

Disha

May 2026
Year 2026. Issue 2

School Special Part - I



Guruji Education Foundation

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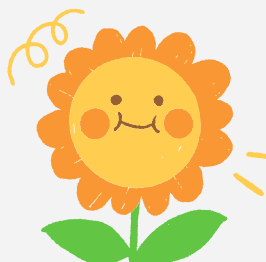
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FOUNDER'S MESSAGE

School education lays the foundation for the future of our children, and in turn, for the future of our society and nation. We believe that our current schooling system is not always able to fulfil this responsibility with the quality and depth that is truly needed. There may be many reasons for this, but the aim here is not to analyse the problems. Instead, it is to share our efforts toward building meaningful solutions.

At Guruji Education Foundation, we have developed an “Adolescent Development Model” which supports holistic development of school students across five important dimensions - physical literacy, psychological strength, intellectual sharpness, entrepreneurial mindset, and life skills. It has reached 77 schools/institutions from Maharashtra and beyond, and touched 12000+ students, a majority of them, rural. We believe that true education must nurture not only academic competence, but also confidence, creativity, resilience, teamwork, empathy, and the ability to face real-life challenges.

As part of this model, we conduct several initiatives in schools. One of our important programs focuses on developing thinking and teamwork skills through Scratch programming. Every year, we organise two Scratch Festivals, which culminate in Scratch Day celebrations. On Scratch Days, thought leaders such as Dr. Anil Kakodkar, Dr. Anand Nadkarni, Mr. Achyut Godbole, Prof. Deepak



Phatak, and Prof. Anil Sahasrabuddhe interact with and inspire students, During the recent festival, we also conducted essay competitions, and you will find some of the outstanding student essays featured in this issue of Disha.

In addition, we conduct remedial classes in Mathematics, spoken English classes, and activities aimed at developing psychological strength among students. We strongly believe that emotional wellbeing and communication skills are as important as academic achievement in preparing students for the future.

Our efforts are further strengthened through initiatives such as developing school libraries to inculcate reading habits, providing sports equipment to promote physical fitness and cognitive development, and recognising inspiring educators through the Dr. Prerana Rane Best Teacher Award. Teachers play a transformative role in shaping young minds, and it is important that society acknowledges and celebrates their contribution.

I am also happy to note that the Disha team has expanded the school activities by conducting drawing competitions for students and inviting teachers to share their thoughts, experiences, and innovative educational practices through writing. Such platforms encourage creativity, reflection, and collaboration within the educational community.

We firmly believe that transforming education requires the collective efforts of students, teachers, parents, schools, and society at large. Through small but meaningful initiatives, we hope to contribute toward creating a generation of confident, compassionate, skilled, and responsible young citizens.

I personally enjoy a lot spending time with the young students and sincerely hope very bright future for all of them.

I thank all our students, teachers, volunteers, supporters, and well-wishers for being a part of this journey.

Dr. Pradeep Waychal

CO-FOUNDER & CHAIRMAN



Disha issues in the past have inadvertently tended to focus more on college students, higher education, placement, and careers. For this issue of Disha, we therefore made a conscious decision to focus on our schools students and school education, and set right this imbalance to a certain extent.

The trigger was the Winter Scratch Festival. With such stupendous efforts being put in by our school children for their projects, essays, quizzes etc., we thought of using Disha to share some of this fabulous work. The prize winning essays from the Winter Scratch Festival, thus became the seed around which we conceptualized this issue. This seed was then supplemented with the results of a drawing competition that we ran for the very first time. Add to it - some insightful articles from our school teachers and mentors.

With the wealth of content at our disposal, we have split the “School Special” across two issues. While this issue covers the essays and drawings from the Junior classes (5th to 7th), the next issue in August will include entries from the Seniors (8th to 10th).

The “flowery” design theme is our designer’s interpretation of the oft-used “children are like flowers” - with both requiring nurturing, patience, and the right environment to thrive.

FROM

TEAM

DISHA



Award-winning Essays

WINTER SCRATCH FESTIVAL ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION - A PREFACE

The Winter Scratch Festival which concluded in February 2026, was themed on the concept of “Vidhayak Diwali” (Constructive Diwali) propounded by Shri Dilip Kulkarni. This very inspiring concept aims at encouraging a shift from celebration driven by consumption to celebration driven by responsibility, awareness, and contribution.

Every event of the Scratch Festival was designed to drive the core idea - “Diwali is not just a festival of lights outside, but a process of bringing clarity, responsibility, and balance within”, and encouraged students to reflect on: “How can our celebration contribute to ourselves, society, and nature?”

The topics for the Essay Competition too were carefully chosen to reflect the same thought and spirit:

- “क्षणिक आनंदापासून दीर्घकालीन विकासाकडे” → Moving from instant happiness to long-term growth

- “मला कोणत्या जगात रहायच आहे” → Imagining a responsible and sustainable world
- “माझी जबाबदार दिवाळी” → Sustainable Diwali / Festival of Light and Responsibility: Aligning celebration with environmental awareness
- “माझे गाव माझी जबाबदारी” → My Village, My Responsibility: Developing a sense of belonging and contribution

With a total of 81 entries across 25 schools, we were pleasantly overwhelmed by the quality of thought and effort put in by our students. We proudly present here the winning entries from the Juniors category. Winning entries from the Seniors category will be featured in the next issue.

