GURUJI EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Quarterly Report

July - September 2026

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ABOUT GEF

Guruji Education Foundation (GEF) is a registered trust, which works with underprivileged students to enable their holistic education, and thus provide them with a more equitable access to opportunities and success. As part of its mission of "Education for All", GEF provides support for holistic education of underprivileged students, based on the principles of:

- Inclusivity
- Quality over quantity
- Cycle of giving
- Customized career planning
- Holistic development
- Collaboration

GEF runs 2 broad flagship programs:

i) Holistic Higher Education (HHE), where high-potential college students from underprivileged sections are identified to catalyze their all-round development by providing them with resources that they may need. The resources could include interest-free loans (to be paid after they start earning), personal mentoring, career counselling and more

ii) Adolescent Development Program (ADP), which aims at enabling schools, especially those catering to underprivileged children, to provide holistic education spanning physical literacy, psychological strength, intellectual prowess, life skills, and entrepreneurial thinking

GEF accords special attention towards education of students from a distressed backgrounds including orphans, single parent families, and families impacted by cancer, covid etc. More than academic brilliance, the emphasis is on providing these students an education that is appropriate to their abilities and can help them in getting meaningful employment.

THE QUARTER IN A NUTSHELL

As we head into the festive season, we are pleased to share with you a report on the progress updates and highights from the July - September 2026 quarter.

The July - September quarter is a time of transition - a time when those in the final year of their studies, graduate and move out, and new students come in. This process of transition is underway, with 37 of our HHE (Holistic Higher Eductaion) students having successfully graduated, and 13 new students being added.

The number of centres under our Adolescent Development Program (ADP), have moved up to 82, from 78 in the previous quarter. Telangana has become the 6th state with an ADP imprint.

Among the major Highlights over the quarter, GEF was a proud recipient of the first-ever Sevavrutti award instituted by Achyut Godbole Foundation. While initiatives such as the Scratch Festivals have become a regular fixture in our annual calendar, we continue to look for newer avenues to grow and also make a difference to our students. This is amply reflected in the Highlights which talk about our existing partneships, new collaborations, Math Teacher Workshop, session on Women's Health, and introduction of singing classes etc.

Executive Committee
Guruji Education Foundation

HIGHLIGHTS

Monsoon Scratch Festival 2026

"The future belongs to curious minds that are ready to experiment, and collaborate with people from diverse backgrounds" said Mr Ashank Desai, Founder and CEO of Mastek, and a Founding Member of NASSCOM. Mr Desai was speaking as a Chief Guest at the Monsoon Scratch Day held on August 1, 2026. The day marked the conclusion of Monsoon Scratch Festival 2026, which was envisioned with the theme "Design your road to Success", and witnessed participation of 1000+ students from 31 schools from all over India. Emphasising his point, Mr Desai spoke of several fields such as Space, Climate change, Cybersecurity, Health, Robotics where breakthroughs by a single person are difficult, but wonderful outcomes could result through teamwork.

He advised students to ask questions and develop critical, creative and analytical thinking skills to be future innovators and entrepreneurs. Mr Desai said in this era of internet, learning can be unlimited and students in villages should take full advantage of virtual connectivity. He was of the view that the future also belonged to those who could use Artificial Intelligence.



Mr. Ashank Desai responding to a student question

The second Chief Guest, Mr Gajanan Patil, IAS, and CEO of Zilla Parishad, Pune advised the students that consistency, discipline, and effective time management were more important in achieving success than the school or village one is from. He said it was a myth that private schools provide better education than government schools, and shared that he himself was educated in Sainik School and had reached this far. He called upon the students to aim high, and seek advice from parents and teachers. He also spoke of the various initiatives his administration is undertaking for school students to make learning a wholesome experience.



Mr. Gajanan Patil engaging with the students

The Festival was a celebration not just of coding, but of creativity, teamwork, communication, confidence and perseverance among students from schools associated with GEF. Preparations for the festival had begun months in advance, and students worked together to brainstorm ideas, write scripts, develop screenplays, create characters and animations, and finally bring their stories to life using Scratch. Behind every project presented during the festival were several rounds of discussion, practice, correction and teamwork. The judges for the projects competition and Hackathon were Mr. Abhay Joshi, Mr. Gopal Kalpathy, Mr. Alok Kelkar, and Mr. Ashish Jadhav.

Another highlight of the festival were the Debates in Junior and Senior categories, which witnessed students sharing their opinions with remarkable clarity and conviction. The debate session was effectively conducted by Ms Varsha Dangrikar and Mr Shubham Rahad, with Mr Gopal Kalapathy, Mr Pramod Hashilkar, Ms Maithili Iyer, and Ms Kirtana Nagar being the judges.

The programme began with the GEF welcome song written by Mr. Mukund Kulkarni, set to music by Dr Ashwin Javdekar, and presented by GEF students Ms Priyanka Wanjari and Ms Ruchika Girde. Mr Pravin Nikam made a detailed presentation on the activities of GEF.

Dr. Pradeep Waychal, Founder GEF, also encouraged and addressed the participating students and teachers before the festival concluded with Pasaydan.

