



GURUJI EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Quarterly Report

April – June 2025

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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

The April-May-June quarter signifies new beginnings, as it marks the start of a new financial year, and the cusp of a new academic year. We look forward to continue building on our work so far, and support more students and schools during the course of this year, while continuously striving to set higher standards of mentorship, attention and support to our students and schools.

We continue to make steady progress in the priority areas that we have identified for ourselves. In the last report, we had mentioned about an extensive exercise that was initiated to connect with all our alumni. That effort is now complete, and has resulted in strengthening our alumni bond, alumni volunteering, and the cycle of giving. On the technology enablement front, the Monthly Thinking Exercise (MTE) process is being automated and is in the process of being piloted. Our continued outreach efforts are yielding good results, and have led to expanding our donor and supporter base. The Summer Scratch Festival has been announced with a number of novel features, and the participating schools are buzzing with excitement.

Our networks of Adolescent Development Program (ADP) schools, and Holistic Higher Education (HHE) students, continue to grow at a steady pace. Most importantly, the achievements of our students and alumni, bring us great joy and satisfaction. We are deeply grateful to each one of you for the same.

Executive Committee
Guruji Education Foundation

HIGHLIGHTS

Launch of Summer Scratch Festival 2025

Summer Scratch Festival 2025 was set in motion with the announcement of the Call for Registrations for the Scratch Project Competition on 2nd May 2025. The registration process is now completed and we have 325 students, grouped in 82 teams, from 24 schools who have registered for the competition across levels.

The Festival is designed to foster creativity, problem-solving, and coding skills among school students through the use of Scratch programming. The festival includes multiple events such as Projects, Hackathons, Quizzes, and Debates, all culminating with a grand Scratch Day on the 2nd of August, 2025. Dr. Anil Kakodkar, former Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission, and Ms. Anjali Chipalkatti, author and human behaviour expert, have accepted our invitation attend and address our students on Scratch Day.

In keeping with the ever evolving nature of the Scratch Festival, the 2025 edition will witness new features such as introduction of a “Super Senior” category for the projects, and the use of Design Journals and Workbooks for ensuring systematic planning and progress of projects.



HIGHLIGHTS

Deowadi school joins the Adolescent Development Program network

We recently conducted a Scratch training program Zilla Parishad School, Deowadi, Dist. Sangli, under our Amit Khare Training for Indian Villages (AKTIV) initiative for developing Thinking and Teaming Skills. In spite of being conducted during summer vacations, the program had great participation from the students. The program was conducted by Saurabh Raut, Program Manager – GEF.

With this, Deowadi became the 56th school under our Adolescent Development Program (ADP) network.

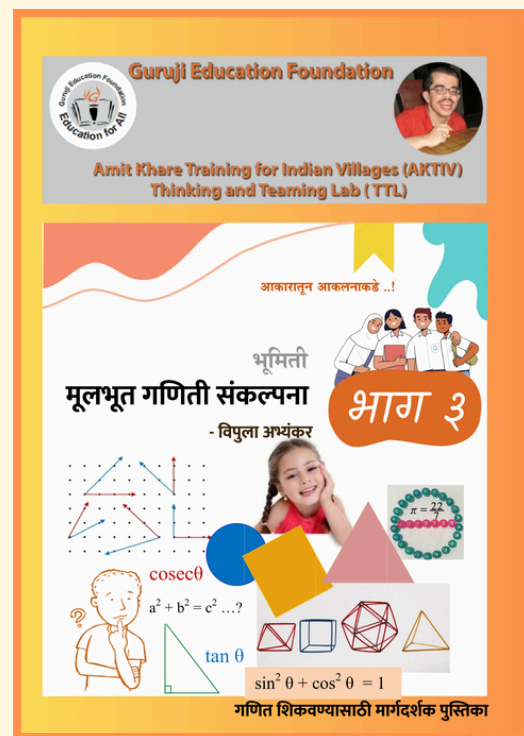


HIGHLIGHTS

New additions to our instructional content repository

Our ongoing efforts towards creating instructional content that can help us better address the learning needs of our students, have resulted in publication of 2 new handbooks:

- Scratch Handbook for Indian Rural Children – Part 2, which covers higher level concepts in Scratch)
- Fundamental Math Concepts – Part 3, covering concepts in Geometry



Monthly Thinking Exercise set to go online

Monthly Thinking Exercise (MTE) is a mechanism to make the students think and review their all-round progress, and plan for the future. A vital component of the holistic development process, MTE had hereunto been carried out using excel sheets shared over emails.

