

A Guruji Education Foundation Case Study

Case Study 3 . July 2026

Impact of Higher Education 2026 Survey

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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.

About Holistic Higher Education

GEF started the Holistic Higher Education (HHE) program in 2005, to reach out to deserving students from underprivileged sections of the society, and provide them with a complete support system to enable them to compete and excel in their college studies.

Under HHE, we identify high-potential students, and catalyze their all-round development by providing them with the resources they may need. The resources could include interest-free loans (to be paid some time after they start earning) towards college fees, living expenses, and co- & extra-curricular activities, personal mentoring for settling down in the new environment & domain mentoring for excelling in the chosen career path, career counselling, and more. The objective is to not only support them with financial capital, but also to help them develop their social capital.

About our study – Impact of Higher Education

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. This Case Study is based on the survey carried out in 2026.

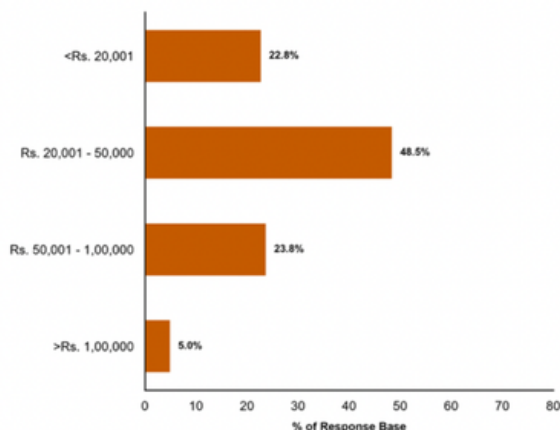
The survey was an online exercise that captured:

- basic personal and demographic details
- family background
- income
- impact on family finances and life
- cascading impact on education of others
- qualitative comments related to impact

The survey population size was 180, and included only those who had spent 1+ years after completion of their education, to ensure reasonable time for effective impact. We received 101 responses that represent a fair mix of gender, place of domicile (village, town, city, metro), and stream of study (Engineering, Computers, Arts, Science, etc.). Further details of the demography of the respondents is provided at Appendix A.

Impact on Livelihood

Current Income of Alumni



Over **77%** of the alumni reported **monthly incomes > Rs. 20,000**

Over **28%** of the alumni reported **monthly incomes > Rs. 50,000**

5% of the alumni reported **monthly incomes > Rs. 100,000**

STATISTICAL MODE

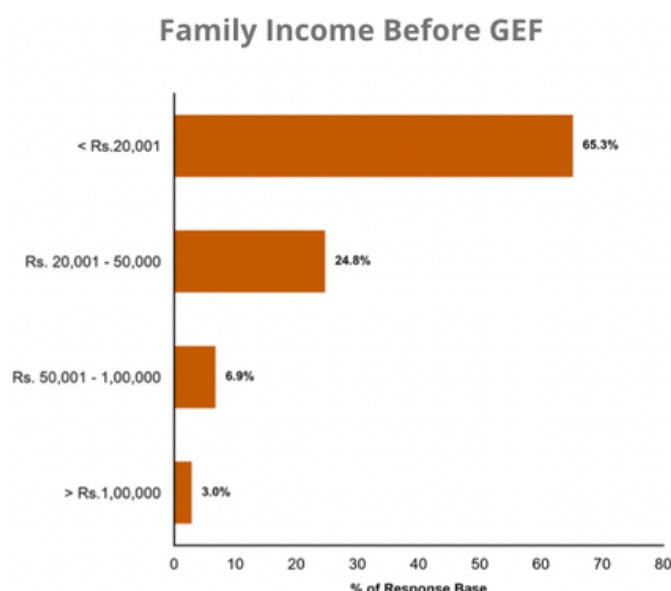
Monthly income of most alumni (48.5%) lies in the

Rs. 20K - 50K band

“The way I now look at life has changed - I understand the difference between “surviving” and “living” ...”

Impact on Family

CHANGE IN FAMILY INCOME



Only **35%**
came from families with monthly
incomes > Rs. 20,000

Monthly incomes of our alumni
(ref. Page 3) indicate that TODAY

100%
of the families now have monthly
incomes > Rs. 20,000

“ *I started working immediately after getting out of college, so I was able to support my family expenses, and that relieved us a lot .*

Also it helped support my younger sister's educational expenses as”

well.

