

# VIVEKANANDA INSTITUTE OF INDIAN STUDIES (VIIS)

*An initiative of Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement*

[www.svym.org](http://www.svym.org)



[www.viis.in](http://www.viis.in)

## Annual Report 2016-17



## Participants at VIIS this year

Particulars	Participants
Allegheny College	7
Mount Allison, University	9
Colorado College	7
Case Western Reserve University	8
Cornell University	20
SEWA International	4
University Of Michigan	10
University of Nebraska	12
Global Health Electives	7
Cornell University (Engaged Cornell)	31
University of Minnesota (Health Careers Center)	30
University of Iowa	3
University of Minnesota (Center for Global Health and Social Responsibility)	8
Medical Student Elective Program	2
Le Moyne College	7
Child Family Health International	2
Interns	8
Volunteers	16
Visitors	28
Program for Indian Students	121
Total	340

## FOUNDER'S NOTE



Dear friends of VIIS,

Swami Vivekananda believed in and promoted the spirit of mutual learning. He was of the strong opinion that India had as much to give to the West as much as it had to receive. Keeping in line with this philosophy, SVYM had initiated VIIS with the mandate of taking India

and Indianess to the world. Last year has been especially memorable for us, as we saw new partnerships and programs emerging. The number of students that passed through the portal of VIIS too increased. While these initiatives provided us with the opportunity to extend our reach within the USA, we also realized that our programs need to be extended to the UK, mainland Europe and other parts of the world. Keeping this in mind, we began seeking active partnerships in Singapore, UK, France, Switzerland, Hong Kong and China. We are hopeful that these attempts will bear fruit in the years to come and VIIS will be able to take the message of universal peace and global citizenship to a larger number of people around the world.

Your support and encouragement will further strengthen our resolve to do so and we are looking forward to another exciting and enriching year ahead. We also take this opportunity to invite you to visit us when you come to India and stay connected with us through our different social media platforms.

Your truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Balasubramaniam'.

Dr. R Balasubramaniam  
Founder & President  
SVYM

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE



Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to share the activity report of VIIS for the year 2016-17. The idea of starting VIIS to introduce India and Indianess to the world expanded with the addition of two more institutions from US, namely, Colorado College and the University of Nebraska. A pilot program for the NRI youth to connect with their roots through SEWA International was launched. The Partnership Gathering hosted in collaboration with Engaged Cornell of Cornell University was a significant event which brought many of the Cornell partners on a single platform.

Looking back, the average number of participants in VIIS programs over the last 5 years has been 175, which is heartening. We at VIIS strongly believe that sheer numbers apart, we are providing a worthwhile opportunity to "experience India" which we hope would enable the participants to have a better understanding of India besides making them global citizens. This report attempts to capture some of the impressions shared by the participants, which inspires us to work better. Looking ahead, we will be reaching out to UK, Germany, Singapore and China to build on new partnerships.

I take this opportunity to thank all our partners, our advisors and the faculty for being equal partners in our success. I acknowledge the efforts of my dear colleagues at VIIS and SVYM fraternity for their direct and indirect support.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sindhu Suresh'.

Ms. Sindhu Suresh  
Director  
VIIS

## OUR ADVISORS



**Donna Ramil**

Associate Director of  
International programs  
The ILR School  
Cornell University, USA



**M.A. Jayashree**

Founder, Anantha Research Foundation  
Professor (Retd)  
Department of Sanskrit  
D. Banumaiah's College of  
Commerce & Arts,  
Mysuru



**Mysore Manjunath**

Associate Professor of Music  
University College of Fine Arts  
for Women  
University of Mysore



**Paul R. Greenough**

Prof. of History and Community &  
Behavioural Health  
Director, South Asian Studies Program  
Co-Director, Global Health  
Studies Program  
The University of Iowa, USA



**Sree N. Sreenath**

Professor, Electrical Engineering  
& Computer Science  
Case Western Reserve University  
USA

## GOVERNING BODY OF SVYM 2017-18



**Dr. R Balasubramaniam**  
President



**Dr. M. R. Seetharam**  
Vice-President



**Dr. (Flt Lt) M. A. Balasubramanya**  
Secretary & Chief Executive Officer



**Mr. Praveen Kumar**  
Joint Secretary



**Dr. Dennis D Chauhan**  
Treasurer



**Dr. Vivek M B**  
Executive Member



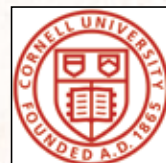
**Dr. Sudheer B. Bangalore**  
Executive Member



