



# Annual Report

April 2021 to March 2022



VCONNECT FOUNDATION

CELEBRATING



## About Us

VConnect Foundation is a not-for-profit parent support group for children with hearing loss, and caters to families from diverse backgrounds and income levels. It is a supportive network for families of children who use listening and spoken language to communicate.

VConnect was founded in 2007 by Vahishtai J Daboo and Fatema Jagmaag, both of whom are parents and leading professionals in the field of hearing health. Vahishtai is a Listening and Spoken Language Specialist, Certified Auditory Verbal Therapist (LSLS Cert. AVT) and a Trained in Narrative Practice. She has been practising in the field for over 19 years.

Fatema Jagmaag is a Senior Audiologist and Speech/Language Pathologist. She has been practising 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. The purpose is achieved by creating platforms and networks for the holistic development of children.

## Strength of VConnect Foundation

VConnect has over 1500 parents spread across various circles located across India and internationally. Our team comprises of a committed team of 42 persons most of whom work in an honorary capacity and volunteer their time to the organisation.

VConnect has its circles in 10 cities in India.

## Mission, Vision and Focus Areas

Our 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

We have identified four key focus areas based on our mission and vision given below:

- 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.

# Education

*To integrate children into mainstream schools successfully.*

## Mainstream Guide

The VConnect mainstream guide which was created with the purpose of mainstreaming children with hearing loss is available in four languages - English, Hindi, Gujarati and Marathi. The same can be downloaded from the resource section of the VConnect website [Resources – VConnect Foundation](#)

## Distribution of Mainstream Guides:

100 Mainstream Guides in Hindi language, were distributed through the Hear Me Speak during Diwali in their Joy of Listening Boxes to 100 families.

## Shiksha Series

Based on need by parents, VConnect Foundation started a new series of webinars called **Shiksha Series** from August 2021. This series is based on different aspects of **Academics & Education**. This series of webinars is conducted on the first Friday of every month and covers a range of topics that help the caregivers to understand how to work with their children on the different aspects of education, academics and life skills, which will contribute to the child's overall advancement. VConnect has collaborated with Dr. Mihir Parekh, a Child Psychologist, Special Educator and an Author to conduct this series.

**ACADEMIC PREREQUISITES**  
WEBINAR FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS FOR CHILDREN WITH HEARING LOSS

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Through this workshop audience will get to know about I.Q. academic prerequisites at different level and some related techniques to build academic pre requisites, learning style, etc

**MATERIALS:**

- Some Papers, Pen and Crayons

**Dr. MIHIR PAREKH**  
CHILD PSYCHOLOGIST, SPECIAL EDUCATOR AND AUTHOR

**WHEN:**  
DATE : 6TH AUGUST 2021 ; FRIDAY  
TIME : 4:00 PM TO 5:00 PM

**शिक्षा/Shiksha**

Webinar for parents/caregivers of children with hearing loss

**Topic: Alternate schooling, All about NIOS**

**Dr. Mihir Parekh**  
Child Psychologist,  
Special Educator and Author

**Date:**  
3rd September, 2021

**Day:**  
Friday

**Time:**  
4:00pm - 5:00pm

**Workshops objectives : All queries related to NIOS**

**\*Registration Compulsory\***  
[WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG)

**शिक्षा/Shiksha**

Webinars for parents/caregivers of children with hearing loss

**Topic: Functional Academics & Life Skills Training**

**Dr. Mihir Parekh**  
Child Psychologist, Special Educator & Author

**Date:** 1st October, 2021  
**Day:** Friday  
**Time:** 4:00pm - 5:00pm

**Key Takeaways:**

1. Teach what's important & functional
2. Education in real sense
3. Duty of parents towards mainstreaming

**Requirements:**  
Book and pen

**\*Registration Compulsory\***  
[WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG)

**शिक्षा/Shiksha**

Webinars for parents/ caregivers of children with hearing loss

**Life Skills - Money Management & Banking**

**Dr. Mihir Parekh**  
Child Psychologist,  
Special Educator & Author

**Friday,**  
3rd December '21  
4:00P.M. to 5:00P.M

**\*Registration Compulsory\***  
[WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.COM](http://WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.COM)

Total 150 parents and caregivers attended these series of webinars.

### Testimonials:

- 1) Thank you V Connect बहुत ही अच्छा शासन था आज का और डॉ. पारेख का । मुझे ऐसा लगा कएक पेरेट्स के लिए कतिना जरूरी होता है कहिम हमारे बच्चों के माइलस्टोन के बारे में समझ सके और वह कसि तरीके से पढ़ाई कर सकते हैं या चीजें समझ सकते हैं  
अगले महीने डॉ. पारेख के सेशन के लिए हम एक्साइटेड हैं

- *Anisa Lalani, Parent of Ayan and Aman Lalani, 9 Years, Vidarbha circle.*

- 2) My son Redit is 3.5yrs old. He understands so many things but is still very behind his peers. Apart from speech therapy, he is also in SI, PT and I don't know how long he'll be in the therapies. I am always worried about how we will manage school and his therapies.

This seminar has certainly given me some hope. Dr. Mihir Parikh presented all the information nicely and it was easily understood.

Thank you VConnect for a wonderful session.

- *Madhura Gokhale, Parent of Redit Gore, 3.5 years, Pune circle.*

- 3) The webinar conducted by Dr. Mihir Parekh on 'Life Skills - Money Management and Banking' was very informative. He explained how even small small things related to money should be explained to children.

There are many things we forget to tell our children like passbooks, cheque books, etc. He explained the importance of all those with very good examples. His presentation style is also very friendly. Such informative webinars are worth attending.

Looking forward to many such webinars.

Thank you so much.

- *Mrs Asmita Yogesh Palekar, parent of Jyotiraditya Yogesh Palekar, 6 yrs, Pune*

## Mental Health

*To nurture the mental health of caregivers and children.*

The Mental Health focus area works on Parent Peer Support by conducting workshops for caregivers and Teenage Support where teenagers and young adults receive support. Besides this the team also strives to create awareness and sensitization about mental health in the community.

### Parent Peer Support Sessions

VConnect Foundation conducts monthly workshops called Parent Peer Support Sessions. These workshops focus on the mental health of parents and caregivers of children with hearing loss.

## Mental Health workshops conducted from April 2021 to March 2022

- **Tarkibo ka Safar** - conducted by Mrs. Pratibha Raut, Mrs. Ayesha Khan and Mrs. Mahek Balwani.
- **Story Tales** - conducted by Ms. Zoha Ali, Ms. Farhana Salyani and Ms. Roshni Shah.
- **Jugaad** - conducted by Ms. Fatema Travadi, Ms. Pina Chowdhary and Ms. Jigna Sanchania.
- **Jugaad** - conducted by Ms. Rashmi Chutke, Ms. Meena Badwik and Ms. Vijaymala More.
- **Chamakate Sitaro ki Kahani** - conducted by Ms. Manju Kadam, Ms. Ankita Mishra and Ms. Anisa Lalani.
- **Aapra Guno ni oorakh** - conducted by Ms. Jigna Sanchania, Ms. Fatema Travadi and Ms. Pina Chowdhary.
- **Recognising your own skills** - conducted by Ms. Rashmi Chutke, Ms. Meena Badwik and Ms. Vijaymala More.
- **Matrutav Ki Pehchan** - conducted by Ms. Ayesha Khan, Ms. Pratibha Raut and Ms. Mahek Balwani.
- **Unbox Zindagi - Lockdown wali** - conducted by Ms. Manju Kadam, Ms. Ankita Mishra and Ms. Anisa Lalani.
- **Knock Knock Kaun Hai?** - conducted by Ms. Ayesha Khan, Ms. Mahek Balwani and Ms. Pratibha Raut.
- **Aicha Atmabhan** - conducted by Ms. Rashmi Chutke, Ms. Meena Badwik and Ms. Vijaymala More.
- **Discovering the Sparkling Stars** - conducted by Ms. Roshni Shah, Ms. Farhana Salyani and Ms. Zoha Ali.
- **Sunhare Bachpan ki Niv** - conducted by Ms. Manju Kadam, Ms. Ankita Mishra and Ms. Anisa Lalani.
- **Pehchan** - conducted by Ms. Mahek Balwani, Ms. Ayesha Khan and Ms. Pratibha Raut.
- **Let's Step Towards Hope and Deal with our Worries** - conducted by Ms. Farhana Salyani, Ms. Zoha Ali and Ms. Roshni Shah.
- **Sambhlo Dhyaan Thi** - conducted by Ms. Fatema Travadi, Ms. Pina Chowdhary and Ms. Jigna Sanchania.
- **Darpan** - conducted by Ms. Rashmi Chutke, Ms. Meena Badwik and Ms. Vijaymala More.
- **Umeedo ka Safar** - conducted by Ms. Manju Kadam, Ms. Ankita Mishra and Ms. Anisa Lalani.
- **Sathidar** - conducted by Ms. Jigna Sanchania, Ms. Fatema Travadi and Ms. Pina Chowdhary.
- **Nakshatra** - conducted by Ms. Rashmi Chutke, Ms. Meena Badwik and Ms. Vijaymala More.
- **Khatte Mithe Pal** - conducted by Ms. Ayesha Khan, Ms. Pratibha Raut and Ms. Mahek Balwani.
- **Aazadi Vicharo se** - conducted by Ms. Manju Kadam, Ms. Ankita Mishra and Ms. Anisa Lalani.
- **Quick Fixes** - conducted by Ms. Roshni Shah, Ms. Farhana Salyani and Ms. Zoha Ali.
- **Chalo Khushi ne Maliye** - conducted by Ms. Jigna Sanchania, Ms. Fatema Travadi and Ms. Pina Chowdhary.
- **Nazariya** - conducted by Ms. Ayesha Khan, Ms. Mahek Balwani and Ms. Pratibha Raut.
- **Shan Ananda Cha** - conducted by Ms. Rashmi Chutke, Ms. Meena Badwik and Ms. Vijaymala More.
- **Sikh Jeevan Se** - conducted by Ms. Manju Kadam, Ms. Ankita Mishra and Ms. Anisa Lalani.
- **Antar Dwand** - conducted by Ms. Fatema Travadi, Ms. Pina Chowdhary and Ms. Jigna Sanchania.
- **Utsav Rishto Ka** - conducted by Ms. Manju Kadam, Ms. Ankita Mishra and Ms. Anisa Lalani.
- **Mitro** - conducted by Ms. Mahek Balwani, Ms. Ayesha Khan and Ms. Pratibha Raut.
- **Magical Journey** - conducted by Ms. Roshni Shah, Ms. Ankita Mishra, Ms. Farhana Salyani and Ms. Manju Kadam.

Total 330 parents and caregivers attended these sessions.



यह सेमिनार हिन्दी में उपलब्ध है।

माता-पिता और देखभालकर्ताओं के लिए, जिनके बच्चों को हियरिंग लॉस है।

## तरकीबो का सफर



आओ पहचानें, अपने कौशल और गुणों को और रोचक करें हमारी दुनिया

**दिनांक** - १४ अप्रैल २०२१  
**समय** - ४:०० से ५:३०  
**कहाँ** - जूम पर

**आयोजक**  
प्रतिभा राजत - ९०४९३९६६३९  
आयशा खान - ८६०५५६९९३३  
महक बलवानी - ९०२८१६९५११

रजिस्ट्रेशन अनिवार्य है

संभाज राभनाराओ नो क्लब  
बालको जेभने संभाजराणी समस्था छे तेना मातापिता अने संभाज राभनाराओ माटे बर्कशोप

## जुगाड



विषय: यावो आपरो साथे भजीने माता-पिता अने देखभाल कर्ताओ माटे ओक सुरक्षित स्थान बनावीये, जेथा आपरो मुश्किलीओनो उकेल लावती आपणी कुशलताने ओलपीये, अने जेवनने सरज बनावीने इरी आगल वधीये.