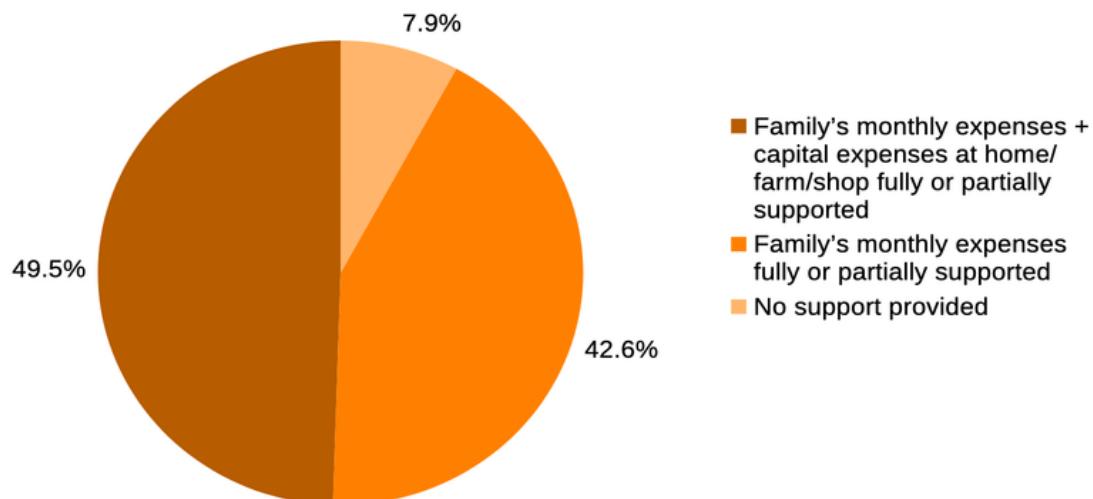
“ *Completing my graduation helped me get a job, which is now supporting my family and me financially when we need it the*”

most.

“ *Now, me and my family do not see ourselves as a poor. We are going on trips, enjoying our life. Before GEF, we used to think that we can not enjoy our life, we are poor.*”

Impact on Family

Enabling better lives for their families



Over **92%** support the monthly expenses of their family either fully or partially

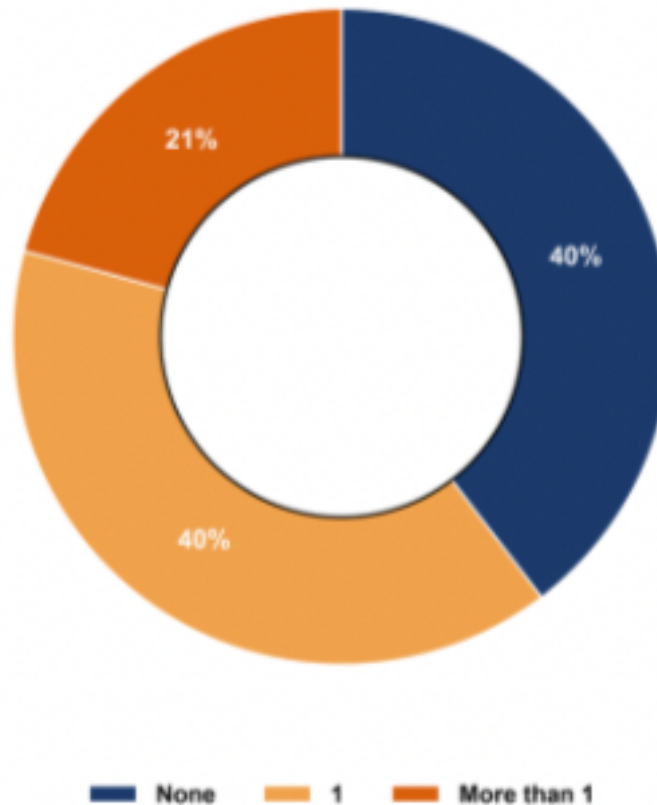
Another almost **50%** not only support the monthly expenses, but have gone beyond and also supported capital expenses such as construction/buying/improvement of home, buying appliances and equipments at home/farm/shop etc.

“ . . . we don't live paycheck to paycheck anymore. Both my mother and my sister can pursue their interest, go on vacation and in general, don't have to restrict themselves just because of money. On a bit personal note, I was able to leave my abusive household because I was able to get a job . . . It has helped our overall mental health tremendously. ”

“ I did not own a home, but higher education helped me secure a job, enabling me to start building my own house and supporting the improvement of my family's financial situation. ”

Impact on Community

Funded Education of Others



61%

have financially supported
education of others

For those supporting more than 1, the average number of others supported works out to **1.5**

