

## Want to Help Students? Here's How Vidyanjali Works



Many people want to support schoolchildren, but they often don't know where to begin. Should they visit a school directly? Do they need permission? Is there any official process? And most importantly—will their support actually reach the students?

This is exactly where Vidyanjali comes in.

Vidyanjali is an initiative of the Ministry of Education that connects willing citizens with government and government-aided schools. It gives a simple and transparent platform for anyone—teachers, retired professionals, working executives, college students, homemakers, and community members—to contribute their time, skills, or resources.

In recent years, India has focused strongly on improving school education. While the government builds infrastructure and provides support, the involvement of society plays an important role too. Schools often benefit from mentorship, career guidance, life-skills training, or even basic support in arts, sports, and reading. Vidyanjali has become a bridge between people who want to help and schools that genuinely need support.

This article will guide you through everything you need to know:

- What the Vidyanjali programme means,
- Who can join,
- What kind of help you can offer,
- What documents are needed,
- How the approval process works,
- And the answers to the most common questions people ask.

By the time you finish reading, you'll clearly understand how this platform works and whether you can or should volunteer.

### PURPOSE & VISION OF VIDYANJALI

When the Ministry of Education launched Vidyanjali, the goal was simple:

**make it easy for citizens to contribute to school education in a meaningful and organized way.**

Many schools—especially in rural and semi-urban areas—need extra support. Teachers do their best, but additional help from community members can make a big difference in the lives of children. Vidyanjali creates a structured pathway for this support.

### Why Vidyanjali Was Created

#### 1. To Strengthen Government Schools

Government schools often have dedicated teachers but limited resources. Volunteers can fill the gaps by offering skills, time, and guidance that students may not otherwise get.

For example:

- A retired banker teaching basic financial literacy,
- A college student helping children with spoken English,
- A working professional conducting career awareness sessions,
- An artist taking drawing or craft classes.

These small contributions can inspire confidence and open new possibilities for students.

#### 2. To Bring Community Participation Back Into Schools

Earlier, schools used to be strong community spaces. Over time, this connection weakened. Vidyanjali rebuilds this bond by inviting parents, alumni, neighbours, professionals, and social groups to participate again.

It transforms the school into a shared responsibility instead of a government-only responsibility.

#### 3. To Create a Transparent, Safe, and Verified System

Instead of random visits or unplanned volunteering, Vidyanjali ensures that every volunteer is:

- Registered,
- Verified,
- Approved by the school,
- Assigned appropriate tasks.

This keeps children safe and ensures meaningful engagement.

#### 4. To Support the Vision of NEP 2020

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 encourages holistic learning—beyond textbooks.

Vidyanjali helps achieve this by bringing experts and mentors directly to students.

#### 5. To Make Volunteering Easy for Everyone

Many people want to help but don't know how or whom to approach.

Vidyanjali removes all confusion by providing:

- One portal,
- Simple registration,
- List of schools needing volunteers,
- Clear roles and tasks.

Anyone with skills and a genuine desire to contribute can find opportunities.

## The Bigger Vision

At its heart, Vidyanjali imagines a future where:

- Every child has access to skills and encouragement,
- Schools get support from society,
- Volunteering becomes a culture, not a one-time activity,
- Students learn not just subjects, but confidence and life skills,
- Communities become active partners in nation building.

It's not about replacing teachers; it's about helping them.

It's not about giving jobs; it's about giving time, skills, and care.

## WHO CAN BECOME A VOLUNTEER? (ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA)

One of the strongest features of Vidyanjali is its simplicity. The programme is open to a wide range of people because each person can contribute something valuable. You don't need to be a teacher or an expert in a specific subject to support a school. What matters most is sincerity, basic skills, and a willingness to give time.

Here are the eligibility points explained in a clear, simple way.

### 1. Minimum Age Requirement

You must be 18 years or older to register as a volunteer.

