

VISWA BHARATI VIDYODAYA TRUST

Vidyodaya 2.0

Strengthening a community-led Adivasi education model.

*with the Gudalur Adivasi Munnetra Sangam · Nilgiris District, Tamil Nadu
An education innovation of Adivasis · since 1995*



OUR NEXT CHAPTER

Building a permanent home for Adivasi education.

A new Adivasi-led **residential campus for children aged 4-18** – so no child has to leave their language, culture and community to stay in school. Our goal: **reach 9,000+ children over the next 20 years.**

A phased plan across 2026–2030 – we'd love to walk you through it.



WHO WE ARE

An education innovation of Adivasis.

VBVT is a community-based education organisation supporting **four Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups since 1995**, in the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve and Mudumalai Tiger Reserve – reclaiming space, identity and future for the next generations.

3,500

children reached across 320 villages

20,000+

highly marginalised PVTG population

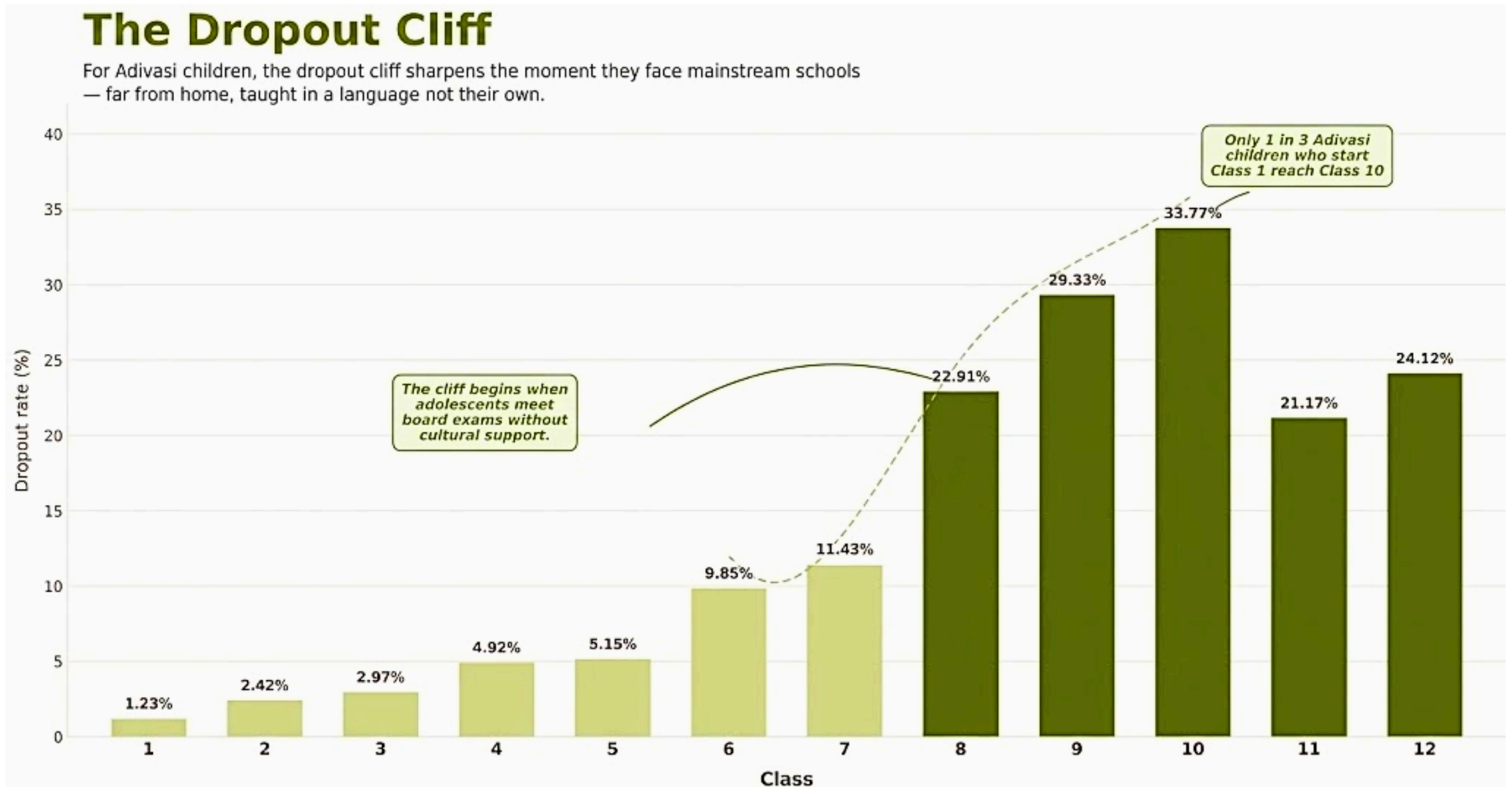
80%+

Adivasi-led team & board



The dropout cliff – only 1 in 3 reach Class 10.

For Adivasi children, dropout sharpens the moment they face mainstream schools – far from home, taught in a language not their own.