The entire programme was flawlessly anchored by Ms Vidisha Satam, Ms Manjiri Jadhav, Ms Akanksha Jadhav, and Ms Aaradhya Bhosale. The backstage support was provided by supporters and mentors Dr. Vaijayanti Deogekar, Ms Jyoti Sulakhe, Ms Monika Kumawat, Ms Rashmi Karale & Mr Pravin Ghadigaonkar

The entire festival was brought to life and stringed together to perfection by Mr Saurabh Raut, Co-ordinator of the SCRATCH program at GEF and exemplified the underlying theme of the festival – Success is a system, not an event.

MONSOON SCRATCH FESTIVAL - AWARD WINNERS

SCRATCH PROJECTS - JUNIORS

1st: Kai. Y. D. Patil Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Tandulwadi (Jalgaon) - Harshada A. Patil, Lavanya B. Pawar, Nandini D. Patil, Yadnya S. Pawar

2nd: Pragat Vidya Mandir, Ramgad (Sindhudurg) - Ananya J. Parab, Nirvi P. Ghadigaonkar, Pranjal P. Ghadigaonkar, Vaishnavi N. Ghadigaonkar

3rd: Nimgaon Vidyamandir, Nimgaon, Malshiras (Solapur) - Sai P. Yadav, Swaranjali R. Magar, Tanishka A. Magar

Best Idea Award: Sri Sri Gnan Mandir Matriculation School, Vadakkur (Thanjavur), Tamil Nadu - Bavadharini B, Dhavitha A, Mahathisha M, Samitha G

Best Storytelling Award: New English School, Chilewadi (Satara) - Arohi M. Shedage, Dhurava S. Salunkhe, Shravani A. Chatur, Shrushti S. Ghorpade

Innovative Approach Award: Shivdav Madhyamik Vidyalay, Shivdav, Kankavli (Sindhudurg) - Devendra P. Ghadigaonkar, Shaurya S. Vichare, Siddhi S. Karale, Swara C. Shirsat, Swara V. Gaonkar

SCRATCH PROJECTS - SENIORS

1st: Kai. Y. D. Patil Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Tandulwadi (Jalgaon) - Ritika B. Patil, Samruddhi R. Patil, Vaishnavi R. Patil

2nd: Pragat Vidya Mandir, Ramgad (Sindhudurg) - Bhakti V. Hatle, Gauri N. Ghadigaonkar, Pooja S. Ghag, Purva G. Jikmade, Tanvi G. Jikmade

3rd: Pragat Vidya Mandir, Ramgad (Sindhudurg) - Abha J. Hazare, Manvi V. Ghadigaonkar, Nupur L. Tari, Pranjali P. Ghadigaonkar

Best Idea Award: PM Shri Rajarshi Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj Vidyalaya Rabale (Navi Mumbai) - Pranit V. Zapde, Pratik V. Annpurne, Shreyash L. Suryanvanshi, Yash B. Lad

Best Storytelling Award: Shrimati S. D. Ganage Prashala, Triveninagar (Pune) - Arjun M. Lokhande, Nilesh D. Bansode, Radhika J. Garad, Shreya B. Jagtap, Shreya R. Gojare

Innovative Approach Award: Janta Vidyamandir, Trimbak (Sindhudurg) - Manjiree G. Jadhav, Sejal S. Raut, Sonakshi D. Chavan, Vanshika Chendavankar, Vidisha N. Satam

MONSOON SCRATCH FESTIVAL - AWARD WINNERS

SCRATCH PROJECTS - SUPER SENIORS

1st: Kai. Y. D. Patil Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Tandulwadi (Jalgaon) - Akshara A. Patil, Komal A. Patil, Nandini R. Mahajan

2nd: Pragat Vidya Mandir, Ramgad (Sindhudurg) - Gandharv U. Gaonkar, Vedant P. Ghadigaonkar, Vishvajit N. Jikamade

3rd: Tulshidas Jadhav Prashala, Vairag (Solapur) - Akash Devkar, Navman Shaikh, Santosh Satpute, Shritej Shinde, Yash Aware

Best Idea Award: Tulshidas Jadhav Prashala, Vairag (Solapur) - Parth Jadhav, Pranav Deshmukh, Shreyash Jadhav, Vedant Navale, Yash Kashid

Best Storytelling Award: Shrimati S. D. Ganage Prashala, Triveninagar (Pune) - Aayush A. Shinde, Om Y. Potekar, Prathamesh S. Gadankush, Rohan S. Mandavkar, Sarthak S. Bandalkar

Innovative Approach Award: Shrimati S. D. Ganage Prashala, Triveninagar (Pune) - Anup M. Waghire, Sanskar H. Jadhav, Vedant S. Zaware, Yash B. Birangal

MONSOON SCRATCH FESTIVAL - AWARD WINNERS

DEBATE - JUNIORS

1st: Janta Vidyamandir, Trimbak (Sindhudurg) - Manisha S. Rawool, Paranjal S. Aeer

2nd: Sri Sri Gnan Mandir Matriculation, Vadakkur (Thanjavur), Tamil Nadu - Komagal N, Seema S.