**तारीख**: २१ अप्रैल  
**दिवस**: बुधवार  
**समय**: ४ - ५:३०pm  
**स्थान**: जूम

द्वारा  
इमोमा नवाडी  
पीना योधरी  
जुजा संस्थापीया

रजिस्ट्रेशन जरूरी छे

देखभाल करताओ जिनके बच्चों को हियरिंग लॉस है।

## चमकते सितारों की कहानी



इस कार्यशाला में देखभाल करने वाले एक साथ आएंगे और अपनी कौशल और गुणों की कहानियाँ धर चर्चा करेंगे।

**बुधवार, २८ अप्रैल शाम ४:०० से ५:०० तक**  
यह वर्कशॉप हिंदी में जूम पर लिया जाएगा  
**\*रजिस्ट्रेशन अनिवार्य है\***

**फैसिलिटेटर**  
\* मंजु कदम  
\* अंकिता मिश्रा  
\* अनीसा खानाजी

**रजिस्ट्रेशन के लिए कॉल करें**  
\* 880688564  
\* 9595480775  
\* 8698617727

वही कनेक्ट पेजमें सेल आहे माता-पिता व देखभाल कर्ता यांच्यासाठी ज्याच्या मुलाना ऐकू येत नाही

## जुगाड

स्वतः तला कल्पक संशोधक शोधिया



**दिनांक** - २५/०४/२१  
**वेळ** - ४ ते ५:३०  
**स्थळ** - जूम  
**माध्यम** - मराठी

**आयोजक**  
रश्मी ९४२१९४४०८०  
मीना ८६९९१४०२१९  
विजयमाला ९४२८१६९५०३

सहभागी होण्यासाठी रजिस्ट्रेशन आवश्यक आहे

संभाज राभनाराओ नो क्लब  
बालको जेभने संभाजराणी समस्था छे तेना मातापिता अने संभाज राभनाराओ माटे बर्कशोप

## आपणा गुणोनी ओलप



ओक नाउर द्वारा संभाजराणे हे डोक्याभित्ति मां आस गुणो सुवापेला घोष छे.

**तारीख** : ५ मे २०२१  
**दिवस** : बुधवार  
**समय** : बपौरे ४:०० बौ ५:३०  
**स्थान** : जूम प्लेटफॉर्म

द्वारा प्रबुध  
इमोमा नवाडी ९६२४६१८५२७  
जुजा संस्थापीया ९७९९३८७३७  
पीना योधरी ९६९२५९६९६९०

\*रजिस्ट्रेशन जरूरी छे\*

Let's Connect to Create and Nurture  
For parents/caregivers of children with hearing loss

## Story Tales

Let's step towards selfcare...Explore and express yourself through our own inspiring stories.



**Date**: 17th April 2021  
**Time**: 3:00 to 4:30 pm India  
12:30 to 2:00 pm Kenya  
**Language**: English

**Facilitator**: Zoha Farhana Roshni  
**Where**: Zoom

Registration compulsory

अने जिनको हियरिंग लॉस है उनके माता-पिता और देखभालकर्ताओं के लिए।

## अनबॉक्स जिंदगी- लॉकडाउन काली



**बुधवार, २६ मई शाम ४:०० से ५:०० तक**  
यह वर्कशॉप हिंदी में जूम पर लिया जाएगा  
**\*रजिस्ट्रेशन अनिवार्य है\***

**फैसिलिटेटर**  
\* मंजु कदम  
\* अंकिता मिश्रा  
\* अनीसा खानाजी

**रजिस्ट्रेशन के लिए कॉल करें**  
\* 880688564  
\* 9595480775  
\* 8698617727

यह वर्कशॉप हिन्दी में उपलब्ध है।

## मातृत्व की पहचान

बच्चे जिनको हियरिंग लॉस है, उनके माताओं के लिए है।



**दिनांक** - २६ मई २०२१  
**समय** - ४:०० pm  
**कहाँ** - जूम पर

**आयोजक**  
प्रतिभा राजत - ९०४९३९६६३९  
आयशा खान - ८६०५५६९९३३  
महक बलवानी - ९०२८१६९५११

रजिस्ट्रेशन अनिवार्य है

अने जिनको हियरिंग लॉस है उनके माता-पिता और देखभालकर्ताओं के लिए।

## आज़ादी... [विचारों से]



**बुधवार, २६ अगस्त शाम ४:०० से ५:०० तक**  
यह वर्कशॉप हिंदी में जूम पर लिया जाएगा  
**\*रजिस्ट्रेशन अनिवार्य है\***

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अने जिनको हियरिंग लॉस है उनके माता-पिता और देखभालकर्ताओं के लिए।

## नॉक नॉक कौन हैं?

बोलें देखें, आज हमारी जिंदगी में कौन से भयानक हैं वे दस्तक देते हैं।



**आयोजक**  
आयशा खान - ८६०५५६९९३३  
महक बलवानी - ९०२८१६९५११  
प्रतिभा राजत - ९०४९३९६६३९

**दिनांक** - २ जून २०२१  
**समय** - ४:०० से ५:००  
**कहाँ** - जूम पर

रजिस्ट्रेशन अनिवार्य है

ज्या मुलाना ऐकू येते नाही त्या मुलांच्या मातापिता व देखभाल कर्ता यांच्यासाठी ही कार्यशाळा आहे.

## आईचं आत्मभान

आई म्हणून जगताना तू स्वतः भरभरून जगलीस तर तू दुसऱ्यांना भरभरून देशील.



**दिनांक** - १५/६/२०२१  
**स्थळ** - जूम  
**वेळ** - ४:०० ते ५:३०  
**माध्यम** - मराठी

**आयोजक**  
रश्मी ९४२१९४४०८०  
मीना ८६९९१४०२१९  
विजयमाला ९४२८१६९५०३

सहभागी होण्यासाठी रजिस्ट्रेशन आवश्यक आहे

For parents/caregivers of children with hearing loss

## Discovering the Sparkling Stars

What will we do together:  
- Identify and Understand our children's wonderful qualities and appreciate them.



**Facilitators**: Farhana, Roshni & Zoha  
**When**: 16th June, 2021 - Wednesday  
**Where**: Zoom  
**Time**: 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. (IST)  
1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Kenya)  
**Language**: English

\*Registration is compulsory



**बच्चे जिनको हियरिंग लॉस है उनके माता पिता और देखभालकर्ताओं के लिए**

**सुनहरे बचपन की नींव**

**बुधवार, 30 जून शाम 4:00 से 5:00 तक**  
यह वर्कशॉप हिंदी में जूम पर लिया जाएगा

**\*रजिस्ट्रेशन अनिवार्य है\***

**फैसिलिटेटर**  
\* मंजु कदम  
\* अकिता मिश्रा  
\* अनीसा लालानी

**रजिस्ट्रेशन के लिए कॉल करें**  
\* 880688564  
\* 9595480775  
\* 8698617727

**पहचान**  
यह वर्कशॉप हिंदी में उपलब्ध है।

**बच्चे जिनको हियरिंग लॉस है, उनके माता पिता और देखभालकर्ता के लिए।**

**दिनांक - 18 जुलाई 2021**  
**समय - शाम 4 बजे से 5:30**  
**कहाँ - जूम पर**

**आयोजक-**  
महक वाहजवाली - 9020191919  
आरशा खान - 9049191919  
प्रतिभा खतत - 9049191919

**रजिस्ट्रेशन अनिवार्य है।**

**बालको जेम्ने सांभलवानी समस्या छे तेना मातापिता अने संभाल राभनाराओ माटे वर्कशॉप**

**सांभलो! जरा ध्यानधी रजिस्ट्रेशन जरूरी छे**

**तारीख: 21 जुलाई 2021**  
**दिवस: बुधवार**  
**समय: 4 - 5:30pm**  
**स्थान-जूम प्लेटफॉर्म**

**द्वारा प्रस्तुत:-**  
पीना चौधरी-9892595850  
छुशा संयाहीया-9769638737  
शानेमा तवाडी-9824818527

**दर्पण**

**दिनांक - 07/07/2021**  
**स्थळ-झूम**  
**वेळ-४.०० ते ५.३०**  
**माध्यम-मराठी**

**आयोजक**  
विजयमाला 9829160903  
रश्मी 9829194800  
मीना 9829194800

**या कार्यशाळेत सहभागी होण्यासाठी रजिस्ट्रेशन आवश्यक आहे.**

**For Parents/Caregivers of Children With Hearing Loss**

**Let's Step towards Hope and deal with our Worries.**

**Date: 17/07/2021**  
**Time: 4:00 pm-5:30 pm (IST)**  
**Where: Zoom**  
**Language: English**

**Facilitators: Roslini Farhana Zoha**

**Registration Compulsory**

**बाल मुलांना ऐकू येत नाही त्यांच्या आईवडील व देखभालकर्ता यांच्यासाठी ही कार्यशाळा आहे.**

**स्वतःतील गुण-कौशल्यांची ओळख**

**तारीख-१३/०५/२०२२**  
**स्थळ- झूम**  
**वेळ- ४.०० ते ५.३०**  
**माध्यम - मराठी**

**आयोजक**  
रश्मी ९४२९९४७८०  
मीना ९४२९९४७८०  
विजयमाला ९४२९९४७८०

**सहभागी होण्यासाठी रजिस्ट्रेशन करणे अनिवार्य आहे.**

**बालको जेम्ने सांभलवानी समस्या छे तेना मातापिता अने संभाल राभनाराओ माटे वर्कशॉप**

**साथीदार**

**याबो , आपणा साथीदारने समज्ठये**

**\*रजिस्ट्रेशन जरूरी छे.\***

**तारीख : 4 ओगष्ट 2021**  
**दिवस : बुधवार**  
**समय: अपोरे 3:30 थी 5:00**  
**स्थान: जूम प्लेटफॉर्म**

**द्वारा प्रस्तुत :**  
छुशा संयाहीया 9769638737  
पीना चौधरी 9892595850  
शानेमा तवाडी 9824818527

**बच्चे जिनको हियरिंग लॉस है उनके माता-पिता और देखभालकर्ताओं के लिये।**

**उम्मीदों का सफर**

**बुधवार, 28 जुलाई शाम 4:00 से 5:00 तक**  
यह वर्कशॉप हिंदी में जूम पर लिया जाएगा

**\*रजिस्ट्रेशन अनिवार्य है\***

**फैसिलिटेटर**  
\* मंजु कदम  
\* अकिता मिश्रा  
\* अनीसा लालानी

**रजिस्ट्रेशन के लिए कॉल करें**  
\* 880688564  
\* 9595480775  
\* 8698617727

**बाल मुलांना ऐकू येत नाही त्यांच्या आईवडील व देखभाल करीत यांच्यासाठी ही कार्यशाळा आहे.**

**उत्सव नाट्यांचा क्षण आनंदाचा**

**दिनांक- १५/०९/२०२१**  
**स्थळ-झूम**  
**वेळ- ४.०० ते ५.३०**  
**माध्यम- मराठी**

**आयोजक**  
विजयमाला ९४२९९४७८०  
रश्मी ९४२९९४७८०  
मीना ९४२९९४७८०

**सहभागी होण्यासाठी रजिस्ट्रेशन करणे आवश्यक आहे**

**खट्टे मिठे पल**

**बच्चे जिनको हियरिंग लॉस है, उनके माता पिता और देखभालकर्ता के लिए।**

**दिनांक - ११ अगस्त २०२१**  
**समय - शाम ४:०० बजे से ५:३०**  
**कहाँ - जूम पर भाषा - हिन्दी**

**आयोजक-**  
महक वाहजवाली - 9020191919  
आरशा खान - 9049191919  
प्रतिभा खतत - 9049191919

**रजिस्ट्रेशन अनिवार्य है।**

**बाल मुलांना ऐकू येत नाही त्यांच्या आईवडील व देखभाल करीत यांच्यासाठी ही कार्यशाळा आहे.**

**नक्षत्र**

**मुलांमधील गुणे आणि कौशल्य ओळखू या**

**दिनांक: १८/०८/२०२१**  
**ठिकाण: झूम**  
**वेळ : ४:०० - ५:००**  
**माध्यम: मराठी**

**विजयमाला - ९४२९९४७८०**  
**रश्मी - ९४२९९४७८०**  
**मीना - ९४२९९४७८०**

**नोंदणी अनिवार्य आहे**

બાળકો જોખને સાંભળવાની સમસ્યા છે તેના માતાપિતા અને સંભાળ રાખનારાઓ માટે વર્કશોપ

**ચાલો! ખુશી ને મળીએ**

આ વર્કશોપમાં આપણે સારા ભાવમાં રહેવાની કળા વિશે જાણીએ.

