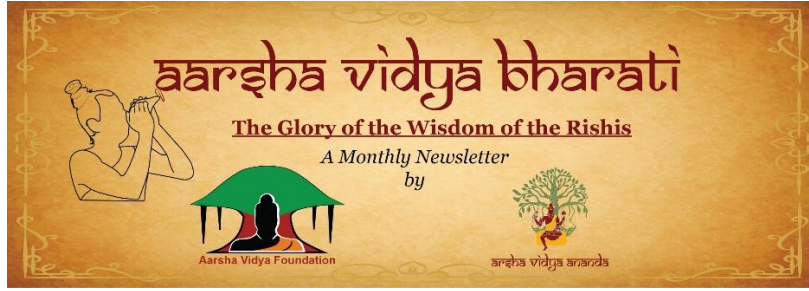


Aarsha Vidya Bharati - Aug 2023

Adhik Sravana - Sravana 2080

A monthly newsletter that will bring you more happiness, more wisdom and more freedom



This is one of many articles from our monthly newsletter. Access the [August 2023 issue](#) or read any of [the articles](#).

One year impact of SHINE (Spiritual Heritage of India for Next-gen Empowerment) August 2022 – July 2023

Swamini Brahmajprajnananda


To celebrate the 75th year of India's independence (Bharat ka Amrit Mahotsav) and to teach more children to live a life of *Sanātana Dharma*, we launched our '[SHINE Tejasvi training of teachers](#)' program in August 2022.

The SHINE Program is based on Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati ji's teaching that "All that is here is *Īśvara*". This vision of *Īśvara* is the foundation of our *Bhāratīya* culture – stories, customs, traditions and our ways of living, which all Hindu children must know. To reach out to more children online or in their neighbourhoods, we looked for potential teachers who had 2-4 hours a week and a strong commitment to contribute to *Sanātana Dharma*.

Our Impact at a glance

- 149 children reached out to till 15th Aug 2023. These children can tell you why *Dharma* is the secret of all superheroes, can chant shlokas, learn from Ramayana and Mahabharata, speak about their *Iṣṭa devata*-s, tell you about temples, celebrate festivals and have fun while doing all of this!
- From 4 countries - India, USA, UK, Trinidad & Tobago
- 14 teachers who are actively conducting classes for children both offline and online
- Quarterly [Samvaada](#) e-newsletters that have updates and children's contributions
- Learning community of SHINE Tejasvis who meet every month online to share reflections, achievements and lovely anecdotes of what their children did in class.

Some lessons learned

1. We have consistently developed a rich curriculum of videos (scripted by us and illustrated by our super talented Gauri Dalvi) over the last few years. Our new teachers are able to access, use and share these public videos through our dedicated SHINE channel, besides other study material.
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2. Most of our SHINE Tejasvi teachers come from different professions and their commitment to contribute and what led them to that commitment is most inspiring.
 3. To coincide with 75 years, I had the aim of reaching out to 750 children within a year. Given how many people say that they want to contribute to *Sanātana Dharma* surely, we would be able to find 25-30 people who would reach out to about 50 children through camps and regular classes in a year. In hindsight it was a little too optimistic and naïve. So, this year we aim to reach out to another 150 children through our new teachers totalling to 300 children.
 4. In cities the importance given to music, dancing, robotics, coding classes far outweigh the importance the parents would give for classes on *Dharma* and Hinduism. This is unlike parents from other Abrahamic religions who consider that a child's education is complete only by attending mandatory classes on their respective religion.
 5. Word of mouth works best and many of our SHINE children have brought in their friends and siblings because of all the fun and learning.
 6. We realised that just one call for action was not enough and hence we announced and eventually conducted 3 teacher training programs.
 7. Desire to contribute to *Dharma* does not necessarily translate into the necessary commitment and doing what it takes. A big factor is the SHINE teacher becoming known in her respective network online and offline. The tenacity to keep advertising about one's classes and not being disheartened with few children is important.



I am ever grateful to **Sonali Ambasankar** who leads this program almost single handedly with a few murmurs of mentorship from me occasionally. This program continues to grow because of her and Pujya Swamiji's blessings.

Plan for August 2023– July 2024 – We will reach out to 300 children through an additional 10 teachers and make *Dharma SHINE* even brighter.

Do help us in achieving our goal and your goal by –

- [Enrolling as a SHINE Tejasvi teacher](#)
 - **Next batch Aug 17, 18, 21, 22, 23 (2023)**
 - **5 Day Course - 2 hrs each day**
- [Enrolling your children into the SHINE Program](#)
- [Sharing our videos with your children, nieces, nephews and grandchildren](#)

Help us collaborate with organisations who are doing similar or complementary work

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