3rd: Pragat Vidya Mandir, Ramgad (Sindhudurg) - Nandini P. Bite, Nirvi P. Ghadigaonkar

Special Rebuttal Prize: Nimgaon Vidyamandir, Nimgaon, Malshiras (Solapur) - Sai P. Yadav, Tanishka A. Magar

DEBATE - SENIORS

1st: Pragat Vidyamandir, Ramgad (Sindhudurg) - Manvi V. Ghadigaonkar, Nupur L. Tari

2nd: Kai. Jibhau So Pandurang Shamrao Patil Vidyamandir, Bhamre, Budruk (Jalgaon) - Arnav B. Patil, Siddhesh B. Patil

3rd: Tulsidas Jadhav Prashala, Vairag (Solapur) - Aditi A. Ghodake, Tabassum S. Shaikh

Special Rebuttal Prize: Sir SA High School, Murud (Raigad) - Kalyani K. Nakti, Shreya M. Fulare

MONSOON SCRATCH FESTIVAL - AWARD WINNERS

HACKATHON - JUNIORS

1st: Kai. Y. D. Patil Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Tandulwadi (Jalgaon) - Harshada A. Patil, Lavanya B. Pawar, Nandini D. Patil, Yadnya S. Pawar

2nd: Pragat Vidya Mandir, Ramgad (Sindhudurg)- Nandini P. Bite, Nidhi R. Sawant, Nirvi P. Ghadigaonkar, Vaishnavi N. Ghadigaonkar

3rd: Sri Sri Gnan Mandir Matriculation School, Vadakkur (Thanjavur), Tamil Nadu - Dhivyashree T, Eniya S, Sharmashini A.

Best Presentation Award: Sri Sri Gnan Mandir Matriculation School, Vadakkur (Thanjavur), Tamil Nadu - Nayantamil M, Samivarshini P, Sivapriya

HACKATHON - SENIORS

1st: Kai. Y. D. Patil Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Tandulwadi (Jalgaon) - Ritika B. Patil, Samruddhi Y. Hire, Vaishnavi R. Patil

2nd: Tulshidas Jadhav Prashala, Vairag (Solapur) - Akash R. Devkar, Navman V. Shaikh, Santosh D. Satpute, Shritej B. Shinde, Yash B. Aware

3rd: Pragat Vidya Mandir, Ramgad (Sindhudurg) - Gandharv U. Gaonkar, Manvi V. Ghadigaonkar, Nupur L. Tari, Pooja S. Ghag, Vishvajit N. Jikmade

Best Presentation Award: PM Shri Rajarshi Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj Vidyalay, Rabale (Navi Mumbai) - Sambodhi D. Gajghate, Shraddha R. Gaikwad, Sonakshi J. Shiru

HIGHLIGHTS

GEF honoured with Sevavrutti Award by Achyut Godbole Foundation

Guruji Education Foudation (GEF) is proud to be one of the two recepients of the Achyut Godbole Foundation's first-ever Sevavrutti Award for Excellence in Social Work. The awards were presented by Shri Ajit Shah, former-Chief Justice, Delhi High Court, at a function held at Pune on 17th August 2026. Dr. Lalita Deshpande (Vice-Chairperson), Mrs. Jyoti Sulakhe (Centre Head – Pune), and Shri Avinash Surve (Co-founder) received the award on behalf of GEF.

The recently instituted Achyut_Godbole Foundation awards recognize commendable work by individuals, institutions, and industries in various fields.

The recognition is an affirmation of the invaluable efforts of our volunteers and the priceless support of our donors, and motivates us to strive even harder towards our mission of "Education for All".



Dr. Lalita Deshpande, Mrs. Jyoti Sulakhe, and Shri Avinash Surve receiving the award at the hands of Shri Ajit Shah, former-Chief Justice, Delhi High Court



HIGHLIGHTS

Mathematics Teachers Workshop conducted at Jalgaon

Guruji Education Foundation along with Koregaon Education Society, jointly organized a workshop for Mathematics teachers at Jalgaon High School, Koregaon, Jalgaon.

The workshop, which was conducted by Dr. Lalita Deshpande, Mr. Alok Kelkar and Mr. Vishnu Nikam from GEF, guided the teachers on various innovative teaching methods and activities for developing students' interest in mathematics.

While competency in Mathematics is a critical requirement for any successful STEM career, various studies have highlighted the extremely poor understanding of fundamental Math concepts among school students. GEF's mathematics workshops for school teachers are a part of our efforts towards addressing this issue.

Seen in the picture is an article on the workshop, featured in Sakal, a leading Marathi newspaper.



जळगाव (ता. कोरेगाव) : ललिता देशपांडे यांचे स्वागत करताना शिक्षिका. त्यावेळी आलोक केळकर, विष्णू निकम, महादेव घोरपडे आदी.

जळगावात गणित कार्यशाळा

कोरेगाव, ता. १५ : पुणे येथील गुरुजी एज्युकेशन फाउंडेशन व कोरेगाव एज्युकेशन सोसायटीच्या संयुक्त विद्यमाने जळगाव (ता. कोरेगाव) येथील जळगाव हायस्कूलमध्ये गणित कार्यशाळा उत्साहात झाली.