**રજિસ્ટ્રેશન જરૂરી છે**

તારીખ: 1 સપ્ટેમ્બર, 2021  
દિવસ: બુધવાર  
સમય: 4 - 5:30pm  
સ્થાન: ઝૂમ પ્લેટફોર્મ

દ્વારા પ્રસ્તુત  
પીના ચૌધરી-9892595850  
જીજ્ઞા સંચાલીયા-9769638737  
ફાર્હા ત્રવાડી-9824818527

બાળકો જોખને સાંભળવાની સમસ્યા છે તેના માતા-પિતા જોર દેખભાલકર્તાઓ કે લિયે.

**નજરિયા**

કોઈ કદરૂપા છે છાત્રી છે  
કોઈ કદરૂપા છે મરુ હુઆ છે.  
હર દુકા કા નજરિયા  
કહીં વે તો ડહરા હુઆ છે!!

દિનોંક - 02/09/2021  
સમય - 8:00 - 4:30pm  
કઈ - ઝૂમ પર  
ભાષા - હિન્દી

આયોજક -  
આપ્શા ખાન - ૮૬૦૫૫૬૯૯૩૩  
મહક બાલવાની - ૯૦૨૮૧૬૯૫૧૧  
પ્રતિભા રાવત - ૯૦૪૯૩૯૬૬૩૧

રજિસ્ટ્રેશન અનિવાર્ય છે.

બાળકો જોખને સાંભળવાની સમસ્યા છે તેના માતા-પિતા જોર દેખભાલકર્તાઓ કે લિયે.

**સીખ જીવન સે**

બુધવાર, 22 અગસ્ટ શામ 4:00 સે 5:00 તક

યહ વર્કશોપ હિન્દી મેં ઘુમ પર લિયા જાણગા  
\*રજિસ્ટ્રેશન અનિવાર્ય છે\*

ફેસિલિટેટર  
\* મંજુ કદમ  
\* અંકિતા મિશ્રા  
\* અલીસા લાલાની

રજિસ્ટ્રેશન કે લિયે કોલ્ કાર્ડ  
\* 880688564  
\* 9595480775  
\* 8698617727

For Parents/Caregivers of children with hearing loss

**"Quick-Fixes"**

"when life gives you lemons, make lemonade".  
Join us for an interesting workshop on knowing our quick fixes.

When: 30th August, 2021-Monday  
Where: Zoom  
Time: 5:00 p.m to 6:30 p.m (IST)  
2:30 p.m to 4:00 p.m (Kenya)  
Language: English

Facilitator:  
Zoha Ali  
Roshni Shah  
Farhana Salyani

\*Registration compulsory\*

બાળકો જોખને સાંભળવાની સમસ્યા છે તેના માતાપિતા અને સંભાળ રાખનારાઓ માટે વર્કશોપ

**અંતર હંક**

ચાલો!! અંતર મનમાં ડોકિયુ કરીએ.

તારીખ : 6 ઓક્ટોબર 2021  
દિવસ : બુધવાર  
સમય : બપોરે 4:00 થી 5:30  
સ્થાન : ઝૂમ પ્લેટફોર્મ

દ્વારા પ્રસ્તુત :  
જીજ્ઞા સંચાલીયા 9769638737  
પીના ચૌધરી 9892595850  
ફાર્હા ત્રવાડી 9824818527

\*રજિસ્ટ્રેશન જરૂરી છે.\*

Parent Peer Support

બાળકો જોખને સાંભળવાની સમસ્યા છે તેના માતાઓ કે લિયે.

**મિત્રો**

બુધવાર, 27 અગસ્ટ  
શામ 4:00 સે 5:00 તક  
યહ વર્કશોપ ઝૂમ પર લિયા જાણગા.

આયોજક:  
આપ્શા ખાન  
મહક બાલવાની  
પ્રતિભા રાવત

\*રજિસ્ટ્રેશન અનિવાર્ય છે.\*  
WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG

બાળકો જોખને સાંભળવાની સમસ્યા છે તેના માતા-પિતા જોર દેખભાલકર્તાઓ કે લિયે.

**ઉત્સવ રિશ્તોં કા**

બુધવાર, 27 October  
શામ 4:00 સે 5:00 તક

યહ વર્કશોપ ઝૂમ પર લિયા જાણગા

ફેસિલિટેટર-  
મંજુ કદમ  
અંકિતા મિશ્રા  
અનીસા લાલાની

રજિસ્ટ્રેશન કે લિયે કોલ્ કાર્ડ-  
880688564 / 9595480775 / 8698617727

રજિસ્ટ્રેશન અનિવાર્ય છે.

## Teenager Support Sessions

VConnect recognised the need to support the mental health of teenagers and started Teenager Peer Support sessions from 11th April 2021. These sessions are conducted by Aashi Doshi, Nupur Chowdhary and Jehan VJ Daboo under the guidance of the Mental Health team. The intention and focus are to enable the teenagers to be able to speak up for themselves, feel more confident about themselves and their abilities and to build up a better self concept for themselves. The idea stemmed from the fact that we know the pandemic has not been easy on teenagers with hearing loss as it's led to isolation and loss of confidence in themselves and their communication skills. The sessions consist of interaction, activities and sharing of thoughts, ideas and information that is catered to the teenagers who attend. We conduct 2 sessions every month, one in English and one in Hindi/Marathi.

Total 82 teenagers attended these sessions.

**Workshops for Teenagers**

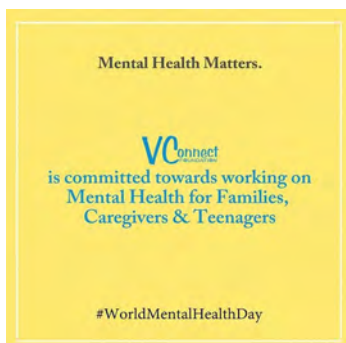
On parents' requests we plan to conduct workshops especially for teenagers.  
A platform to meet other teenagers, interact, have fun, make new friends and be able to express themselves in a safe space.

To enrol your teenager for this please fill the form below -  
Link: <https://forms.gle/9595480775>  
or email: [info@vconnect.org](mailto:info@vconnect.org)

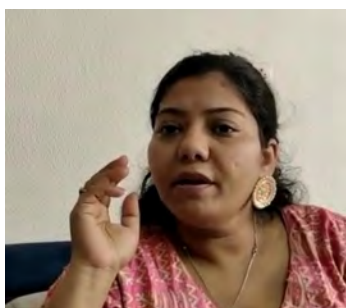




## Creating Awareness about Mental Health on World Mental Health Day



On 10th October 2021, #WorldMentalHealthDay, we raised awareness about the importance of taking care of our mental health just like we take care of our physical health.



On 11th October 2021, #MentalHealthMonday, VConnect Mental Health Facilitator, Ms. Pina N. Chowdhary spoke about how working on mental health has impacted her physical health and her reality.



On 18th October 2021, #MentalHealthMonday video, VConnect Mental Health Facilitator, Ms. Mahek Balwani, talked about the importance of taking out time to nurture your mental health as your mental health is as important as your physical health.



On 1st November 2021, #MentalHealthMonday video, VConnect father, Mr. Hasmukhbhai Prajapati from Gujarat Circle talked about how VConnect Mental Health Workshops have helped him to be mindful of his mental health. He emphasises on how his relationships have evolved with his family as well.

**Coping during the Pandemic:** A video was created by the mental health team during the pandemic to help families understand and become aware of the different ways in which one could cope and take care of the mental health of themselves and their near and dear ones. The VConnect Mental Health Team members participated in this video - they were Ms. Vahishtai J Daboo, Ms. Juliee Thakkar, Ms. Ankita Mishra, Ms. Vijaymala More and Ms. Roshni Shah.



**Mother's Day:** A letter from a mother from the mental health team was shared on **Mother's Day**. It was a heart touching letter for all mothers, where this mother shared her role as a mother at various stages of her life and how she uses her different skills to resolve every little problem her child or family faces. This letter was circulated in Hindi and English on all our whatsapp circles and Social Media Platforms for the larger benefit of all the mothers.

### A Letter to a Mother

**Dear Mother**

Motherhood means putting the health and happiness of others ahead of yourself but today think about yourself and keep sipping hot coffee while listening to music.

Every mother has good days, bad days, days when she is tired and anxious, but today keeping those worries aside remember those moments when you showed courage and succeeded. Like getting the child implanted or taking him/her for therapy, or anything that you did for your child due to which he/she is successful today.

During this Pandemic, I see you in different roles, like you sometimes become a teacher of children, sometimes you become a doctor, sometimes you become a consultant and sometimes you become a home maker. And by managing all these characters, you also manage your office work! Seeing all this, I wonder where did you learn all this and where did these strengths come from?

You have been dealing with various ups and downs at every stage of life which inspires me greatly. You have solution for everything (Jugaad) such as:

- you run the house with available resources during the time of lockdown. Like cooking even with few ingredients.
- Often seek out knowledge for raising your children and take time to engage in workshops and webinars and apply the gained information, such as using mini mic / phone clips to make a child's online class easier.
- Contacting other parents to help you arrange for parts, accessories or batteries for the hearing devices (hearing aid / implant).
- Managing time for children's therapy and learning new ways of children's therapy by interacting with the other mothers.

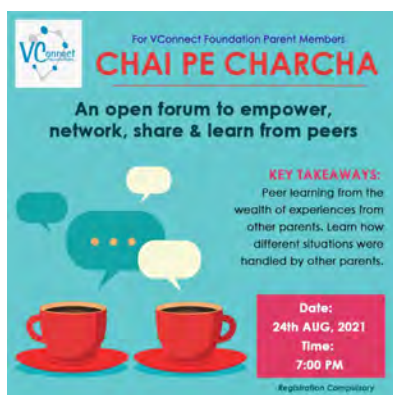
Celebrate this day for yourself, praising all these skills and talents you have. Wishing all the mother's

**A Happy Mother's Day**

I would like to know more about you. Do write a letter to me at:

[contact@vconnectfoundation.org](mailto:contact@vconnectfoundation.org)





## Chai Pe Charcha

This is an open forum where caregivers meet and interact with other caregivers, ask questions and share about their child, their achievements, successes - big or small and how they have navigated their journey with their child. This session was moderated by Vahishtai J Daboo.

Total number of **18** parents and caregivers attended this interactive session.

### Testimonial:

In the program Chai pe Charcha...Vahishtai ji and other parents gave us very good suggestions, strategies to develop speech of our Son to next level...Such guidance, counselling is important for parents like us...and you all are taking great efforts in this regard...I couldn't attend last 15 minutes due to some personal work...but I wanted to thank each one of you for guidance.

- *Mandar Gadage, parent of Chinmay Gadage, 10 years, Pune Circle.*

**Knowledge Hub** - *To disseminate knowledge to caregivers and professionals for the holistic development of the child.*

Knowledge and information are provided on a vast array of subjects that are of importance to the caregiver and to professionals, helping them take necessary steps for the holistic development of their children. The Knowledge Hub consists of the following - Vidya Series, Saath Saath Series, Educational Theme Based Activities, the Music Programme and the Speech and Drama Programme.

### Vidya Series

Experts from the field are invited to conduct workshops and webinars to disseminate knowledge to parents and caregivers regarding their child's holistic development. The sessions are conducted on every fourth Saturday of the month.

