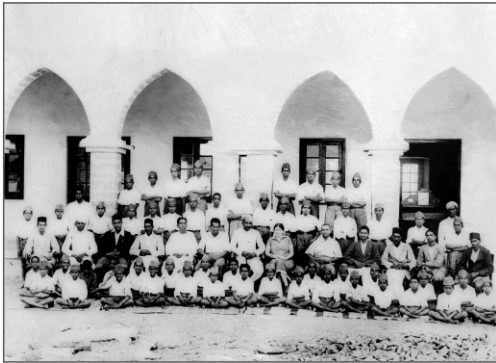
## Mission/What we do

Vidya Bhawan Society promotes education that is inclusive, promotes responsible citizenship and all-round development of children. We do this through our 13 institutions based in Udaipur, Rajasthan, that include schools, teacher training institutions, post graduation, polytechnic, and research institutions.

The students in our institutions come from diverse socio-economic backgrounds and learning abilities. They practice values of social justice and responsible citizenship, and enjoy a wide range of extra curricular and vocational activities. Our research institutions create content on education, agriculture and environment, and engage with stakeholders at the local, national and international level. We have a sprawling campus of more than 600 acres, comprising academic buildings, hostels, staff residences, playgrounds, auditoriums, libraries, a preserved natural habitat, farms and dairies.

Our alumni have gone into varied directions, but they have continued to uphold VB's mission in their personal and professional lives. The Vidya Bandhu Sangh, or Old Boys Association is an alumni group that started in 1934. This and many other alumni have been in active touch with Vidya Bhawan and have played a major role in not only raising support but also fighting to protect the values and character of Vidya Bhawan.

# History



Vidya Bhawan was founded by Dr. Mohan Sinha Mehta in 1931. Inspired by the Boy Scouts Movement and Gandhi's ideas, he set up VB with a revolutionary vision of education. He believed that our society needed individuals who had strong educational foundations and had a strong sense of duty towards social change and inclusion. He believed that VB

would take students from all sections of the society, especially the disadvantaged groups, and turn them into such socially conscious individuals.

VB was well ahead of its times. VB pioneered the concepts of co-education, extra-curricular activities and equal treatment of students from various religions, castes and classes. In Rajasthan, VB's Senior Secondary School was the first school to prescribe a uniform for students and end the visible marks of religious and other differences. The school encouraged their students to participate in activities around social justice, national and local culture, and ecological awareness. Today's standard practices like positive discipline instead of physical punishment, which were radical in those times, were practiced by us even at that time.

With time, newer institutions were added to VB family. Many of these were first of their kinds in the country, like our teacher training and vocational training colleges and Rural Institute. There were not many other institutions in the country with a comparable educational record, physical assets and unwavering social and ecological commitment.

Since its beginning, VB has been closely associated with many eminent personalities, both national and international, who have helped shape our education practices and strengthened our belief in our mission.

Our institutions continue to draw inspiration from VB's foundational values. Following pages give a brief description of each of our institutions as they stand today.



# Vidya Bhawan Senior Secondary School, Fatehpura



Embedded in the spirit of the national movement and drawing inspiration from Tagore and Gandhi, VB's first school was established in 1931. It also drew inspiration from the scouting movement and its focus on character building and social service. Today the school has enormous space and infrastructure for sports and extra-curricular activities and lays equal emphasis on scholastic achievement and sports and cultural activities. It is set up in urban Udaipur and caters to middle class and lower middle class sections of the society. This school is Hindi medium so that it can be accessible to its targeted population easily. It has three wings: the Nursery School, Junior School and Senior Secondary School. The school is very proud of its Vanshala project that provides children opportunities to explore new

territories and new cultures and histories. The Anniversary exhibition, organized every alternate year focuses on a specific theme and explores it from the cultural, historical, social and scientific perspectives. This school houses 815 students and aims at growing its strength to 950 students in 2016-17.

# Vidya Bhawan Senior Secondary School, Ramgiri



This school was set up in 1941, based on Gandhian philosophy and Gandhi's ideas on education. The students were involved in manual work, community services and craft work, and values of inclusion and social justice were paramount. It was made sure that the child was not alienated from her roots and from her linguistic and cultural background. The school still upholds this philosophy. It was upgraded to secondary and senior secondary levels in 1987 and 2012 respectively.