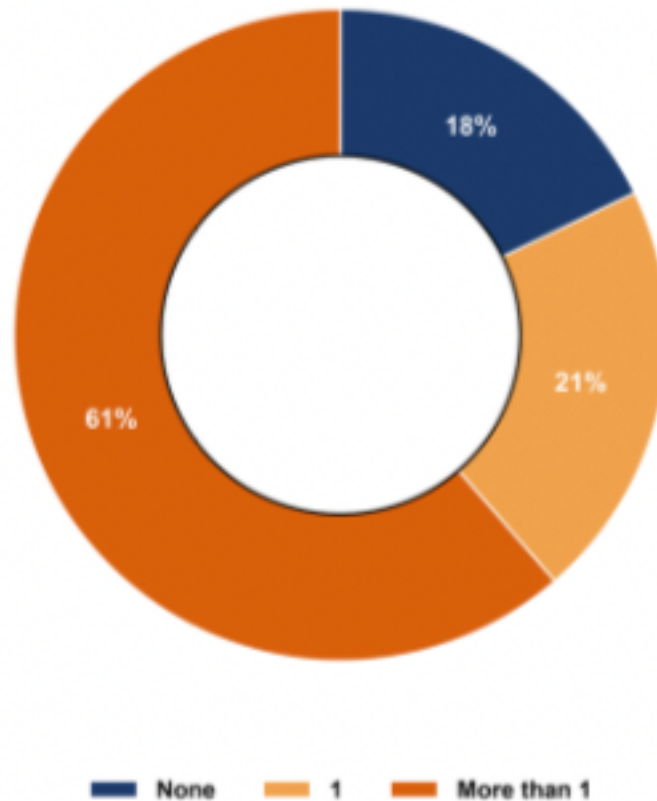
Extrapolating these numbers, there are **0.94** secondary beneficiaries (i.e. those supported by GEF alumni), for every primary beneficiary (i.e. GEF alumnus)

“ *Because of the higher education I am employed and can give financial support to my family. I can contribute to my brother's education.* ”

“ *... Today I am handling all the finances of my house and supporting my sister and my brother to become financially stable.* ”

Impact on Community

Inspired Others to go for Higher Education



82%

have inspired others within their family and wider community to continue their education

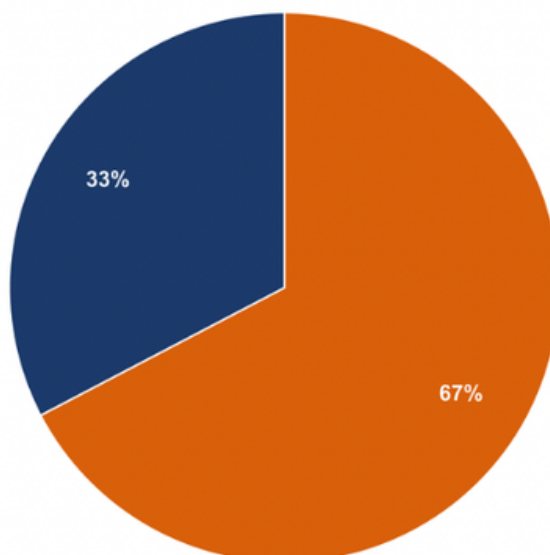
For those who have inspired more than 1, the average number of others inspired is **2.8**

Extrapolating these numbers, each GEF alumnus inspires **2.3** others on an average

“ *Being the first Master’s degree holder, I have set an example for younger members of my family. It has changed their perspective on education and motivated them to aim higher.* ”

“ *In my community, I try to motivate younger students by showing them that students from villages and middle-class families can also achieve success through education and hard work.* ”

Difference Made by GEF



67%

of the respondents said that they would not have been able to complete their higher education without GEF support

— Could NOT have completed without GEF — Could have completed regardless

“ . . . Because of this support, I could focus on my studies without constant stress about fees and expenses. It also gave me a sense of stability and motivation to work harder, knowing that someone believed in my potential and supported my journey.”

“ . . . Because of the financial support from GEF, I was able to complete my master's degree. Now, I am working in the social sector and supporting my family and sisters. This financial support has brought a positive change in my life. I will always be grateful to GEF, and I cannot express my happiness in words.”

Difference Made by GEF - Beyond Finance

“ . . . when I had no family of my own in Mumbai, GEF felt like my home. We used to go to Pradip sir's house, have meals together, and spend time chatting. Those moments had a very positive impact on me in many ways ”

“ Before receiving support from GEF, I was thinking of dropping out of my master's degree because of many difficulties. But when GEF came into my life, they continuously guided and supported me. I would especially like to thank Lalita Deshpande Ma'am, who always encouraged me and said “Don't take any tension, I will help you.” Her guidance and support gave me strength, confidence, and hope to continue my education and move forward in life. ”

“ GEF mentors helped me a lot in settling in a city like Pune. They guided me through family problems and helped me make career decisions. Students like me really need such mentors during our teenage years because our parents are not highly educated and cannot always guide us in choosing the right career path. ”