This age limit ensures that volunteers are mature enough to understand their responsibilities and interact safely with children.

### 2. Indian Citizen or OCI/PIO Holder

The programme is open to:

- Indian citizens,
- Overseas Citizens of India (OCI),
- Persons of Indian Origin (PIO).

This helps both residents and NRIs contribute to Indian schools.

### 3. Educational Qualification – Flexible

There is no strict minimum education requirement for general volunteering.

However, for specific activities, schools may prefer certain qualifications.

For example:

- Teaching Maths: school may prefer someone with a commerce or science background.
- Career guidance: corporate professionals or mentors.
- Art/sports activities: skilled individuals, even without formal degrees.

Vidyanjali intentionally keeps eligibility relaxed to include more people.

### 4. Working Professionals

Employees from any field can volunteer, such as:

- IT professionals,
- Bankers,
- Engineers,
- Marketing executives,
- Finance professionals,
- HR managers,
- Social workers.

Your work experience itself becomes an asset for students.

## 5. College Students (Above 18)

Students pursuing UG/PG courses can volunteer and contribute through:

- Tutoring,
- Digital literacy,
- Spoken English,
- Sports,
- Cultural activities.

This also helps young volunteers gain experience and confidence.



## 6. Retired Persons & Senior Citizens

Retired teachers, government employees, bankers, defence personnel, and professionals bring invaluable wisdom.

Vidyanjali strongly encourages their participation.

## 7. NGO Members, CSR Teams, and Community Groups

Registered organisations can also contribute as a group, especially for events like:

- Reading sessions,
- Distribution drives,
- Skill-building workshops,
- School development activities.

## 8. People With Special Skills

Even if you do not have a formal degree, you can still volunteer if you have a skill such as:

- Music
- Dance
- Carpentry
- Painting
- Yoga
- Sports coaching
- Storytelling
- First-aid
- Gardening
- Computer basics

Schools often welcome these contributions.

## 9. Good Moral & Ethical Conduct

Volunteers must have a clean background, positive attitude, and respectful behaviour.

Schools have the right to reject or remove anyone who does not meet conduct standards.

### Who Should NOT Apply

Vidyanjali is **not** for people looking for:

- A job,
- A paid internship,
- A contract,
- Financial benefit.

This is a **service-based volunteering** programme, not an employment opportunity. Many misunderstand this, so the programme clearly differentiates volunteering from recruitment.

## TYPES OF VOLUNTEER SERVICES YOU CAN OFFER

Vidyanjali is designed to welcome different kinds of contributions. Not everyone needs to “teach a subject.” Students benefit from many other forms of learning—life skills, communication, creativity, discipline, and exposure to real-world experiences. This is why the programme offers multiple categories of volunteering.

Below are the main types of services you can provide.



### 1. Academic Support (Teaching Assistance)

This is the most common form of volunteering. You can help students with:

- Basic reading and writing,
- Mathematics,
- Science,
- Social studies,
- Language skills,
- Homework support.

You don't have to replace teachers; you simply support them by guiding students individually or in small groups.

### 2. Life Skills & Personality Development

Schools often need support in helping students build confidence and essential skills. You can conduct sessions on:

- Spoken English,
- Communication skills,
- Teamwork activities,
- Leadership basics,
- Time management,
- Career awareness.

These sessions often leave a long-term impact on students.

## 3. Mentoring & Career Guidance

Professionals from any field can contribute by talking about:

- Career options,
- Workplace expectations,
- Higher education paths,
- Soft skills required in jobs,
- Resume and interview tips (for senior students).

Real-life stories and practical advice can inspire children to dream bigger.

## 4. Sports, Yoga & Physical Activities

If you have a background or interest in sports, you can help with:

- Basic fitness drills,
- Yoga and meditation,
- Sports coaching for games like cricket, football, badminton, kabaddi, kho-kho,
- Health and wellness awareness.

