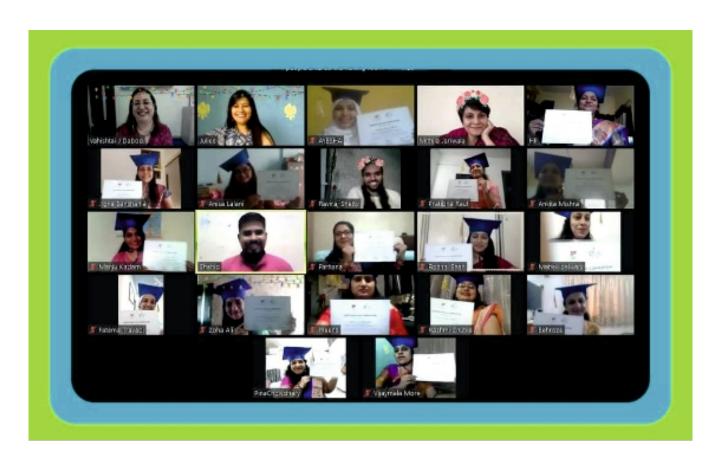


VConnect Foundation

Annual Report

April 2020 to March 2021



About VConnect

VConnect Foundation is a parent support group for children with hearing loss founded in 2007. It is a supportive network for families of children committed to listening and spoken language and using hearing devices to listen and communicate through spoken language. It is a not-for-profit organisation which caters to families from diverse backgrounds and income levels.

VConnect was founded by Vahishtai J Daboo and Fatema Jagmaag.

Vahishtai is a parent of a child with hearing loss and a professional in the field. She is a Listening and Spoken Language Specialist, Certified Auditory Verbal Therapist (LSLS Cert. AVT) and a Mental Health Trainer and Practitioner. She has been a practicing professional in the field for over 18 years.

Fatema Jagmaag is parent of a child with hearing loss and a Senior Audiologist & Speech/Language Pathologist. She has been practicing in the field for over 36 years and is associated with premium hospitals and institutions.

VConnect's purpose is to support, educate, empower, provide hope and guidance to parents in their journey to mainstream their children as successful, contributing members of society. VConnect's purpose is achieved by creating platforms and networks, both real and virtual, to help connect parents with experts, device companies, agencies, centers, clinics, and educational institutions, as well as provide forums for parents and children to interact with and draw support from.

VConnect's **Vision** and **Mission** is to mainstream children with hearing loss by:

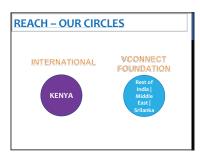
- providing hope and empowerment to their parents and primary caregivers
- co-creating an ecosystem that fosters a culture of inclusiveness

Strength of VConnect Foundation

VConnect now has over 1500 parents spread across various circles located across India and internationally. To support these parents, we have created various circles each consisting of around 50 parents. Each of these circles are managed by Circle Coordinators and VConnectors who are themselves parents of children with hearing loss. They are guided by the core team to manage their circles effectively. VConnect has a network of WhatsApp groups for each of the circles where queries about various aspects of the child's hearing loss are discussed and solved. VConnect is managed by a dedicated and committed team of 42 persons, almost all of whom work in an honorary capacity and volunteer their time to the organisation.

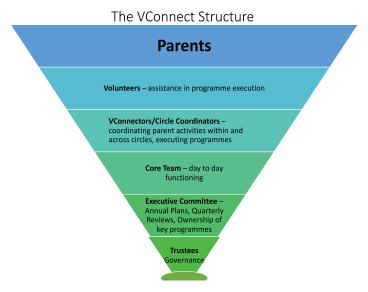
VConnect Foundation has its presence in 10 cities in India with a new Marathwada circle being added this year. We have 15 circles which are geographically grouped across regions for better reach. Our circles are in Bangalore, Delhi, Dhule, Gujarat, Marathwada, Mumbai (5 circles), Pune, Rajasthan, Vidarbha, VConnect Foundation Circle(which comprises of states where circles are yet not formed and some international families), and Kenya.





The VConnect Organisation

The organisation structure is as represented below:



VConnect is driven by a strong team of professionals, parents and volunteers whose commitment, expertise and dedication are the core reason for our success. The members of our team are:

Trustees

Vahishtai J Daboo – Co-founder and Managing Trustee Fatema Jagmaag – Co-founder and Trustee Jeroo Buhariwala – Trustee

Principal Advisor

Jamshed K Daboo

Legal Advisor

Rhia Marshall

Executive Committee Members

Bapsy Patel

Purvee Parekh

Programme Director Mental Health

Juliee Thakkar

Programme Coordinator

Behroze Billimoria

Administrator - Funding

Kashmira Surti

Administrator - Data

Vaishali Pendurkar

Testimonials

Being a member of **VConnect Foundation** it's always a pleasure as we are connected to such an institution which is very helpful to all the parents of hearing disabled children. The events & topic which we keep conducting on a regular basis is also very informative and educates the parents all together. With regards to the kids' activities it's always been appreciated by all.

What I feel is we should encourage our kids by rewarding them for their activities (age group wise). This will motivate the child more and even we can use VConnect Foundation as a platform for the recognition of their work. This will create a zest in them to perform better in future. This is just a suggestion ... rest VConnect Foundation is doing the best job ..

Thanks for this platform. Always be pleasure to be a part of this foundation.

Regards

- Komal Zaveri, parent of Dhyan Zaveri - 7 years, Bandra to Dahisar Circle.

VConnect encourages children to explore their creativity by posting various activities for children. These activities help children to increase their knowledge as well as help develop language. Thanks a lot for everything VConnect team...

– Manju Kadam, parent of Soham Sangram Kadam - 10 years, Pune Circle.