### The Vidya Series sessions

1. **Care and Maintenance of Hearing Device** - conducted by Ms. Fatema Jagmaag, Co-Founder and Trustee, VConnect Foundation and Audiologist & Speech/Language Pathologist.
2. **Auditory Verbal Therapy at Home** - conducted by Ms. Vahishtai J Daboo, LSLS Cert. AV, Trained in Narrative Practices, Co-Founder & Managing Trustee, VConnect Foundation.
3. **How to Tell Stories so that your child Listens** - conducted by Ms. Mala Chadha, Special Educator.
4. **Understanding Hearing Loss** - conducted by Ms. Fatema Jagmaag, Co-Founder and Trustee, VConnect Foundation and Audiologist & Speech/Language Pathologist.
5. **Role of Special Education** - conducted by Ms. Manek Chitalwala, Special Educator, FIE practitioner, Certified Academic Language Therapist.
6. **Reading Comprehension** - conducted by Ms. Mala Chadha, Special Educator.
7. **Genetic Counselling** - conducted by Dr. Hema Purandarey, Consultant Medical Geneticist.
8. **Importance of Dental Hygiene** - conducted by Dr. Rupali Chintamani Kale, MDS Paediatric & Preventive Dentist. Qualified in Nutrition & Sports Nutrition.
9. **Spelling Strategies** - conducted by Ms. Mala Chadha, Special Educator.

Total **477** parents and caregivers attended the webinars.



**विद्याVIDYA**

Webinar for Parents and Caregivers of Children With Hearing Loss

### Care and Maintenance of Hearing Devices

Conducted by:  
**Fatema Jagmaag**  
Co-Founder & Trustee, VConnect Foundation  
& Audiologist & Speech/Language Pathologist

**Key Takeaway:**

- Ensuring your child's hearing device functions smoothly and last longer.
- Care during summer and monsoon.

When: Saturday, 24th April 2021  
Time: 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

\*Registration Compulsory\*

**विद्याVIDYA**

Webinar for Parents and Caregivers of Children With Hearing Loss

### AUDITORY VERBAL THERAPY AT HOME

Conducted by:  
**Vahishtai J Daboo**  
ELSA Cert. APT,  
Co-Founder & Managing Trustee,  
VConnect Foundation

**Key Takeaway:**

- To understand what APT is and its application at home.
- Activities/Exercises that can be done at home.

When: Saturday, 29th May 2021  
Time: 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

\*Registration Compulsory To Attend\*

**विद्याVIDYA**

FOR PARENTS & CAREGIVERS OF CHILDREN WITH HEARING LOSS

### HOW TO TELL STORIES SO THAT YOUR CHILD LISTENS (Part 2 of 4)

Conducted by:  
**Mala Chadha**  
Special Educator

When:  
Saturday, 26th June 2021  
Time: 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

**KEY TAKEAWAY:**  
To know that creating a language rich environment is an essential foundation for building reading skills.

\*Registration Compulsory\*  
TO ATTEND THIS WEBINAR, REGISTER HERE: [WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG)

**विद्याVIDYA**

Webinar for Parents and Caregivers of Children With Hearing Loss

### UNDERSTANDING HEARING LOSS

Conducted by:  
**Fatema Jagmaag**  
Co-Founder & Trustee, VConnect Foundation  
& Audiologist & Speech/Language Pathologist

**Key Takeaway:**

- Understand the process of hearing
- Causes of hearing loss
- Tests used to measure hearing loss

When: Saturday, 31st July 2021  
Time: 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

\*Registration Compulsory To Attend\*

**विद्याVIDYA**

WEBINAR FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH HEARING LOSS

### Role of Special Education

Conducted by:  
**Mrs. Manek Chitalwala**  
Special Educator, FIE practitioner,  
Certified Academic Language Therapist

**Key Takeaway:**  
Role of a Remedial Educator in the education of the child with hearing loss

When: Saturday, 28th August 2021  
Time: 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

\*Registration Compulsory To Attend\*

**विद्याVIDYA**

For parents and caregivers of children with hearing loss

### Topic: Reading Comprehension

by  
**Mala Chadha**  
Special Educator

**Key takeaways:**  
Strategies to process and understand text material

**Material required:**  
Come prepared to share your experiences

When:  
25th September 2021  
4:00 - 5:00pm

\*Registration Compulsory\*  
[WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG)

**विद्याVIDYA**

For Parents of Children with Hearing Loss

### Genetic Counselling

Dr. Hema Purandarey  
Consultant Medical Geneticist

When:  
23rd October, 2021  
4:00pm to 5:00pm

**Key Takeaways:**

- Early diagnosis, understanding the cause of deafness and prevention of further recurrence - through genetic counselling is crucial.

\*Registration Compulsory\*  
[WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG)

**विद्याVIDYA**

For parents and caregivers of children with hearing loss

### IMPORTANCE OF DENTAL HYGIENE

Dr. Mrs. Rupali Chintamani Kale

**Date & Time**  
27th November  
Saturday  
4:00pm - 5:00pm

**Key Takeaways**

- Daily oral care
- Diet which prevents dental decay

MDS Pediatric & Preventive Dentist  
Qualified in Nutrition & Sports Nutrition

\*REGISTRATION COMPULSORY\*  
[WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG)

**विद्याVIDYA**

For Parents and Caregivers of Children With Hearing Loss

### Spelling Strategies

With:  
**Mala Chadha**  
Special Educator

When:  
Saturday, 18th Dec, 2021  
4:00P.M. - 5:00P.M.

**Key Takeaways**  
Explore 5 simple strategies to teach / learn spelling.

\*Registration Compulsory\*  
[WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG)

### Testimonial:

I must thank VConnect for conducting such interactive and informative sessions like these. VConnect team is very enthusiastic. They are covering topics in the Vidya series which are useful for every child. If we follow these steps our children's base will become strong. Topics you choose are awesome.

Thank you once again.

- Rani Villu, parent of Nithya Praneetha, 11 years, Hyderabad.

## Saath Saath Series

The Saath Saath series provides exposure to new different skill based co-curricular activities and creates a strong caregiver and child bond. Both the children and the caregivers participate in the activities. These sessions are conducted on every second Saturday of the month.

The following webinars were conducted in April to December 2021.

1. **Speech and Drama** - conducted by Ms. Anjali Sanghvi, Speech and Drama facilitator at **Expressions Unlimited, Pune**.
2. **Exploring Career for the Youth** - conducted by Mr. Rakesh Doshi, Trainer and Career Counsellor.
3. **Basics of Photography and the Art of Seeing** - conducted by Mr. Srivatsan Sankaran, Travel Photographer, Founder, Madaras Photo Bloggers.
4. **Placement Opportunities For Youth With Hearing Loss** - conducted by Mr. Sameer Nair, Operations head - Wise for Youth4Jobs Foundation.
5. **Dice and Card Games to Enhance Mathematical Skills** - conducted by Ms. Mansi Chandorkar, Remedial Learning Facilitator.
6. **Fiddle Scribble with Priyam** - conducted by Ms. Priyam Mehta, Artist Mentor.
7. **Fit Fun** - conducted by Bootcamp By the Bay.

Total 283 parents and caregivers attended the webinars.



## Testimonial:

The Saath Saath Series which helps parents and children understand the benefit of exploring extra curricular activities is amazing. Children are able to explore options like stories, dance, quilling, and the importance of games. The selfless work done by VConnect Foundation is really commendable.

- Swati Gupta, parent of Kartisha Gupta, 9 years, Bilaspur.



## Educational Theme Based Activities

Every month Theme Based Activities which are creative, educational and fun for families are conducted. These activities are related to festivals, special occasions and national holidays are posted on all our circles. This gives families an opportunity to provide new vocabulary and rich language to their children by exploring new innovative ideas with their children and create something special with them.



The activities conducted are listed below :

1. Earth Day Activity
2. Father's Day Activity
3. Yoga Day: On 21st June 2021, International Yoga Day, a VConnect parent, Ms. Rutuja Ghaisas, who is a certified Yoga Teacher, volunteered to conduct a Yoga Session for the families. The session was conducted over zoom from 4 to 5 pm.
4. Independence Day Activity
5. Rakhi Making Activity
6. Janmashtami Activity
7. Diwali Activity

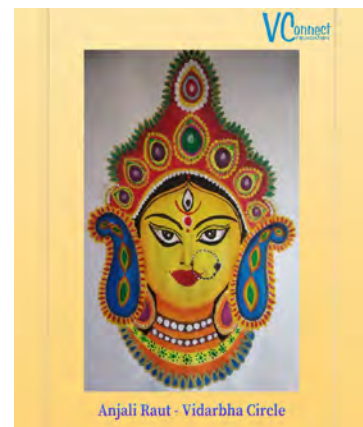
93 children were a part of these activities.



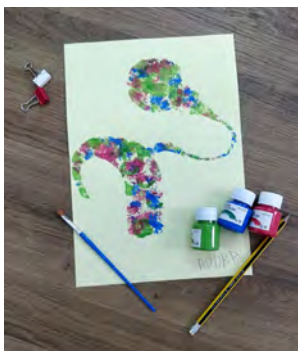


## Encouraging Art

VConnect strives to encourage the art and creativity skills of children. Children are encouraged to share their creativity with us and are encouraged to use their creativity to create art using different mediums. This art created by the children is then selected and displayed with the child's name as the **creative for our whats app DP** to encourage children's art and encourage other children to start creating their art and displaying it on the group.



## Cochlear Implant Day



On 20th December 2021, a wonderful activity for advocating children about the cochlear implant was conducted. Children came up with questions and got to know a lot about their processor.

## Music Programme

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** conducts weekly music sessions for children upto 12 years. Sessions are conducted once a week in 2 batches.

19 children are regularly attending music sessions.

### Testimonial:



Mrs. Arpita Kanzarkar shared her video feedback the text for the same is shared below:

My name is Arpita Kanzarkar, mother of a 4 years old bilateral cochlear implantee, Rudra.

We have been attending music sessions arranged by the VConnect group for the last 4 months. These music sessions are helping to enhance my kid's linguistic skills and awareness of music. Such group activities are useful to build confidence and music gives emotional benefits too. Because of teaching different pitches and tones through music, I have seen improvement in clarity of my child's speech.

- Arpita Kanzarkar, parent of Rudra Kanzarkar, 4 years old, Marathwada Circle.

### Encouraging Music



A music video of Ayaan Haider Ali, 5 years old, singing was shared with the families to encourage and show them how attending regular music sessions can enable children with hearing loss to sing.

### Featured in the News



On 7th December 2021, VConnect Foundation was featured in a newspaper article, thanks to The Sound Space.

## Children Performing at Chhatrapati Shivaji Vastu Sangrahalaya Museum, Mumbai



On 27th Feb 2022, VConnect children, Hitansh Oswal, Mayank Sante and Vivek Killedar took part in a musical event organised by The Sound Space Concert at CSVSM. These children have been attending music sessions conducted by VConnect Foundation in collaboration with The Sound Space since last one year. They sang the song, "Sa sings the Sunflower."

## Speech and Drama Programme

### 1) Speech & Drama Summer Camp:

A five day **Speech and Drama** summer camp was organised in the month of May for the children of **VConnect Foundation** from 4 to 12 years of age in two different batches. This was conducted in collaboration with the prestigious speech and drama organisation, **Expressions Unlimited, Pune**. Children thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and this showed in their 100% attendance. These sessions were conducted online through the Zoom platform.

A total of **18** children participated in the Speech and Drama sessions everyday for 5 days.



### 2) Regular Speech & Drama Classes in collaboration with The Create Foundation:

VConnect Foundation has collaborated with **The Create Foundation**, which is founded by theatre personality, Raell Padamsee, to conduct weekly on-line sessions for our children. Children from across India participate in these wonderfully curated sessions conducted by expert trainers.

Speech and Drama is a fun way to improve children's speech, language and confidence, enabling them to feel confident in speaking up, conversing, talking in public, acting, making presentations and advocating for themselves.

The entire Speech and Drama programme is headed by Ms. Pina Chowdhary, our VConnect Ambassador. The following activities are being conducted in collaboration with The Create Foundation:

**A) Speech and Drama Classes:** Speech and Drama classes with The Create Foundation commenced online for children 9 years and above, from 11th October 2021 and are conducted every Monday at 4pm. This group of children put up a fantastic performance at the 15th VConnect Annual Day Celebration - 'The Lofty Trees'.