## The Team



## Our Partners for the year



## INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN INDIA ALLEGHENY COLLEGE, USA



For the third year in a row, Allegheny College partnered with VIIS to offer internships at SVYM. Five interns were accompanied by Prof. Caryl Wagget, Associate Professor, Global Health Studies and Environmental Science. In the first 2 weeks, the group learnt about SVYM, Indian culture, Health care, Women issues, etc. through academic sessions and field trips. They also picked some conversational Kannada during this time. Later the students worked in GRAAM and SVYM under their mentors in the field of community health, education, hospital and policy analysis. Ms. Jenny Kawata, Director, International Education joined the interns during the internship period.

*I learned not just from statistics but from talking to many people that India is very rapidly regaining its footing as a major power in the world, and is making incredible gains each year. The ability of a country of so many inhabitants to perform such a turn around after only about 70 years is not just astounding, but also a testimony to the great things India has in its future.*

**- Bennett Cook**



## DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH COLORADO COLLEGE, USA



Prof. Eric Popkins from the Department of Sociology, Colorado College led a group of 6 students who took part in an experiential learning through an 8 week internship assignment. The program introduced them to the Culture of India, the Modern India-progress & challenges, Contribution of NGO's in India's Development and Healthcare in India. This was complemented with relevant field visits.

### The various projects undertaken by each of the students

- Impact assessment on loan recipients in self health groups
- Study of private and public health care in India
- A study on socio-economic conditions that influence the academic achievement of the student
- A study on safety of women employees at SVYM, Mysore Center
- A study on probable solutions for solid waste management

*While in India, I have formed relationships with so many incredible people, not just from India, but also from around the world. At the beginning of the trip, we talked a lot about what it meant to be a global citizen. While that is a super complex idea, I think my experiences in India have reshaped my view of the world and begin to understand what it means to live in a global world.*

**- Nina Holley**

SUMMER STUDIES IN INDIA

MT. ALLISON UNIVERSITY, CANADA



Mt. Allison University, Canada is one of the old partners at VIIS. The Summer Studies in India Program brought 8 students for duration of 8 weeks.

Rev. John Perkin, Prof. Department of Religious Studies led the group for the third time. The three major courses studied by the students included Culture and Civilization of India, Gender in India and Science, Technology and Sustainable Development in India. The highlight of the program is a weeklong trip to the historical and cultural sites belonging to 6th to 16th Century of North Karnataka. The places included Badami, Ihole, Pattadakal, Hampi and Bijapur.



At the end of the course the students wrote term papers of their choice in the courses they learnt. The following are some of the topics of the term papers the students submitted.

- Jainism- Its rise and fall
- Islam in South Asia
- Dam building- a hindrance or help
- Mysore as the model of generosity and diversity
- The medical and socioeconomic aspects of maternal mortality in India
- Women's role in the Hindu wedding traditions
- Redefining water sustainability in India and working towards alleviation of alarming water crisis

The students treated the VIIS audience with a dance performance - 'Pushpanjali' - salutations with flowers, trained under the tutelage of their dance teacher.



## GLOBAL SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM CORNELL UNIVERSITY, USA



Industrial and Labor Relations School at Cornell University has been partnering with VIIS for the last 6 years through the Global Service Learning Program. The initial 2 week duration is focused on learning courses on Culture and Civilization, Gender, Labor Relations, Economics and Global Health in Indian context . The field visits to the relevant topics complemented the understanding and learning of the students. The students later on participated in 4 or 6 week projects which are mutually benefitting for the organization and the students. The program was led by Donna Ramil, Associate Director of International Programs and Student Services at the ILR School. Ms. Tara Sarkar, worked in the program as a teaching assistant. A total of 18 students from the streams of Industrial and Labor Relations and Global Health participated in the program.





## Some of the projects undertaken by the students

### Health

- Curriculum development for HIV Fellowship Program at Vivekananda Memorial Hospital
- Developing patient education material for Vivekananda Memorial Hospital
- Case studies for resource mobilization for rehabilitation initiative program.
- Looking into stillbirth rates at Vivekananda Memorial Hospital from 2013-present and identifying maternal risk factors

### Education

- Documenting process of Viveka Tribal Centre for Learning
- Success stories and traditional games played by tribal children
- Support and developing methodologies for teaching children with special needs.