SAURABH RAUT
SCRATCH PROGRAM COORDINATOR , GEF

JUNIORS - 1ST

SAMRUDDHI SACHIN KAPASE, 7TH STANDARD
TULSHDAS JADHAV PRASHALA, VAIRAG, DIST. SOLAPUR

The original in Marathi

English Translation

विद्यार्थ्यांचे नाव : संमृद्धी सचिन कपसे
शालेचे नाव : तुळशीदास जाधव प्रशाला, वैराग
उयत्ता : ए वी (अ) गट # Junior Word count = 520

* साझे दैनंदिन प्रयत्न
आणि दीर्घकालीन ह्येय *

"अन्य मांगण्यासाठी कधीही
आपणेची गरज नसते...
नदीला वाहण्यासाठी कधीही
रस्त्याची गरज नसते...
जीवन जगताना मात्र
स्वतःच्या विश्वासावर जगावे,
कोणतेही ह्येय गाठण्यासाठी
कधीही रशाची गरज नसते...!!"

जीवन हा एक दीर्घ प्रवास आहे. ज्यात
दैनंदिन पावले मोठ्या ह्येयांपर्यंत नेतील. छोट्या
छोट्या स्वरुपी दीर्घकाळात मोठे परिणाम देतात.
दीर्घकालीन ह्येय हे मोठे स्वप्न असते, ते
दैनंदिन नियोजनाने साध्य होतात. दैनंदिन
प्रयत्न हे ह्येयाचे इंजिन आहेत; त्याशिवाय ह्येय
फक्त स्वप्न राहते. विज्ञानानुसार, २७ दिवसांची
स्वरुपी दीर्घकालीन यशाचे आधारस्तंभ आहेत.
दैनंदिन प्रयत्न हे दीर्घकालीन ह्येयाच्या
पायाच्या आहेत. जसे वृक्षाला रोपट्यापासून
वाढवावे लागते, तसे यश मिळवण्यासाठी रोजची
मेहनत आवश्यक आहे. विद्यार्थी जर रोज
अभ्यास करत असतील तर तो कोणतीही
परीक्षा उत्तीर्ण होऊ शकतो. दीर्घकालीन ह्येय
म्हणजे वर्षानुवर्षे साध्य करण्याचे मोठे उद्दिष्ट.

MY DAILY EFFORTS AND LONG-TERM GOAL

We do not need a map just to reach
the destination

Nor do we need a road just to move
forward.

In life, while living each day,
We must always have a goal in mind.

Life is a long journey. Every day,
small efforts help us reach bigger
goals. Daily efforts act like the engine
of our goals. Without them, goals
remain just dreams. According to
science, habits are formed over time
through repetition. Therefore, daily
practice becomes the foundation for
achieving long-term goals.

Just as a tree does not grow
overnight, success also requires
consistent effort. If a student studies
regularly, they can succeed in any
examination. A long-term goal is a
big dream that we aim to achieve
over time.

दैनंदिन प्रयत्न तात्काळ प्रगती देतात, तर द्येय दीर्घकालीन दिशा. आपण भावनांवर नियंत्रण ठेवले पाहिजे आणि द्येयांचा आराध्य तयार केला पाहिजे. आपण प्रत्येकाकडून काहीतरी शिकण्याची सवय ठावली पाहिजे, सातत्य राखले पाहिजे. यामुळे आपला आत्मविश्वास वाढेल आणि जीवन सुधारेल.

माझे आयुष्य फक्त माझ्यासाठी आहे का? समाजासाठी नाही का? ही चर्चा जीवनाच्या खऱ्या उद्देशावर कुजेड टाकते. आयुष्य हे वैयक्तिक आनंदापुरते मर्यादित नसून समाजाच्या भल्यासाठीही आहे. समाजात योगदान देणे, जसे मदत करणे किंवा प्रेरणा देणे; आयुष्याला खरा अर्थ देते. महान व्यक्तींनी स्वतःच्या संघर्षातून समाजाला मार्गदर्शन केले. आयुष्य हे स्वतःसाठी आणि समाजासाठी दोन्हीसाठी आहे. स्वतःला घडवून समाजाला प्रकाश देणे हाच खरा उद्देश्य आहे. दीर्घकालीन स्वप्ने ही जीवनाला दिशा देणारी मोठी द्येये असतात, जी साकार करण्यासाठी वर्षानुवर्षे सातत्याची गरज असते. प्रत्येकाची स्वप्ने वैयक्तिक आवडी आणि समाजाच्या गरजांवर आधारित असतात. स्वतःवर विश्वास ठेवून द्येय साध्य होतात.

प्रत्येक विद्यार्थ्यांचा एक स्वप्न असतं - कुणाला डॉक्टर कायचं असतं, कुणाला शिक्षक तर कुणाला शास्त्रज्ञ, माझही एक मोठे स्वप्न आहे. मला 11th अधीकारी कायचं आहे. समाजात न्याय प्रस्थापित करणे, गुन्हेगारीवर नियंत्रण ठेवणे आणि लोकांची सुरवा सुनिश्चित करणे हे माझ द्येय आहे.

Daily efforts give direction to our long-term goals. We must stay focused on our goals and work towards them step by step. We should develop good habits and remain consistent. This increases our confidence and improves our life.