Based in outer edges of Udaipur, this school caters primarily to rural students. It has remained a Hindi medium school, same as the Fatehpura Secondary School despite competition pressures. We believe that Hindi medium or bilingual schools can cater better to the needs of marginalized groups and can provide high quality education while ensuring proficiency levels not only in the languages of children but also in English. By staying bilingual, we uphold our value of inclusion and help our students learn from each other.

Located on 30 acres of agricultural and forestry land, the school has an eco-friendly campus and is known for its scenic beauty. It has a computer lab, science lab and vocational training labs. Though its infrastructure needs renovation and purchase of equipment, once that is done, it has the potential to re-create a holistic learning environment for its students. With a current strength of 315 students, the school expects to grow to 440 students in 2016-17.





# Govindram Seksaria Teacher Training College (GSTTC)

After a decade of learnings from the Fatehpura Secondary school, GSTTC was started in 1942 to train teachers who could spread our education mission even further. GSTTC employed innovation and experimentation in its trainings with the help of Ministry of Education, Govt. of India and did some pioneering work. The MHRD (Ministry of Human Resource Development) upgraded this institution to the status of Institute of Advanced Studies in Education (IASE) in 1995 under the centrally sponsored scheme designed to strengthen Teacher Education in the country.

Today the college offers courses in Bachelor of Education, Master of Education and Ph.D. (Education). It is affiliated to Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur and has been approved by the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE). The college has necessary facilities like library, music room, auditorium, laboratories, and hostel facilities for girls and boys with solar water-heating system. The campus is equipped with modern teaching aids such as smart-boards, projectors etc. The rich college library has separate chambers for scholars and an E-library. The college has a digital language lab and also science, psychology, geography, computer and education technology labs. The college has another wing called College of Teacher Education (CTE), which focuses on pre-service and in-service training to Secondary School Teachers. The Government deputed participants for these trainings. The total strength of GSTTC for 2016-17 is expected to be 435 students. NAAC accredited the college with A Grade in 2007. The College is now preparing itself for NAAC renewal.



# Vidya Bhawan Kala Sansthan Shikshak Prashikshan Vidyalyaya (VBKSSPV)



Better known as just Kala Sansthan, this institute was started in 1944 with the intention to teach craft to its teacher-students. It has now been extended for providing a two years' diploma course in elementary teacher education called Basic School Teaching Certificate (BSTC). The BSTC course is now called Diploma in Elementary Education (D.El.Ed.) course. The institution also develops learning materials for elementary teachers in Rajasthan. KSSPV has remained in active collaboration with various institutions including SIERT, Udaipur. It has done several activities for the SIERT including planning for internship, activity-based learning, TLM workshops etc. It also organises weekly sports competitions and workshops like *karo aur sikebo*. GSTTC and KSSPV, together cover the entire range of the teaching community in schools. The institute is now a composite unit with VB Gandhian Institute (VBGIES), mentioned later. KSSPV expects to grow its strength to 95 students in 2016-17.





# Vidya Bhawan Rural Institute (VBRI Post-Graduate College)

In 1954, the Indian Government formed a committee named “Higher Education for Rural India” under the chairmanship of Dr. K. L. Shrimali, the then Deputy Minister of Education. Dr. Shrimali was also the first Head Master of VB Senior Secondary School. On the recommendation of his committee, the Central Government decided to entrust ten selected institutions in the country for the task of establishing rural institutes and VB was one of them. VBRI was established under this program.

VBRI followed the Gandhian idea that rural India must thrive alongside modernisation and urbanisation of India's economy. It was set up to provide higher education to rural children and train them in liberal arts and technology. It was designed to prepare and encourage students to go back and work in rural areas. The institute today upholds this philosophy and offers postgraduate courses in analytical chemistry, mathematics, economics, Hindi, political science, commerce and English literature. It is affiliated to Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur and offers many bachelors programmes, like business management, computer applications, commerce and arts.

The institute has a well-qualified core faculty as well as an eminent guest faculty. A well-stocked library with book bank facility, well-equipped laboratories, staff quarters, hostels, play fields, sports facilities and national social service activities are all part of the VBRI. The Institute also houses the study and work centre of the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU). VBRI is likely to have over 1600 students in 2016-17.