### Research

- Case study on employers practices for employing persons with disability

A short documentary movie about the can be viewed at  
<https://youtu.be/nVtu5Zg85sM>

*I believe India has such a rich history that few countries in the world can boast of having. I believe India has the most impressive architecture as demonstrated through the temples. I believe India has the most spices in the world. I believe Indian clothing is beautiful. I believe women in India are on a whole different level of beauty than the rest of the world. I believe that the weather is sometimes challenging because of the heat. I believe that SVYM has the nicest people in India.*

*I know that I am going to cry my heart out on the way home.  
I know that I am going to return to India soon.  
I know that I am privileged to be here.*

**- Ingrid**



## SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM UNIVERSITY OF IOWA, USA



Three students with a background of Global Health and International Studies participated in the program this year for an 8 week internship. The students were introduced to the health care in India through academic session and field visit in the first week and later took up project assignments at Vivekananda Memorial Hospital, Sargur and Kenchanahalli. During the internship period they were involved in the following projects

- Preparing education posters on water borne diseases and updating International Classification of Diseases and In Patient records
- Developing patient education material for managing Rheumatoid Arthritis with focus on integration of Ayurveda and Allopathy
- Report on immunization status among tribal children based on 2 years data records





SUMMER PROGRAM IN INDIA (MUSIC/DANCE AND YOGA)  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, USA



Prof. Stephen Rush, Professor of Music, University of Michigan and Director, Summer Program in India brought his students for the 9th time in a row to VIIS. The group consisted of 9 students who took individual lessons in South Indian Classical Music (vocal and instrumental), Dance and Yoga. This program introduces the students to a unique tradition of India – “Guru-Shishya Parampara” (the practice of students learning at or near the teacher’s residence). In addition the students attended lectures on leadership, history of India, Indian cinema and Yoga. The program concluded with the final performances by the students before the invited audience and Gurus.



*India is a very impressive country. Its rich history and culture are stunning. In India, I never felt rushed and felt that work would always get done. I have learned in India to enjoy and trust the process of good work, instead of just getting work done. I have learned a lot in India that I will take back to my friends, family and students in New York city. I think the west has a lot to learn from India, but I also think India has a lot to learn from the west. I think both cultures would benefit greatly from increased dialogue and a further sharing of ideas.*

*- John Van Duinen*

## PARTNERSHIP GATHERING IN INDIA

ENGAGED CORNELL, CORNELL UNIVERSITY, USA



SVYM and Engaged Cornell of Cornell University jointly hosted a gathering bringing together partners of Cornell University from Tanzania, Malawi, Dominican Republic and India (Keystone Foundation and SVYM) along with the faculty and staff from Cornell University, USA.

This workshop provided spaces to learn how engaged research or service-learning courses can work, connect with other like-minded individuals, discover best methods, develop collaborations and new ideas and explore the resources available.

A total of 31 participants came together to create a forum for discussion about ideas, experiences and approaches on the theme 'Healthy Food and Healing Plants' in diverse settings.

VIIS facilitated a trip to an organic farm near Mysuru which gave the participants an opportunity to actually feel and see the different kinds of plants grown in India. SVYM's Vivekananda Memorial Hospital at Kenchanahalli introduced Ayurveda (traditional Indian medicine) and the integrated approach of medicine practiced for holistic health benefits to the participants. A traditional food spread out for the participants was in line with the theme of the workshop.





## Some thoughts on Partnerships

“Creating space for open communication and active participation while respecting our similarities and differences” - **Dr. Richard Kiely, Senior Fellow, Engaged Cornell**



“Partners must be flexible; they must agree and agree to disagree”

- **Team Malawi**



“We must develop one voice with our partners”

- **Team Tanzania**



“We are looking for trust, openness and transparency in the partnership”

- **Keystone Foundation, India**



“For good alliances, we need to share the same values”

- **Dominican Republic**



“Equal partnerships on equal footing are the only partnerships that work”

- **SVYM, India**

INDIA- GLOBALIZATION, DEVELOPMENT AND LEADERSHIP  
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA- LINCOLN, USA



Dr. Radha Balasubramanian, Director of Global Studies Program and Dr. Emira Ibrahimasic, Assistant Director of Global Studies Program led a team of 10 students from University of Nebraska- Lincoln. This program introduced the students to the concepts of globalization and development. It provided perspectives of the cultural aspects and understanding of modern India through health, education and economic parameters. Understanding the concepts of global citizenship and global leadership were also part of the program.