I am very glad to be a member of **VConnect Foundation**. VConnect team always help our childrens and their parents to solve day to day problems and many other things like mental health, educational tips, career counselings, story telling, yoga, music, drawing, maintenance tips regarding speech processor, speech therapy at home during this pandemic, how to make UDID and many more things through their webinars. The VConnect team is always trying to help and improve childrens with hearing loss. They always bring important topics in their webinars. I would like to suggest to all the parents to kindly attend all the webinars because it is very helpful for our childrens and parents.

I would like to thank Vahishtai Madam, Fatema Madam and the VConnect Foundation Team for their kind support for our childrens and parents.

– Kalpana Paswan, parent of Mohit Kumar Paswan - 24 years, Bhubaneswar.

We are extremely happy, glad and blessed to be a part of **VConnect foundation**. The team is supportive and dedicated. Connecting with Vconnect has made significant possibilities for me and both my kids. The ongoing workshops and webinars conducted by expert faculties on diverse themes has shaped us to develop great partnership as parent and child at home. We feel confident and inclusive in the safe space of VConnect.

- Anisa Lalani, parent of Ayaan Lalani and Amaan Lalani - 10 years, Vidarbha Circle.

2020-21

MISSION, VISION, KEY FOCUS AREAS

Commencing April 2020 we conducted an in-depth brainstorming exercise with the core team and an external expert to clearly define our mission, vision and key focus areas.

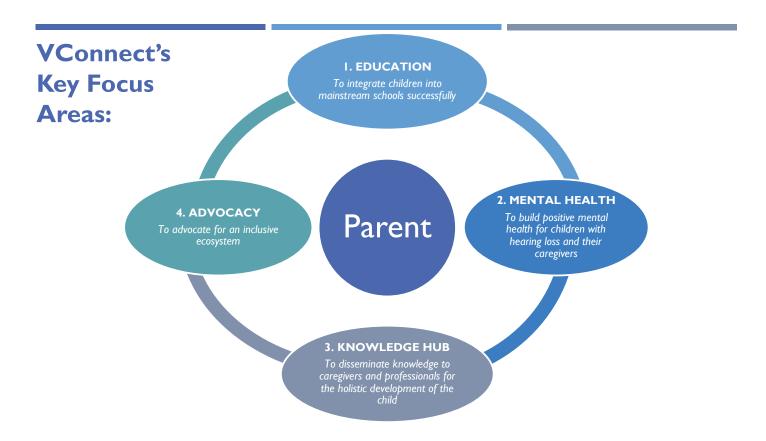
We have a clear vision and mission for the organisation, namely:

To mainstream children with hearing loss by:

- providing hope and empowerment to their parents and primary caregivers
- co-creating an ecosystem that fosters a culture of inclusiveness

Building on the direction provided by our mission and vision we have identified four key focus areas:

- 1) Education
- 2) Mental health
- 3) Knowledge Hub
- 4) Advocacy



Based on these key focus areas, several initiatives and programs are implemented and continue to be implemented by various VConnect teams as detailed in the activity report below.

VConnect Activity Report

Ever since the onset of the pandemic VConnect has pivoted its way of working by going completely online. We reached out to the entire VConnect community to create awareness about the on-line accessibility of VConnect services thereby enabling accessibility and reach. In fact, pivoting to virtual platforms has enabled us to reach many more families across India, particularly in remote areas where there is a lack of access to services, knowledge, and empowerment for families of children with hearing loss.

EDUCATION

A series of webinars on **Understanding the Mainstream Guide** were conducted to explain the VConnect **Mainstream Guide** which was launched in February2020. 510 hard copies of the mainstream guide in Hindi and English have been distributed and 200 soft copies of the mainstream guides in Hindi, Marathi and English have been downloaded by parents and professionals.

Two sets of webinars were conducted: one for families and the other for professionals.

Mainstream Guide Webinars for Parents:

The purpose of these webinars was for families to get an in-depth knowledge and understanding of how to prepare their children for mainstream school. These webinars were conducted across 4 different modules:

- 1) How We Hear
- 2) Preparing and Equipping for Mainstream
- 3) Strategies, Guidelines and Tips for Teachers
- 4) Best use of Technology for Online Classes/ Hearing Technology and Support for Online Classes

These webinars were conducted by Fatema Jagmaag, Parent and Audiologist & Speech/Language Pathologist, Vahishtai J Daboo, Parent and LSLS Cert. AVT and Purvee Parekh, Parent and VConnect Executive Committee Member.

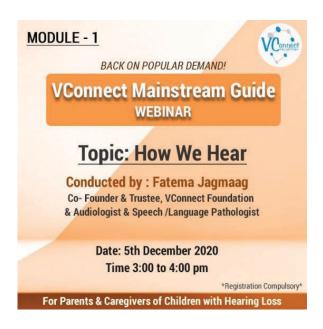
A total of 446 participants attended the parent webinars on the mainstream guide.

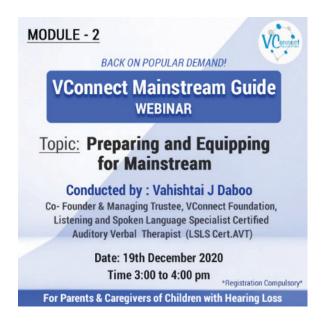
Mainstream Guide Webinars for Professionals: Therapists, teachers and educators play a pivotal role in working with parents to mainstream their children. VConnect conducted separate webinar sessions for:

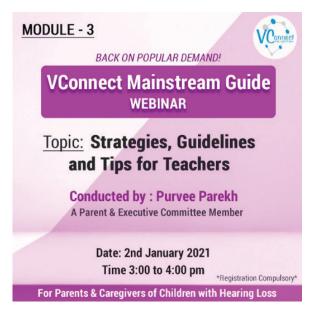
- 1. **Teachers and Educators on 'Understanding Mainstream Guide'**. All the different aspects of the guide were explained in detail based on the needs of the teachers and educators to enable them to help support children with hearing loss in mainstream schools/classrooms.
- 2. Auditory Verbal Therapists and Teachers of the Deaf on 'Understanding Mainstream Guide'. The purpose was to enable them to understand the nuances of Mainstream Guide so that they in turn are able to guide and coach families to prepare their children for inclusion and upgrade their skills and knowledge to support the children already in mainstream schools.