त्यात ललिता देशपांडे, आलोक केळकर व विष्णू निकम यांनी गणित विषयातील विविध उपक्रम, अध्यापनातील नावीन्यपूर्ण पद्धती आणि विद्यार्थ्यांमध्ये गणिताची गोडी निर्माण करण्याबाबत मार्गदर्शन केले. मुख्याध्यापक महादेव घोरपडे यांनी प्रास्ताविक केले. मोनिका कुमावत यांनी सूत्रसंचालन केले. यावेळी शिक्षक दिनही उत्साहात झाला. त्यात शिक्षकांच्या कार्याचा गौरव केला. सोसायटीच्या अध्यक्षा सुनीता जगताप यांच्या माध्यमातून प्रदीप गुजर यांच्यातर्फे सोसायटीच्या सर्व विद्या शाखांतील शिक्षकांसाठी एआयचे प्रशिक्षण दिले.

HIGHLIGHTS

TAP Charity Partner Connect

TAP Charity, which is one of our valued supporters, organized a Partner Connect event on 25th July 2026. All partners supported by TAP Charity were invited for the event, which served as a platform for learning, sharing, and networking among partners.

GEF was respresented by our alumnus Mr. Sanket Bhoyar, and Dr. Pradeep Waychal. Sanket spoke about his GEF experience, and his journey from an extremely humble, rural background to today when he is a Senior Consultant working with Ernst & Young.

Collaboration with Apni Shala and Prayas

We are working on collaboration with 2 TAP Charity partners - Prayas and Apni Shala.

Prayas works toward the rehabilitation and reintegration of populations affected by the criminal justice system, including prisoners, children of incarcerated women, children in conflict with the law, children in need of care and protection, and women rescued from commercial sexual exploitation. We are working on collaborating with Prayas on 2 fronts - i) identifying deserving students from the who could be supported under our Holistic Higher Education program, and ii) conducting Spoken English sessions for students from the Prayas community.

Apni Shala is a social impact organisation with a vision to build social emotional learning (SEL) competencies in individuals for a harmonious coexistence. We are currently exploring the possibility of implementing Scratch for Apni Shala, and adopting SEL for our ADP schools.

Partnering with Shankar Mahadevan Academy for singing classes

In line with our focus on holistic education, we have partnered with Shankar Mahadevan Academy to introduce singing classes at two of our ADP schools - Janta Vidyamandir, Trimbak (Dist. Sindhudurg), and Shivdav Madhyamik Vidyalay, Shivdav (Dist. Sindhudurg).

20 students from 5th and 6th standards at each school have been identified for attending the classes, which are conducted virtually. The entire program comprises 34 classes, and finally culminates in a virtual concert where students from all Shankar Mahadven Academy schools participate in the presence of Shankar Mahadeven himself.

HIGHLIGHTS

Session on Women Health

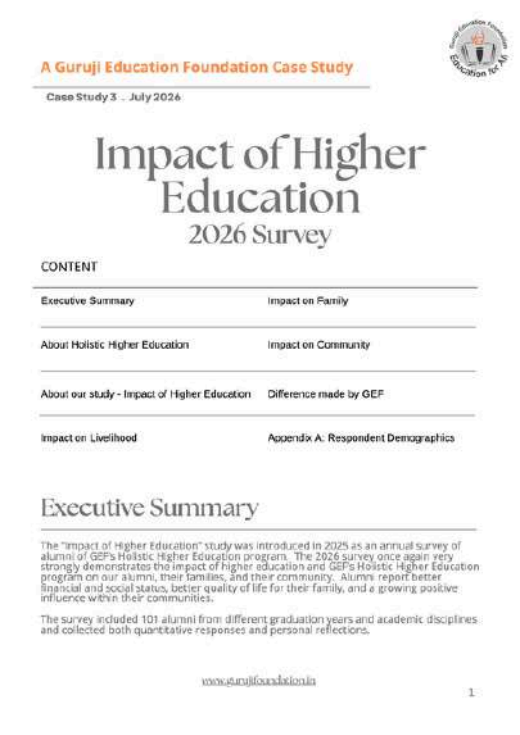
A session on Women Health was conducted for our girl students under the Holistic Higher Education program.

The session was conducted by Ms. Shruti Shalini, a volunteer with Aarogya Bhaan, and was attended by 18 GEF students.

Impact of Higher Education - 2026 Survey Report published

The "Impact of Higher Education" survey, was initiated in 2025 as an annual exercise that attempts to analyze the impact of higher education, and the difference made by GEF to our alumni, i.e. students supported by GEF for their higher education. The report of the survey carried out in 2026 has now been released. Here are a few key findings:

- Livelihood: Over 77% of our alumni have monthly incomes greater than Rs.20,000
- Secondary Beneficiaries: 61% of our alumni support the education of 1 or more others. For those supporting more than 1, the average number of others being supported works out to 1.5. With a very conservative extrapolation of these numbers, we can safely assume 0.94 secondary beneficiaries for each of our primary beneficiary on an average
- Better lives for their families: 92% support the monthly expenses of their family either fully or partially. 50% not only support the monthly expenses, but have gone beyond and also supported capital expenses such as construction/buying/improvement of home, buying appliances and equipment at home/farm/shop etc.