*It is a great country, trying to modernize while still keep its traditions.*

*- Shelby Sorenson*



## GLOBAL FUTURE PHYSICIAN PROGRAM UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, USA



The Health Careers Center of University of Minnesota has been partnering with VIIS for the last 6 years. This year a group of 28 pre-med students led by Dr. Jason Rico, Assistant Professor Dept. of Family Medicine and Community Health and Dr. Erica Gathje, M.D. Family Medicine participated in the program. Through the academic sessions, the students learnt about Health care in India and NGO's role in development, a global scenario of pharmaceutical industries and Medical Research and Bioethics in India. The visits to public and private hospitals in and around Mysuru helped them compare health and public health between India and the United States.



*My impression about India is that it is a very culturally diverse country with a health care system that has similarities to the US, but has some differences as well. Learning more about the different languages that are spoken and the many different gods worshiped was an eye opening experience to me. I thoroughly enjoyed getting the opportunity to visit local places like the Mysuru palace, the Chamundi temple and other local temples. Overall India was a great experience for me.*

*- Global Future Physician program participant*

## GLOBAL HEALTH, GLOBALIZATION AND LEADERSHIP UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, USA



Six graduate students from diverse backgrounds of Public Health, Medicine, Law and Family Social Science participated in the second year of the Global Health, Globalization and Leadership Program at VIIS. The 3 week program consisted of academic sessions on health and health care delivery in India in the context of Globalization. Dr. Lynn Blewett, Faculty, School of Public Health, University of Minnesota introduced the students to the Health Financing Systems around the world. The course conveyed the significance of social determinants of health in the globalized world and included a day's workshop on Leading Global Health Programs. The students were also engaged in field experiences which were guided through directed observations.

## GLOBAL HEALTH ELECTIVE PROGRAM CALIFORNIA, USA

A group of 7 Medical volunteers led by Dr. Yogi Patel from California, USA volunteered for ten days at Vivekananda Memorial Hospital, Sargur.

The group conducted field based health camps, academic sessions in Continuous Medical Education program and shadowed doctors in various clinical departments.





### "IMMERSION INTO INDIA PROGRAM", SEWA INTERNATIONAL, USA

A pilot program titled "Immersion into India" was launched this year. Three NRI students from US participated in this program. This one week program was intended to introduce various facets of India in the areas of Health, Education and Culture. Following this the students undertook internships in different organizations.



### "GLOBAL ISSUES AND SUSTAINABILITY IN INDIA", CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY, USA



Five students from Case Western Reserve University led by Prof. Srinath visited VIIS as a part of "Global Issues and Sustainability in India" Program. The group was also accompanied by 2 Indian youth ambassadors from Bangalore. A special session on 'Exercising Enlightened Leadership' was organized. The students were from Engineering and Management streams.

### UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, USA



A group of eight participants from interdisciplinary background led by Prof. Famida Handy visited VIIS to get an overview of various activities at SVYM.

### SHANGHAI JAIN QIAO UNIVERSITY, CHINA





A group of 11 students from Shanghai University visited VIIS to understand the activities of SVYM. During their visit the group interacted with Dr. Balasubramaniam.



## MEDICAL STUDENT ELECTIVE PROGRAM

VIIS, as a single window for international students has been facilitating placement of students at VMH, Sargur through the Medical Student Elective Program, Physician Assistant program of Le Moyne College, Chronic Disease and Integrative Medicine program of Child Family Health International. The general objectives of all these programs include exposing the students to rural health care, shadowing the doctors and understanding the community based health programs. The following are the students enrolled and their specific involvement.