My life is not only for myself. Why am I living? This is an important question. Life is not just about personal happiness, but also about contributing to society. Helping others and inspiring people gives real meaning to life.

A person's dream should not be limited to themselves. It should also be for the betterment of society. By improving ourselves, we can bring positive change in society. Long-term goals give direction to life. Without goals, life becomes aimless.

Each student has a dream. Just as a scientist has a big dream, I also have a dream—to become an IPS officer. An IPS officer works to establish justice in society, control crime, and ensure people's safety.

IPS म्हणजे Indian Police Service (भारतीय पोलीस सेवा) ही भारत सरकारच्या केंद्रीय सेवांमधील एक महत्त्वाची सेवा आहे. या सेवेमार्फत पोलीस महासंचालक, पोलीस आयुक्त, पोलीस तष्टीक अशा उच्च पदांवर अधिकारी नेमले जातात.

आज समाजात गुन्हेगारी, अप्रवाचार, महिलांवरील अत्याचार, बालकामगार, ड्रग्स यांसारख्या अनेक समस्या आहेत. या समस्यां शोबवण्यासाठी प्राणि एक सुरक्षित समाज घडविण्यासाठी मला IPS अधिकारी वनायचं आहे.

माझं द्येय केवळ वैयक्तिक यश मिळवण्यापुरतं मर्यादित नसून समाजाच्या प्रगतीसाठी आहे. शिक्षण, सामाजिक सेवा आणि पर्यावरण संरक्षण ही माझी मुख्य द्येय आहेत. ज्यामुळे समाजात सकारात्मक बदल घडतील.

सवयी हे जीवनाचे आधारस्तंभ असतात. प्रांगल्या सवयी लावल्याने व्यक्तीचा शारीरिक, मानसिक आणि सामाजिक विकास होतो. मी तेज लावकर उठणे, स्वच्छता, वाचन अशा चांगल्या सवयी लावते ज्यामुळे मी शिस्तप्रिय होते. मी प्रातातील मोठ्या व्यक्तीचे म्हणणे ऐकते. मी तेज उपासना करते ज्यामुळे माझे मन, बुद्धी मजबूत आणि शांत राहते.

Today, society faces problems like crime, corruption, injustice towards women, and violence. To solve these problems and build a safe society, I want to become an IPS officer.

My goal is not just to achieve personal success, but to work for the welfare of society. Serving people and protecting them is my main aim. Through this, positive change can be brought in society.

Habits are the foundation of life. Good habits help in physical, mental, and social development. I wake up early every day, exercise, and focus on my studies. I listen to my elders and practice discipline, which keeps my mind calm and strong.

स्वतःला घडवणे म्हणजे आपल्या कमीपणा-
 वर मात करून चांगले व्यक्तिमत्त्व तयार करणे.
 मी रोजच्या सवयी आणि शिक्षण थांबवारे स्वतःला
 घडवते. कोणतंच स्वप्न देवाला नवस केल्यानं
 पूर्ण होत नसतं, त्यासाठी प्रयत्नांचा यशस्वी
 डोंगर उलटावाच लागतो. हे प्रयत्न सत्या
 यशस्वी बनवतात. या प्रयत्नांमुळेच फुडे जाऊन
 आयुष्यात प्रगती होते. प्रत्येकाने स्वतःला
 घडविण्यासाठी सातत्याने प्रयत्न करावेत. अशा
 जीतीने एक आदर्श व्यक्ती घडेल.
 प्रत्येक व्यक्तीचे दीर्घकालीन स्वप्न
 वेगळे असते, पण ते आयुष्याला दिशा देणारे
 असते. माझे स्वप्न केवळ नोकरी किंवा संपत्ती
 मिळवणे नसून, शिक्षणाद्वारे ग्रामीण भागातील
 मुलांना घडवणे हे आहे. हे स्वप्न दैनंदिन
 प्रयत्नांनी साध्य करता येईल.
 "स्वप्न नसलेला माणूस,
 दिशाहीन जहाजासारखा असतो,
 प्रयत्नशील स्वप्नवीरच
 इतिहास घडवतो.....!!

To achieve our goals, we must work hard consistently. Dreams do not come true just by wishing—they require effort and determination. With continuous effort, we can achieve success. Success does not come immediately—it comes through perseverance. We must keep moving forward and continue working towards our goals every day. In this way, an ordinary person can achieve great things.

Every individual has different dreams, but they should guide life in the right direction. My dream is not just to earn money or gain comfort, but to serve society and bring change.

With continuous effort, I will definitely achieve my dream.

“A person without a dream is like a directionless traveler;
 But a determined dream creates history.”

JUNIORS - 2ND

KHUSHI M. KARANGUTKAR, 7TH STANDARD
SHIVDAV MADHYAMIK VIDYALAYA, SHIVDAV, DIST. SINDHUDURG

The original in Marathi

English Translation

MY IDENTITY AND MY PERSPECTIVE

“Man is not shaped by birth, but by thoughts”.

This statement explains the essence of human life. Often, our identity is limited to our name, caste, religion, or social status. But this is only a superficial identity. A person's true identity lies in their thoughts, values, and perspective towards society. Our perspective shapes our identity.