With our focus on technology enablement of key processes, MTE is in the process of being automated and piloted. Thanks to Chetan Amin, Founder and CEO of Trunao, the platform underlying the solution.

HIGHLIGHTS

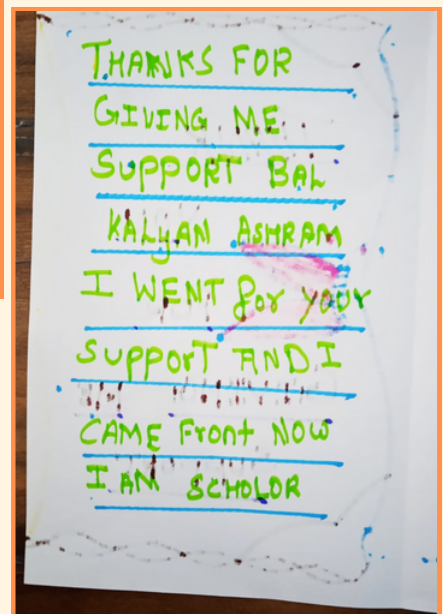
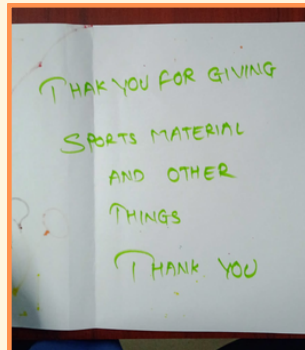
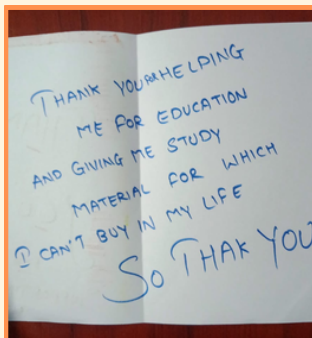
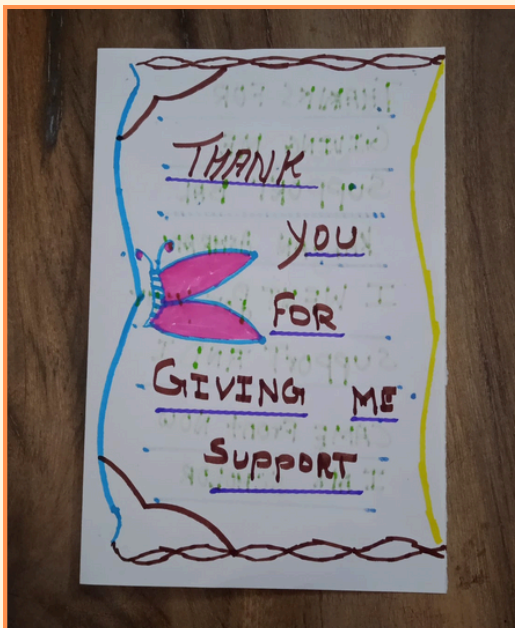
GRAPES program launched at Bal Kalyan Ashram, Goa

GEF has started a GRAPES program at Bal Kalyan Ashram, with the aim of developing psychological strength and promoting positivity among the residents of the ashram, which is an orphanage at Talauli village in Goa. The ashram is an orphanage run by Matruchhaya Trust, for boys between 5-18 years who are either orphans or come from single-parent families. Bal Kalyan Ashram thus is the 57th and latest entrant to our Adolescent Development Program (ADP) network.

The program, which started on 17th June, is being conducted by Mrs. Jayashree Raveendran, as a series of bi-weekly online sessions.



Photos from the sessions in progress



A few of the homework assignments, where the students were asked to express their GRATITUDE to whoever they wished to thank