### Medical Student Elective Program

Student Name	Institution /Organization	Project Assignment
 Ms. Megan Flannery	University Of Iowa	Implementing POC Blood Sugar testing and Preventing Surgical site infections at VMH
 Ms. Sarah Wineman	University of Iowa	Rehabilitation Case Reports

### Child Family Health International

 Mr. Bennett Shake	CFHI	Updated Manual of Physiotherapy and developed poster about development milestone in children
 Mr. Nils Skajaa	CFHI	Developed a draft patient education poster on diabetes



## PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM LE MOYNE COLLEGE, USA



Student Name	Department of Clinical Rotation
Mr. Fidelis Enyinnaya	Pediatrics
Mr. Thomas Patrick	Pediatrics
Mr. Sean Easton	Pediatrics
Ms. Alex Fisher	Women's Health
Ms. Rinu Mathew	Women's Health
Mr. Eric Chow	Pediatrics
Mr. John Miller	Primary Care

A short documentary movie about their experiences made by two of the students can be watched in the following link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FnAe6vnIMIQ>

*I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here and learned a tremendous amount. The staff has been extremely kind and welcoming since the day I arrived. The doctors here are very knowledgeable about medicine and it seems most other things as well. They are incredibly resourceful and make good use of what is available. They are very considerate of the needs of their patients and whatever limitations they may have. The practices and management of diseases are different from the US, but patient care is certainly not compromised and for that, the staff should be commended*

**- Rinu Mathew**

## INTERNSHIP AND VOLUNTEERING PROGRAMS

SVYM as an organization welcomes international interns and volunteers who have an urge to get involved in the service of the community. Here, they work as a team by combining skills and experiences to create positive change in the community. The following are the details of the students who engaged with us.

### Interns

Participant	University	Project
Mr. Chris Arsenault	Mt. Allison University	Developed Science Park manual for Viveka School of Excellence
Ms. Willa McCaffrey-Noviss	Mt. Allison University	Developed case studies and newsletter format for Palliative Care Program.
Mr. Casey Batterbee	The University of Michigan	Organising spreadsheets, questionnaires & creating an educational video for the Self Help Group project

### Volunteers

Participant	University/Place	Assignment
Ms. Nita Gopal	San Jose State University, California	Facilitated effective learning at Viveka School of Excellence
Ms. Gabrielle Steiner	University of California, Irvine	
Mr. Michael Fred	California	
Mr. Rithwik Gokhale	Aga Khan Academy, Mombasa, Kenya	Prepared a booklet which guides staff and students on how to connect and use the internet, safe internet practices and tips
Mr. Arjun	Singapore	Engaging in the activities at Viveka Tribal Centre for Learning
Mr. Amogh	USA	Engaging activities of Viveka Scholar Program
Ms. Molly Evans	St. Davids Catholic sixth form college, Cardiff UK	Engaging in the Health Programs
Mr. Vikranth R Mirle	Ohio State University, USA	Engaging in the Health Programs
Mr. Prashasth Cheekoty	Singapore	Engaging in the activities of SVYM