I consider myself a responsible citizen. In today's busy world, this is very important. A responsible citizen is not just someone who demands rights but also understands duties. Respecting the Constitution, following laws, participating in voting, protecting public property, and being aware of social issues are all signs of a responsible citizen. Social change begins with individuals, so this awareness is always necessary.

माझी ओळख आणि
माझा दृष्टिकोन

“माणूस जन्माने तसे तर विचारांनी घडतो” हे वाक्य मानवी जीवनाचे सार सांगते. अनेकदा आपली ओळख फक्त नाव, जात, धर्म किंवा सामाजिक स्थानापुरती मर्यादित मानली जाते. मात्र ही ओळख परवरची असते. व्यक्तीची खरी ओळख तिच्या विचारसरणीत, मुल्यांमध्ये आणि समाजाप्रती असलेल्या दृष्टीकोनात दडलेली असते. माझा दृष्टीकोनच माझ्या ओळखेला दिशा देतो.

मी स्वतःला जबाबदार नागरिक मानते. का हा प्रश्न लोकशाही व्यवस्थेच्या दृष्टीने अत्यंत महत्वाचा आहे. जबाबदार नागरिक म्हणजे केवळ हक्कांची मागणी करणारा नव्हे, तर कर्तव्याची जाणीव ठेवणारा व्यक्ती. संविधानाचा आदर करणे, कायद्याचे पालन करणे, मतदानात सहभाग घेणे, सार्वजनिक मालमत्तेची काळजी घेणे आणि सामाजिक प्रश्नाबाबत सजग राहणे ही जबाबदार नागरिकाची लहानो आहेत. समाजपरिवर्तन सुरुवात व्यक्तीपासूनच होते. ही जाणीव ठेवणे नेहमी आवश्यक आहे. ॥१॥

निर्णय घेताना मी स्वार्थावर आधारित निर्णय घेता की मुल्यांवर. यावर माझ्या व्यक्तिमत्त्वाची कसोटी लागते. स्वार्थ तात्पुरता फायदा देऊ शकतो, पण तो द्विष्टिकाक्षीन नुकसान करतो. त्याउलट सत्य, प्रामाणिकपणा, वधाय, समता आणि सामाजिक बांधिलकी या मुल्यांवर आधारित निर्णय व्यक्तिला आत्मसमाधान देतात. इतिहासातील थोर व्यक्तीला गैहमी मूल्याधिष्ठित निर्णय घेतले आणि म्हणूनच ते समाजासाठी प्रेरणास्थान ठरले.

मी इतरांबद्दल कसा विचार करतो. यावर माझा सामाजिक दृष्टिकोन ठरतो. प्रत्येक व्यक्तीची पार्श्वभूमी वेगळी असते, हे समजून घेतल्यास सहाय्य मूमी आणि साहिष्णुता निर्माण होते. जाती, धर्म, भाषा किंवा अर्थिक स्थितीच्या आधारे गैहमाप वा करता माणसाकडे माणूस म्हणून पाहणे हीच खरी माणुसकी आहे. सकारात्मक दृष्टिकोनामुळे सामाजिक सलोखा आणि राष्ट्रीय पुनर्गठनात बळकट होते.

माझा दृष्टिकोनच माझे मरिष्य घडवत असतो. सकारात्मक, मूल्याधिष्ठित आणि जबाबदार दृष्टिकोन मला योग्य निर्णय घ्यायला मदत करतो. आजचे विचार आणि कृतीच उद्दयाचे अंश ठरतात. म्हणूनच माझी ओळख जन्माने वळते, तर माझ्या दृष्टिकोनातून घडते, असे ठामपणे म्हणता येईल.

When making decisions, I try to make independent decisions rather than being influenced by others. This strengthens my personality. However, it is also important to consider others' opinions. Decisions based on values such as truth, honesty, justice, equality, and social responsibility give inner satisfaction. Great people in history always made value-based decisions, and that is why they became a source of inspiration for society.

When I think about others, I try to maintain a broad perspective. Every individual is different, and understanding their background and emotions is important. Instead of judging people based on religion, caste, or economic condition, we should see them as human beings. This is true humanity. A positive perspective strengthens social harmony and national unity.

Our perspective shapes our future. A positive, value-based, and responsible outlook helps in making the right decisions and achieving success. That is why it is said that our identity is formed not by birth but by our perspective.

माझ्या दृष्टीकोनात माझे अविष्य घडवत असतो. ठकारात्मक दृष्टीकोन व्यक्तीला अर्थीहित करतो, तर सकारात्मक आणि मूल्याधिष्ठित दृष्टीकोन करतो. तर आज घेतलेले निर्णय उद्दयाचे आयुष्य ठरवतात. म्हणूनच सज्ज विचार, जबाबदार कृती आणि व्यापक सामाजिक मान ठेवणे अत्यंत आवश्यक आहे.

शेवटी असे म्हणता येईल की, माझी ओळख जन्माने ठरत नाही. तर माझ्या दृष्टीकोनातून घडते. यीठय दृष्टिकोन स्वीकारला तर व्यक्ती केवळ अशास्वीच नाही तर समाजासाठी उपयोगी नागरिकही बनू शकते.

