WORK REPORT 2021
Visions Global Empowerment – India (“Visions India”) is an independent nonprofit organization incorporated under the Trust Act of India (Registration # 65/16) and the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA # 076040441). Inspired by the ongoing educational development work of Visions Global Empowerment (USA), which has been active in India since 2008, Visions India seeks to continue the tradition of implementing meaningful education and community development projects in India for under-served populations.

**Our Mission**

To enable social change through education, technology and leadership for youth and communities affected by poverty, disability, and other hardship; and to promote thoughtful and sustainable community development that promotes the wellbeing of all persons and helps to promote a thriving and robust civil society.
Where we work

While Visions India has no geographical boundaries within India, the organization is largely focused on serving people in need around Tamil Nadu, and is currently establishing a foothold in Andhra Pradesh’s Ananthagiri Mandal.

1. Visions Children and Youth Learning and Empowerment Program

Visions India runs a network of child and youth learning and empowerment centers throughout rural villages in Tamil Nadu. These centers provide daily after-school tutoring, leadership & life skills development training, general knowledge, WaSH and Behaviour Change training, Communicative English training; organize community outreach programs, and educational tours and encourages children to save from their pocket money.

1.1. After School Study Centres

| 11 After School Study Centres in Tiruvannamalai District & 3 in Tiruchirapalli District | 476 Children and Youth | 216 days in the year 2021 | No school dropout in the villages where the centers function | 15 youth graduated from school with flying colours | 14 of them in colleges. 1 is awaiting agricultural counselling. |
Janani is a student in the ninth grade at Girls High School Tiruvannamalai, and she has been attending Kannapandal VLEC since 2019. Before joining the VLEC, Janani was an introvert and inactive. Her parents noticed a change in her after she started attending the after school center especially Visions’ Leadership Program. She began interacting with other students. Now she participates in community service and helps others. At school, too, she has begun to score higher marks. The change her mother sees in her makes her happy and her mother is grateful to Visions India and the community worker.

"I am proud to be part of Visions India
– Kavita"

My name is Kavitha and I am from Mathalambadi village. I have been working for Visions India since June 2021. Even though I am a graduate, I haven't had much experience working with communities. My main goal was to give my family space and to enjoy my life. However, I have changed since joining Visions India as a community worker. When I spend my time with students in VLEC, I'm most satisfied. I have attended a few leadership and communicative English training sessions. The trainings help me to know myself better and serve the children in a better way. Visions India has a multidimensional focus on the growth of children and I am proud to be a part of that.

1.2. Leadership Program

| 260 youth trained in 7 Leadership Skills | 21 hours of training | 58 youth show visible changes in their behaviour | 23 youth work on their goals every day | 24 children and youth plan their day without fail | Community Workers received 30 hours of leadership training |
J. Porchelvan, a 6th grade student at PUMS, Vallivagai, is very reserved. Previously, he kept his distance from other students because he feared rejection. Recently, he has been attending leadership sessions. When the community worker was conducting a session on self-esteem he was incredibly interested in the session and asked many questions. Porchelvan was seen very happy at the end of the session. There were visible changes in him for the next day. He now mingles with the other students. He now participates in VLEC activities actively. ‘I long for the leadership session’ he said.

Sakthi attends PUMS in Algananthal and is in sixth grade. She has been a student at VLEC Kannapandal since 2018. She began taking leadership seminars from January 2021. Sakthi lacked self-assurance. She suffered stage fright as well. She was encouraged to participate in games, talks, and competitions by the community worker. She competed in drawing, singing, and music competitions at Youth Talents Day as a result of the leadership lesson on self-confidence. Winning third place in drawing, she shouted, “I couldn’t believe it.”. My parents couldn’t believe what they were hearing. I now tell myself that I am talented and capable on a regular basis.”

1.3. Communicative English

Weekly trainings are held by the Community Resource Persons at their various Visions Learning and Empowerment Centers.
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1.4. General Knowledge Program

The GK programme pushes students to expand their knowledge beyond what they already know in order to gain a better comprehension of the world.

| 247 youth participated | 135 hours of English Training | 154 youth regularly read English Books | 47 youth are able to fill in online applications in English |

3,000 GK Questions and Answers in 2021.
In total 3220 GK Q&As.