**14** children are a part of this Speech and Drama Class.



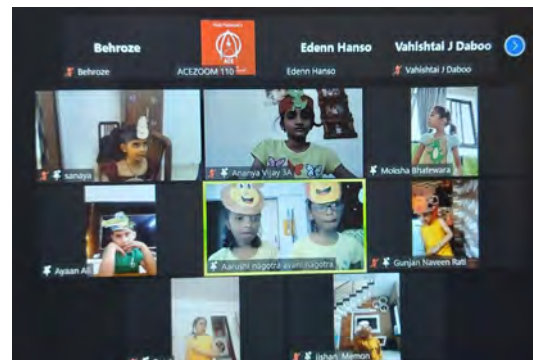


### Testimonial:

My son Hitansh has enrolled for the Speech and Drama sessions. He enjoys the session .I find his pronunciation getting better.Hitansh looks forward to the session and is very excited to be a part of it.I would in future like to get my daughter enrolled too. Thank you.

- Poonam Oswal, parent of Hitansh Oswal, 12 years, South Mumbai Circle.

**B) Speech and Drama for younger children:** A new batch for younger children between the ages of 6 to 9 years was conducted over 10 sessions of one hour each, on Wednesdays and Fridays from 25th February 2022. These sessions were conducted online on Zoom. At the culmination of 10 sessions, the children put up a wonderful performance for the VConnect family consisting of parents and caregivers, siblings and the VConnect team.



15 children were enrolled and participated in this activity.

### Participation in Video for The Create Foundation:



1) Three VConnect children, Yajant Mishra, Rushna Khatri & Ali Mohammed Ryaz Khan from the Speech & Drama classes had the opportunity to be part of The Create Foundation's Video which was shared widely on 15th November 2021. It is indeed wonderful for these children to have opportunities to perform!!!



2) Soham Kadam and Nupur Chowdhary too had an opportunity to participate in the Christmas & New Year video created by The Create Foundation and again this video too was shared widely.

**Advocacy** - *To advocate the need for an inclusive ecosystem*

### New Born Hearing Screening

VConnect Foundation submitted a proposal to Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) - Chief Medical Officer in February 2021 to make Universal New Born Hearing Screening (UNBHS) - a mandate in the BMC hospitals.

In November 2021, the same proposal was also submitted to the Health Ministry in New Delhi through the representation made by the Cochlear Implant Group of India-CIGI.

On our 15th Founder's Day at VConnect's Virtual International Conference, we invited the Speaker of Vidhan Sabha and the Joint Commissioner of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to inaugurate our International Conference as well as to impress upon and advocate to the Government agencies about the importance and need for New Born Hearing Screening (NBHS), so that it can be made mandatory in the BMC Hospitals. Post our interactions with the Government agencies, they have taken a very proactive step of conducting awareness drives, emphasising on the need for UNBHS, on The World Hearing Day. There was a message sent out by a number of celebrities stressing the need to test every child's hearing at birth, naming the hearing tests mandated to be done at birth.

### Hamare Adhikar / Our Rights

Ms. Jigna Sanchania has been appointed as the lead facilitator for Hamare Adhikar / Our Rights series. She, along with her team, researches and puts together the entire programme across a range of topics ranging from rights, benefits, concessions that families can avail in education, income tax and the different travel concessions. Right to Education, how to make a disability certificate, how to make the UDID card, where can one go and how can one avail of these services, this is all shared with the families in the different workshops conducted. There are different statewise concessions and benefits, rules and regulations, all of this is well documented and shared to make the process of availing these benefits smoother and easier for the families. All the resource material is created in four languages - Hindi, Gujarati, Marathi and English and is available in the resource section of the VConnect website [Resources – VConnect Foundation](#)

The following online webinars were conducted by her under this series:

- Right to Education and ADIP scheme
- Unique Disability Identity Card (UDID) for various regions including - Mumbai, Pune, Vidarbha, Marathwada, Rajasthan, Delhi, Bangalore and Gujarat.



127 parents and caregivers attended the webinars.

### Testimonials:

- 1) The online NIOS Schooling Session organised by VCONNECT is very good and gives us accurate information about what other options we have in the future for the education of our children. This session was provided to us by the team of VConnect. Many important issues were covered under it. The main objective of NIOS is to provide primary, secondary, vocational and life skills education to a wide variety of children having disabilities and study regular subjects. So that children can easily understand and learn. This session is a great source of learning for parents who have been provided with a lot of information. I would like to thank the entire team of VConnect for this session.
- Vipul Talpada, parent of Ayush Talpada 10 years, Gujarat Circle.
- 2) It was very informative. All required details provided in perfect manner. Even the support of slides was also very much helpful. Participants asked many questions which were replied in a detailed manner.

Appreciate Team VConnect for conducting a very nice and much needed webinar.

Thanks in ton. 🙏🙏🙏

- Omkar Deshpande, parent of Malhar Deshpande, 15 Years, Pune circle.

## VConnect Virtual International Conference 2022

**VConnect Foundation** celebrated its 15th Anniversary by having a three day **Virtual International Conference, 'Together WE CAN'** on 11th, 12th and 13th February 2022. The conference was one of its kind, first ever in India, which brought together for the benefit of caregivers, children, teenagers, professionals, educators, hearing device companies and government agencies all on a common platform. Twenty seven eminent national and international speakers presented at the conference. It was an action packed three day event with excellent sessions and information shared which helped every participant go back with something to work on or think about. The entire three day conference was free of charge for all participants.





## Meet the Eminent National & International Speakers of the Conference:

Together WE CAN Virtual International Conference 11, 12, 13 February 2022 VCconnect

### Meet The Speaker

Opening address by



**Dr. Milind V. Kirtane (Padmashree)**  
Eminent ENT and Cochlear Implant Surgeon

For registration and detailed agenda visit us at  
[WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG)

Together WE CAN Virtual International Conference 11, 12, 13 February 2022 VCconnect

### Meet The Speaker

Keynote Address - 1




**Ms. Gayla Guignard**  
Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, USA

For registration and detailed agenda visit us at  
[WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG)

Together WE CAN Virtual International Conference 11, 12, 13 February 2022 VCconnect

### Meet The Speaker

The Role of AYJNISHD in the lives of parents of children with Hearing Loss



**Dr. Aparna Nandurkar**  
Faculty Department of Audiology, AYJNISHD(D), Mumbai

For registration and detailed agenda visit us at  
[WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG)

Together WE CAN Virtual International Conference 11, 12, 13 February 2022 VCconnect

### Meet The Speaker

Key Note Address - 4



**Dr. Sue Archbold**  
CICCA - Cochlear Implant International Community of Action

For registration and detailed agenda visit us at  
[WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG)

Together WE CAN Virtual International Conference 11, 12, 13 February 2022 VCconnect

### Meet The Speaker



**Dr. Pervin Dadachanji**  
Psychiatrist

Shares her insights on Managing Teenage Mental Health

For registration and detailed agenda visit us at  
[WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG)

Together WE CAN Virtual International Conference 11, 12, 13 February 2022 VCconnect

### Meet The Speaker

A session on Life Skills for Children taken by



**Dr. Mihir Parekh**  
Psychologist, Special Educator, Author

For registration and detailed agenda visit us at  
[WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG)

Together WE CAN Virtual International Conference 11, 12, 13 February 2022 VCconnect

### Meet The Speaker

Social Emotional Learning



**Amrita Nair**  
Director, R&D, and Advocacy  
Apni Shala Foundation

For registration and detailed agenda visit us at  
[WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG)

Together WE CAN Virtual International Conference 11, 12, 13 February 2022 VCconnect

### Meet The Speaker

A thought-provoking session on Decoding Inclusion



**Ms. Shamin Mehrotra**  
UMMEED Child Development Center

For registration and detailed agenda visit us at  
[WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG)

Together WE CAN Virtual International Conference 11, 12, 13 February 2022 VCconnect

### Meet The Speaker

Conversations with Young Persons moderated by



**Ms. Mala Chadha**  
Special Educator and Narrative Therapist – Ummeed CDC

For registration and detailed agenda visit us at  
[WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG)

Together WE CAN Virtual International Conference 11, 12, 13 February 2022 VCconnect

### Meet The Speaker

Importance of Sports and Fitness in Life



**Dhanlaxmi Krishnan**  
Team INDIA Athletics Coach for International Board Sports Organisation

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[WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG)

Together WE CAN Virtual International Conference 11, 12, 13 February 2022 VCconnect

### Meet The Speaker

Chatting Teens





**Ms. Aashi Doshi** **Mr. Jehan VJ Daboo** **Ms. Nupur Chowdhary**

VConnect Foundation Teenage Trainers

For registration and detailed agenda visit us at  
[WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG)

Together WE CAN Virtual International Conference 11, 12, 13 February 2022 VCconnect

### Meet The Speaker

Islands of Rest – A Workshop on Caregiver Well-being





**Ms. Anisa Lalani** **Ms. Zoha Asad Ali** **Ms. Ayesha Riyaz Khan**

VConnect Foundation Mental Health Team

For registration and detailed agenda visit us at  
[WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG)



Together WE CAN Virtual International Conference 11, 12, 13 February 2022

**Meet The Speaker**



Ms. Fatema Jagmaag  
Senior Audiologist & Speech / Language Pathologist

New Born Hearing Screening Session

For registration and detailed agenda visit us at  
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Together WE CAN Virtual International Conference 11, 12, 13 February 2022

**Meet The Speaker**



Ms. Vahishtai J Daboo  
LSLS Cert. AVT and Narrative Practitioner

In Conversation with Caregivers

For registration and detailed agenda visit us at  
[WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG)

Together WE CAN Virtual International Conference 11, 12, 13 February 2022

**Meet The Speaker**

Career Opportunities for Teens with Hearing Loss



Ms. Sujaya Shetty  
Director, Sujaya Foundation



Mr. Sameer Nair  
Head-Flagship Program, Youth 4 Jobs Foundation



Ms. Priya Agarwal  
Founder-Director Antarnag Foundation

For registration and detailed agenda visit us at  
[WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG)

Together WE CAN Virtual International Conference 11, 12, 13 February 2022

**Meet The Speaker**

Introduction to Narrative Practice



Mr. Raviraj Shetty  
Occupational Therapist & Co-Founder of Narrative Practices India Collective



Ms. Vahishtai J Daboo  
LSLS Cert. AVT & Narrative Practitioner

For registration and detailed agenda visit us at  
[WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG)

Together WE CAN Virtual International Conference 11, 12, 13 February 2022

**Technology Update Sessions**

Cochlear & Resound  
Advanced Bionics & Phonak  
MedEl  
Oticon & Oticon

For registration and detailed agenda visit us at  
[WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.VCONNECTFOUNDATION.ORG)

## Glance through schedule of the conference:

Day 1 - Friday, 11th February 2022				
Time	Themes	Session Name	Speaker	
05:00 pm - 05:05 pm	Common	Welcome Address	Ms. Purvee Parekh	Trustee VConnect Foundation, Parent & Philanthropist
05:05 pm - 05:10 pm	Common	Lighting of the Lamp		
05:10 pm - 05:15 pm	Common	Chief Guest	Shri Zirwal Saheb (Hon Chairman Vidhaan Sabha)	
05:15 pm - 05:25 pm	Common	Guest of Honour - Opening Address	Dr. M. V. Kirtane (Padma Shree)	Eminent ENT & Cochlear Implant Surgeon
05:25 pm - 05:40 pm	Common	Guest of Honour - Inaugural Address	Shri Shekhar Chore (Jt Commissioner BMC)	
05:40 pm - 05:45 pm	Common	Guest of Honour	Shri Rais Shaikh (MLA)	
05:45 pm - 06:00 pm	Common	New Born Hearing Screening	Ms. Fatema Jagmaag, Ms. Gayla Guignard, Mr. Brian Lamb OBE, Dr. Sumit Mrig	
06:05 pm - 06:20 pm	Common	<b>Keynote Address - 1</b>	Ms. Gayla Guignard, Mr. Emilio Alonso-Mendoza	Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing, USA
06:20 pm - 06:45 pm	Wellbeing	Conversations with Young Persons - Panel Discussion	Moderated by - Ms. Mala Chadha	Special Educator & Narrative Therapist - Ummeed CDC, Committee Member - VConnect Foundation
06:45 pm - 06:55 pm	Common	<b>Keynote Address - 2</b>	Ms. Vahishtai J Daboo	LSLS Cert. AVT & Narrative Practitioner, Co-Founder & Managing Trustee - VConnect Foundation
06:55 pm - 07:10 pm	Common	Children's Performances	VConnect Foundation Children	
07:10 pm - 07:30 pm	Common	VConnect Foundation Overview	VConnect Foundation Team	
07:30 pm - 08:00 pm	Care	The Role of AYJNISHD in the Lives of Families of Children with Hearing Loss	Dr. Aparna Nandurkar	Faculty, Department of Audiology, AYJNISHD (D)