नाव-जातीत नाही माझी ओळख,
विचार जातीत घडते माझी ओळख,
स्वार्थ नाही. माणुसकी साझ्या आधार,
दृष्टिकोन घडवतो माझ्या उद्दयाचा संसार,

A negative perspective limits a person, whereas a positive and value-based perspective helps in growth. The decisions we take today shape our future. Therefore, right thinking, responsible action, and social awareness are extremely important.

In conclusion, I would say that my identity is not formed by birth, but by my perspective. If we develop the right perspective, a person not only achieves success but also becomes a responsible citizen useful to society.

“My identity is not defined by caste or name,

It is shaped by my thoughts.

Not selfishness, but humanity is my foundation—

My perspective shapes my world.”

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The original in Kannada



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ದೀಪಾವಳಿ - ಸಂಭ್ರಮಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿಯ ಬೆಳಕು

ದೀಪಾವಳಿ ನನ್ನ ಅಚ್ಚುಮೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಹಬ್ಬ. ಬೆಳಕಿನ ಈ ಹಬ್ಬವು ಕತ್ತಲಿನ ಮೇಲೆ ಬೆಳಕಿನ ಅಸತ್ಯದ ಮೇಲೆ ಸತ್ಯದ, ಅಜ್ಞಾನದ ಮೇಲೆ ಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ವಿಜಯವನ್ನು ಸಾರುತ್ತದೆ. ಪ್ರತಿವರ್ಷ ದೀಪಾವಳಿಯ ಮೂರು ದಿನಗಳು ನಮ್ಮ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರವಲ್ಲ, ನಮ್ಮ ಅರಿವಿನಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಅಪಾರ ಸಂಭ್ರಮ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂತೋಷದ ವಾತಾವರಣ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಮನಮನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ದೀಪಗಳು ಬೆಳಗುತ್ತವೆ, ಹೊಸ ಬಟ್ಟೆಗಳು, ಸಿಹಿ ತಿಂಡಿಗಳು, ಬಂಧುಮಿತ್ರರ ಭೇಟಿ- everything ಹಬ್ಬದ ಸೊಬಗನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸುತ್ತವೆ.

ಆದರೆ ಇಂತಹ ಸಂಭ್ರಮದ ನಡುವೆ ನಾನು ನಿಮಗೆ ಎರಡು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆ ದೀಪಾವಳಿ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆದ ಕೆಲವು ಅಹಿತಕರ ಘಟನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹಂಚಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಇಷ್ಟಪಡುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಆ ದಿನ ನಾವು ಎಲ್ಲರೂ ಹರ್ಷದಿಂದ ಪಟಾಕಿ ಸಿಡಿಸುತ್ತಾ ಸಂಭ್ರಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೈಮರೆತಿದ್ದೆವು. ನಮ್ಮ ಮನೆಯ ಪಕ್ಕದ ಮನೆಯ ಒಬ್ಬ ಹುಡುಗ ಫ್ಲವರ್ ಪಾಟ್ ಹಚ್ಚುವಾಗ ಅದನ್ನು ಹತ್ತಿರದಿಂದ ಗಮನಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದೆ. ದುರದೃಷ್ಟವಶಾತ್ ಆ ಫ್ಲವರ್ ಪಾಟ್ ಸಿಡಿವಾಗ ಅವನ ಮುಖಕ್ಕೆ ಬಿದ್ದು, ಅವನ ಮುಖ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಸುಟ್ಟುಹೋಯಿತು. ತಕ್ಷಣವೇ ಅವನನ್ನು ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ಸೇರಿಸಲಾಯಿತು. ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ನಂತರ ತಿಳಿದುಬಂದದ್ದು ಏನಂದರೆ, ಅವನ ಒಂದು ಕಣ್ಣು ಶಾಶ್ವತವಾಗಿ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಹೀನವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಆ ಘಟನೆ ನಮ್ಮೆಲ್ಲರ ಮನಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಆಳವಾದ ನೋವನ್ನು ಮೂಡಿಸಿತು.

ಇದು ಒಂದೇ ಒಂದು ಉದಾಹರಣೆ ಅಲ್ಲ. ನಮ್ಮ ಅಜ್ಜಿಗೆ ಅಸ್ತಮಾ ಖಾಯಿಲೆ ಇತ್ತು. ದೀಪಾವಳಿಯ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಪರೀತವಾಗಿ ಸಿಡಿಸಲಾದ ಪಟಾಕಿಗಳ ಹೊಗೆಯಿಂದ ಅವರು ಉಸಿರಾಡಲು ಬಹಳ ಕಷ್ಟಪಟ್ಟರು. ಅವರ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಗಂಭೀರವಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದಂತೆ ಅವರನ್ನು ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ಸೇರಿಸಬೇಕಾಯಿತು. ಕೆಲ ದಿನಗಳು ಅವರು ಸಾವು-ಬದುಕಿನ ನಡುವಿನ ಹೋರಾಟ ನಡೆಸಬೇಕಾಯಿತು. ಈ ಘಟನೆಗಳು ನನ್ನ ಮನಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು ದೊಡ್ಡ ಪುತ್ಥಳಿಯನ್ನು ಎದ್ದಿಸಿತು-ನಾವು ಆಚರಿಸುವ ಹಬ್ಬವು ಯಾರಾದರೂ ನೋವು, ಅಪಾಯ ಅಥವಾ ಜೀವಹಾನಿಗೆ ಕಾರಣವಾಗಬೇಕೇ?