HIGHLIGHTS

GEF case studies published

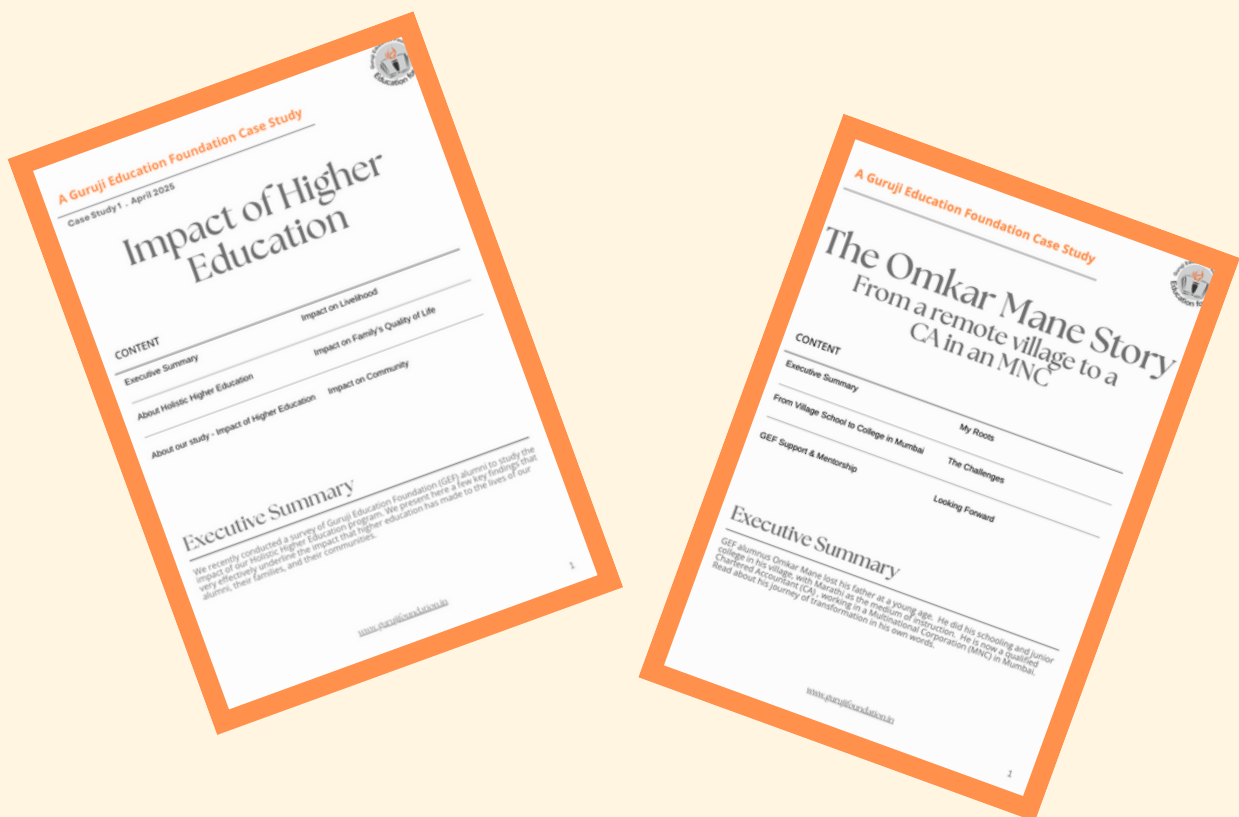
This quarter saw 2 case studies based on GEF work. being published. The first case study, titled “Impact of Higher Education”, is based on the findings from a survey that we had carried out amongst the alumni of our Holistic Higher Education program. The second one, titled “The Omkar Mane Story - From a remote village to a CA in an MNC”, presents the story of our alumni Omkar Mane,

Periodic publication of case studies is a part of our overall communication and outreach effort towards strengthening GEF’s brand.

Read the Case Studies here:

[Impact of Higher Education](#)

[The Omkar Mane Story: From a remote village to a CA in an MNC](#)



HIGHLIGHTS

GEF Student Survey

We recently carried out a simple survey to find out from students what they liked and did not like about GEF. Here are a few responses:

“

I like many things. Firstly I get lot of exposure from other GEF students and alumni. Always we'll have someone or the other from every field to get guidance. Even in the field I'm in, I have many seniors in GEF itself, so it's helpful. It is slowly slowly becoming a big ecosystem

”

“

I like everything about GEF. Firstly Pradip Sir and Lalita ma'am. They literally treat us like their own children, with so much love. I like the way the Foundation supports students in every possible way. I also like the support we get from mentors and the GEF community that has been formed in our college.

”

“

The genuine interest of all mentors towards my growth, calling everyone personally and keeping eye on their condition that feels really blessed, domain mentor giving his 101% to guide me, And many such things I like about our GEF family.

”

“

GEF is more than just financial support—it's a foundation that believes in my dreams. The monthly assistance they provide eases my burden and lets me focus on my studies and growth without constant worry. Knowing that someone out there cares and supports my journey gives me both strength and motivation.