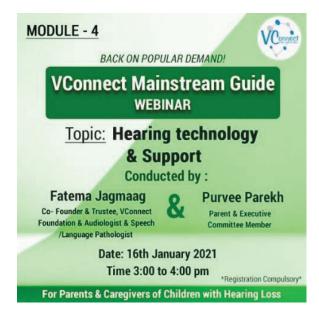
These webinars were conducted by the mainstream team – Fatema Jagmaag, Parent & Audiologist & Speech/Language Pathologist, Vahishtai J Daboo, Parent & LSLS Cert. AVT, Purvee Parekh, Parent & VConnect Executive Committee Member and Malathi Raj, Parent & Special Educator & Learning Specialist.

A total of 80 participants attended the professional webinars on the Mainstream Guide.



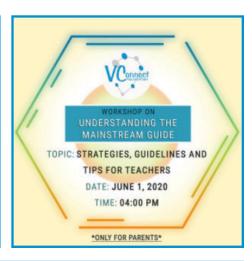


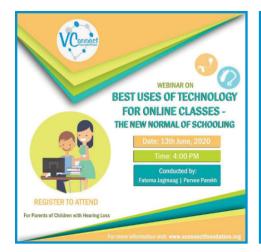
















Testimonials

The **Mainstream Guide** published by the **VConnect Foundation** is indeed a very resourceful guide for the Parents and Caregivers of the children with Hearing Loss. Also the series of Webinars conducted under the Mainstream Guide have been very interesting and popular with all the stakeholders.

It has helped a lot of people in preparing and equipping children with hearing loss for mainstream education and life.

We should develop and ensure ways that it is made available and read in all the mainstream schools.

- Akshay Chandan, parent of Jash Chandan - 16 years, Bandra to Dahisar Circle

VConnect Foundation has released its **Mainstream Guide** which has a lot of useful information. I could get a lot of information on Self advocacy, implant ,tips on online class,how to prepare children for school. It makes a lot of difference when we get this information and we then use this information. It is indeed a useful guide for parents and teachers for children with hearing loss.

- Archana Mistry, parent of Pari Sameer Mistry - 14 years, Bandra to Dahisar Circle

MENTAL HEALTH

The mental health of caregivers and children is of crucial importance in the mainstreaming journey of children with hearing loss. VConnect Foundation is passionate about nurturing the mental health of the families that we work with. The VConnect Mental Health Program is spearheaded by Ms. **Juliee Thakkar** who was promoted and appointed as the 'Mental Health Director' of the VConnect Foundation with effect from November 1, 2020.



Parent Peer Support Mental Health Training

VConnect has been collaborating with Ummeed Child Development Center since 2019. Ummeed's Mental Health team has been providing support to VConnect to conduct Mental Programmes, Workshops and Training. On 20th June 2020, a webinar on 'Nurturing Mental Health' was conducted by Ummeed team for the VConnect parents and caregivers to enable them to discover some coping strategies during lockdown. 35 Parents and caregivers participated in the webinar.





June 25, 2020 was a memorable day for us at VConnect. We started an 8-month part-time Mental Health Training Programme - "Parent Peer Support Mental Health Training". This course, in collaboration with Ummeed Child Development Center, enrolled twenty-one VConnect mothers to enable them to hone and develop counselling skills based on the Narrative Practices Approach. Seventeen mothers successfully completed the programme and fifteen of them now work as Mental Health Facilitators and VConnect Ambassadors. They conduct regular mental health workshops based on the key ideas of Narrative therapy in four languages – Hindi, Gujarati, Marathi, and English across all the VConnect Circles.

The **Graduation Day Ceremony** for the Parent Peer Support Mental Health Training was held on February 4, 2021. Seventeen mothers from VConnect graduated after successfully completing the part-time eight-month online course, including our Programme Coordinator, Behroze Billimoria who now uses the skills learnt during the course in her one-on-one work and conversations with the VConnect families.



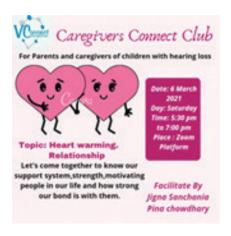
Juliee Thakkar, Mental Health Director and Vahishtai J Daboo, LSLS Cert. AVT, Co-Founder and Managing Trustee were two of the four trainers and supervisors for this Mental Health Programme. They continue to supervise the work of the Mental Health facilitators on a monthly basis and conduct half day mentoring sessions every month for the mental health team.

