

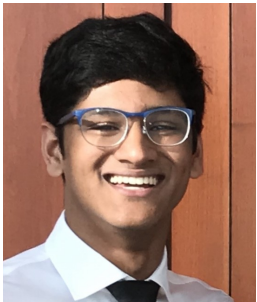


### Language Teacher in Focus



**Sonal Modha** is a Gujarati Teacher. She has been teaching Vidya Vikas for more than 8 years. She likes to teach because this gives her an opportunity to pass our language and culture to our next generation. She got into teaching with a friend of hers who was already a teacher at Vidya Vikas. The most important thing about teaching at Vidya Vikas is to feel connected to the kids and help them understand their roots. Sonal lives in Lewisville, TX with her husband and two daughters. Her husband has been an avid volunteer for the Temple Library as has helped construct the software for process of checking out all the books! Most of her family lives in India but her family is blessed to be surrounded by her friends and the temple community who make this place home. Her older daughter helped teach class with Sonal for about three years. This is very important to her as this will leave a big impact on her. Sonal also is a part of the Siddhi Vinayak Ganpati Mandal that helps host the Ganesh Utsav at the temple every year. This is one of her most favorite activities to be a volunteer for. The festival brings so much light and emphasis on how wonderful and detailed Indian culture is. Her vision for Vidya Vikas is that parents and families get involved and encourage the kids to participate more in the temple community to learn as much as they can about their culture and language.

### Student in Focus



**Sanchith Shanmuga** prides himself for understanding and maintaining his Hindu culture by attending Vidya Vikas. Currently a senior at Flower Mound High School, he joined Vidya Vikas religion and Tamil classes when he was four years old and today happily serves as the Youth Group's president. Participating in the Youth Group for four years has ingrained benevolence, community service, and teamwork into Sanchith. Outside of Vidya Vikas, Sanchith participates on his high school's swim team and varsity water polo team, volunteers for Students Who Care (a nonprofit he founded with his friends), and like many other teenage boys, he loves playing video games. Sanchith hopes to take the values he learned at Vidya Vikas and Youth Group to the University of Texas at Austin, where he will be studying computer science this upcoming fall.

### Upcoming events

**Vidya Vikas End of Year Program: May 19, 2019**

**First day of Vidya Vikas classes: August 18, 2019**