A Guruji Education Foundation Case Study

Case Study 3 . July 2026

Impact of Higher Education

2026 Survey

CONTENT

Executive Summary | Impact on Family
About Holistic Higher Education | Impact on Community
About our study - Impact of Higher Education | Difference made by GEF
Impact on Livelihood | Appendix A: Respondent Demographics

Executive Summary

The "Impact of Higher Education" study was introduced in 2025 as an annual survey of alumni of GEF's Holistic Higher Education program. The 2026 survey once again very strongly demonstrates the impact of higher education and GEF's Holistic Higher Education program on our alumni, their families, and their community. Alumni report better financial and social status, better quality of life for their family, and a growing positive influence within their communities.

The survey included 101 alumni from different graduation years and academic disciplines and collected both quantitative responses and personal reflections.

www.gurujifoundation.in 1

Inspiring others: 82% of our alumni have inspired 1 or more others to continue higher education. For those inspiring more than 1, the average number of others inspired works out to 2.8. With a very conservative extrapolation of these numbers, we can safely assume each GEF alumnus inspiring 2.3 others on an average.

Complete report here: https://bit.ly/3Ua7zcu

HIGHLIGHTS

Infosys-sponsored Placement Assistance Program Audited

Our Infosys-sponsored Placement Assistance Program was audited on 30th September 2026. The audit was conducted on behalf of Infosys by Mr. Teva Kannan from Give Foundation.

Mr. Sharad Deogekar, Mr. Nandoo Hatalkar, Ms. Priyanka Nikte, Ms. Vrushali Taral, Mr. Niraj Kumbhar, Mr. Ravindra Pawar, and Dr. Pradeep Waychal represented GEF at the audit. Mr. Nandoo Hatalkar, who alongwith Mr. Sharad Deogekar, was instrumental in successfully steering the program, spoke about the mock interview framework developed by him. The framework had been implemented with the support of a team of mock interviewers from diverse domains such as embryology, cybersecurity, petrochemicals, and hotel management.

While the auditor spoke to our alumni Niraj and Ravindra in person, he also had video interviews with Shravani Sarode, Sakshi Ghadage, Gayatri Mene, and Pandurang Jadhav, who were beneficiaries of the Placement Assistance Program. Two other beneficiaries, Sujay Kadwe and Nagnath Nikalje who were lined up for the audit, could not be interviewed.

The auditor was impressed with the work being done, and was satisfied with our responses and evidences provided. The final report along with suggestions for improvement is expected in the next few weeks.

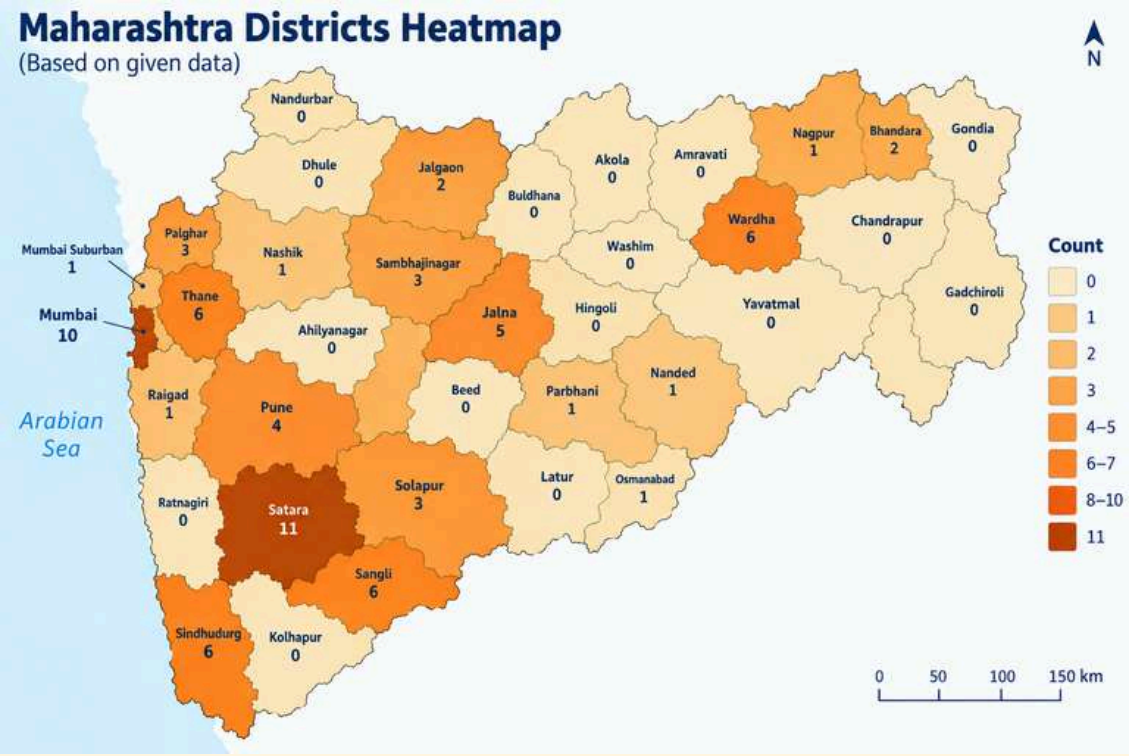


From L-R: Ravindra Pawar, Sharad Deogekar, Nandoo Hatalkar, Dr. Pradeep Waychal, Teva Kannan, Niraj Kumbhar, Priyanka Nikte, Vrushali Taral