ಇಂತಹ ಅನುಭವಗಳನ್ನು ಗಮನಿಸಿದಾಗ, ನಮ್ಮ ಗುರುಗಳು ಹೇಳಿದ ಮಾತುಗಳು ನೆನಪಾಗುತ್ತವೆ. ಅವರು ಯಾವಾಗಲೂ "ದೀಪಾವಳಿ ಎಂದರೆ ಪಟಾಕಿಗಳ ಹಬ್ಬವಲ್ಲ, ಅದು ದೀಪಗಳ ಹಬ್ಬ" ಎಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ದೀಪಗಳು ಕೇವಲ ಮನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಬೆಳಗಿಸುವುದರಷ್ಟೇ ಅಲ್ಲ, ನಮ್ಮ ಮನಸ್ಸಿನ ಮತ್ತು ಜಗತ್ತಿನ ಕತ್ತಲನ್ನು ಹೊರದೂಡುವ ಸಂಕೇತ. ದೀಪಾವಳಿ ನಮಗೆ ಹೊಸ ಮನುಷ್ಯರಾಗಿ, ಪ್ರಕೃತಿಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸಾಮರಸ್ಯದಿಂದ ಬದುಕುವ ಸಂದೇಶವನ್ನು ನೀಡುತ್ತದೆ.

ನಮ್ಮೆಳಗಿನ ದ್ವೇಷ, ಅಜ್ಞಾನ, ಅಸೂಯೆ, ಹೊಟ್ಟೆಗೆಚ್ಚು ಎಂಬ ಭೂತಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರದೂಡಿ, ಸಮಾನತೆ, ಸಹಾನುಭೂತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರೀತಿಯ ಬೆಳಕಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬದುಕಬೇಕೆಂದು ಈ ಹಬ್ಬ ನಮಗೆ ನೆನಪಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದರೆ ದುಖಕರ ಸಂಗತಿ ಏನಂದರೆ, ನಾವು ಹಬ್ಬದ ದಿನ ಮಾತ್ರ ದೀಪ ಹಚ್ಚಿ, ಉಳಿದ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ದುರ್ಗುಣಗಳೆಂಬ ಕತ್ತಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬದುಕುತ್ತೇವೆ. ದೀಪಗಳನ್ನು ಹಚ್ಚುವುದು ಕೇವಲ ಒಂದು ಆಚರಣೆ ಅಲ್ಲ; ಅದು ನಾವು ಆಳವಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕಾದ ಉತ್ತಮ ಗುಣಗಳ ಸಾಂಕೇತಿಕ ಸೂಚನೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಈ ಮೌಲ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರತಿಜ್ಞಾಪೂರ್ವಕವಾಗಿ ನಮ್ಮ ದೈನಂದಿನ ಜೀವನದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಳವಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು.

ಇಂದಿನ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ದೀಪಾವಳಿ ಸಂಭ್ರಮಕ್ಕೆ ನಾವು ಸಿಡಿಸುವ ಪಟಾಕಿಗಳಿಂದ ಗಾಳಿ ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯ ಹೆಚ್ಚುತ್ತಿದೆ. ವಾಯುಮಾಲಿನ್ಯದಿಂದ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ, ವೃದ್ಧರಿಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ಉಸಿರಾಟದ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಇರುವವರಿಗೆ ತೀವ್ರ ತೊಂದರೆ ಉಂಟಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಪ್ರಾಣಿ-ಪಕ್ಷಿಗಳು ಭಯಭೀತರಾಗುತ್ತಿವೆ, ಅನೇಕವು ಗಾಯಗೊಂಡು ಅಥವಾ ಸತ್ತೂ ಹೋಗುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಪ್ರತಿವರ್ಷ ಪಟಾಕಿ ದುರಂತಗಳಿಂದ ನೂರಾರು ಮಕ್ಕಳು ದೃಷ್ಟಿಹೀನರಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ, ಅಂಗವಿಕಲರಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಮತ್ತು ಅನೇಕ ಅಮೂಲ್ಯ ಜೀವಗಳು ಕಳೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುತ್ತಿವೆ.