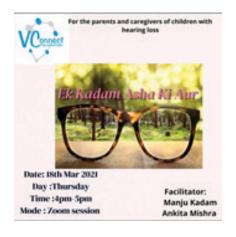
Starting from December 2020, VConnect Foundation conducts monthly workshops called **VConnect Peer Support sessions**. These workshops focus on the mental health and wellbeing of parents, caregivers, and children with hearing loss. The Mental Health Team is conducting workshops on different aspects of mental health. These workshops are conducted in fun and creative ways, which empower caregivers by engaging them in co-learning simple strategies which help nurture their own and the mental health of their families. The workshops are conducted across all the circles as follows by all the VConnect Mental Health facilitators:

- o **Anmol Khazana** conducted by Ayesha Khan & Pratibha Raut
- o Ek Pal Khushi ka (Jugaad) conducted by Ankita Mishra & Manju Kadam
- o Dil Se Dil Tak conducted by Ankita Mishra & Manju Kadam
- o **Believe In Your Magic (Mumbai 1)** conducted by Jigna Sanchania & Pina Chaudhry
- o **Believe In Your Magic (Gujarat)** conducted by Fatema Travadi
- o Believe In Your Magic (Mumbai 2) conducted by Roshni Shah & Behroze Billimoria
- o Khubiya Bachon Ki conducted by Zoha Ali & Vijaymala More
- One Step Towards Hope conducted by Farhana Saliyani
- o Hamare Sitare conducted by Anisa Lalani & Mahek Balwani
- o Indradhanush Ke Rang Ayesha Khan & Pratibha Raut
- o **Heart Warming Relationships** conducted by Jigna Sanchania and Pina Chowdhary
- o Dil Se Dil Tak conducted by Ayesha Khan and Pratibha Raut
- o Khushiyon Ka Pitara conducted by Mahek Balwani and Anisa Lalani
- o Nourishing the Qualities of Our Children conducted by Vijaymala More and Zoha Ali
- o Sapano Ki Duniya conducted by Rashmi Chutke, Meena Badwaik & Ranjana Hogane
- Dil Se Dil Ka Connection conducted by Anisa Lalani & Mahek Balwani
- o **Dil Ke Rishtey** conducted by Fatema Travadi
- o Let's Connect To Create & Nurture conducted by Behroze & Roshni
- o **Jugaad** conducted by Jigna Sanchania & Pina Chaudhry
- o **Reach Out To The Stars Within You** conducted by Zoha Ali & Vijaymala More

- o **Reach Out To The Stars** Farhana Salyani
- o Dil Se Dil Tak Connection Rashmi Chutke, Meena Badwaik & Ranjana Hogane
- o Ek Kadum Asha Ki Aur conducted by Manju Kadam and Ankita Mishra
- o Jugaad conducted by Roshni Shah

A total of 229 caregivers attended the Parent Peer Support workshops up to March 2021.













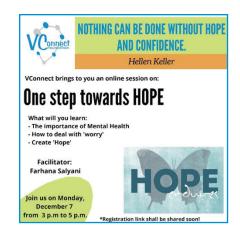




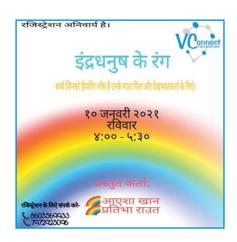




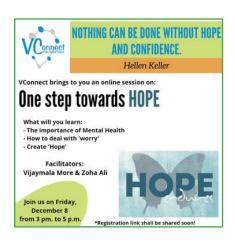


















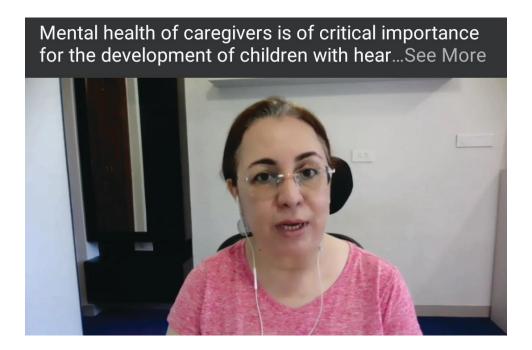


Creating Awareness for Mental Health

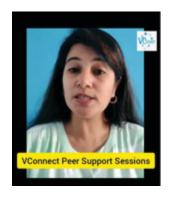
VConnect created awareness and shared videos about the importance of Mental Health on World Mental Health Day, on October 10, 2020. These videos were created by:

- o Vahishtai J Daboo, (LSLS Cert. AVT), Co-founder and Managing Trustee shared about how VConnect is taking Mental Health forward by building a team of 18 Mental Health Facilitators.
- o Fatema Travadi, mother from the VConnect Gujarat circle, shared about how she looks after her Mental Health and the little things she does to make her feel better.
- o Ayesha Khan, caregiver from the Vidarbha Circle, spoke about the little things she does for herself to look after her own Mental Health and about her she discovered her own self-identity while doing the Parent Peer Mental Health Training course.

We had 1010 views of this video, engagement 172.



The announcement of the commencement of **VConnect Parent Peer Support Sessions** (mental health workshops for caregivers), was done through a video was created and shared by Juliee Thakkar, VConnect Mental Health Director, which also talked about the importance of looking after one's mental health as caregivers. This was shared on VConnect WhatsApp circles and social media.



10 Chai pe Charcha Sessions were conducted online from the 1st of April to the 10th of April, 2020. This was done to support all the VConnect families during the pandemic, provide them hope and motivation to move towards an online way of working. These sessions were interactive where parents asked questions and shared their experiences. The sessions were conducted by our co-founders Vahishtai J Daboo (LSLS Cert. AVT), Co-Founder & Managing Trustee and Fatema Jagmaag, (Audiologist & Speech/Language Pathologist), Co-Founder & Trustee. Parents found these sessions extremely valuable at the beginning of the lockdown period. A total of 110 caregivers attended the Chai Pe Charcha and benefitted.



Testimonials

आज का वर्कशॉप जिस्का सब्जेक्ट पहचान था.... उसने हम खुद से खुद करवा दी.... थैंक्स वकनेक्ट इतने अच्छे वर्क शॉप लेन के लिए....

– Kavya Maykalwar from Vidarbha circle

Workshops on Mental health are very helpful. I learnt to respond to worries instead of reacting. Looking forward to such workshops.