UPDATES

Adolescent Development Program

ADP Centres in Maharashtra



Please note that this is an approximate map where each district is placed roughly where it sits geographically, but the districts don't have their real shapes

12000+ students from

82 schools*

(including 54 rural)

across 6 states

* 74 schools across 20 Maharashtra districts

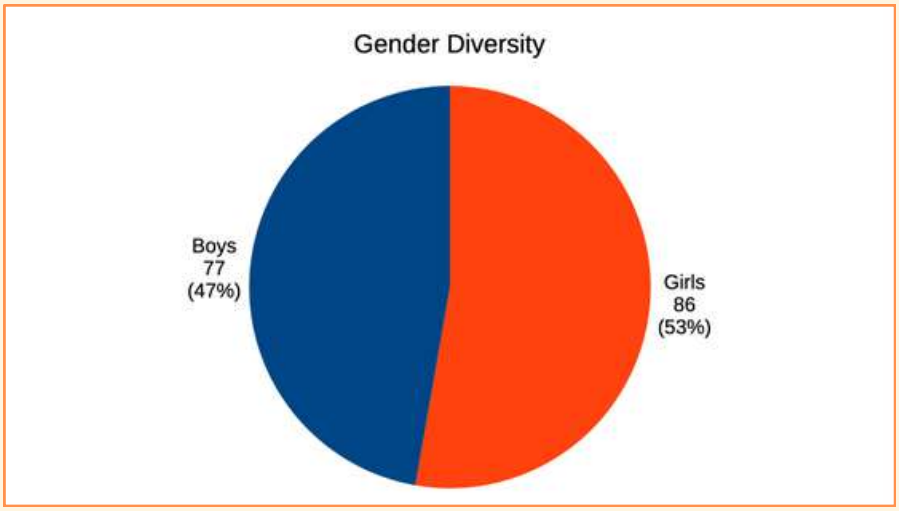
2 each in Karnataka, Telangana and Goa

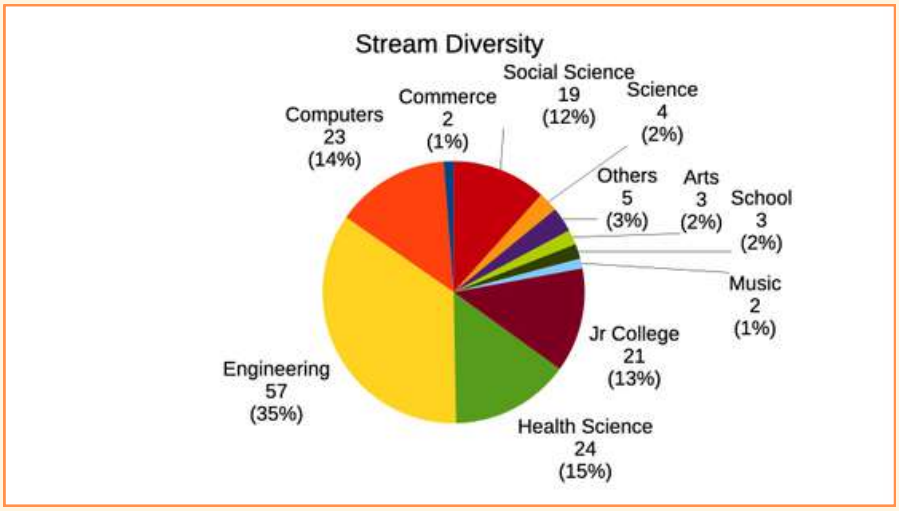
1 each in Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh

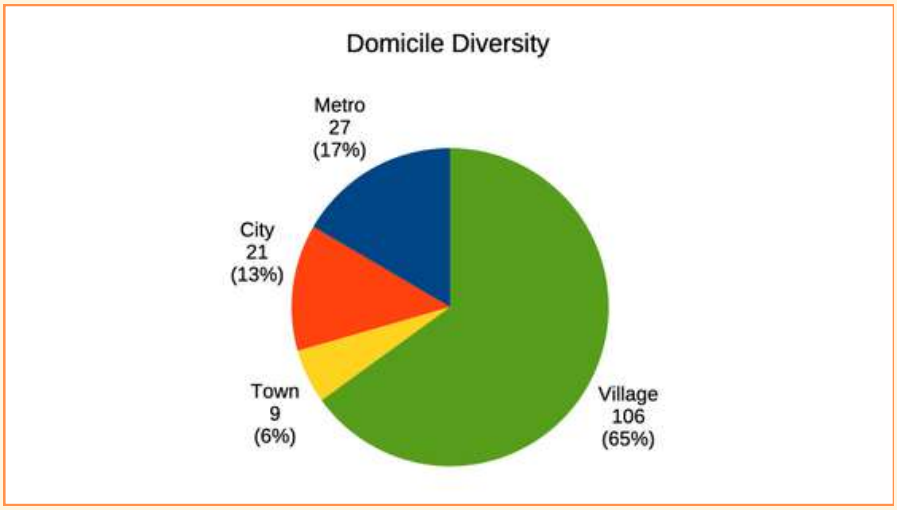
UPDATES

Holistic Higher Education

163 active students with a diverse demographic spread







STUDENT STARS



Aaksh Pamula has transitioned into a permanent role as Asssociate at BNP Paribas, post completion of his internship.