OUR MODEL

By, for and with the community.

- **Adivasi knowledge, culture and values** woven into academic learning
- **80% Adivasi representation** across team and board
- Schooling access for **all children**, regardless of geography or social barriers
- **Parents as partners** in their children's learning and school decisions

30 YEARS OF OUTCOMES

This isn't a promise. It's a proven model.

37% → 14%

dropout rate, 2000 → today

500+

alumni · 197 now in college, from zero in 2000

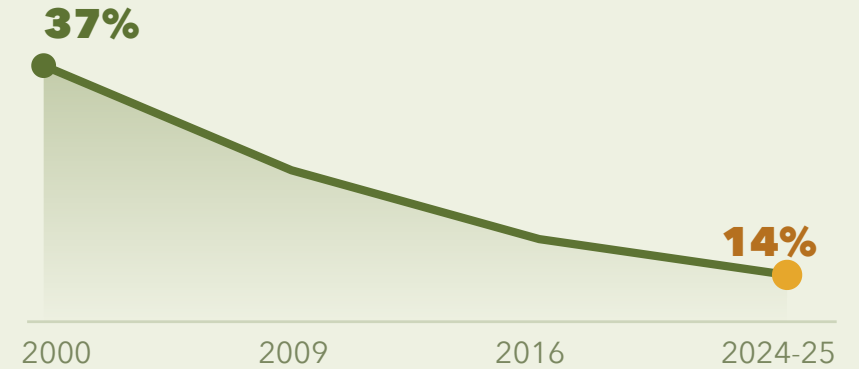
3x

retention beyond Class 10 since 2009

70+

Adivasi youth now resource teachers

ANNUAL DROPOUT, OUR TRACKED CHILDREN



Source: school & village records · alumni tracking · independent evaluations.

OUR ALUMNI

Community leaders, conservationists, nurses, teachers – first-generation graduates.



Vidyodaya alumni received by the **President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu**, and honoured with a **Mark Shand Award by King Charles III (2023)** for The Real Elephant Collective – a community-led conservation & craft initiative.



“My community gave me something. I am an M.Sc. graduate because of so many helping hands – I have to come back to pay it back. If one or two people see me and think ‘I can also do this’, that will be enough.”

– An Adivasi M.Sc. graduate, raised through Vidyodaya

WHAT HAS KEPT US GOING FOR 30 YEARS

Turning the kaleidoscope.

The Kattunayakan community of Mundakannu lost forest access in the 1980s – with it, their livelihoods, confidence and connection to learning. The village stopped asking for anything.

VBVT educators visited weekly for a year. Nothing moved for months – until one girl, **Sangeetha**, joined the residential programme. She stayed. She completed Class 8. Her siblings followed.

Sangeetha trained as a nurse and became her community's first professional.



A new integrated Adivasi education campus.

A residential campus for children aged 4-18, so no child faces a school transition alone or far from the people who shaped who they are.



Residential Higher Secondary School

Pre-primary to Class 12 with library, computer lab and a community hall; on-campus hostels for 60 students. **Vocational pathways for Classes 11-12.**



Resource Centre

A curriculum, training and research hub serving **320 villages and 95+ local schools** – open to the public.



Teacher Education

A two-year programme developing **credentialed Adivasi educators** to join local schools and village learning centres across Gudalur and Pandalur.

WHY THIS SCALES

The prize isn't one school – it's the system.

SYSTEM CHANGE

- Trained Adivasi teachers don't stay in one campus – they **join government schools across 320 villages and 95+ local schools.**
- One culturally-rooted educator changes outcomes for **every Adivasi child in that classroom**, year after year.

ALIGNED WITH NATIONAL POLICY

- India's **National Education Policy 2020** backs mother-tongue foundational learning, local context and community-led, alternative models.
- Vidyodaya is a **proven, 30-year template** for exactly what the NEP now envisions at scale.

1

trained Adivasi
teacher



95+

local schools across
320 villages



1,000s

of Adivasi children,
year after year

70+

Adivasi educators already
trained & placed

The roadmap.

Phase 1 • 2026-27

Build the core

- Adivasi school, KG-Class 7 (ages 4-12)
- Multipurpose hall + office space
- Teacher education + Adivasi resource centre