– Jalpa Anil Charola, parent of Aatreya Anil Charola -19 years, Gujarat Circle

KNOWLEDGE HUB

The purpose of the knowledge hub is to provide information, build awareness and skills, and disseminate knowledge to enable parents, caregivers and professionals address all aspects related to their child's hearing loss. It is a dedicated platform to capture and exchange experiences and knowledge to accelerate positive, holistic development. Its primary activities are conducted in the form of workshops, seminars, and webinars across an array of relevant topics for parents and caregivers as well as professionals. Other online and offline materials resources are developed. Our activities connected to the knowledge hub include the following:

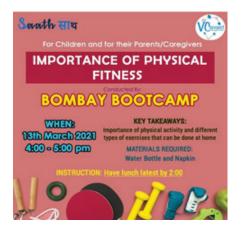
Educational activities for families

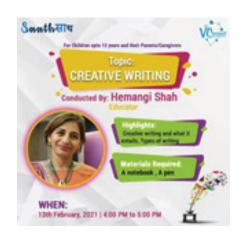
Saath Saath Series

The 'Saath Saath Series' provides exposure to new and different skill-based, co-curricular activities and creating a strong caregiver and child bond. Both the children and their caregivers participate together in the workshops and webinars. The Saath Saath series provides exposure to new and different skill-based, co-curricular activities. The series consisted of the following webinars:

- 1) 'Yoga', conducted by Manju Kadam, a certified yoga trainer and a VConnect parent.
- 2) 'Experience the Joy of Playing Games', conducted by Archana Magar, an experiential educator and regional coordinator at Play for Peace.
- 3) 'Learn to Create a Worksheet in a Fun way', conducted by Rakhi Datta, a Counselling Psychoanalyst, Behavior Analyst and VConnect parent.
- 4) 'Quilling' workshop conducted by Kunjal Gala, an expert in quilling and handwriting.
- 5) 'Musical Stories' a session integrating music and stories was conducted by Kamakshi & Vishala Khurana the founders of The Sound Space.
- 6) 'Bollywood Masti with D & F', conducted by Pooja from Danscapes and Figurines with Diago.
- 7) 'Chalo Kahani Sune', conducted by Sarika Athalye, storyteller and founder of Treasure Trove Story Club.
- 8) 'Creative Writing' workshop conducted by Hemangi Shah, Educator.
- 9) 'Importance of Physical Fitness', conducted by Bombay Boot Camp team Rustom Warden, Vidhika Charani and Kareena Madan.

A total of 378 children and caregivers participated in the entire Saath Saath Series learnt by doing and participating, enhancing their knowledge in different co-curricular areas.



















Annual Report 2020-21

Educational activities for families - Creative, Educational and Fun Exercises

This initiative was spearheaded by our Programme Coordinators, Behroze Billimoria and Juliee Thakkar during the initial lockdown due to Covid-19 pandemic when families were struggling to keep their children engaged in the confines of their homes. The success of this programme motivated us to make this an on-going series of activities for children and their families.

Every month, theme-based activities related to festivals and national holidays were posted where children's creativity was allowed free expression along with a significant learning taking place during the course of the activity. The children's creations and pictures of their work and activity are posted on the VConnect social media platforms which motivates and encourages them to learn from each other and participate in further activities.

The activities conducted are listed below:

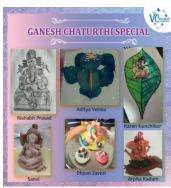
- Best Out of Waste, learning different textures and so on
- Activity for Father's Day to write a letter/poem/song/art/drawing for their father
- Origami Activity was posted for children
- Raksha Bandhan Activities posted, included making greeting cards, drawings or writing poems, songs for their siblings
- Janmashtami Activity make a crown, decorating bansuri, playing any musical instrument or song for Krishna
- Independence Day activity dress up as their favorite national leader / make a collage around this theme / sing the national anthem
- Ganesh Chaturthi Children's activity make different things using different mediums related to the festival
- How to Write a Story activity (for older children with tips on how they can create their stories)
- Diwali activity make Rangoli, Diyas, paper torans, etc.
- Craft Work
- Let's Dance a Little
- Make Your Own Game
- Let's Become our mommy's little helper
- Let's Do Painting using water colours
- Let's make a collage
- Write a letter to your friend about online studies
- Activity to understand which items dissolve in water
- Let's Teach Children about Texture
- Let's Make Nimbu Pani
- Activity to understand elements of nature Water
- Activity to Understand Earth
- Activity to Understand Space
- Let's make paper Bag
- Paint or colour using Straw
- Earth day celebration Activity
- Exercise day
- Let's play dumb charades
- Developing language while cooking or eating food for parents
- Talk About Community helpers
- Learn About Sea Animals
- Children to say a few lines on Community Helpers
- Hopping Fun game
- Chart of different emotions















Testimonials

Saath Saath Series is a wonderful platform for kids and parents to come together for fun-filled learning from experts..I always enjoy attending these sessions with my daughter.

– Ankita Mishra, parent of Divyansha Mishra - 5 years, Pune circle

Saath Saath Series is an excellent platform for parents to learn and understand the special needs of their children and to educate them in the right way. Special thanks to the V connect team for their efforts.

- Ameena Saad Surti, parent of Zehra Saad Surti - 10 years, Dubai.