Aaksh has recently completed his BCom, with a perfect GPA of 10.0 in his final semester. and a CGPA of 9.8. Aaksh has also been an outstanding sportsperson, with podium finishes in Discuss Throw and Shot Put at the University level.

Pandurang Jadhav has joined Tata Consultancy Services as a Systems Engineer, after completeing his BTech in Information Technology from Shri Guru Gobind Singhji Institute of Engineering & Technology (SGGSIE&T), Nanded.





Premprasad Petkar, who has just completed his BTech (Electronics & Telecommunication) from Government College of Engineering, Jalgaon, has joined Versigent (erstwhile Aptiv) as an Application Engineer.

Sanika Aeer, who is pursuing BSc (Computer Science) at Ruia College, Matunga, stood first in Captain Code, a coding competition, held as part of the Fusion Carnival Techfest organized by Thakur Ramnarayan College of Arts and Commerce.



STUDENT STARS



Sapna Acharya, stood first in the 7th Semester of her B.Sc Nursing program at S. Tech College of Nursing, Bhilwara, Rajasthan.

Diksha Vhadade, final year student of BTech (Civil) at Shri Guru Gobind Singhji Institute of Engineering & Technology (SGGSIE&T), Nanded, won the AutoCAD and Town Planning competitions, held as part of the Institute's Tech Fest - Pragya. She also recently completed an internship at Designers Consultancy Services, Mumbai, in steel structures analysis & design.

Diksha has also been actively involved in organizing and participating in various technical and cultural events.





Veda Khandekar, was the captain of her college basketball team which won the Silver Medal at the Inter-collegiate Tourbament organized by Yeshwant College, Nanded..

Veda is a 3rd Year student of BTech (Instrumentation) at Shri Guru Gobind Singhji Institute of Engineering & Technology (SGGSIE&T), Nanded.

STUDENT STARS



Vishal Nikam, who is currently doing his Masters at the Film & Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune, was the writer of "Shivshailee", a musical play which recently had a houseful show at Chh. Sambhajinagar. Besides writing the script, Vishal has written the songs, and acted in the play.

"Shivshaili" is a theatrical production that explores the ideals of Chh. Shivaji Maharaj, the values of Swarajya, and the enduring inspiration of his legacy. Blending dance, drama, and music, the play brings to life several significant moments from history, and portrays the inspiring journey of Chh. Shivaji Maharaj—from his birth to his coronation.



VISHAL NIKAM IN HIS GET-UP



GEF ALUMNUS, SAKSHI GHADGE IN HER ROLE



A SCENE FROM THE PLAY

ALUMNI STARS



Sakshi Ghadge has been selected for the Maharashtra Chief Minister Fellowship, one of Maharashtra Government's most prestigious and competitive fellowship programmes. The fellowship provides talented young professionals with an opportunity to work closely with the Government of Maharashtra, District Collectors and CEOs of Zilla Parishads, contributing to policy implementation, project monitoring, governance reforms, and district development.

Sakshi is an MA (Applied Psychology) from Central University of Tamil Nadu.

Sakshi also acted in the play "Shivshailee", written by another GEF student, Vishal Nikam (ref. Page 20 for more about the play).

Pooja Raut, who was a Graduate Engineer Trainee at Atlas Copco, has been now promoted as a Software Engineer.

Pooja graduated in 2025 with a BTech degree in Computer Engineering, from Rajarambapu Institute of Technology, Islampur.



WAY FORWARD

The Nanded Annual Day planned on 25th October 2026 will mark the begining of the new cycle of Annual Days. As usual, the Annual Days, which are fully planned and organized by our students, will be held at all our major centres including Chh. Sambhaji Nagar, Mumbai & Thane, Nagpur, Nanded, Pune, and Tuljapur. Please do look out for the announcements, and join us at these events.

As we head into the festive season spread over October to December, we plan to embark upon a fund-raising campaign. The campaign aims to connect with all our current and past supporters, while also trying to reach out to new ones. We seek your support in this exercise by spreading a word about GEF among your own network of friends and relatives.



CLOSING THOUGHTS

Managing Emotions of Young Children

Dr. Pradeep Waychal

As children grow, they undergo many emotional changes. They build their own identity and develop a palette of emotions such as anger, love, hatred, jealousy. These emotions result in behavioural actions as they have not yet learnt emotional regulation. Many parents don't know proper responses to the situation. Some parents get into the age-old response of beating the children. That neither helps the children develop as healthy adults nor does it solve the immediate problem at hand. Joanna Faber and Julie King in their book "How to talk so little kids will listen", have given some tools for handling emotions of the children. Interestingly many of the tools can also be used for adults. The tools are described in the article.

TOOLS FOR HANDLING FEELINGS - Used when a child experiences big emotions.

Acknowledge Feelings: You can do this using your own words. Name the specific emotion without judging, dismissing, or offering immediate solutions. As an example, when a child has to leave playground when he was enjoying his time and gets frustrated, you can say "You're angry that we have to leave the playground right now. You were having so much fun on the swings." This validates their internal experience, so they feel understood and supported.