”

“

I appreciate that GEF Foundation focuses on the all-round development of students. It not only supports financial but also encourages skill development, career planning, and personality enhancement. The workshops, mentorship, and career guidance provided by GEF help students from rural backgrounds like me to dream big and work confidently towards their goals. I also value the supportive environment and motivation that GEF provides to build a successful future.

”

“

I appreciate that GEF is supportive environment, with focus on both academics and personal growth, I also value time management, and skill-building, which prepares students for real-world challenges

”

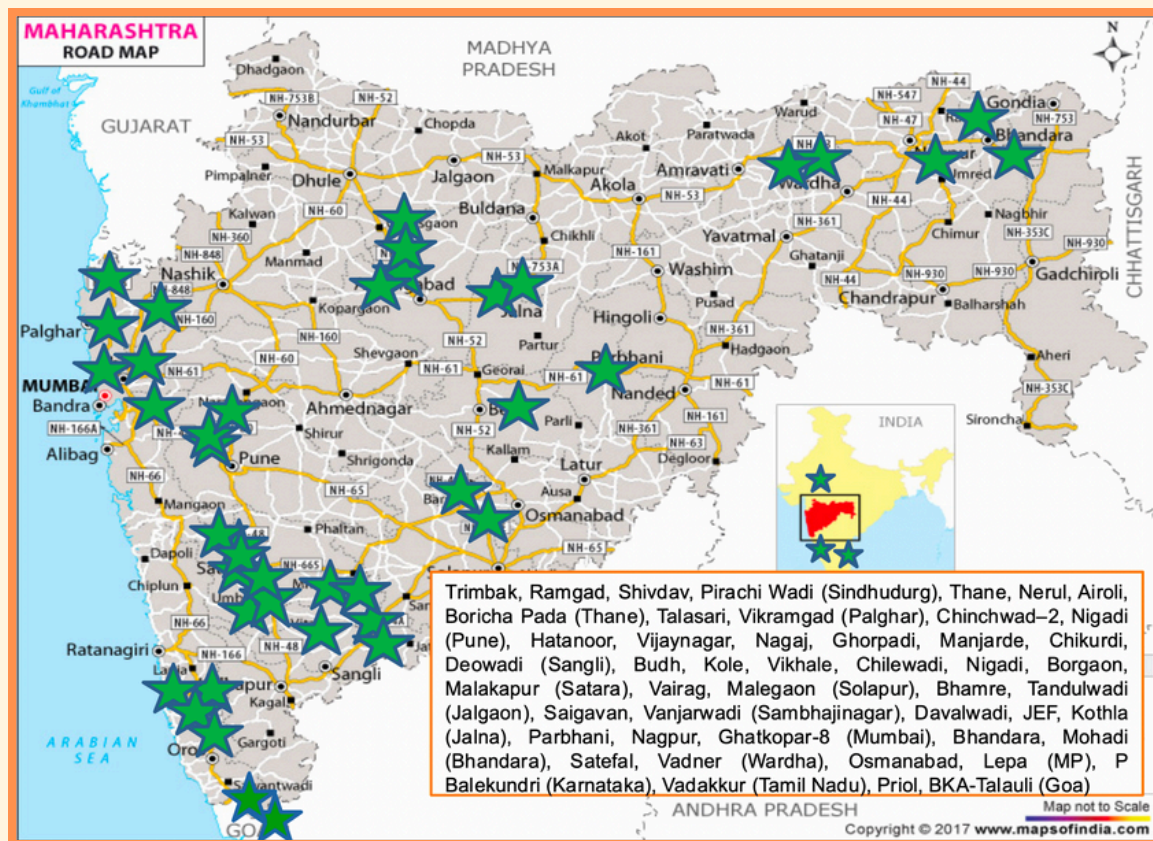
Indeed, there were very, very few comments on the “did not like” side too, mainly pertaining to difficulties in filling the Monthly Thinking Exercise, Book Reading, a few stray

cases of delays, and weak mentor connect. We are connecting with them individually to speak to them and resolve their issues.