214 youth attend the program

30 weekly tests

Grade Wise (1-5) GK Questions and Answers Prepared
1.5. 2021 Annual Youth Talents Meet

The purpose of Youth Talents Meet is to recognise young people and their abilities, as well as to enable them to make meaningful contributions to their communities and the country.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3rd December, 2021 in Tiruvannamalai</th>
<th>440 Children and Youth Participated</th>
<th>Competition and Number of Participation</th>
<th>Local Funds Raised</th>
<th>All Participants brought lunches and snacks; shared with their peers.</th>
<th>60 days of Preparation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>39 Elocution</td>
<td>48 Drawing</td>
<td>47 Singing</td>
<td>32 Essay writing</td>
<td>185 Dance</td>
<td>181 Sports</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.6. Backyard/ Kitchen – Vegetable Garden

Visions India encourages children and youth to cultivate culinary vegetables, herbs and fruits in their backyards using kitchen waste as manure.

| 134 youth have kitchen gardens | About 200 kg vegetables cultivated. | 134 Youth know waste composting and management. |
1.8. **Reading Books**

In each of the 14 areas served by Visions India, a library with over 100 books has been constructed. Children and teenagers are encouraged to study books, share their knowledge, and discuss important topics with their peers.
Prithika is my name. I am currently enrolled in eighth grade. I enjoy reading comic books and short novels. My parents work as coolies and cannot afford to buy books for me. Reading and collecting books are two of my greatest passions. My elementary schooling was finished at DM Elementary School, which had a lovely library. I was the one who went to the library at school on a regular basis. Due to Covid -19, the schools were shuttered after I finished primary school. During the lockdown, I passed the time by reading books from the VLEC library. During the lockdown, I read 13 shot stories. I enjoy reading Tamil literature, but I’ve recently begun to read English ones as well. Maayooran’s "Kutti Thevathai" is my favourite book. It's an anthology of short stories. I am grateful to Visions India for quenching my need for reading. There should be more Tamil literature available.

S. Sathana is my name. At PUMS Alagananthal, I am in the eighth grade. I was a slacker when it came to learning. My teachers used to complain to my mother about my grades. I had terrible reading and writing skills. My mother told Ms.Aathiya (Visions’ community resource worker) about my inability to read Tamil one day. My mother was inconsolably upset. She requested that I visit VLEC on a regular basis. I’m presently attending VLEC in Alagananthal on a regular basis. She encouraged me to read from the library on a regular basis. It was too difficult for me to read at first. She noticed that I was having difficulty reading and suggested that I read picture books. I enjoyed the book's illustrations, which piqued my interest in reading. I’ve started working very hard. I can now read fluently. Thank you, Athiya and Visions India.
1.9. Celebration of National and International Days

National and international days are opportunities to teach young people about important concerns while also

<table>
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<tr>
<th>6 National Days Celebrated</th>
<th>5 International Days Celebrated</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Pongal Celebration</td>
<td>• International Women’s day</td>
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<td>• Republic day celebration</td>
<td>• World Environment Day</td>
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<td>• Education Development Day celebration</td>
<td>• World food Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Independence day celebration</td>
<td>• International Yoga Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Teachers day celebration</td>
<td>• World day against Child Labour</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Children’s day</td>
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WORK REPORT 2021
1.10. Community Service

Teens gain self-confidence, self-esteem, and life happiness by volunteering. They become more aware of and sensitive to the needs of the community. They leave an indelible stamp on their character when they save and share.