### Day 2 - Saturday, 12th February 2022

Time	Themes	Session Name	Speaker	
10.00 am - 10.30 am	Wellbeing	Managing Teenage Mental Health	Dr. Pervin Dadachanji	Psychiatrist (with special interest in child adolescent psychiatry)
10.30 am - 11.00 am	Wellbeing	Introduction to Narrative Practice	Mr. Raviraj Shetty	Occupational Therapist & Co-Founder of Narrative Practices India Collective
			Ms. Vahishti J Daboo	LSLS Cert. AVT & Narrative Practitioner, Co-Founder & Managing Trustee - VConnect Foundation
11.00 am - 11.30 am	Advocacy	Words We Use	Ms. Mala Chadha	Special Educator & Narrative Therapist - Ummeed CDC, Committee Member - VConnect Foundation
11.30 am - 12.00 pm	Inclusion	Social Emotional Learning	Ms. Amrita Nair	Co-Founder & Director R&D / Advocacy - Apni Shala
12.00 pm - 01.00 pm	Wellbeing	Islands of Rest	1) Ms. Anisa Lalani 2) Ms. Zoha Asad Ali 3) Ms. Ayesha Reyas Khan	VConnect Foundation Mental Health Team
02.00 pm - 03.00 pm	Wellbeing	Chatting Teens	1) Mr. Jehan VJ Daboo 2) Ms. Nupur Chowdhary 3) Ms. Aashi Doshi	VConnect Foundation Trainers
03.00 pm - 03.30 pm	Wellbeing	Importance of Sports & Fitness in Life	Ms. Dhanlaxmi Krishnan	Physical Fitness Trainer
03.30 pm - 04.00 pm	Inclusion	Life Skills for Children	Dr. Mihir Parekh	Psychologist, Special Educator & Author
04.00 pm - 04.30 pm	Inclusion	Decoding Inclusion	Ms. Shamin Mehrotra	Director - School Outreach, Senior Mental Health Therapist - Ummeed Child Development Center
04.30 pm - 05.15 pm	Inclusion	Career Opportunities	1) Ms. Sujaya Shetty	1) Director - Sujaya Foundation
			2) Mr. Sameer Nair	2) Head - Flagship Program, Youth4Jobs Foundation
			3) Ms. Priya Agarwal	3) Founder - Director, Antarnag Foundation
05:15 pm - 05:45 pm	Wellbeing	Conversations with Caregivers - Panel Discussion	Moderated by - Ms. Vahishti J Daboo	LSLS Cert. AVT & Narrative Practitioner, Co-Founder & Managing Trustee - VConnect Foundation

### Day 3 - Sunday, 13th February 2022

Time	Themes	Session Name	Speaker	
10.00 am - 10.40 am	Care	Technology Update	1. Ms. Sunita Chakraborty (Cochlear Medical Device Company India Pvt. Ltd.) 2. Mr. Dattatraya Madiraju (Resound - GN Hearing India Pvt. Ltd.)	
10.40 am - 11.20 am	Care	Technology Update	1. Dr. Aninda Duti Banik (Advanced Bionics India Pvt. Ltd.) 2. Ms. Aafreen Sandhu (Phonak - Sonova Hearing India Pvt. Ltd.)	
11.20 am - 11.50 am	Care	Technology Update	Mr. Amit Sahgal (MedEl India Pvt. Ltd.)	
11.50 am - 12.30 pm	Care	Technology Update	Mr. Ninad Sapre (Oticon, Otic Hearing Solutions Pvt. Ltd.)	
12.30 pm - 12.50 pm	Common	Keynote Address - 3	Dr. Sue Archbold	Consultant - research, public policy, deafness & hearing care, CI & deaf education, Coordinator - CIICA, UK
12.50 pm - 01.00 pm	Common	Closing Address	Ms. Fatema Jagmaag	Senior Audiologist & Speech / Language Pathologist, Co-Founder & Trustee - VConnect Foundation
01.00 pm - 01.05 pm	Common	VConnect Anthem	VConnect Foundation Parent Performance	

Program is subject to change

- Total Registered Parents and Professionals - 697. Total Attendees - 409

A glimpse of the sessions:



Dr. M.V. Kirtane (Padmashree),  
Eminent ENT Surgeon



Shri. Shekhar Chore, JT.MC.MCO

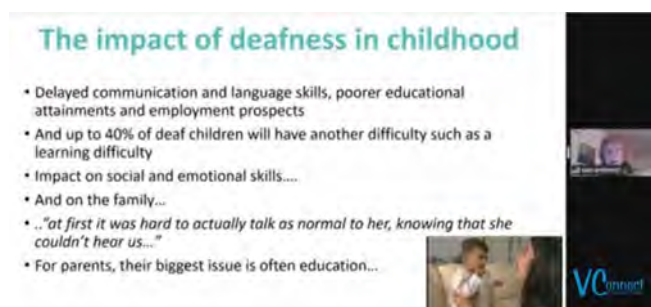




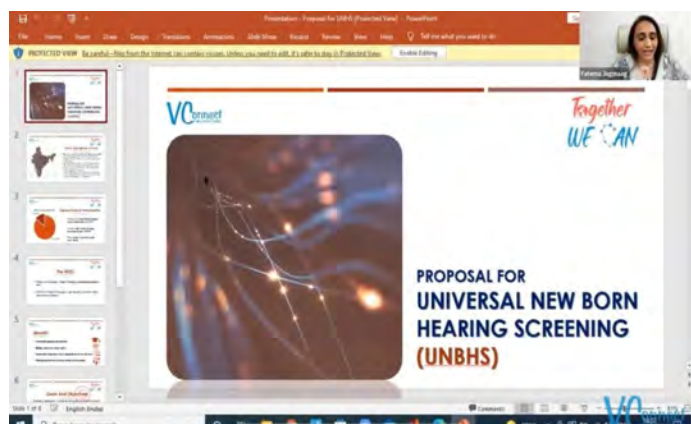
**Shri Zirwal Saheb**



**Keynote Address - Ms. Gayla Guignard & Mr. Emilio Alonosa Mendoza**



**Keynote Speaker - Dr. Sue Archbold**



**Universal New Born Hearing Screening - Ms. Fatema Jagmaag**



**Conversation with Young Adults - Moderated by Ms.Mala Chadha. Young Adults - Jehan VJ Daboo, Aashi Doshi and Nupur Chowdhary.**



**Conversation with Caregivers** - Moderated by Ms. Vahishtai J Daboo. Caregivers - Mr. Prajapati Hasmukhbhai, Ms. Arpita Kanzarkar, Ms. Archana Misrty and Ms. Kalpana Paswan.



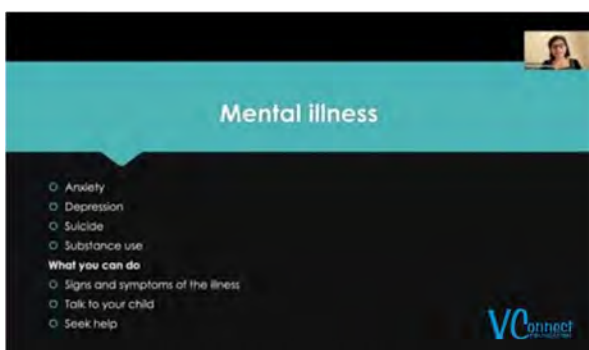
**Words We Use** by Ms. Mala Chadha



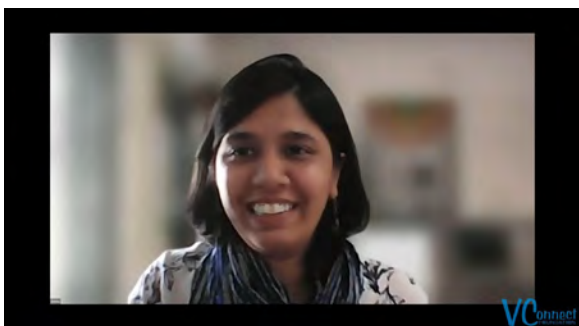
**The Role of AYJNISHD in the Lives of Families of Children with Hearing Loss** by Ms. Aparna Nandurkar



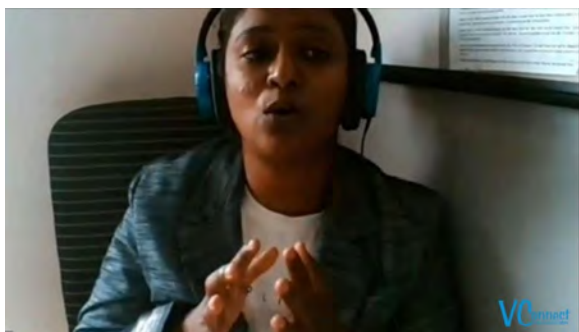
**Introduction to Narrative Practice** by Dr. Raviraj Shetty



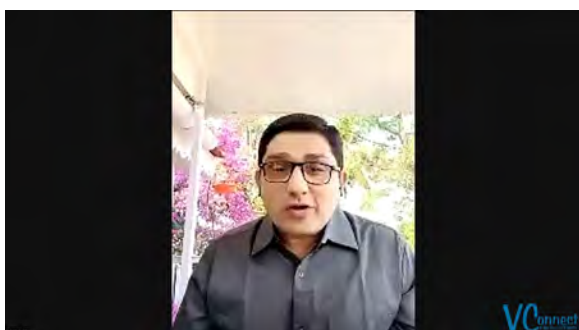
**Managing Teenage Mental Health** by Dr. Pervin Dadachanji



**Social Emotional Learning by Ms. Amrita Nair**



**Importance of Sports and Fitness in Life by  
Ms. Dhanlaxmi Krishnan**



**Life Skills For Children By Dr. Mihir Parekh**



**Decoding Inclusion by Ms. Shamin Mehrotra**



**Career Opportunities by Ms. Sujaya Shetty,  
Sujaya Foundation**

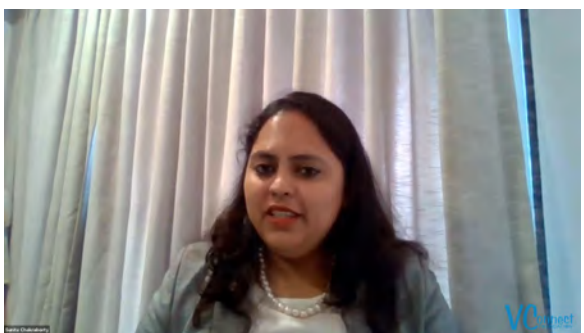




**Career Opportunities by Mr. Sameer Nair, Youth4Jobs**



**Career Opportunities by Ms. Priya Agrawal,  
Antarang Foundation**



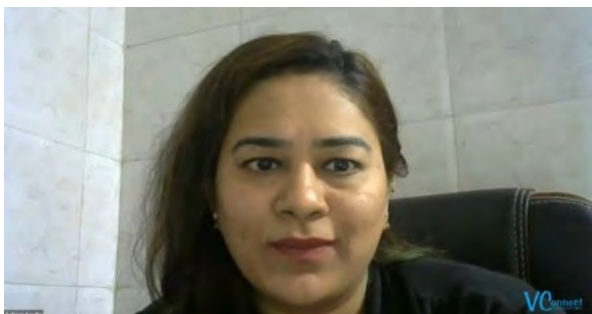
**Ms. Sunita Chakraborty,  
Cochlear Medical Device Company Pvt.Ltd.**



**Mr. Dattatreya Madiraju,  
Resound - GN Hearing India Pvt Ltd.**



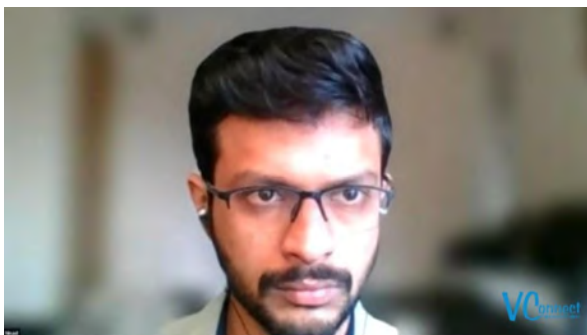
**Dr. Aninda Duti Banik, Advanced Bionics India Pvt. Ltd**



**Ms. Afreen Sandhu, Phonak,  
Sonova Hearing India Pvt Ltd**



**Mr. Amit Sahgal, MedEl India Pvt Ltd**



**Mr. Ninad Sapre, Oticon, Otic Hearing Solutions Pvt. Ltd.**

## Children's Performances at the 15th Annual Celebration



**Singing**



**Dance**



**Drama**




## Testimonials from the conference:

G A Chandak to Everyone  
GA Lovely performance!!!!