UPDATES

Adolescent Development Program

Growing Spread



Over 10000 beneficiaries across 57 schools (including 35 rural)

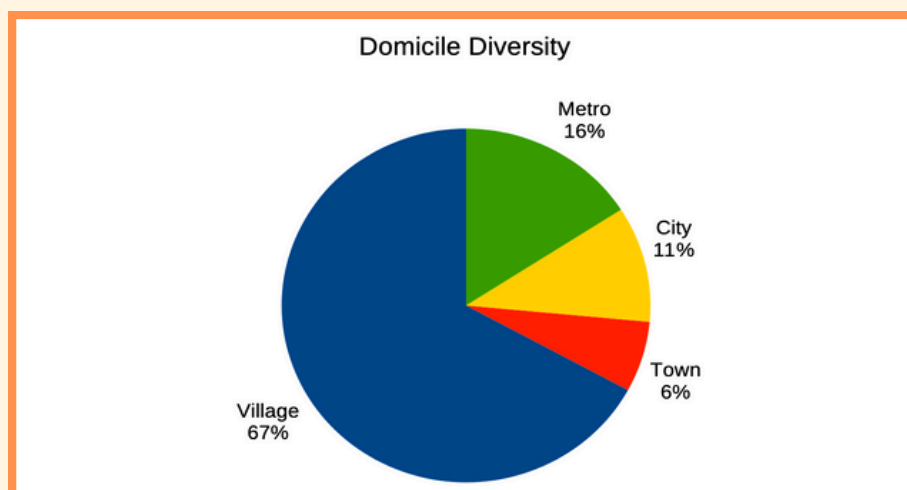
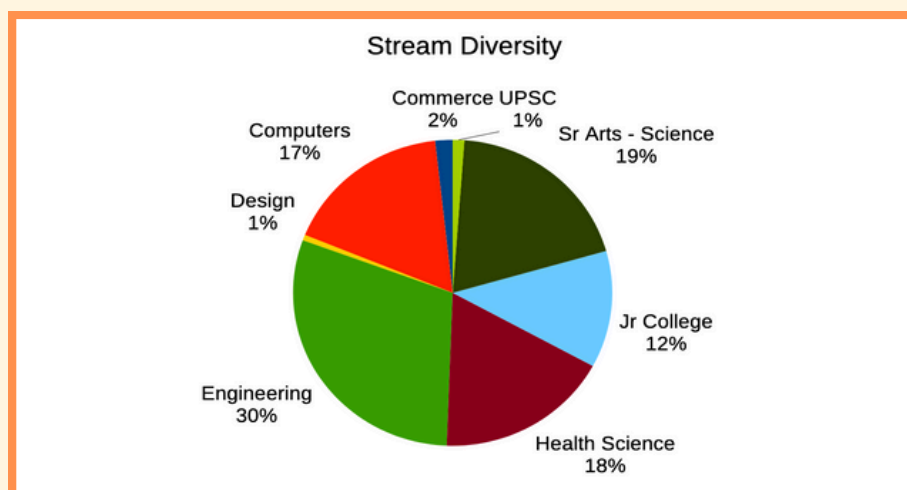
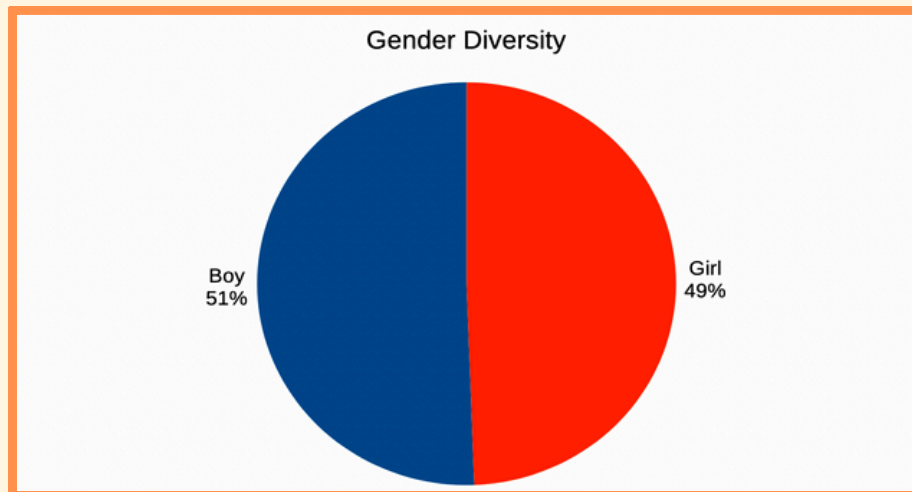
"Education is the foundation upon which we build our future, shaping minds and molding destinies."