Key Community Services
- Covid-19 awareness for the entire village
- Hand washing techniques among Youth and children
- Groceries given to an old lady which can be used for a week.
- Lunch provided for two old ladies for a week
- 2 Note books, pen and pencil given to 39 poor students
- Children cleaned the public places and streets
- Dengue Awareness posters created and pasted in public places

| 53 Community Services undertaken by the youth | 246 Youth involved in Community Services |
2. Visions Youth Career Guidance and Support Program

Rural youth who want to pursue further education after school are encouraged to pursue university education or practical skill development.

| 20 Youth are graduates and working | 7 Youth graduated in 2021 | 51 youth are continuing their university education | 72 School Graduates received Career Guidance in 2021 | 32 Youth trained in use of tablet computers & Basic Computer Skills | 48 Youth received Leadership/Life Skills training for 12 hours, covering six leadership topics | 90 Youth trained in Communicative English (Virtual). 156 Hours of Training |

GRADUATES 2021
A.Poulin Sheeja is my name. I used to be a shy girl. I was unable to speak in front of the gathering. I had stage fright. I’ve never competed on a stage before. My life changed when I enrolled in a B.Ed (Bachelor of Education) programme. The shift occurred as a result of the participant’s active involvement in the Visions Leadership Training Program. In total, I attended roughly 11 trainings, both in person and online. The trainings worked like a charm. I did a fantastic job giving a teacher’s day speech. My principal thought highly of me. I proudly informed my principal and instructors that Visions is assisting me in becoming a strong individual who is in control of her life and who reaches out to the vulnerable in my local fishing community. Thank you so much Visions and Greg.
I am Rajalakshmi. In a few months, I'll finish my master's degree. I'm getting ready to face the society with Visons help. Last month, I took the NET competitive exam and am awaiting the results. I intend to get a B.Ed degree via remote learning while concurrently looking for work. I'll go to work if I can find one.

I am overjoyed that I will be able to spend for my family soon. My wages will assist my father in paying off his obligations. I believe that I am all set to venture into the world. In my academics and for my self-confidence, Visons India had a significant impact.

I appreciate everything the organisation has done for me. I pledge to devote my time and effort to Visons’ students who, like me, are having difficulty studying. I am now a confident person, thanks to Visions.
I am Jancy Priya. I am in my final year of B.Sc nursing, and I am proud of how well I completed my three years. I’m also looking forward to my future as a good nurse. Despite the fact that I completed my three years, I still have a lot to learn, and as wise people say, "LEARNING NEVER STOPS."

It’s been a fascinating adventure from my first year. My mother, on the other hand, found it difficult to pay for my education. At that time, Visions began to financially support me as well as educate me communication and leadership skills. As a nurse, I promised Visions that I would reciprocate their kindness by assisting the poor.

### 3. Visions e-learning

Visions India has been unable to continue their school-based e-learning program due to school closures due to COVID-19. However, e-learning teachers continue to deliver e-learning to rural girls and boys of primary school age in the fields of general knowledge, science and English.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>72 primary school children attend regularly.</th>
<th>500 GK Questions and Answers</th>
<th>English Conversations for 30 situations.</th>
<th>15 Scientific Experiments</th>
<th>5 leadership and Life Skills</th>
<th>Home Vegetable Gardening training 30 children.</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.30 hours a day</td>
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4. WaSH Education and Menstrual Hygiene

Visions India works on four areas of WaSH: hand washing with soap, drinking water, washroom use and menstrual hygiene.

Visions India also works exclusively for teenage girls. Thus, Visions India helps girls learn about menstruation and also campaign against the challenges they face around their periods, from the price of sanitary products, school and college absenteeism, lack of sanitary facilities in schools and in houses to social stigma.

We also carried out research on "menstrual hygiene" with 50 girls in collaboration with Nazareth College in the United States. Samantha and Ambily Mohan conducted the study.

On December 2020, we began a study on 'Menstrual Hygiene Management' with 50 Dalit girls in Tamil Nadu. The girls were enthralled by the study and enthusiastically participated. By the end of December, the pre-test and MHM practise assessment had been completed, and the MHM kits had been handed to the girls. The MHM kit was first used by the girls in January 2021.