साथ साथ सिरीज से हमे बच्चों के इंटरेस्ट के बारे में जान सकते हैं। एक्सट्रा करीक्यूलर एक्टीवीटी से बच्चों का ओवरोल और ईमोशनल डेवेलपमेंट होता है। हस से उनका एकेडमिक परफारमंस भी बड़ा है। तो आईए वीकनेक्ट फाउंडेशन के साथ-साथ सिरीज में क्छ नया सीखते है और एक नया आशीयाना बनाते है।

- रश्मी चुटके,पेरंट ओफ अर्शिया छुटके - 18 वर्ष, Vidarbha Circle

Annual Report 2020-21

Vidya Series

As part of the **Vidya Series** subject matter experts are invited to conduct workshops and webinars to disseminate knowledge to parents and caregivers regarding their child's holistic development. The Vidya series sessions conducted are as under:

- 'Child development in children with hearing loss Milestone and Red Flags', conducted by Dr. Vibha Krishnamurthy, Developmental Pediatrician, Founder and Executive Director at Ummeed Child Development Center.
- 'Developing Self-Advocacy Skills in young, conducted by Ms. Ritu Nakra, LSLS Cert. AVT, Founder & Director of Hear Me Speak and Avtaar App.
- 'Managing Difficult Behaviours,' conducted by Dr. Pervin Dadachanji, Psychiatrist with a special interest in child and adolescent psychiatry.
- 'Why do we need Genetic Testing with Children with Hearing Loss', conducted by Dr. Anaita Udwadia Hegde, Consultant Pediatric Neurologist, Jaslok Hospital and Research Center; SRCC Narayan Health Children's Hospital; Wadia Children's Hospital.
- 'Dos and Don'ts after and before pregnancy' conducted by Dr. Shiraz Vazifdar, Obstetrician and Gynecologist.
- 'Eyes and Ears Gateways to better Development', conducted Dr. Karobi Lahiri Coutinho, Pediatric Ophthalmologist.
- 'Need of Allied Therapies for Children with Hearing Loss', conducted by Dr. Reepa Shroff, certified SI Therapist and Assistant HOD, PRMD.
- 'The Building Block of Literacy Skills Part 1 Oral Language', conducted by Mala Chadha, Special Educator.

A total of 589 caregivers attended the Vidya Series and benefitted.

















Testimonials

Mujhe **Vidya Series** bahut aachi thi. Mamne bacho ke sath kiese interact hona chahiye ye bahut acche se bata-ya, child psychology bataya it's very nice. Isa seminars se muje bacho ko padhane ki new ideas mili. Thank you.

– Deepali Mahajan, parent of Om Mahajan - 11 years, Pune Circle

इस वीकनेक्ट गृप की एहेमयित हमे लाकडाउन मे समझ आई। विद्या सिरीज और साथ साथ सिरीज हमारे लिए बहुत उपयोगी है।इस प्रोग्राम से साधारण पेरंटस से एक्सपर्ट पेरंटस बनने मे वीकनेक्ट गृप ने अहम रोल अदा किया है।इन एक्सपर्ट्स को सुनकर हमे भी जानकारी और हौसला मिल रहा हे।जूम प्लेटफॉर्म के माध्यम से उडीसा,बंगाल, आन्ध्रप्रदेश तथा अन्य शहरों से जुड़ाव क, दूरियों का आभास नहीं होता है।इससे हमारे बच्चे काफी-कुछ सिख रहे है।दूसरे शब्दों मै वीकनेक्ट "हेल्प डेस्क" है।धन्यवाद।

– अमरनाथ प्रसाद , पेरंट ओफ ऋषभ प्रसाद - 13 वर्ष, Thane Kalyan Circle

Vidya Series is a great opportunity for us parents to learn about a whole lot of topics related to our children's wellbeing. These workshops are really great and the experts are very good in terms of imparting the knowledge to us. Thanks a lot for having the Vidya series for us.

– Zoha Ali, parent of Ayaan Haider Ali - 5 years, Vidarbha Circle

Music Programme

The importance of music for children with hearing loss cannot be over-stressed. Music enables children with hearing loss to enhance their listening skills. They learn to listen to the finer nuances of music, enabling better listening skills, which in turn enables the child to develop better speech and language. Together, these skills aid in better social emotional development, leading to better literacy and academic skills. Songs introduce and reinforce new vocabulary and syntax; they have a lot of repetition which is

very essential for children with hearing loss to learn language. Music is a prevalent and engaging part of everyday life, it gives children pleasure, and improves the quality of life of children.

VConnect Foundation in collaboration with 'Sound Space', started a music programme for children from March 2020. The programme is conducted by Kamakshi and Vishala Khurana the founders of Sound Space. Two sessions are held every week, one for children up to 4 years and the other is children from 4 to 8 years. 25 children regularly attend the music programme.

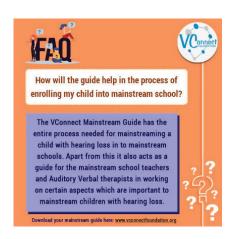


Parent Resource Center

Resources for parents and caregivers are being continually created for digital circulation and the same is available on our website as a ready reference too. The resources created to date as under

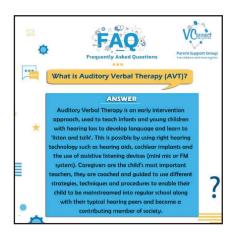
- Tips for Online Classes
- FAQ on 'What are Ling Six Sounds, why are they used, what is their importance?' of the Ling Six Sounds
- FAQs on 'Which batteries should be used for cochlear implant processors and hearing aids?'
- FAQ on 'What is Auditory-Verbal Therapy?'
- FAQ on 'What is Self-Advocacy?
- FAQ on 'How can I access the VConnect Mainstream Guide?'
- FAQ on 'How will the VConnect Mainstream Guide help my child?' Hindi and English
- FAQ on 'How will the guide help in the process of enrolling my child into mainstream school?'
- FAQ 'Who has compiled the VConnect Mainstream Guide?



















Annual Report 2020-21

ADVOCACY

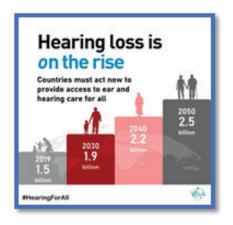
To celebrate World Deaf Day, from 27th September 2020 for a week, 2 videos around self-advocacy. Parents posted videos of how their children sharing use various self-advocacy skills.