Jigna Sanchania to Everyone  
JS very nice performance 🍌

Anushka Kapadia to Everyone  
AK Kudos to the kids!

Roshni Shah to Everyone  
 lovely performance 🍌

Rashmi Chutke to Everyone  
RC rock stars 🌟

Vishala Khurana to Hosts and panelists  
VK Wonderful performances by the children :)

Sonal kaushik to Everyone  
SK Super dancer


Mala Chadha to Everyone  
MC Superb! So much energy

Pratibha Raut to Everyone  
PR lovely dancer

G A Chandak to Everyone  
GA Wonderful!!!

Subhagini Sahu to Everyone  
SS supper and wonderful Session

Jehan VJ Daboo to Everyone  
JV FABULOUS VARIETY of sessions!!! I took something from each session!!!

Ankur Chandak to Hosts and panelists  
 So True, very well curated sessions!!! so much to take away!!!

Hema Samani to Everyone  
HS Very Informative Session! Thanks Aparnaji

subhashree mohan to Everyone  
SM very good books to understand about dealing n developing language for kids available at AYJ

Jehan VJ Daboo to Everyone  
JV What a fabulous session!!! AYJ really does a lot!!

Arvind Palaria to Hosts and panelists  
AP Thank you ma'am

sue archbold to Everyone  
SA See you tomorrow ! Sue Archbold

Nupur Chowdhary Syba 228 to Everyone  
NC thank youuuu vconnect

rehana khairaz to Everyone  
RK Thanku it was very informative

subhashree mohan to Everyone  
SM definitely many takeaways.Thank u Vconnect!!

Neera Lalwani to Everyone  
NL Thank you so much for an excellent conference and all the efforts you all put in!

garima to Everyone  
G wonderful session with lot of encouragement  
lots of applaud to the team

Shwetachh04@gmail.com Chhittarka to Everyone  
SC thank you  
very informative thank you very much  
can you please suggest name of this cour  
courses

Mithila to Everyone  
M sometimes its good to note how many times we are saying 'no' to our children.  
verbally and non verbally

Sonal kaushik to Everyone  
SK Great points

Pina Chowdhary to Everyone  
PC great points

Renuka to Everyone  
R Thanks sir  
Great information

Kalyani Mandke to Everyone  
KM vahishtai, excellent session.  
congratulations to V Connect.

subhashree mohan to Everyone  
kudos to darling kids

Neeraja Vasa to Everyone  
NV kudos to V Connect.... for bringing all the children together for the beautiful collaboration

68-15-G6171-Prajapati-Ja... to Everyone  
6 excellent session

Harshda Rajput. to Hosts and panelists  
HR wonderful sessions

rehana khairaz to Everyone  
RK Thanku it was very informative

subhashree mohan to Everyone  
SM definitely many takeaways.Thank u Vconnect!!

sue archbold to Everyone  
SA the wide range of topics is really impressive well done!

Kanchan to Everyone  
K Excellent topics and speakers.  
Thankyou V connect

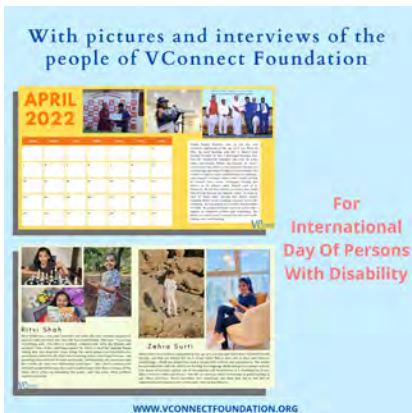
sue archbold to Everyone  
SA what a pleasure to see and hear!

sue archbold to Everyone  
SA well done that was amazing - can we put your video on the CIICA siate?



## The Calendar Project

Aashi Doshi is a 16 year old, who has been volunteering with VConnect over the last couple of years. She initiated and implemented the calendar project for VConnect. Aashi has hearing loss and uses a cochlear implant to listen and speak. Aashi felt passionately about creating awareness about hearing loss, through the calendar project by featuring children who use hearing devices like herself. She connected with 14 different families and featured each child and their story on one page of the calendar. Through this project she wanted to portray that the only difference between typically hearing children and the children featured in the calendar is just the hearing device. Besides featuring the children she also wanted to raise funds for VConnect Foundation by donating calendars to organisations, family, friends and the VConnect parents. The entire project was independently handled by her.



The calendar was launched on 3rd December 2021, which is the 'International Day of Persons with Disabilities'.

VConnect admires Aashi's passion for the cause and is proud to have her in the organisation as a contributing member of the team who is self motivated to make a difference!

Please do spread awareness about Aashi's cause by showing your support by clicking the link below:  
[www.vconnectfoundation.org/donate](http://www.vconnectfoundation.org/donate)

## Celebrating Special Events and Occasions

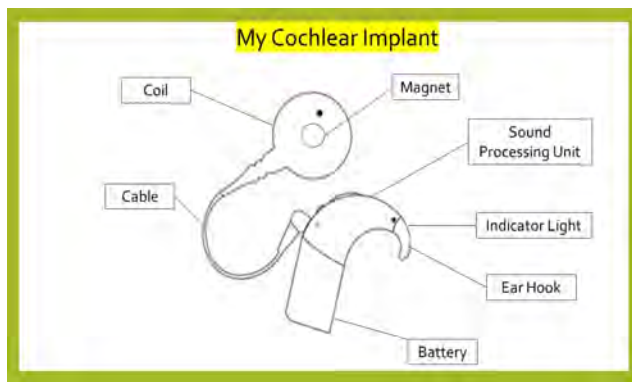


### The International Week Of The Deaf:

On 26th September 2021, VConnect families participated in the BTS #PermissionToDance challenge, incorporating signs for 'fun', 'dance' and 'peace' to celebrate 'The International Week Of The Deaf'.

Total number of 17 children, parents and caregivers participated in the dance. These videos were shared widely to create awareness about 'The International Week of the Deaf'.

## Celebrating International Cochlear Implant Day:

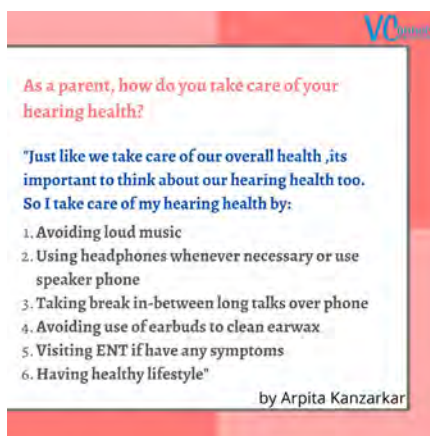


On 25th February 2022, International Cochlear Implant Day, we aimed to raise awareness of cochlear implants across the world. An activity for children was posted to encourage and advocate our children by talking about the cochlear implants and by spreading awareness. Parents could download this sheet or draw on a sheet, colour with their children and explain how it works.

## World Hearing Day 2022:



On 3rd March 2022, World Hearing Day, VConnect Foundation posted an encouraging post to make parents and caregivers focus on the importance of hearing health and decided to post more informative posts on how we can listen with care!



On 4th March 2022, to focus on the importance of listening with care, we asked VConnect Parent, Arpita Kanzarkar, how she takes care of her hearing health. Take a look at what she had to say.

## Volunteering Week with Indian Hotels Company Limited:

During the weeks between August and September 2021, different team members from the Taj Group worked in collaboration with the VConnect team and helped in skill building in the areas that needed strengthening. The expertise from the corporate world gave the team a wonderful new perspective of working. The ideas and thoughts of the Taj team members who contributed towards this was very helpful and we are hopeful to continue our engagement with them in the coming year. This initiative would not have been possible without the initiative and support of Ms. Tejaswita Sinha, the team lead for this project.

## TEAMWORK

### TEAMWORK CULTURE

- The Michigan State University has done a survey with many multinational companies and has shared five attributes for successful teamwork culture;



## TEAMWORK

### Steps to Build Trust



## Tata ProEngage Project:

Under the guidance of our Managing Trustee, Ms. Vahishtai J Daboo, the VConnect team is working on various projects. VConnect Foundation is working on a project along with a volunteer from TATA ProEngage, to make our work more accessible to the end users who are the caregivers, teenagers, young adults and professionals. Please stay tuned for more on this in our next report!

## Annual Brainstorming Session:

VConnect has regular brainstorming sessions to ensure the work that we do is meaningful to our families and children. Jamshed K Daboo, the Principal Advisor to VConnect conducted the entire Brainstorming exercise with our team of 42 members on planning the coming year 2022-23. For the next academic year, we have taken a different approach to plan our sessions and workshops. Each team member interacted with parents across the various circles, listening to their requirements and suggestions. The yearly plans are being drawn up keeping in mind the needs of the caregivers and teenagers and prioritising them based on the capacity and bandwidth of the organisation.

## Conversations and Collaborations:

VConnect has the pleasure and the privilege to collaborate with the following individuals and organisations:

- 1) The Sound Foundation - Ms. Kamakshi Khurana & Ms. Vishala Khurana for bringing music in the lives of our children
- 2) The Create Foundation - Ms. Raell Padamsee for bring Speech & Drama in the lives of our children
- 3) Dr. Mihir Parekh - for conducting the Shiksha Series for our caregivers to enable them to understand another aspect of how academics and life skills can work for their children
- 4) First Source - for job placements at their BPO
- 5) Training & Educational Centre for the Hearing Impaired (TEACH) - some initial conversations have taken place

## Achievement:

VConnect Foundation received the GNE Award of Excellence certificate after taking part in a full day Global NGO Expo on the 26th of June 2021.





## Certificate of Membership - World Health Organisation



## Our Work Being Recognised and Being Written about:

**VAHISHTAI J DABOO, LSLS CERT. AVT,  
TRAINED IN NARRATIVE PRACTICE**  
Principal Consultant  
India



I am the co-founder and Managing Trustee of VConnect Foundation, an NGO, a parent support group for families of children with hearing loss. We work with over 1500 parents from across India and neighboring countries. All these children use hearing devices to listen and communicate through spoken language or are learning to do so. These parents are supported through various activities based on our four key focus areas, which are education, knowledge hub, mental health and advocacy. In our individual capacity and by partnering with institutions, we are constantly working towards advocating for universal newborn hearing screening to be made mandatory in India.

As a consultant and mentor, I conduct training for centers, institutions, companies and individuals to build capacity in LSL through long-term engagement and training. I provide therapy to children in person and virtually. Since 2010 I have been a faculty member teaching the Post Graduate AVT course at the Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for Speech and Hearing Disabilities (Divyangjan), Mumbai. I am also working with the Umang School for the Hearing Impaired, to set up a cochlear implant program and early intervention center to support children through listening and spoken language.

In India, there a huge need to create awareness around the importance and benefits of training towards listening and spoken language. There is a need to create awareness about investing in quality training to ensure that children receive the services they need to develop listening and spoken language which is fundamental.

**Our Co-Founder Vahishtai J Daboo, featured on the World Hearing Day edition of Volta Voices!**

The 15th Annual Celebration Conference featured in various news media.