ಇದಕ್ಕಿಂತಲೂ ದುಃಖಕರ ಸಂಗತಿ ಎಂದರೆ, ನಾವು ಸುಡುವ ಪಟಾಕಿಗಳನ್ನು ತಯಾರಿಸುವ ಕಾರ್ಖಾನೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾವಿರಾರು ಬಾಲ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರು ದುಡಿಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅವರ ಅಮೂಲ್ಯವಾದ ಬಾಲ್ಯ, ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕನಸುಗಳು ಈ ಪಟಾಕಿಗಳ ಬೆಂಕಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಟ್ಟುಹೋಗುತ್ತವೆ. ಒಂದೆರಡು ದಿನಗಳ ಹುಚ್ಚು ಸಂಭ್ರಮಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಇಷ್ಟೆಲ್ಲಾ ಅನಾಹುತಗಳು ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ನಿಜಕ್ಕೂ ಚಿಂತಾಜನಕವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ನನ್ನ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯದ ಪ್ರಕಾರ, ದೀಪಾವಳಿ ಹಬ್ಬವನ್ನು ನಾವು ಹೊಸ ಅರ್ಥದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಚರಿಸಬೇಕು. ನಮ್ಮ ಅರಿವಿನ ರಸ್ತೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟ ಮಾಡುವುದರ ಮೂಲಕ, ಪರಿಸರಕ್ಕೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಹಾನಿಯಿಲ್ಲದ ಹೊಬತ್ತಿಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ದೀಪಗಳನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚುವುದರ ಮೂಲಕ, ಪರಿಸ್ವರ ಸಂತೋಷ ಮತ್ತು ಸಿಹಿಯನ್ನು ಹಂಚಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಮೂಲಕ ದೀಪಾವಳಿಯನ್ನು ಆಚರಿಸುವುದು ಅತ್ಯುತ್ತಮ. ಪಟಾಕಿಗಳ ಬದಲು ದೀಪಗಳು, ಗಿಡಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ನಗುಗಳು ನಮ್ಮ ಹಬ್ಬದ ಅಸಲಿ ಅಲಂಕಾರವಾಗಬೇಕು.

ಹಬ್ಬದ ಒಂದು ದಿನ ಪಟಾಕಿ ಸಿಡಿಸಿ ಪರಿಸರವನ್ನು ಕಲುಷಿತಗೊಳಿಸುವುದಕ್ಕಿಂತ, ಆ ದಿನವಿಡೀ ಸೇವಾ ಮನೋಭಾವದಿಂದ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡಿ, ಮಾರನೆಯ ದಿನ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ಹಮ್ಮಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು ಶ್ರೇಷ್ಠ. ನಮ್ಮ ಮನೆಗಳ ಸುತ್ತಮುತ್ತ ಗಿಡಗಳನ್ನು ನೆಡುವುದು, ಅವುಗಳ ಆರೈಕೆ ಮಾಡುವುದು ಪರಿಸರಕ್ಕೂ, ಉತ್ತಮ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮುದಾಯಕ್ಕೂ ಒಳಿತಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಮುಂದಿನ ಪೀಳಿಗೆಗೆ ನಾವು ಸ್ವಚ್ಛವಾದ ಗಾಳಿ, ಆರೋಗ್ಯಕರ ಪರಿಸರ ಮತ್ತು ಉತ್ತಮ ಮೌಲ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡಬಹುದು.

ಅಂತಿಮವಾಗಿ ಹೇಳಬೇಕೆಂದರೆ, ದೀಪಾವಳಿ ಎಂದರೆ ಕೇವಲ ಒಂದು ಹಬ್ಬವಲ್ಲ; ಅದು ಬದುಕುವ ವಿಧಾನ. ಹೊರಗಿನ ಬೆಳಕಿನ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಒಳಗಿನ ಬೆಳಕನ್ನೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿದಾಗ ಮಾತ್ರ ದೀಪಾವಳಿಯ ಅರ್ಥ ಸಾರ್ಥಕವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಸಂಭ್ರಮದ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿಯನ್ನೂ ಆಳವಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಾಗ ಮಾತ್ರ ದೀಪಾವಳಿ ನಿಜವಾದ "ಬೆಳಕಿನ ಹಬ್ಬ"ವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

English Translation

A FESTIVAL OF LIGHT AND RESPONSIBILITY

Diwali is my favourite festival. It is called the festival of lights. Diwali teaches us that light wins over darkness, truth wins over lies, and good wins over evil. Every year, we celebrate Diwali for three days. Our homes and our village look very happy during this time. We light lamps, wear new clothes, eat sweets, and visit our relatives and friends. All these things make Diwali very joyful.

But two years ago, some sad incidents happened during Diwali. On that day, we were bursting crackers happily. A boy from our neighboring house was watching a flower pot very closely when it was being lit. Suddenly, the flower pot burst and hit his face. His face was badly burnt. He was taken to the hospital immediately. Later, we came to know that he lost the sight in one of his eyes forever. This incident made everyone very sad.

This was not the only problem. My grandmother was suffering from asthma. During Diwali, there was a lot of smoke from crackers. Because of this smoke, she found it very hard to breathe. Her condition became serious, and she was admitted to the hospital. For many days, she struggled for her life. This made me think deeply-should a festival make people suffer?

Our teachers always tell us that Diwali is not a festival of crackers. It is a festival of lamps. Lamps not only light our houses, they also light our minds. Diwali teaches us to remove darkness from our hearts and become good human beings. It teaches us to live peacefully with nature.

Diwali also tells us to remove bad qualities like anger, hatred, jealousy, and selfishness from our minds. We should live with love, kindness, and equality. Lighting lamps is not just a custom. It is a symbol of good values. We should follow these good values every day, not only on Diwali.

Nowadays, bursting crackers causes a lot of air pollution. The smoke is harmful to children, old people, and sick people. Animals and birds get scared and hurt. Every year, many children get injured, lose their eyesight, or even lose their lives because of crackers.

Another sad truth is that many children work in firecracker factories. They do not get proper education or a happy childhood. Their lives are full of danger. All this happens just for a few days of celebration.