You can also do this using art forms. You can suggest the child to draw or paint how they feel. As an example, "You look furious! Take this red marker and draw me a picture showing just how mad you are." This gives physical shape to abstract or intense emotions, releasing tension non-verbally.

Give in Fantasy What You Cannot Give in Reality: Grant their wish through an imaginative scenario when the real-world answer is "no." As an example, "I wish I had a magic wand to turn this room into a giant mountain of chocolate ice cream!" This allows children to process disappointment by enjoying the idea of having what they want.

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Attentive Listening: You can listen with full attention and acknowledge what the child is saying by some verbal or nonverbal responses. This gives the child space to process their thoughts without feeling interrupted or corrected. As an example, you can sit near him while he struggles with a puzzle and saying, "Mmm," "Uh-oh," or "Oh dear..." instead of taking over.

TOOLS FOR ENGAGING COOPERATION - Used to manage everyday routines like dressing and cleaning.

Be Playful: You can turn tasks into a game or give voice to inanimate objects. As an example, a child not putting on his shoes while going to school, you can hold a shoe and say in shoe's imaginary voice, "I'm a friend of **** and I want to have his foot with me.

Offer Choices: You can provide two acceptable options regarding how or when a task gets done. This gives the child a sense of autonomy in the sphere limited by parents. As an example, "Do you want to brush your teeth using this paste or that paste."

Put the Child in Charge: Assign a helper role or delegate authority to the child. This can shift the child's mind from resisting a command to taking pride in a responsibility. As an example, "You are in charge of hens. You need to put them in their house in 10 minutes."

Give Information: State an objective fact instead of giving a direct command. This helps children deduce what needs to be done on their own, avoiding defensive reactions. As an example, "Milk turns sour if it stays out," instead of "Put the milk in refrigerator!"

Say It in One Word: Give a single-word cue to remind them of a known routine. This prevents long lectures that children tend to tune out. As an example: If lights are left on, simply saying, "Lights".

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TOOLS FOR PROBLEM SOLVING - Used when facing recurring challenges, stubborn disagreements, or conflicts involving safety and routines.

The 5-Step Problem-Solving Process: You can follow this structured approach to work through disagreements together.

a. Acknowledge feelings: Validate their perspective first.
b. Express the parent's concern: Explain the issue clearly and concisely.
c. Brainstorm solutions: Write down all ideas without judging them (even silly ones).
d. Evaluate options: Cross off any ideas that either person objects to.
e. Select a mutual plan: Pick a solution both agree to test out.

As an example, you can resolve screen time battles using the above 5 steps.

ALTERNATIVES TO PUNISHMENT - Used to guide misbehaviour, set boundaries, and address safety issues while preserving a positive relationship.

Express Feelings Strongly: Use clear "I" statements to convey the impact of their action to show the real consequence of an action without resorting to insult or personal criticism. As an example: "I don't like it when sand gets thrown! It gets in people's eyes and hurts."

State Expectations Clearly: Focus on telling the child what to do rather than what not to do. That gives young children concrete, actionable direction when their self-control is low. As an example: "Gentle hands with the cat," instead of "Don't squeeze the cat!"

Show How to Make Amends: Direct the child toward restorative actions to repair a situation. That teaches responsibility and empathy by fixing a mistake rather than feeling guilty. As an example, "Your sister is sad because her doll is broken. Let's help her in making it right."

Offer a Way to Be Helpful: Redirect negative energy into a constructive, responsible action. This channels disruptive energy into a meaningful task. As an example, "I need a strong helper to carry this watermelon to the kitchen counter."

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Modify the Environment: Step in calmly to alter the situation or remove an item without lecturing. This protects safety and property when words alone are not working. As an example: Calmly putting away scissors after stating: "I'm putting the scissors away for now because they can hurt you."

TOOLS FOR DECEPTIVE PRAISE - Used to encourage positive behaviour, build internal motivation, and foster genuine self-esteem.

Describe What You See: Point out specific details of their work, effort, or accomplishment. This should not be generic praise ("Good job!") or labelling of child ("You are good") but description of meaningful observation. As an example: "I liked that you arranged the books neatly on the shelf!"

Describe How You Feel: Share the personal impact of their positive behaviour on you. This helps children connect their helpful actions to positive outcomes. As an example, "It made my job easier when you put your shoes away without being asked."

Label the Quality: Name the positive character trait demonstrated by their actions. That gives children an empowering vocabulary for self-identity. As an example: "You waited patiently while I was finishing my phone call before asking for lunch. That's what I call self-control!"

Managing young children's emotional landscape is less about controlling their reactions and more about shaping our response to their developmental stages. When above tools fall short, it is rarely a sign of failure, but rather an invitation to look beyond the immediate behaviour to address underlying physical needs, sensory overload, or a simple craving for connection. By stepping back from power struggles, prioritizing co-regulation over conflict, and adjusting our expectations to match their evolving brains, we create a secure harbour for early growth. Ultimately, helping young children navigate their intense internal world is a long-term practice—one that relies on our own patience, consistency, and calm to guide them toward lifelong emotional resilience.

We thank you for your continued support to our mission of “Education for All”

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