Physical activities improve discipline, teamwork, and confidence.

## 5. Arts, Music & Cultural Activities

Students love creative sessions. You can volunteer in areas like:

- Drawing and painting,
- Craft work,
- Classical or contemporary dance,
- Singing and musical instruments,
- Drama and storytelling.

Schools often do not have specialized instructors, so your skills can add immense value.

## 6. Digital Literacy & Technology Help

Many schools need support in:

- Teaching basic computer skills,
- Using educational apps,
- Online safety awareness,
- Helping teachers learn digital tools.

Even basic knowledge of MS Office, Google tools, or mobile apps can benefit both students and teachers.

## 7. Library & Reading Support

You can:

- Read stories to primary students,
- Organize reading circles,
- Help with library management,
- Encourage book habits.

Young students build confidence when someone reads with them regularly.

## 8. Supporting Teachers & School Administration

Volunteers can quietly support the school's internal functioning by helping with:

- Organizing activities,
- Coordinating events,
- Managing competitions,
- Assisting during examinations.

This reduces the workload on teachers and helps events run smoothly.

## 9. Infrastructure & Resource Support

This is optional but allowed for those who want to contribute further.

Examples include:

- Donating sports equipment,
- Providing stationery,
- Helping improve classrooms or libraries,
- Supporting cleanliness drives.

All contributions must be transparent and approved by the school.

## 10. Online / Virtual Volunteering

If you cannot visit physically, you can still contribute through:

- Online classes,
- Digital mentoring sessions,
- Virtual storytelling,
- Skill-based workshops.

This allows even busy professionals or NRIs to help remotely.

## Why These Services Matter

Each activity—even a 30-minute session—can:

- Boost student confidence,
- Unlock hidden talent,
- Improve communication,
- Expose children to real-world skills,
- Motivate them to continue studies.

Vidyanjali is less about teaching textbooks and more about touching lives.

## DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR REGISTRATION

Before you register on the Vidyanjali portal, it's helpful to know what documents you'll need. The process is simple, and most of the documents are basic identity proofs that almost every citizen already has.

Here is a clear list of the documents you should keep ready:

### 1. Identity Proof (Mandatory)

You must upload a valid ID to verify your identity. Any one of the following works:

- Aadhaar Card
- Voter ID
- Passport
- Driving Licence

This ensures that volunteers interacting with children are genuine and traceable.

### 2. Address Proof (If Required)

Some states or schools may ask for address proof separately.

You can use:

- Aadhaar (if not used as ID),
- Utility bills,
- Rent agreement,
- Passport,
- Voter ID.

Usually Aadhaar alone works for both ID and address.

### 3. Photograph (Passport Size)

A recent, clear passport-size photograph is needed.

This is displayed to the school when they review your profile.

### 4. Basic Profile Details

Although not documents, you must enter:

- Full name,
- Age,
- Gender,
- Contact details,
- Email ID.

This helps schools understand who you are and how to contact you.

### 5. Skill or Qualification Proof (Optional, but Helpful)

If you are offering specialized sessions—like:

- Music,
- Sports coaching,
- Computer training,
- Subject teaching,
- Career mentoring—
- Schools may look for some simple proof.

Examples:

- Certificates,
- Degree/diploma,
- Experience letter,
- Even a self-declaration.

This is not compulsory for general volunteering.

### 6. Police Verification / Background Check (Conditional)

Some schools may ask for a police verification certificate, especially if:

- You volunteer regularly,
- You work closely with younger children,
- You mentor senior students.

This is to ensure child safety. It is not mandatory at the national level but depends on the school's internal policy.

### 7. For Organisation/NGO Applications

If an NGO, CSR team, or community group applies, they may need:

- Registration certificate,
- Organisation PAN,
- Authorised representative details.

This ensures accountability for group-based volunteering.