VConnect celebrated **World Hearing Day – 3**rd **March 2021** by creating a series of videos to create awareness and advocate about the importance of **Universal New-Born Screening**, to ensure we have **'Hearing for All'** in India. These videos were created by the VConnect committee members, parents, and children. The videos advocating for mandatory Universal New Born Screening in India were made by - Jamshed K Daboo, a Parent and an Executive Committee member of VConnect Foundation, Swati Gupta a Parent member, VConnect parent member, Zoha Ali, a parent and VConnect Mental Health



Facilitator, Jehan VJ Daboo, a VConnect youth and Cochlear Implant recipient, Fatema Jagmaag, Parent, Co-Founder & Trustee VConnect Foundation and Audiologist & Speech Pathologist, Vahishtai J Daboo a Parent, LSLS Cert. AVT, Co-Founder and Managing Trustee, VConnect Foundation, Juliee Thakkar, a Parent and VConnect Mental Health Director, Ali Muhmmad Riyaz Khan, a VConnect teenager and a Cochlear Implant recipient, Anisa Lalani, a Parent and VConnect Mental Health Facilitator and Rushna Khatri a teenager and a Cochlear Implant recipient.







The entire month of March 2021 dedicated by **VConnect** Foundation to advocate and create awareness about the importance of universal newborn hearing screening, as early detection and early intervention plays a crucial role in enabling children with hearing loss to learn to listen and speak. This was done using the WHO material shared for World #HearingForAll. Hearing Day,





Regular posts were shared on various social media platforms by us to appeal to all the stake holders. Our campaign had an extensive reach as reflected in the statistics below:

- Total Video Views Received on Facebook: 3,632
- Total Campaign Reach on Facebook: 7,995 people
- Total Video Views Received on Instagram: 423
- Total Video Views Received on LinkedIn: 2,744
- Total Campaign Impressions Received on LinkedIn: 1001
- Avg. Engagement Rate for the Campaign on LinkedIn: 8.25%

We were awarded a certificate by the WHO on 'World Hearing Day 2021' in recognition of our active participation to promote the 'Hearing For All'.



ANNUAL DAY

VConnect Foundation virtually celebrated its 14th Annual Day by showcasing the talent of VConnect children. A total of 21 submitted their entries. A wide array of talent was on display: poems, songs, dances, drama, solving the Rubik's cube, painting and art, shloka recitation, Shiv Tandav recitation, gymnastics, playing musical instruments – table and piano. The talent show was followed by a scintillating on-line performance by the famous Rambo Circus which had an underlying theme of achievement against all odds. The Annual Day was attended by 480 parents and caregivers who thoroughly enjoyed the celebrations and were filled with positivity, joy, and the spirit of our motto - Together WE CAN!!!



RECOGNITION OF TEAM MEMBERS

The VConnect circles are led by selected parent members, VConnectors, who provide a bridge between parents in a circle and the V Connect organization. VConnectors connect with parents in their own circles, provide leadership and assistance, coordinate with parent members for various activities, follow up for enrolments, attend the VConnect programs, and regular organization meeting and trainings for their development and growth.

In recognition of their selfless service, we have constituted the 'VConnector Of the Month' award based on individual contributions made during the month. The VConnectors felicitated for their contribution to VConnect families, during the year were:

Ayesha Khan – Vidarbha Circle
Dildar Dalvi – South Mumbai Circle
Ramu Vadaplalli – Thane-Kalyan Circle
Ankur Chandak – Navi Mumbai Circle
Akshay Chandan – Gujarat Circle
Hema Samani – Bandra to Dahisar Circle
Prafulla Bargaje – Central Mumbai Circle
Jui Shewale – Pune Circle





VConnect will be highlighting the contribution of certain members through a series of monthly 'VConnector of the month series'













SCORE CARD

Summary Scorecard of Workshops Conducted in 2020-2021

Workshop Title	Number of Programs		% Excellent Rating
Education	10	526	75
Knowledge Hub – Vidya	8	673	85
Knowledge Hub – Saath-Saath	9	361	98
Mental Health- Workshops (2019-20)	10	385	
Mental Health - Outreach	25	264	66
Total	62	2209	

Detailed Score Card of Workshops Conducted in 2020-21

Focus Area : **Education**

Workshop Title	Conducted by	Number of Participants	% Excellent Rating
Series 1			
1) How we Hear	Fatema Jagmaag	50	
2) Preparing and Equipping for Mainstream	Vahishtai J Daboo	62	
3) Strategies, Guidelines and tips	Purvee Parekh	58	
4) Best use of technology and tips for online class	Fatema Jagmaag & Purvee	89	
4) Best use of technology and tips for online class	Parekh	09	
Series 2			
1) How we Hear	Fatema Jagmaag	50	100
2) Preparing and Equipping for Mainstream	Vahishtai J Daboo	49	88
3) Strategies, Guidelines and tips	Purvee Parekh	41	88
4) Part was a Clark wall and a disconnection of the	Fatema Jagmaag & Purvee	47	92
4) Best use of technology and tips for online class	Parekh		
5) Understanding the VConnect Mainstream Guide (for	Purvee Parekh, Fatema	40	33
Teachers & Educators)	Jagmaag, Vahishtai Daboo	48	
6) Understanding the VConnect Mainstream Guide (for	Purvee Parekh, Maithi Raj,		
AV Therapists /Teachers of the deaf)	Fatema Jagmaag & Vahishtai J	32	50
	Daboo		