1. The study enables girls to gain a better understanding of menstruation hygiene. The majority of them learnt about MHM via their mothers or female family members, and this learning was generally unscientific.
2. This research debunks a number of myths that are prevalent in rural areas. (God's punishment is menstruation.) All of these young ladies now understand that menstruation is a natural part of life.
3. Except for the size, the girls were extremely thrilled to use the reusable sanitary napkin. The ordinary napkins were too little for them to use. However, the extra-large napkins designed for night-time use were really comfy and helped to prevent leaks.
4. It's very simple to clean and store.
5. The research aids the girls in comprehending the diseases caused by poor MHM.
6. They are overjoyed that they are able to attend school without missing periods. They don’t have to miss lectures or worry about boys looking down on them.
7. The girls adore the drying shield because they don't have access to compound walls or private drying yards.
8. They stated, "We feel honoured, at ease, and glad to be a female."
Visions India places a high importance on staff capacity building because it believes that regular capacity building leads to increased confidence, updated skills, and resource mobilisation, allowing employees to do their jobs more successfully.

### 5. Staff Capacity Building Program

| 3 Quarterly Reviews and Planning | 8 Monthly Reviews and Planning | Annual Retreat @ Ooty In October 3-5 | 4 Full-time staff 14 Part-time Staff |
6. Covid-19 Nutritional Food supply Program

| UWL Foundation, Switzerland - Donor | 814 Rural Children from 17 Visions Learning and Empowerment Centers benefited | Boiled Egg and Cooked Pulses for 90 days. | 170 Children from non-scheduled communities ate with dalit children. | None of our children fell victim to Covid | The program continues with local support in 7 Visions Centers |

![Image of children eating food]
Hello my friends!
It is a pleasure to greet you from the other side of the world – in California, which is on the west coast of the United States.

I know these last 2 years have not been easy. All people around the world have been struggling during this time of COVID. There is a lot of uncertainty about what is happening and worries about how to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe.

But we are now finally coming out of it. More than half the world's population is now vaccinated. That is over 4 billion people!

If your family members have not yet received the vaccine, please encourage them to do so. The science is clear – the vaccine saves lives. It is proven and effective. We all must do our part to share this message. So please encourage your parents, your grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, neighbors, teachers – anyone – to get vaccinated. The sooner we are all vaccinated, the sooner we can get back to our regular lives again.

I also want to express to you my appreciation for your commitment to your education. Many people give up on school too early. We certainly understand that sometimes things are hard and you may be pressured to give up. But stay strong. Staying in school is without a doubt THE BEST thing you can do for yourself.

Your future is so much brighter when you stay in school and your life will overall be so much better. When you stay in school, you are developing skills each and every day. These skills not only help you to get a job or to go to university, they are necessary for everyday life for the rest of your life.

When you learn about technology, for example, you are building skills that will ensure you can have a job and to be successful at that job. You also help to ensure you can stay in better communication with your family and your friends and people all over the world. You will go farther in your education and be more knowledgeable about the world and your place in it.

The same is true for learning another language, like English. English is the language of international business, trade, government and travel. If you can speak English, even if it is only a little English, you can communicate with over 1 billion people around the world. As the most spoken language in the world today, English is like a key that unlocks opportunities across the globe.

We, the Visions USA and Visions India team, will do our best to help you learn technology and English, and to develop the skills you will need to have a better life. What we ask of each of you is that you do not give up. That you continue to work hard. And that you always strive to learn more. The most successful people in the world today are those that understand learning is a lifelong process. No matter how much you know, there is always so much more that you do not know. So keep working hard and keep learning. We believe in you. You are going to do great things!!

Greg wrote this letter to the youth on the occasion of the Annual Youth Day - 2021

Greg Buie
Executive Director & Co-founder
Visions Global Empowerment, USA
Visions India is now a full pledged non-profit organization that has the necessary government approval and human resources to implement quality education programs for rural children and youth pan India.

## Visions India

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the NGO</th>
<th>Visions Global Empowerment India</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Address</strong></td>
<td>No 27, Wireless Road&lt;br&gt;Kurinji Nagar West&lt;br&gt;K.K. Nagar&lt;br&gt;Trichy- 620021&lt;br&gt;Tamil Nadu, India</td>
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<td><strong>Registration Number</strong></td>
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“Greg Buie

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