## 8. Documents for Foreign Nationals / OCI / PIO

If you are an OCI or PIO cardholder, you may need:

- Passport copy,
- OCI/PIO card copy,
- Proof of Indian origin.

This helps verify identity and immigration status.

### Why These Documents Are Important

Schools work with children, so safety and verification are extremely important.

These documents help the school trust that the volunteer:

- Is genuine,
- Has a clean profile,
- Has the right intention,
- And can safely interact with students.

## HOW THE REGISTRATION WORKS (SIMPLE OVERVIEW)

The Vidyanjali platform keeps the registration process easy. You don't need technical skills or a long list of documents. The idea is to help citizens start volunteering without confusion, while also ensuring safety and proper verification.

Below is a simple, non-technical explanation of how the process works.

### 1. Create Your Volunteer Profile

You begin by entering basic information such as:

- Your name,
- Contact details,
- Age,
- Address,
- Skills or areas you want to volunteer in.

This helps schools understand what kind of support you can offer.

### 2. Upload Identity Proof

You upload one valid ID (Aadhaar, Voter ID, Passport, etc.).

This is required to verify who you are and to keep the school environment safe.

### 3. Choose the Type of Volunteering

Vidyanjali allows you to select the areas in which you want to contribute:

- Academic support,
- Sports and fitness,
- Life skills,
- Arts,
- Digital literacy,
- Mentoring, etc.

You can choose more than one based on your comfort level.

## 4. Explore Schools That Need Volunteers

The platform shows a list of government and government-aided schools across India.

You can filter based on:

- Location,
- Type of activity,
- Language,
- Time availability.

Each school lists the kind of support they need.

## 5. Send Your Volunteering Request

Once you select a school, you submit your interest.

This request is sent directly to the school administration.

You can apply to multiple schools if you want to explore more options.

## 6. School Reviews Your Profile

The school checks your:

- Identity,
- Skills,
- Volunteering interest,
- And availability.

If everything matches their requirement, they approve your request.

Some schools may contact you for a short conversation to understand your plan.

## 7. Approval or Rejection

After review:

- The school will approve your request, or
- Decline it (usually only if your skills don't match their need or the activity is already full).

This step ensures proper matching between volunteers and schools.

## 8. Start Volunteering

Once approved, you can visit the school and begin the activity as per the agreed schedule.

For online sessions, the school will share meeting links or timings.

## 9. Duration and Flexibility

Vidyanjali is very flexible. Volunteers can contribute:

- Once a week,
- Once a month,
- Or even a single session.

There is no strict time commitment unless you choose to take up regular sessions.

## 10. Safety and Record Keeping

Some schools may keep a record of:

- Volunteer visits,
- Session details,
- Feedback from students and teachers.

This helps maintain accountability and track the impact.

### Why This Process Is Kept Simple

The aim is to reduce complications so more people come forward to help.

At the same time, the system ensures:

- Verified volunteers,
- Proper school control,
- Child safety,
- Transparent communication.

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF A VIDYANJALI VOLUNTEER

Vidyanjali welcomes volunteers with open arms, but it also expects them to follow certain responsibilities. These responsibilities ensure that the school environment remains safe, disciplined, and beneficial for students. They are not complicated—just simple guidelines that help you contribute in the right way.

Here is a clear understanding of what is expected from every volunteer.

### 1. Be Regular and Reliable

If you commit to a session or activity, try your best to be punctual and consistent.

Students look forward to these sessions, and teachers plan their schedule accordingly.

A missed session without notice can confuse children and disrupt the flow.

### 2. Respect the School Environment

Volunteers are guests on the school campus, so it's important to:

- Follow school timings,
- Respect rules,
- Maintain discipline,
- Dress appropriately,
- Be polite with staff and students.

Your behaviour sets an example for the children.

### 3. Maintain Professional Conduct With Students

This is one of the most important responsibilities.

Volunteers must:

- Maintain appropriate boundaries,
- Avoid touching students unnecessarily,
- Use respectful language,
- Avoid sharing personal contact details with minors.

