

# Engineers contributing socially too

'To give real service, you must add something which cannot be bought or measured with money', said Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, popularly known as Sir M V. India celebrates engineers Day in his memory on 15 September every year. He was not only known for his technical qualifications but also for his contributions in public good. There are a number of fields where every Engineer can work. But seldom do the common people know that they work on the social front also.

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## Upay (Under Privileged's Advancement by Youth) by Varun Shrivastava

Upay, an NGO started by a 2009 pass out of IIT-Kharagpur, Varun Shrivastava is not new to the people of Nagpur. Today Upay works in 3 states, it has 20 centres, where over 250 volunteers work to help 1500 children. 'Maximum students in IITs come from a middle-class background.

Most of us know the struggles of education. And hence, everyone of us has a belief that we must pay back to the society whatever we get, in any possible manner,' said Shrivastava while speaking with Lokmat Times.

Varun Shrivastava believes that education leads to development. He taught underprivileged kids in the areas surrounding Kharagpur in the year 2008, when he was a third year student. 'It



Varun Shrivastava (C) at one of the centres of Upay

was not an organisation then, we did not have a mission and vision, we just knew that these kids needed education and they would do wonders for themselves, just like everyone else.'

Upay started its first centre in Kumhari, some 5 kms from Mauda, as Varun took up a job at NTPC, Mauda. It was his regular chore to teach the kids in the vicinity after his office hours. 'I then happened to come to Nagpur every Saturday and Sunday, where I noticed that the kids begging at the traffic signals,

this is how the concept of footpath school came into existence. I randomly started teaching on the footpath, people stopped and learnt a thing or two. This activity later gained momentum and socially oriented youth joined in to devote their time,' added Shrivastava.

Later, with the help of his juniors, colleagues and teachers at IIT-K, Varun built up a team and since its formation in 2010, Upay has never stopped working for the upliftment of the kids. The volume of the NGO is increasing every day

## Vidarbha Vaibhav by Hemant Chafale

Vidarbha Vaibhav, founded in the year 2004, is an initiative by Hemant Chafale. An Engineering pass out of the year 1992. Chafale always felt that there is no platform to connect the NGOs. 'We work with a mission to create an eco-system where the NGO's in rural parts of Vidarbha are brought in contact with people to benefit them.

There are a number of genuine non-profit organisations who are away from the lime-light and the funds don't reach them. We identify those and then help them in all the possible manner,' expressed Chafale while talking to Lokmat Times. Vidarbha Vaibhav, recently conducted a program 'setubandhanam' where NGOs from all over Vidarbha, portrayed what they did. Where corporates decided whom to fund.

'We also carry different

**Engineers Day  
today**

initiatives for the students of Engineering, in one such events, Engineering India, Engineering students visited Yavatmal district. There, with the help of kids, soil testing kits were donated to the farmers. These kits benefited over 6000 farmers in the region, because stopped unnecessary use of artificial fertilizers to get a better yield. Also, a number of organic farming initiatives,' added Chafale.

Vidarbha Vaibhav helps the NGOs prepare proper presentations and project reports to pitch their clients to attract donations. Connecting the various stakeholders who share a common vision of development for the rural areas of Vidarbha, is achieved through various other events that Vidarbha Vaibhav takes with the help of students, teachers and a various corporate companies. It connects knowers with doers.



Hemant Chafale