# Vidya Bhawan Polytechnic



Established in 1956 as part of VBRI, Vidya Bhawan Polytechnic is now an independent institution. It offers diploma courses in Civil Engineering, Electronic Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering, Information Technology and also post

diploma in Polymer Sciences and Rubber Technology. The admission procedure is on the basis of a state-wide merit. It also offers advanced add-on courses for skill enhancement of the students.

The Polytechnic organizes various skill development training programs for village and slum youth. The six-month training provided in various technical trades is absolutely free. It also works for transfer of technology in rural areas for socio-economic development of rural and tribal society.

This institution was recognized as the Best Polytechnic and Outstanding Technical Institution of Northern Region by the NITTTR, Chandigarh (MHRD, Govt. of India) in the years 2003 & 2014. The Polytechnic engages in research on Sanitation and Waste Management with national and international agencies. It plans to grow to a student body of 600 in 2016-17.





# Vidya Bhawan Aanganwadi Centre



The Aanganwadi Centre has been running under Vidya Bhawan Rural Institute since 1982. It organises training for Aanganwadi workers and helpers. About 40 job training and refresher courses are organised annually by the Centre. Courses are conducted on the basis of syllabus provided by the National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD), Delhi. The objective of these

trainings has not been just to train Aanganwadi workers to manage toddlers, but also to empower these workers to become self-reliant, confident and sources of information for the rest of their villages.

We have recently undertaken a project supported by Hindustan Zinc Ltd. to improve the functioning of Aaganwadis in Udaipur district. This project will help us improve our aanganwadis and strengthen our capability as a training institute. It will also help us restructure our work on early childhood care and bring about synergies with our aaganwadi centre, the two Nurseries and the Education Resource Centre.



# Vidya Bhawan Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)



The Vidya Bhawan Krishi Vigyan Kendra was set up in 1984, through a Memorandum of Understanding signed between Vidya Bhawan Society and Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The very concept of KVKs for the whole country was provided by a committee chaired by Dr. Mohan Sinha Mehta. It started as a lab-to-land programme to popularise the results of tested agriculture technology to farmers, particularly to small and marginal farmers.

VBKVK today works to fine tune agricultural technologies, to provide on and off campus training, to organise on-farm testing and extension services in villages. The institute's mission is “Farmer-centric growth in agriculture and allied sectors through application of appropriate technologies in specific agro-ecosystem perspective”. Its main role is envisaged as the training of farmers, rural youth and field functionaries in the latest agricultural technology. Farmer-oriented projects related to watershed development, agriculture technologies, dairy and animal husbandry, specifically created for marginal farmers are undertaken here. At present VBKVK is working in 11 villages with more than 1500 farmers.

VBKVK has been awarded first “Atal Rashtriya Krishi Vigyan Protsahan Puruskar – 2016” by ICAR for Zone II comprising of over 68 KVKs in States of Rajasthan, Haryana & Delhi.





# Vidya Bhawan Education Resource Centre (ERC)



The ERC was established in 1995, to collect learnings from the various Vidya Bhawan institutions and exchange this knowledge and ideas with outside institutions. It works towards improving the quality of education in schools and introducing new areas of learning with children as active participants in the learning process. It examines recent innovations and experiences in education and assesses their significance for our context.



The ERC assists government and non-government agencies to develop curriculum and elementary level textbooks, and to implement alternative school programmes. It acts as a forum for interaction between teachers, students and

parents. Training programmes are organised for teachers and key resource persons. The Centre has acquired a national recognition and supports many State Governments. The ERC has also been a platform for some of the major publications of VB and for organizing local, national and international seminars and conferences.

ERC is currently doing a project with Hindustan Zinc Ltd. which will help 6000 children in 55 government schools in Rajasthan to improve their educational foundations and performance in the secondary and higher secondary exams. It will also help us enhance our teaching capacities. The ERC has also been deeply involved in regenerating the Nursery Section of the Sr. Secondary School.

# Institute of Local Self-government and Responsible Citizenship



This institute was set up in 1997 through the support of European Union and Dorabji Tata Institute. Its aim was to reinforce confidence of people in the democratic processes at the grassroots level and provide requisite skills and sensitisation for good governance and participatory development of elected functionaries. It documented and researched issues of human rights, gender equity and problems in rural areas. Its publications have been of use to various *panchayat samitis* and *zila parishads*.