Any interaction should be safe, professional, and focused on learning.

### 4. Plan Simple, Clear Activities

Sessions should not be complicated or stressful for children.

You may prepare:

- Small lesson plans,
- Basic exercises,
- Hands-on activities,
- Simple topics that match their understanding level.

The aim is to support, not overwhelm.

## 5. Collaborate With Teachers

Teachers know their students best.

Talk to them to understand:

- What the students need,
- What topics to cover,
- What activities will be useful.

This coordination helps you deliver meaningful sessions.



Each school lists the kind of support they need.

## 5. Send Your Volunteering Request

Once you select a school, you submit your interest.

This request is sent directly to the school administration.

## 6. Use Age-Appropriate Language and Content

Different classes require different approaches.

For younger children, activities should be fun and simple.

For older students, topics can be more practical and discussion-based.

Avoid sensitive topics unless the school specifically asks for them.

## 7. Ensure Child Safety and Privacy

Volunteers should avoid:

- Taking photos of children without permission,
- Sharing school photos on social media,
- Involving students in activities outside school without approval.

Child protection is a priority for every institution.

## 8. Keep Sessions Inclusive

Students come from different backgrounds.

Ensure your sessions:

- Treat all students equally,
- Avoid bias or favouritism,
- Encourage shy or weaker students,
- Create a positive learning atmosphere.

Inclusivity builds confidence in every child.

## 9. Stay Within Your Role

Some volunteers mistakenly try to take decisions on behalf of teachers or school staff.

Vidyanjali volunteers should avoid:

- Interfering in school management,
- Giving personal opinions about teachers,
- Getting involved in school disputes or administrative matters.

Your role is to support learning, not run the school.

## 10. Give Honest Feedback

If you face challenges or need support, share it with the school.

Guidance helps improve the programme and avoids misunderstandings.

### Why These Responsibilities Matter

These responsibilities protect students, build trust between volunteers and schools, and make your contribution meaningful.

A good volunteer leaves a positive impact—even through the smallest activity.

## DO'S AND DON'TS FOR FIRST-TIME VOLUNTEERS

Starting your volunteering journey through Vidyanjali can be exciting, but it also requires clarity. These simple do's and don'ts help you stay prepared and confident when you interact with students and schools.

### DO'S

#### 1. Do keep your sessions simple and engaging

Use stories, examples, activities, or real-life situations to help students understand easily.

Children respond well to practical and interactive sessions.

#### 2. Do communicate clearly with teachers

Before every session, inform the teacher about your plan. After the session, ask for feedback. This teamwork creates a better learning experience.

#### 3. Do encourage participation

Invite students to speak, ask questions, share ideas, or express themselves. Participation builds confidence.

#### 4. Do maintain a positive tone

A friendly, encouraging tone motivates students. Small words of appreciation go a long way.

#### 5. Do understand the school's culture

Every school has its own environment and rhythm. Observe it and adapt.

### DON'TS

#### 1. Don't give unrealistic promises

Avoid saying things like "I will get you jobs" or "I will give you expensive resources." Your role is support—not assurance of outcomes.

#### 2. Don't share personal contact details with students

This is strictly discouraged for safety reasons. All communication should happen through the school.

#### 3. Don't try to replace the teacher

Your job is to support, not take over classroom responsibilities.

#### 4. Don't introduce sensitive or controversial topics

Politics, religion, personal beliefs, or social controversies must be avoided.

#### 5. Don't discipline children beyond your role

If there is any behavioural issue, inform the teacher instead of taking strict action.

### COMMON FAQs (CLEAR & SIMPLE)

Here are the most frequently asked questions people have before joining the Vidyanjali programme.

#### 1. Is Vidyanjali a job or paid internship?

No. Vidyanjali is a volunteering platform. There is no salary, stipend, or employment benefit.