## PROGRAMS FOR INDIAN STUDENTS

### Understanding India

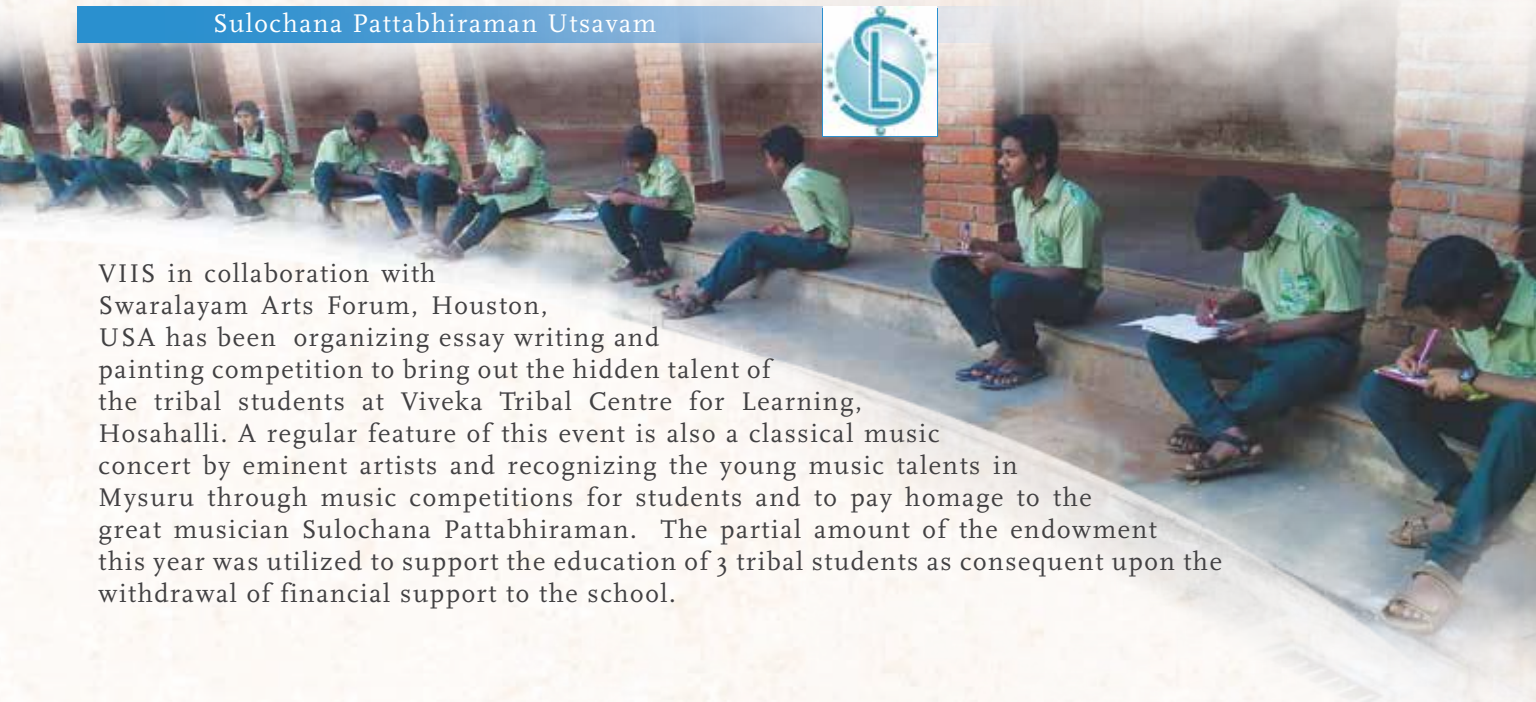
GEN-NEXT is a program exclusively designed for empowering the youth through a series of personality development training for undergraduate students of Mysuru district. VIIS conducted a one day workshop on Understanding India in this program. This workshop gave the students a preparatory understanding about the richness of our country and threw light on the present day challenges faced by India and how the youth can contribute to the development of the country to the best of his/her capacity and capability. The workshop activities included sessions on Living traditions of India, Perspective on Science & Technology in India- past and present, video show, quiz and group activity on India today and what next?. This year, 75 students participated in two batches.



### Sulochana Pattabhiraman Utsavam



VIIS in collaboration with Swaralam Arts Forum, Houston, USA has been organizing essay writing and painting competition to bring out the hidden talent of the tribal students at Viveka Tribal Centre for Learning, Hosahalli. A regular feature of this event is also a classical music concert by eminent artists and recognizing the young music talents in Mysuru through music competitions for students and to pay homage to the great musician Sulochana Pattabhiraman. The partial amount of the endowment this year was utilized to support the education of 3 tribal students as consequent upon the withdrawal of financial support to the school.



## CULTURAL EVENTS

### Devotional Music Concert



Child prodigy Ms. Soorya Gayathri along with her Guru and mentor Kuldeep M.Pai enthralled the participants of the Summer Program with her soulful renditions of devotional verses.

### Carnatic Flute Concert



As an Introduction to South Indian Classical Instrumental Music, a flute concert was organized for the students of University of Minnesota. Vidwan Chandan Kumar presented a flute recital where the students were able to connect and compare the music of the East and that of the West.



### South Indian Classical Dance

Vidushi Kripa Phadke, narrated the grand epic 'Ramayana' through her dance. The students of University of Michigan were treated to this grand performance which not only introduced the famous epic but also Bharatanatyam, the classical of South India thus educating and entertaining the audience.



### Leather Puppet Show

A leather puppet show was enacted by a family troupe to the participants of "Summer Program in India- Music/ Dance / Yoga", University of Michigan. The participants witnessed an episode from the epic Ramayana.

### English Play- The Prophet and the Poet

The Prophet and the Poet an English play directed by theater personality Mr. Vijayapadaki was performed by the artists of Bangalore Little Theatre for general public. This was based on the letters exchanged between Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore, on the form and direction of the freedom movement.







## OTHER ACTIVITIES OF SVYM





“*Experience is the only source of Knowledge*”

- Swami Vivekananda

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