Focus Area : **Knowledge Hub-Vidya**

Workshop Title	Conducted by	Number of Participants	% Excellent Rating
Child development in Children with Hearing Loss - Milestone and Red Flags	Dr. Vibha Krishnamurthy	144	82
Developing Self-Advocacy Skills in very young children	Ms. Ritu Nakra	94	100
Managing difficult behaviours	Dr. Pervin Dadachanji	101	82
Importance of Genetic Testing	Dr. Anaita Udwadia Hegde	98	90
Eyes and Ears - Gateway to Better Development	Dr. Karobi Lahiri	55	75
Need for Allied Therapies for Children with Hearing Loss	Dr. Reepa Shroff	55	60
Oral Language -The Building Block of Literacy Skills	Mrs. Mala Chadha	83	94
Maternal Health & Do's and Don'ts before and during pregnancy	Dr. Shiraz Vazifdar	43	82

Focus Area : **Knowledge Hub Saath Saath**

Workshop Title	Conducted by	Number of Participants	% Excellent Rating
Interactive Yoga Session	Manju Kadam	29	
Joys of Playing Games	Archana Magar	36	75
Learn to Create a Worksheet in a Fun Way	Raakhee Datta	54	87
Quilling Workshop	Kunjal Gala	53	67
Musical Stories	Kamakshi & Vishala Khurana	46	100
Bollywood Masti with D&F	Pooja Bhimani	33	100
Chalo Kahani Sune	Sarika Athalye	38	100
Creative Writing	Hemangi Shah	32	100
Importance of Physical Fitness	Rustom Warden , Vdhita Chainani, Kareena Madan	40	100

Focus Area: Mental Health Workshops (2019- 20)

rkshop Title Conducted by	Number of	% Excellent	
Workshop Title	Conducted by	Participants	Rating
Empower & Construct Hope (Vidarbha)	VConnect & Ummeed	55	
Empower & Construct Hope (Gujarat)	VConnect & Ummeed	69	
Empower & Construct Hope (Mumbai)	VConnect & Ummeed	58	
Empower & Construct Hope (Pune)	VConnect & Ummeed	45	
What Parents Do or Can Do for their Children's Mental		F0	
Heatlh (Vidarbha)	VConnect & Ummeed	50	
What Parents Do or Can Do for their Children's Mental			
Heatlh (Mumbai)	VConnect & Ummeed	55	
What Parents Do or Can Do for their Children's Mental		20	
Heatlh (Gujarat)	VConnect & Ummeed	30	
What Parents Do or Can Do for their Children's Mental		20	
Heatlh (Pune)	VConnect & Ummeed	23	

Focus Area: Mental Health Outreach

Workshop Title	Conducted by	Number of Participants	% Excellent Rating
Nuturing Mental Health	VConnect & Ummeed	35	
Anmol Khajana	Ayesha & Pratibha	9	33
Ek Pal Khushi Ka (Jugaad)	Ankita & Manju	24	60
Dil Se Dil Tak	Ankita & Manju	9	67
Believe In Your Magic (Mumbai 1)	Jigna & Pina	8	63
Believe In Your Magic (Gujarat)	Fatema	5	60
Believe In Your Magic (Mumbai 2)	Roshni & Behroze	12	75
Khubiya Bachon Ki	Zoha & Vijaymala	5	60
One Step Towards Hope	Farhana	12	75
Hamare Sitare	Anisa & Mahek	7	
Indradhanush Ke Rang	Ayesha & Pratibha	18	100
Heart Warming Realtionship	Jigna & Pina	12	50
Dil Se Dil Tak	Ayesha & Pratibha	9	66
Khushiyon Ka Pitara	Anisa & Mahek	3	100
Nourshing The Qualities Of Our Children	Zoha & Vijaymala	16	60
Sapano Ki Duniya	Rashmi & Meena & Ranjana	12	
Dil Se Dil Ka Connection	Anisa & Mahek	6	
Dil Ke Rishtey	Fatema	7	67
Let's Connect to Create & Nurture	Roshni & Behroze	4	50
Jugaad	Jigna & Pina	8	100
Reach out To The Stars Within You	Zoha & Vijaymala	8	50
Reach Out To The Stars	Farhana	5	
Dil Se Dil Tak Connection	Rashmi & Meena & Ranjana	10	
Ek Kadam Asha Ki Aur	Ankita & Manju	11	100
Jugaad	Roshni	9	67

YOUR SUPPORT

At VConnect we really want to make a difference to the lives of thousands of children with hearing impairment in and around India in our endeavor to successfully mainstream them at all levels.

All donations to VConnect Foundation are 50% exempt from tax under section 80G of the Income Tax Act.

Cheques & Demand Drafts to be made in the name of 'VConnect Foundation'

Direct online fund transfers details are as under:

A/c: VConnect Foundation

Savings Account

Account Number: 3014605126

Bank details: Central Bank of India, Colaba Causeway Branch, Mumbai 400005

IFSC CODE: CBIN0281407

For foreign donations (FCRA Account):

A/c: VConnect Foundation

Savings Account

Account Number: 40274065525

Bank details: State Bank of India, FCRA Cell, 4th Floor, New Delhi Main Branch, 11 Sansad Marg,

New Delhi 110001

IFSC CODE: SBIN0000691 SWIFT CODE: SBININBB104

TRUST & CONTACT DETAILS

Name of the Trust: VConnect Foundation

Legal Status: Charitable Trust

VConnect Foundation is a registered not-for-profit company under section 25 of the Indian Companies Act (1956) and has tax exempt status in India under section 80(G) of the Income Tax Act (1961).

Registered Office: C-216, Bunyaan, Seth Moti Shah X Lane, Byculla (E), Mumbai 400027, India

Correspondence: R-7, Cusrow Baug, Shahid Bhagat Singh Road, Mumbai 400001, India

Contact No: +91 9820409019

Email Id: contact@vconnectfoundation.org **Website:** www.vconnectfoundation.org

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/VConnectfoundation/

LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/vconnectfoundation/

Instagram: http://www.instagram.com/vconnectfoundation/

YouTube: https://youtube.com/vconnectfoundation

Twitter: https://twitter.com/VConnect