It has temporarily been closed down because of lack of funds, but we are about to launch a project on the lines of this institute, which we hope will lead to its revival. This project will incorporate the learnings from the 15 years of functioning of this institute, of how to engage the local leaders and build their capacity. It will also now extensively involve students, staff and local citizens in discussions and awareness building workshops. The proposed project will grow into a platform for local, national and international debates on self-governance and citizenship.





# Vidya Bhawan Public School (VBPS)

Established in 2001 with an implicit faith that "All Children are Educable", VBPS was set up in urban Udaipur to cater to children from all socio-economic backgrounds and learning abilities. Its focus has been on tapping the strengths of the individual child and using these strengths for child's development. It emphasises on learning through doing, peer group learning, learning from nature and inculcating brethren spirit and responsible citizenship. This is an English medium school, and is up to 12<sup>th</sup> class. At primary level, the school offers bilingual medium of instruction to facilitate a good base with conceptual clarity and confidence, which helps the children to express their ideas and feelings. One of the unique features of the school is that improvement in students is measured through Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE). The school plans to grow to 410 students in 2016-17.



# Vidya Bhawan Gandhian Institute of Educational Studies (VBGIES)



VBGIES was established in 2008 with the aim of promoting Gandhian thoughts and ideas on education and prepare teachers who are sensitive to the major conflicts of our times like poverty, social injustice etc. The Senior Secondary School in Ramagiri caters to children and follows Gandhi's ideas in education in the modern context. Based on the same campus, VBGIES tries to do the same for adults. It runs Bachelor in Education programme and encourages its students to explore Gandhian ideas to examine their relevance to contemporary times. This institute expects to have about 200 students in 2016-17.





# Vidya Bhawan Prakriti Sadhna Kendra (VBPSK)

VBPSK was established in 2009, to provide environmental education programs and nature camps to students, both from Vidya Bhawan and outside.

Since its inception in 1931, Vidya Bhawan has been engaged in various activities on environmental education for its diverse stakeholders: students, teachers, workers, parents, and community in general. The education on environment is explicit in all discourses in Vidya Bhawan. In 1956, the Society purchased 125 hectares of forestland on hilly terrain situated in Aravali Hills, close to Udaipur. Pressing problems of environmental degradation and worldwide awareness on environmental issues encouraged Vidya Bhawan to promote itself as a living laboratory for environmental and nature conservation studies. The year 2009, therefore, marked a significant turning point in the Society's history with the much anticipated completion of the Prakriti Sadhna Kendra (PSK) or Environmental Education Centre (Nature Interpretation Centre) within the boundaries of the original Vidya Bhawan site. The infrastructure at the Centre comprises two large classrooms (open room) and six dormitories, (eco-huts) to house the numerous groups of students visiting the Centre throughout the year.

Experts in the field of bird watching, forest flora and fauna are associated with PSK. With the help of few of these experts, we plan to develop a progame for young children to get regular exposure to the flora and fauna of PSK forest. We have also developed a trail through the forests that will attract adults and students to the Centre.





# Success stories/Testimonials



## Muhammad Kaif:

*Muhammad Kaif grew up in Mulla Talai in Udaipur. His father works as a lab technician in a local hospital and his mother is a house-wife. Born and brought up in a traditional and religious family, Kaif was sent to a local Madrasa for his primary education.*

*“Maulvi sahib used to come at around at 9 in the morning after his prayers and then the classes on religious education would commence. But it wasn't just scriptures. We also studied mathematics, logic, Hindi and English. Besides, I also had my first exposure to basic human values of piety, compassion, mercy and honesty as the whole ambience was very simple and there was no glamour of public schools”, says Kaif.*

*Later, he developed strong interest in science and mathematics and decided to become an engineer like his elder brother. He joined Vidya Bhawan in class 11<sup>th</sup>. “We are not rich people and my early educational background was not very strong. I chose VB because it offered quality education at affordable prices. The institution has a history, tradition and excellence. During my two years of stay in VB [Sr. Secondary] school, I got holistic education and my conceptual foundations in sciences and math became very strong. The teachers were amazing and helped us a lot in learning. Besides the academic side, VB was very important for me because I got a chance to interact with students from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds which many students in my community are not able to get”, says Kaif with a sense of gratitude for his alma meter.*