## Changes at VConnect and New Appointments:

**Ms. Purvee Parekh** has been appointed as a trustee of VConnect Foundation.



Ms. Purvee Parekh is a philanthropist and a supporter of various social causes. She is a parent and has worked as a parent counsellor at KDN Shruti School for children with hearing impairment. She has been on the VConnect Committee since 2016 and has been instrumental in leading the Mainstream Guide Project at VConnect. We welcome Ms. Purvee Parekh in her new position as a Trustee of VConnect Foundation.

**Ms. Jeroo Buhariwala** has stepped down as a trustee due to the heavy workload at her office and her not being able to devote enough time to the VConnect Foundation.

**Ms. Mala Chadha** has been appointed as a committee member of VConnect Foundation.



Ms. Mala Chadha is a teacher, a Special Educator and a Narrative Therapist. She is associated with Ummeed Child Development Center for fourteen years. She has worked in the field of education for over 30 years, working with typical children and children with special needs. Ms. Mala Chadha was associated with VConnect Foundation in 2012 when the New Born Hearing Screening Programme was commenced and we had started the programme in 4 hospitals in Mumbai.

**Ms. Juliee Thakkar** has stepped down from the post of Mental Health Director from 31st October 2022, owing to personal reasons.

There has been a restructuring of the Mental Health Programme and the new team has been put in place to run the programme.

**Ms. Anisa Lalani** has been appointed as Mental Health Director.



Ms Anisa Lalani is a Clinical Psychologist and a Counsellor & Narrative Practitioner. She works at the department of psychiatry, NKP Salve Institute of Medical Science and Research Center and Lata Mangeshkar Hospital. She specialises in Psychometric Assessments and Analysis. She has completed her 8 month course in Mental Health, Narrative Practices which was conducted by VConnect Foundation in collaboration with Ummeed Child Development Center.

**Ms. Zoha Asad Ali and Ms. Ayesha Khan** have been appointed as Mental Health Coordinators.



Ms. Zoha Ali is a Learning and Development Specialist & Narrative Practitioner. She is a freelancer in content development and training. She has worked with organizations like NCR Corporation, Marico Ltd. and Endurance Technologies. She has completed her 8 month course in Mental Health, Narrative Practices which was conducted by VConnect Foundation in collaboration with Ummeed Child Development Center.



Ms. Ayesha Khan has completed her 8 month course in Mental Health, Narrative Practices which was conducted by VConnect Foundation in collaboration with Ummeed Child Development Center. She is working as a special educator at Blossoming Mind Clinic.

The **Teenage Mental Health** is being managed by a dynamic team of three young persons:



**Ms. Nupur Chowdhary** is studying Psychology at K.C College, Mumbai. She works as an assistant at Dynamic Learning Academy. Nupur's passion to make a difference in the lives of children with hearing loss and her drive is something we truly value at VConnect. She's always there and always ready to take on new challenges and always ready to learn. We are proud to have her as part of our team.



**Ms. Aashi Doshi** is a grade 11 IDBD student at Aditya Birla World Academy. She initiated and very successfully implemented the calendar project to create awareness about hearing loss and raise funds for VConnect Foundation. Aashi has been interning with VConnect since the last 2 years and is an asset to the organisation. Her drive to initiate projects and see them through and her creativity is of great value to VConnect Foundation.



**Mr. Jehan VJ Daboo** is Certified Personal Trainer from American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM). He is one of the trainers at Bootcamp by the Bay and conducts one on one personal training too. He is studying MA in Psychology, KC College, Mumbai. He has represented India in various International Badminton tournaments including the Deaflympics and World Deaf Badminton Championships.



**Ms. Rukshan Gotla** has been appointed as a Coordinator.



Ms. Rukshan Gotla has completed her Bachelor of Commerce. She has worked with Swissair for 5 years. She's been a homemaker for the past 29 years and has had postings in different countries around the world due to her husband's job commitments. Rukshan is passionate about helping people and has always wanted to give back to society. She has completed her course in Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT).

#### Summary Score card of the workshops conducted:

Workshop Title	Conducted by	Number of Participants	% Excellent Rating
Education	4	150	74
Mental Health- Workshops	37	207	72
Mental Health - Teenager Support	7	20	50
Knowledge Hub – Vidya	9	477	97
Knowledge Hub – Saath-Saath	8	283	70
Advocacy	6	217	60

#### Detailed Scorecard of workshops conducted:

<b>Focus Area:</b> <b>Education</b> - <b>Shiksha</b>			
Workshop Title	Conducted by	Number of Participants	% Excellent Rating
Academic Prerequisites	Dr. Mihir Parekh	45	94
Alternate Schooling – All about NIOS	Dr. Mihir Parekh	33	0
Functional Academics and Life Skills Training	Dr. Mihir Parekh	44	93
Life Skills – Money Management & Banking	Dr. Mihir Parekh	28	100
<b>Total</b>		<b>150</b>	

<b>Focus Area:</b> <b>Mental Health</b> <b>- Parent Peer Support</b>			
<b>Workshop Title</b>	<b>Conducted by</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>	<b>% Excellent Rating</b>
<i>Tarkibo ka Safar (Hindi)</i>	Ayesha Khan, Mahek Balwani, Pratibha Raut	20	60
<i>Story Tales (English)</i>	Roshni Shah, Farhana Salyani, Zoha Ali	8	50
<i>Jugaad Gujarati)</i>	Fatema Travadi, Jigna Sanchania, Pina Chowdhary	14	0
<i>Jugaad ( Marathi)</i>	Rashmi Chutke, Meena Badwik, Vijaymala More	10	33
<i>Chamakte Sitaro ki Kahani (Hindi)</i>	Manju Kadam, Ankita Mishra, Anisa Lalani	17	100
Know your Qualities (gujarati)	Jigna Sanchania, Pina Chowdhary, Fatema Travadi	14	100
Know your Qualities (Marathi)	Rashmi Chutke, Meena Badwik, Vijaymala More	9	100
Matrutav ki Pehchan (Hindi)	Ayesha Khan, Pratibha Raut, Mahek Balwani	20	100
Unbox Zindigi- Lockdown wali	Manju Kadam, Ankita Mishra, Anisa Lalani	13	100
Knock-knock koon hai?	Ayesha Khan, Mahek Balwani, Pratibha Raut	20	67
AAi Che AAtmabhan	Rashmi Chutke ,Meena Badwik, Vijaymala More	9	100
Discovering the Sparkling Stars	Roshni Shah, Farhana Salyani, Zoha Ali	14	100
Sambhandhi ni Sakar	Jigna Sanchania, Fatema Travadi, Pina Chowdhary	2	100
Sunhare Bachpan ki Neev	Manju Kadam, Ankita Mishra, Anisa Lalani	19	100
Antar Dhuwand	Jigna Sanchania, Pina Chowdhary, Fatema Travadi	3	
Mitro	Ayesha Khan, Mahek Balwani, Pratibha Raut	8	
Utsav Rishto Ka	Manju Kadam, Ankita Mishra, Anisa Lalani	3	
Magical Journey	Manju Kadam, Roshni Shah, Ankita Mishra, Farhana Salyani	4	
<b>Total</b>		<b>207</b>	

<b>Focus Area: Mental Health</b> - <b>Teenager Support</b>			
<b>Workshop Title</b>	<b>Conducted by</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>	<b>% Excellent Rating</b>
Talk & have Fun - English	Jehan VJ Daboo, Nupur Chowdhary, Aashi Doshi	2	
Talk & have Fun - Hindi	Jehan VJ Daboo, Nupur Chowdhary, Aashi Doshi	2	
Challenges faced during covid times	Jehan VJ Daboo, Nupur Chowdhary, Aashi Doshi	1	
Challenges faced during covid times	Jehan VJ Daboo, Nupur Chowdhary, Aashi Doshi	3	
English	Jehan Daboo, Nupur Chowdhary, Aashi Doshi	4	50
Hindi	Nupur Chowdhary	5	100
Hindi	Jehan Daboo, Nupur Chowdhary, Aashi Doshi	3	100
<b>Total</b>		<b>20</b>	

<b>Focus Areas: Knowledge Hub</b> - <b>Vidya Series</b>			
<b>Workshop Title</b>	<b>Conducted by</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>	<b>% Excellent Rating</b>
Care and Maintenance of Hearing Device	Ms. Fatema Jagmaag	66	100
Auditory Verbal Therapy at Home	Ms. Vahishtai J Daboo	135	100
How to tell stories so that your child Listens.	Ms. Mala Chadha	63	100
Understanding Hearing Loss	Ms. Fatema Jagmaag	44	94
Role of Special Education	Mrs. Maneck Chitalwala	27	88
Reading Comprehension	Ms. Mala Chadha	35	100
Genetic Counselling	Dr. Hema Puranderay	48	93
Importance of Dental Hygiene	Dr. Rupali Kale	26	86
Spelling Strategies	Ms. Mala Chadha	33	100
<b>Total</b>		<b>477</b>	



<b>Focus Areas:</b> <b>Knowledge Hub</b> - <b>Saath Saath Series</b>			
<b>Workshop Title</b>	<b>Conducted by</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>	<b>% Excellent Rating</b>
Speech and Drama	Anjali Sanghvi and Kiran Kedge	56	72
Exploring Career for Youth	Rakesh Doshi and Deepali Jadhav	50	25
Basics of Photography and the Art of Seeing	Srivatsan Sankaran	44	66
Placement Opportunities for the Youth with Hearing Loss	Sameer Nair	47	80
Dice and Card Games to Enhance Mathematical Skills	Mansi Chandorkar and Alpa Chag	36	100
Chai Pe Charcha	VConnect Team	18	100
Fiddle Scribble with Priyam	Priyam Mehta	10	100
Fit Fun	Rustom Warden, Kareena Madan and Vidhita Chainani	22	75
<b>Total</b>		<b>283</b>	

<b>Focus Area:</b> <b>Advocacy</b> - <b>Hamare Adhikar / Our Rights</b>			
<b>Workshop Title</b>	<b>Conducted by</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>	<b>% Excellent Rating</b>
Right to Education & ADIP Scheme	Ms. Jigna Sanchania	92	90
UDID - MUMBAI	Ms. Jigna Sanchania	47	90
UDID – Marathwada, Pune, Vidarbha, Nashik, Dhule.	Ms. Jigna Sanchania	44	80
UDID for Gujarat	Ms. Jigna Sanchania	10	100
UDID for Rajasthan	Ms. Jigna Sanchania	15	
UDID for Delhi & Bangalore	Ms. Jigna Sanchania	9	
<b>Total</b>		<b>217</b>	

## Thank you to our Donors & Supporters:

The entire team at VConnect would like to extend their thanks to all the donors, supporters and CSR partners who have supported in big and small ways. Each of your support enables us to have a community at VConnect that is constantly getting strengthened through your support! Thank you!!!

## 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 endeavour 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

IFSC CODE: CBIN0281407

**For Foreign Donations - (FCRA Account):**

A/c: VConnect Foundation

Savings Account

Account Number: 40274065525

Bank details: State Bank of India, New Delhi Main Branch (00691),

N. D. Main Branch 11, Parliament Street, New Delhi,

NCT of Delhi 110001

IFSC CODE: SBIN0000691

# The VConnect Organisation

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

## Trustees

Vahishtai J Daboo – Co-Founder and Managing Trustee

Fatema Jagmaag – Co-Founder and Trustee

Purveen Parekh - Trustee

## Principal Advisor

Jamshed K Daboo

## Legal Advisor

Rhia Marshall

## Executive Committee Members

Bapsy Patel

Mala Chadha

## Programme Coordinator

Behroze Billimoria

## Mental Health Director

Anisa Lalani

## Mental Health Coordinator

Zoha Ali & Ayesha Khan

## Administrator - Funding

Kashmira Surti

## Administrator - Data

Vaishali Pendurkar

## Coordinator

Rukshan Gotla

## 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 400 027, India.

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

**Contact No:** +91 9820409019

**Email Id:** [contact@vconnectfoundation.org](mailto:contact@vconnectfoundation.org)

**Website:** [www.vconnectfoundation.org](http://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>



VCConnect  
FOUNDATION