~ Anonymous

UPDATES

Holistic Higher Education

Catering to a diverse demographic spread





STUDENT STARS



Juhi Barai completed her B.Sc. in Allied Health Sciences, from Datta Meghe Institute of Higher Education & Research (DMIHER), which is a deemed university, with flying colours. She was awarded 2 gold medals at the recently held convocation ceremony – one for topping her entire batch, and one for scoring the highest marks in her specialization field of Medical Radiology & Imaging Technology.

Juhi is currently pursuing her Masters in Clinical Embryology at DMIHER.

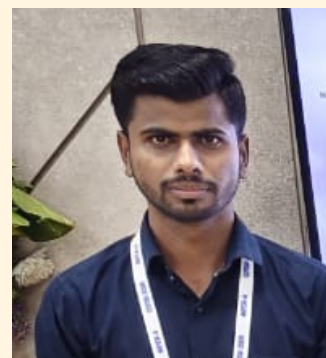
Ritesh Gonde, 3rd year Civil Engineering student at Shri Guru Gobind Singhji Institute of Engineering & Technology (SGGSIE&T), Nanded, has won multiple awards in technical events in intra- and inter-collegiate events. These include 1st place in National Bridge Building Competition at SGGSIE&T, 2nd place in National Float-a-Boat Competition at SGGSIE&T, 1st place in State Bridge Building Competition at Gramin Technical Campus, Nanded, and 1st place in Traversing Competition at MGM College of Engineering, Nanded.

Ritesh has also been a top performer in academics, with a 10 point SGPA in the IV Semester,



Diksha Vhadade who is a 2nd year Civil Engineering student at Shri Guru Gobind Singhji Institute of Engineering & Technology (SGGSIE&T), Nanded, won the runner-up prize in the CAD War Event organized by MGM College of Engineering, Nanded. The event involved developing a plan of a school using CAD, based on given specifications.

Atul Kshirsagar who is currently pursuing his MPharm at ICT, Mumbai, has been selected for a 6-month internship at Lupin Ltd, after a rigorous selection process that included CV Shortlisting, Aptitude Test, and an Interview. He is the first one to be selected from ICT in the area of Analytical Chemistry.





STUDENT STARS



Rupal Walchale who is now doing her 3rd year BTech (Electrical) from Yeshwantrao Chavan College of Engineering (YCCE), Nagpur, won the 1st prize in Ecowrites, a blog writing competition at her college. Her prize winning blog was titled “Can AI Solve Climate Changes?”.

Shivam Yadav final year student at Shri Guru Gobind Singhji Institute of Engineering & Technology (SGGSIE&T), Nanded, is currently doing his summer internship at Symphony Fintech, Mumbai, as a Software Developer intern.



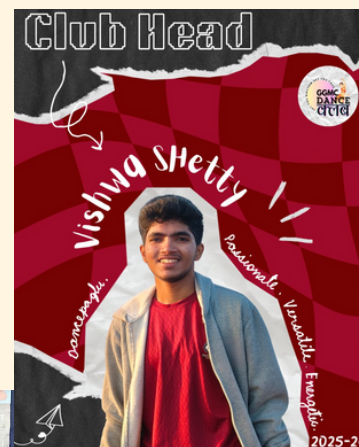
Anuja Vaidya, who is now in the final year of her BE (AI & ML) at Ramdeobaba College of Engineering, was selected for internship at Maharashtra Remote Sensing Applications Centre, Nagpur. She is also a co-inventor of an utility patent titled “Automated Wrong Parking Detection System with Remote Monitoring via RFID and Proximity Sensor”, filed with the India Patent Office.



STUDENT STARS

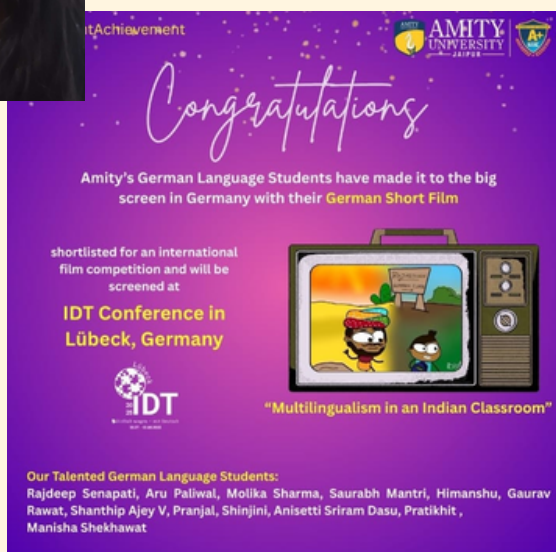
Vishwa Shetty who is currently in the 2nd year of his MBBS studies at Grant Government Medical College (GGMC), Mumbai, has been appointed as the Head of the Dance Club at his college.