#### 2. Will volunteers get a certificate?

Yes. Many schools issue appreciation or participation certificates for regular volunteers. This depends on the school's internal policy.

#### 3. Do I need teaching experience to join?

Not at all. Anyone with basic skills, passion, and sincerity can volunteer.

#### 4. Can working professionals volunteer only on weekends?

Yes. You can choose flexible timings based on your availability.

#### 5. Can students above 18 volunteer?

Yes. College students, especially those with energy and creativity, are welcomed.

#### 6. Are online sessions allowed?

Yes. Vidyanjali supports both online and offline volunteering.

#### 7. How long does approval take?

Usually 3–10 days, depending on the school's schedule.

#### 8. Will I be assigned multiple schools?

You can apply to multiple schools, but each school approves separately.

#### 9. Do I need police verification?

Some schools may ask for it for regular or close-contact activities. It depends on their policies.

#### 10. What if I cannot continue volunteering?

Simply inform the school. There is no penalty. The programme values honesty and transparency.

### BENEFITS OF JOINING VIDYANJALI

Volunteering gives something priceless—satisfaction and impact. Vidyanjali offers both societal and personal benefits.

## 1. You Make a Real Difference

Even one session can change a child's confidence, mindset, or career vision.

## 2. You Become a Role Model

Students look up to volunteers as examples from the real world.

## 3. You Build Your Own Skills

Volunteering improves:

- Communication,
- Leadership,
- Empathy,
- Public speaking,
- Teaching ability.

It's a powerful form of self-growth.

## 4. You Get Experience and Recognition

Certificates, appreciation letters, and real-life experience add value to your profile—especially for students and young professionals.

## 5. You Contribute to Nation-Building

Education shapes the future. By supporting schools, you are contributing directly to India's development.

## CHALLENGES AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS

Every system has challenges. Vidyanjali is strong, but volunteers should be aware of common issues.

### 1. Misunderstanding It as a Job Portal

Many people wrongly think Vidyanjali offers paid roles.

It does NOT.

Volunteering means service—not employment.

### 2. Expecting Quick Approval

Some schools may take time due to busy schedules. Patience helps.

### 3. Time Management

Volunteers often struggle to maintain consistency. Clear communication with the school solves this.

### 4. Matching Expectations

Your idea of helping and the school's need may sometimes differ. Alignment is important.

### 5. Limited Resources in Schools

Some schools may not have projectors, computers, or proper space. Be flexible and adapt.

## PRACTICAL TIPS FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS

Here are simple, actionable tips to help you start strong and create maximum impact:

### 1. Start Small

Begin with one session a week. Increase only if you feel comfortable.

### 2. Keep Content Easy

Use simple language, examples, and short activities.

### 3. Prepare Before Every Session

Even a 10-minute plan makes your session smooth and engaging.

### 4. Involve Students

Ask questions, give small tasks, let them speak.

### 5. Stay Flexible

Sometimes classrooms may have limited resources or time changes. Adjust smoothly.

### 6. Maintain Good Communication

Inform teachers about your availability or any rescheduling.

### 7. Avoid Over-Promising

Focus on what you can genuinely deliver.

### 8. Celebrate Small Wins

Even helping one student understand a concept is meaningful.

### 9. Reflect After Each Session

Ask yourself:

"What went well? What can I improve next time?"

### 10. Stay Consistent

Regular contribution builds trust and long-term impact.

## CLOSING MESSAGE

Vidyanjali is more than a portal—it's a doorway for people who want to make a positive difference. You don't need degrees, power, or money to inspire students. Sometimes, a simple story, a few encouraging words, or a small skill can spark a child's confidence.

India has millions of children with dreams. Many of them are waiting for someone to guide, motivate, and believe in them. If you have even one hour a week to give, Vidyanjali can turn that hour into something meaningful.

Volunteering may not change the entire world, but it can surely change someone's world.

And that is enough.



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