Phase 2 • 2028-29

Academic reach

- Classes 8-10 (ages 13-15)
- Science lab + library

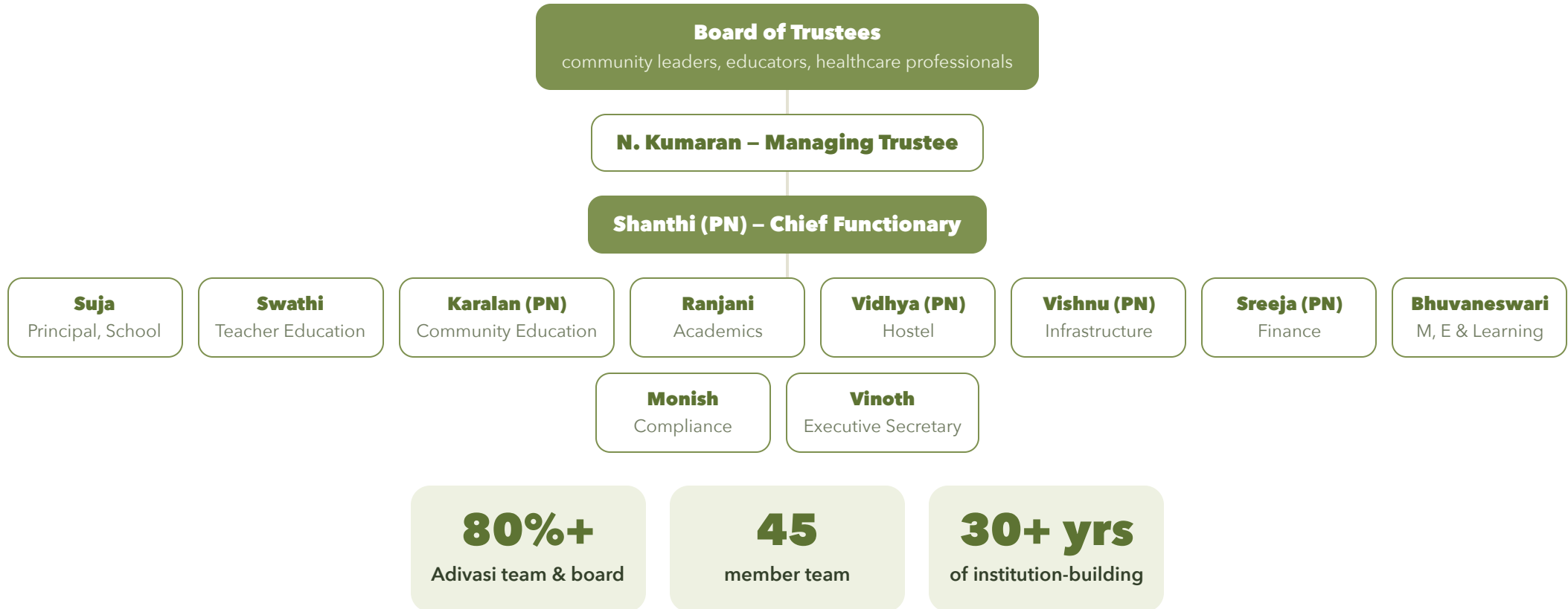
Phase 3 • 2029-30

Complete the campus

- Classes 11-12 (ages 16-18)
- **Vocational pathways** – conservation, craft, agriculture & care, rooted in the local economy
- On-campus hostels: 60 students (30 girls, 30 boys)

HOW WE'RE ORGANISED

An Adivasi-led institution – 80% of team & board.



● (PN) = from the community · rooted in the Adivasi Munnetra Sangam.

ADVISORS & EXPERTS

Guided by leading educators, jurists and professionals.

Prof. Padma M. Sarangapani

Professor of Education, TISS

Chairs the Centre of Excellence in Teacher Education at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences.

Prof. Sonajharia Minz

Professor, JNU

First Adivasi woman to co-chair at UNESCO; Professor of Computer Science, Jawaharlal Nehru University.

Justice Chitra Venkataraman

Retired Judge, Madras High Court

Independent Director on corporate boards; constitutional & civil expertise.

M. K. Kabir

Senior Advocate, Madras High Court

Experienced in constitutional and civil litigation.

Krishna

Architect · co-founder, Thulir

Combines architecture, construction and education; long experience in Gudalur.

Prof. Mythili Ramchand

Professor, NIAS Bengaluru

Teacher education and inclusive STEM.

ASSOCIATES

Jacob John

Founder, Aline Partners

Ex-Impact lead, Azim Premji Foundation.

Subhash Gautam

Director, TREC

A Vidyodaya School alumnus; co-founder, Rocklands Coffee.

Vishesh Unni

Chartered Accountant

Institutional governance & compliance.

SUPPORTERS & OUR ECOSYSTEM

Part of a 35-year, Adivasi-led movement.

VBVT is one of a family of community-driven organisations that grew from the **Adivasi Munnetra Sangam (1988)** – together, decades of Adivasi-led institution-building in the Nilgiris.

ASHWINI

Community-run hospital & health programmes across 320 villages.

The Real Elephant Collective

Conservation & internationally-recognised Lantana craft.

AMS & sister orgs

Land rights, livelihoods, enterprise & cultural continuity.

SUPPORTERS

Past & present supporters include **the Hilton International Development Trust** and a network of foundations, CSR partners and individuals backing construction and programmes – **all contributions used with audited financial statements.**

LET'S STAY IN TOUCH

Be part of a unique model of societal transformation.



Visit us

Come to Gudalur and see the school, the community and the campus site for yourself.



Partner with us

Bring your craft, expertise or institution into a long-term collaboration rooted in the community.



Stay connected

Introduce us to **people and institutions** who care about indigenous education and cultural continuity.



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80G

12A

FCRA

CSR-1