GGMC's Phoenix crew, of which Vishwa is an active member, has earned awards at multiple inter-collegiate dance competitions, including: 1st prize at RAPMC, Mumbai, and 2nd prizes at KJ Somaiya College, and a competition held on the occasion of Ambdekar Jayanti at JJ Campus.



Molika Sharma was part of a team from Amity University, Jaipur, that participated in a German animation movie competition, where their film has been shortlisted for screening at IDT Conference in Lubeck, Germany.

Molika is a student of BA (Hons) Applied Psychology, and studies German as part of her curricular requirement of learning a foreign language.





ALUMNI



STARS



Meghana Karlekar has secured admission to the Masters program in International Accounting and Finance, at the prestigious Dublin Business School, Ireland. She will be starting the program from September 2025.

Meghana, has earlier done a Masters in Accounting & Finance, and is currently working with Deutsche Bank.

Prafulla Tembhe who was earlier working in Hexaware Technology, has now joined Euronet Worldwide as a Senior Executive in the Information Security and Compliance Team.

Prafulla had graduated in 2021 with a MSc in Mathematics.



Amruta Raut who works as a Senior Instrumentation Engineer at Tecnimont Pvt Ltd, has additionally started working on the weekends as a faculty at Nrityashakti, Goregaon, which is a prestigious dance studio in Mumbai and India, run by Shakti Mohan, a renowned choreographer and performer.

She continues to follow GEF's principle of holistic development, and says that she is "helping them not just get better and grow as dancers, but helping them boost their confidence, getting their postures right, introducing the importance of nutrition, and a disciplined approach towards life in general."

WAY FORWARD

Summer Scratch Festival 2025 is of course going to be the showpiece event in the coming quarter, and we look forward to sharing results of the various competitions, highlights, and learnings from the event in the next report.

On the Adolescent Development Program (ADP) front, quite a few schools are in the pipeline, and we hope to cross the count of 60 in the coming quarter. On the Holistic Higher Education (HHE) front, while over 45 of our students will be graduating and becoming proud GEF alumni, we look forward to welcoming equally deserving new students to the GEF family. Our target for the financial year 2025-26 is to reach 15000 students under ADP, and 200 students under HHE.

We will continue to focus our efforts in the areas of communication & outreach, technology enablement, and alumni connect, to drive and support our growing scale of operations.

We look forward to your feedback, suggestions, and continued support as always.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

विद्यार्थी, पालक, शिक्षकांमध्ये शारीरिक साक्षरता आवश्यक

मला वाटते आज कालची मुले, तरुण आणि काही अंशी प्रौढ सुद्धा एका गोष्टीला गूहीत धरतात आणि ते म्हणजे त्यांना लाभलेलं अरोग्यदायी शरीर. त्यांना असं वाटतं की आपले किंवा आपल्या मुलांचे शरीर आहे तसेच काम करत राहिल त्यासाठी वेगळं काही करण्याची गरज नाही. त्यामुळे अनेक जण झोपेची शिस्त, खाण्याच्या वेळापत्रकाची किंवा खाद्यपदार्थांची शिस्त किंवा व्यायामाची शिस्त या कुठल्याही गोष्टीकडे हवे तेवढे लक्ष देत नाहीत.

खरं म्हणजे आपल्याला लाभलेले शरीर ही निसर्गाने म्हणा, देवाने म्हणा दिलेली सगळ्यात मोठी भेट आहे. आपण ही भेट मिळायला काय करतोय - काहीच नाही. परंतु ज्याला जगातील सर्वोत्कृष्ट अभियांत्रिकी डिझाईन म्हटलं जातं असे शरीर आपल्याला मिळालेलं असतं. साधा डोळ्याचा पडदा बदलायचा असेल तर आज घडीला दोन एक लाख रुपये लागतात, मग बाकीच्या महत्वाच्या अवयवांच्या विषयी म्हणजे यकृत, मूत्रपिंड, हृदय, मेंदू यांच्याविषयी बोलायलाच नको.