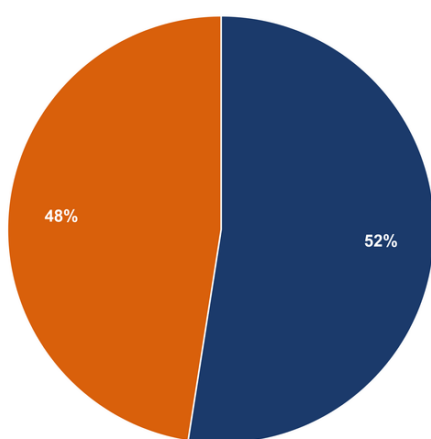
“ GEF mentoring has had a deep impact on me in many ways. It made me realize my responsibility toward myself, my family, and society as a whole. So, I have started mentoring a few students who are preparing for entrance exams. It also improved my confidence, especially in communication and expressing my thoughts. It gave me clarity about my goals and helped me stay focused during difficult times. I developed discipline, time management, and a more structured approach toward my studies and work ”

Appendix A: Respondent Demographics

We received a total of 101 responses, which represented a fair mix across:

- Gender
- Domicile i.e. Village, Town, City, and Metro
- Educational streams such as Science, Arts, Engineering, etc.

Respondent Gender Distribution



■ Female ■ Male

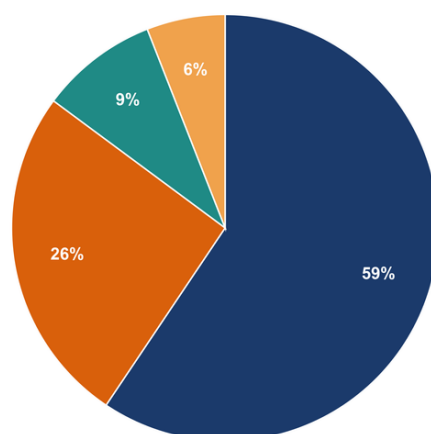
52% females, 48% males

Closely matches the
population distribution of
51% female and 49% male.

Respondent Domicile Distribution

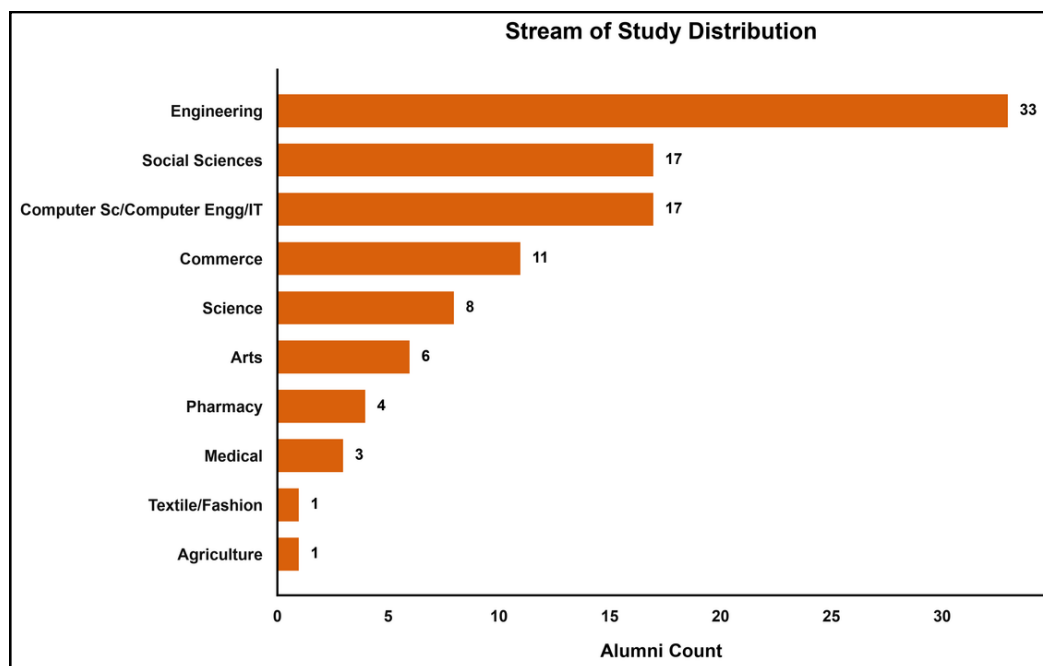
59% Rural, 41% Urban & Semi-urban

Matches the population
distribution of 59% rural and
41% urban & semi-urban



■ Village ■ Metro ■ City ■ Town

Appendix A: Respondent Demographics



Respondents represent a wide variety of streams

Number of responses in each stream are fairly proportionate to the number of alumni in the stream

Make a difference to someone. And to yourself

DONATE ■ VOLUNTEER



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