*Kaif scored 99 on 100 in mathematics in his class 12<sup>th</sup> exam which is a great achievement for him. He secured 88% marks in total and his hard work got him a place at state's prestigious CTAE engineering college. After his education he wants to start his own business and live a simple life in Udaipur.*



## Success stories/Testimonials

### Aditya Kumar:

*Till class 6<sup>th</sup>, Aditya studied at Vidya Bhawan Senior Secondary School, Fatehpura. After that, he moved to Sahyadri School of Pune and is currently in class 9<sup>th</sup>.*

*“In Vidya Bhawan, your background does not matter. I came to the school from an upper-middle-class family where both my parents are educated and are from the intellectual-elitist strata of society. But I got a chance to interact with students who had spent their childhood chasing panthers and antelopes from their fields and cultivating parched lands in sweltering heat. It was indeed a philosophical experience for me. I could call it a spiritual journey i.e. something which keeps you rooted and in harmony with nature. This learning made me adjust easily at Sahyadri which is an elite institution. Where other students felt homesick and had difficulties adjusting, my transition was smooth and easy; thanks to VB”, says Aditya with a confidence and perception which is quite uncharacteristic of a boy of his age.*

*He says that VB [Sr. Secondary] school offers excellent facilities in sports and cultural development, and in many ways it is much more than NCERT books. However, he feels that VB needs to put more emphasis on English and mathematics. Aditya wants to be a sportsman when he grows up.*

# Success stories/Testimonials



## Bhagwati Lal Joshi:

*Sb. Bhagwati Lal Joshi, a resident of village Ordi (Mavli Block) was an unemployed youth before coming in contact with VBKVK. His land was unproductive because the water in his area gets high acidic discharge from a nearby factory and is hence unfit for irrigation. Sb. Bhagwati Lal could not get a job because of lack of proper education and his whole family was struggling at that time.*

*KVK team advised Bhagwati to undergo vocational training on dairy management, artificial insemination and primary health care of animals, which he did for one month. After the training KVK helped him get associated with India Zen Ltd and NABARD. He started applying what he learnt on his livestock and took a loan to develop his dairy scientifically.*

*With continued support and guidance from KVK, Bhagwati managed his dairy business profitably and conducted successful artificial inseminations not only in his village but also in nearby areas. His annual net earning before the training was Rs. 1 lakh; He eventually increased his livestock to 35 animals and now earns Rs. 6.6 lakhs in profits every year from these animals. His activities outside his own farm, of artificial insemination and primary healthcare for other farms earn him another Rs. 96,000 per year. His annual net earning comes out to be around Rs. 8 lakh now.*

*His activities and initiatives led him to receive the award of Top Performer of Udaipur district in the year 2006-07 by India-zen. He also received "Chodudhary Charn Singh Samman" by KVK in the year 2009 for best performance in the field of Animal Husbandry and District level ATMA award for Best Farmer of Rs 10,000.*



## Success stories/Testimonials

### Prof. Dr. Maheep Bhatnagar:

*“Because of some medical problems, I suffered with insomnia and related cognitive issues when I was growing up. I suffered with memory loss and hence did not do very well in my 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> class exams. After being disappointed and demoralised by rejections from many colleges, I fortuitously got in contact with the Director of VBRI. He asked my father to admit me in VBRI with the science-biology group. This was a significant turning point in my life.*

*With a slow start, teachers at VBRI: Shri Dinesh Vyas in Zoology, Dr. Shrimal and Dr Garg in Botany, Dr. Kaushik, Dr Vajirani, Dr Sharma in Chemistry and Dr Mehta in Physics, started giving me extra attention in classes. Slowly, with determination, I started working on my studies. Surprisingly, in first class test I performed very well and I stood equal to the best student in the class.*

*Through this achievement and constant encouragement of these teachers, I passed my BSc degree in biology with 79.9% marks and stood first in VBRI. I went on to study MSc Zoology at MB College, Udaipur. I believe that my education at VBRI helped me here as well and I stood first in entire Rajasthan and obtained gold medal. My friends nicknamed me Professor! This nickname became a reality and I am happy that I could reach to the position of Professor and Head and Dean of the same department and institution where I studied. I have no words to express my gratitude to these devoted teachers of VBRI.”*

# Vision and Plans



Our biggest priority areas for the next 3 years are as follows:

- Strengthen our efforts to spread VB's mission and vision internally and externally: We wish to improve the morale of our staff by rekindling the sense of purpose and confidence in VB's mission. We wish to increase visibility of VB and help people understand our values and goals. We are also working towards increasing knowledge exchange through developing think tanks and partnerships with other organisations.
- Increase total revenues of our institutions and raise more funds: In 2011 our government funding was revoked, which covered much of the expenses (upto 90%) of our institutions. This led to a huge financial deficit, especially in our school budgets. We are trying to increase revenues of our institutions and raise funds to fill this deficit and take more initiatives to improve our education standards.
- Renovate degenerating physical infrastructure: Repair and maintenance of some of our buildings is urgently pending to maintain safety of our students and staff.
- Improve education quality: We plan to focus on encouraging multi-linguism, mathematics, science, arts, humanities, sports and other curricular activities within our classrooms, while improving the learning outcomes of our students.
- Bring all our institutions together and build on synergies: Our students can benefit highly from an inter-institution exposure. We plan to consolidate similar institutions into three hubs to facilitate this interaction.
- Improve the quality of leadership at multiple levels and improve organisational culture to make it more efficient and goal oriented: We were heavily dependent on government funding for a period of almost 50 years. This led to inefficiencies in the organisational culture. We are looking forward to a reinstating of our mission and renewal of our work culture.



## How you can help

You could **JOIN US**, at voluntary or full-time basis. We are a great organization to work with and we welcome new ideas and talent. To know more, please write to [vbs@vidyabhawan.org](mailto:vbs@vidyabhawan.org)

You could also help us raise money for the following:

- Scholarships for needy students: You could contribute to 'VBS NKS Marshall Scholarship Fund', which provides support to needy students with outstanding performance in education or games or art and culture. Alternatively, you could choose to support one or more students for a year. The average cost to educate a child in Vidya Bhawan is Rs. 18,000 per year and to also provide him/her boarding facilities is Rs. 60,000 annually.
- Repair and maintenance of buildings: Vidya Bhawan has an impressive infrastructural base of more than 600 acres. Many of our buildings and campuses are however in dire need of repair, so that safety of current residents/students can be ensured and more activities can be undertaken. We are planning to do these repairs over the next three years, which would require a total of Rs. 9.2 crores. Any contribution to this category will help in executing these repairs.
- Setting up an innovation fund: In the process of improving the education outcomes of our institutions, we plan to set up an innovation fund, which would encourage development and pilot of new ideas in this direction. For example, this fund could be used to try student exchange with other schools, experiment with new technologies for teaching and learning etc. Our goal for this fund is to reach Rs. 50 lakh in the next one year, and you could help us get there.

You could also pledge a monthly or annual donation of an amount of your choice and trust us to make the best use of it.



## Payment details

### **By Cheque / Demand Draft / Banker's Cheque:**

These can be accepted in favour of "Vidya Bhawan Society, Udaipur"

### **Electronic / Online Transfer:**

Indian Currency Contribution:

Name of Account - Vidya Bhawan Society

Name of Bank & Branch - State Bank of India, Udaipur Main  
Branch, Madhuban Udaipur

Account No. - 10449994281

IFSC - SBIN0001533

Branch Code - 1533

Foreign Currency Contribution:

Name of Account - Vidya Bhawan Society

Foreign Co.

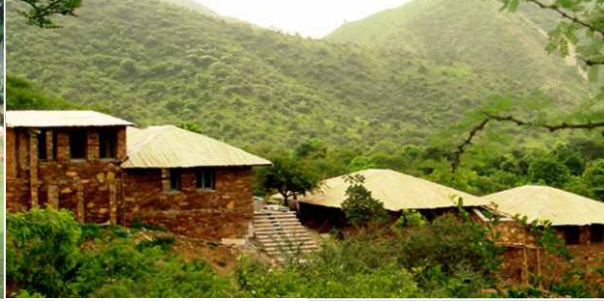
Name of Bank & Branch - State Bank of India, A.D.B,  
Badgaon Udaipur

Account Number – 10420856094

IFSC Code - SBIN0005887

Branch Code – 5887

**Contributions made to Vidya Bhawan can be claimed  
as a deduction under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act.**



# Vidya Bhawan Society

## Contact Us

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