या शरीराची जडणघडण वयाच्या अठरा वर्षांपर्यंत होते आणि त्यानंतर त्याला थोडी उतस्ती कळा लागायला लागते. त्यामुळे लहान वयापासूनच जर आपण आपल्या शरीराची निगा राखली तर त्याचा आपल्याला आयुष्यभर फायदा होतो. आपल्याकडे योगासन, सूर्यनमस्कार, दंडबैठका असे अतिशय परिणामकारक व्यायाम काही खर्च न करता करता येऊ शकतात. अर्थात त्या जोडीला काहीतरी मनोरंजक खेळांची पण आवश्यकता असते. परंतु आपल्याकडील बहुतांशी शाळांमध्ये, काही शहरी किंवा आंतरराष्ट्रीय शाळा सोडल्यास, काहीच गोष्टी नसतात.

युनेस्कोने शारीरिक साक्षरता अशी एक नवीन संकल्पना

प्रचलित केली ती केवळ शारीरिक क्रिया करण्याच्या क्षमतेपेक्षा जास्त आहे. यात ज्ञान, कौशल्ये आणि दृष्टिकोन समाविष्ट आहेत जे व्यक्तींना विविध वातावरणात क्षमता आणि आत्मविश्वासाने हालचाल करण्यास सक्षम करतात. त्याच्यामध्ये खालील बाबींचा समावेश आहे

शारीरिक क्षमता : विविध क्रियाकलापांसाठी आवश्यक मोटर कौशल्ये, समन्वय आणि सामर्थ्याचा विकास.

आत्मविश्वास आणि प्रेरणा : नियमितपणे शारीरिक क्रियाकलापांमध्ये भाग घेण्याची तयारी आणि आत्मविश्वास.

ज्ञान आणि समज : शारीरिक क्रियाकलापांचे फायदे आणि हालचाल कौशल्ये प्रभावीपणे कशी लागू करावी याबद्दल जागरूकता.

शारीरिक साक्षरतेमुळे मेंदूचे कार्य वाढवते, एकाग्रता, स्मरणशक्ती आणि समस्या सोडविण्याची कौशल्ये सुधारते. तसेच सामाजिक आणि भावनिक विकास होतो - क्रीडा आणि कर्मणुकीच्या क्रियाकलापांमध्ये गुंतल्याने टीमवर्क / सांघिक क्षमता, लवचीकता आणि स्वयंशिस्त वाढते. विद्यार्थी, पालक आणि शिक्षकांमध्ये शारीरिक साक्षरता याविषयाची जाणीव करून दिली पाहिजे त्यासाठी वेगवेगळ्या भारतीय आणि आंतरराष्ट्रीय खेळांचा समावेश केला पाहिजे.

गुरुजी एज्युकेशन फाऊंडेशनमध्ये ग्रामीण भागातील होतकरू शाळांना वेगवेगळी साधने पुरवतो आणि त्याचा वापर योग्य होतो का नाही याकडे लक्ष देतो. याच्यामध्ये टेबल टेनिसच्या बॅट आणि बॉल याचा समावेश आहे. या बॅट आणि बॉल आपण फक्त टॅपिंग करायचं, उजव्या हाताने बॅक हॅण्ड, फ्रंट हॅण्ड, उजवा आणि डावा हात अदलाबदलीने, त्यामध्येही बॅक हॅण्ड, फ्रंट हॅण्ड असे अनेक प्रकार येतात. यामुळे हात आणि डोळे यामधील समन्वय आणि एकाग्रता वाढीस लागते. त्याचप्रमाणे आपल्याकडील व्यायाम जो जगभरामध्ये आता वापरला जातो ते म्हणजे दोरीवरच्या उड्या. तर त्याही आपण शाळांना देतो त्याच्याशिवाय फुटबॉल आणि वेगवेगळे कोन की त्याच्यामुळं मुलं डॉजिंग शिकू शकतील अशाही आपण गोष्टी देतो. मुलांसाठी शारीरिक साक्षरता हा केवळ विकासाचा एक पैलू झाला. त्याच्याशिवाय मानसिक बळ, बौद्धिक क्षमता, उद्योजकतेचा विकास आणि जीवन कौशल्य यांच्या पण विकासाची आवश्यकता आहे.

प्रदीप वायचाळ/९७३०४४८५६४

In this Marathi article published in the Nagpur edition of “Tarun Bharat”, Dr.Pradeep Waychal writes about Physical Literacy.

Here is a link to the English version of the article
[Physical Literacy – LinkedIn Post](#)

[Link to the original letter Physical Literacy – Tarun Bharat](#)

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