

VidyaGyan touches five-year milestone

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LUCKNOW: Barely 14, Prashant Singh, son of a Hardoi-based farmer, is already clear on what he wants to become in life — a forensic expert. A first generation learner in his family, he developed interest in investigating crime after taking part in Duke Talent Identification Programme, USA, where his school VidyaGyan, Sitapur — a philanthropic initiative of the Shiv Nadar Foundation — sent him this year.

“When I grow up, I’ll motivate students to develop interest in science as it has answer to every problem in life. Science can take India to the fast lane of development and thus scientific temperament needs to be developed,” Prashant told Hindustan Times.

Prashant’s story is just one among countless others of underprivileged students of rural areas and remote villages of UP who have benefited from VidyaGyan.

Nancy Kulshreshta, a native of district Jalaun, aspires to be an IAS officer and her role model is APJ Abdul Kalam. Anupam Mishra of Gonda district wants to do engineering from IIT and work for the development of his village.

As the Shiv Nadar Foundation



■ Member of Parliament Dimple Yadav visits Sitapur Road campus of the VidyaGyan and interacts with children and faculty. HT PHOTO

completed five years of service in the field of education, Dimple Yadav, Member of Parliament from Kannauj, visited its Sitapur Road campus and interacted with its confident children and faculty along with trustees Roshni Nadar Malhotra and Kiran Nadar.

The campus was set up three years ago, just a couple of years after establishment of the pioneering campus of VidyaGyan in Bulandshahr.

Said Malhotra, “Our foundation set up VidyaGyan in UP with the conviction that meritorious children, if given the right opportunity and exposure, can be at par with their urban

counterparts and be agents of transformation for the society and the nation.”

Today, the foundation claims to conduct one of the largest private selection and admission procedures in India, covering all 75 districts in UP.

“In 2014, we evaluated 2,00,000 students for the admission exams, 80,000 took the test and 300 were inducted in VidyaGyan. In all, there are 1400 students and 100 teachers, which brings teacher-taught ratio at 1:14,” Malhotra added.

“We take raw children from village and transform them into future leaders,” she said.

One of the success stories

of VidyaGyan is Manvi, a first batch student, who is in the US for a year for the Kennedy Lugar AFS Youth Exchange Programme and is attending the Thomas Alva Edison High School in Minneapolis. She is putting up with an American family and had interactive session with members of United Nation.

“We are seeing potential leaders emerging across all prominent fields. One of our students qualified for the third edition of Doha Goals Gathering of All Leaders in Sport Forum while four other students won the PUMA School of Speed Award, India’s first national school-level athletics meet,” Malhotra proudly declared.

VidyaGyan provides its children free, world-class education. Its students come from families of farmers, daily wagers and peasants with an annual income of less than Rs 1 lakh.

Over 50% of the first batch of VidyaGyan students, who appeared for CBSE Class 10 boards, scored more than 90%.

For two successive years, VidyaGyan students were selected for the globally acclaimed Duke programme. The students have been associated with top US universities like Brown and Lehigh for summer programmes.