So, I feel that we should celebrate Diwali in a better way. We should clean our streets and surroundings. We should light oil lamps and eco-friendly lamps instead of crackers. We should share sweets and happiness with others. Lamps, plants, and smiles should be the real beauty of Diwali.

Instead of bursting crackers for one day, we should help others and take care of nature. We should plant trees around our homes and water them regularly. This will make our environment clean and healthy.

In conclusion, Diwali is not just a festival. It is a way of life. When we light lamps outside and also light goodness inside our hearts, Diwali becomes a true festival of light.



Highlights

GEF IS NOW GUIDESTAR INDIA BRONZE CERTIFIED

Guidestar India is an organization that serves as a platform that connects non-profit organisations (NPOs) with donors and others interested in collaborating with NPOs. Guidestar follows a rigorous assessment model based on which it certifies NPOs at 5 levels - Bronze, Bronze+, Silver, Gold, and Platinum.



After due consideration to various factors, GEF had applied for the Foundation Level - Bronze Certification. We are pleased to share that after a thorough evaluation of our compliances and processes, GEF has been accorded the Foundation Level -Bronze Certification.

GEF SELECTED FOR SUPPORT BY SOCIAL VENTURE PARTNERS, INDIA

At the end of a detailed evaluation and due diligence exercise over the last 6+ months, Social Venture Partners (SVP), India has selected GEF as one of the 8 NGOs that will be supported by them over the next 3 years (2026 – 2029).

SVP India is an organization that provides mentoring and financial support to select NGOs to help them to access the best opportunities, and scale sustainably. It comprises 'partners' who are interested in getting involved with philanthropy hands-on, rather than only in a cheque writing capacity. More about SVP India at <https://www.svpindia.org>.

Over the course of the next 3 years, we plan to closely work with SVP on the broad goals of Scaling the organization, Process Improvement, Digitisation, and Manpower Reinforcement among others.



While Dr. Lalita Deshpande will be leading the efforts from our end, SVP has identified the following highly experienced professionals as the Lead Partners, who will be closely working with us on behalf of SVP:

- Kuldip Kaura – Senior Director at Everstone Capital Advisors, Ex-CEO & MD ABB, Vedanta Resources PLC, and ACC Ltd. Over 50 years experience
- Anand Sen – Managing Director, Tata International, President (Tata Quality Management & Tata Steel). Over 40 years at Tata Steel
- Pranav Parekh – Early retirement after a 15 year career in the financial services sector (Edelweiss, JP Morgan, Jefferies) to work in the social sector

GEF WORK PRESENTED AT THE MASTEK FOUNDATION CHARITY PARTNER MEETUP

GEF recently had the opportunity to showcase the work done under the Mastek Foundation sponsored project for supporting the education of 12 students of our Holistic Higher Education (HHE) program. This was as a part of a 1-day meet-up of Mastek Foundation-sponsored NGOs, with the aim of celebrating the shared journeys, strengthening partnerships, and deepening collaboration.

GEF was represented at the event by Managing Committee member Mr. Thyagarajan Palani (Thyagu), HHE alumnus Ms. Ankita Raut, and our Co-founder and Chairman, Dr. Pradeep Waychal. The presentation made by Thyagu, and Ankita's narration of her own journey as an HHE student and alumnus, was highly appreciated. Many of the NGOs present expressed interest in inviting Ankita to speak to their own beneficiaries as a role-model to motivate them.

We are grateful to Mastek Foundation for their support, which was enabled this year as a result of sustained efforts of Mr. Sarang Sulakhe, Centre Head, GEF Pune.



Thyagu and Ankita presenting to the deeply engrossed audience

Ankita, Pradeep, and Thyagu with Mr. Ashank Desai, Principal Founder & Chairman, Mastek, and Mr. Jalandar Satpute, Lead CSR, Mastek Foundation



A GRAND MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA FOR FUND-RAISING

GEF organised a charity musical show on the 10th of January 2026 at the Fine Arts Society, Chembur, with the objective of raising funds to support our growing scale of activities under both - Adolescent Development Program (ADP) at the school level, and Holistic Higher Education (HHE) at the college level.

The show, themed “Bollywood Retro”, was headlined by renowned playback singer Poornima (Sushma Shrestha), along with a line-up of other popular artists and musicians who kept the audience enthralled for over 3 hours. A video created by our distinguished supporter Mr. Anil Somaiya, highlighting GEF work and impact was also played on this occasion. The highlight of the evening was an extremely touching and inspiring speech by GEF alumna Ms. Amruta Raut, who spoke of her own experiences as a GEF student, and the difference that it had made to her life. A souvenir was also published to commemorate the event.

The entire planning and execution of the program was managed by our senior Managing Committee Member, Mr. Thyagarajan Palani (Thyagu), ably supported by the entire GEF team of volunteers, students and alumni. As a first of its kind initiative for us, the experience and learnings from this event have provided us with a framework and confidence to organize more such fund-raising events in future.



GEF alumnus Amruta Raut speaks about her inspiring journey



The singers in full flow during the concert



TAP CHARITY LAPTOP PROGRAM

TAP Charity has been a valued supporter of Guruji Education Foundation in multiple ways for many years. They have been providing financial support as well as mentoring and teaching support, in line with their strategy of providing time, treasure, and talent to different developmental organisations.

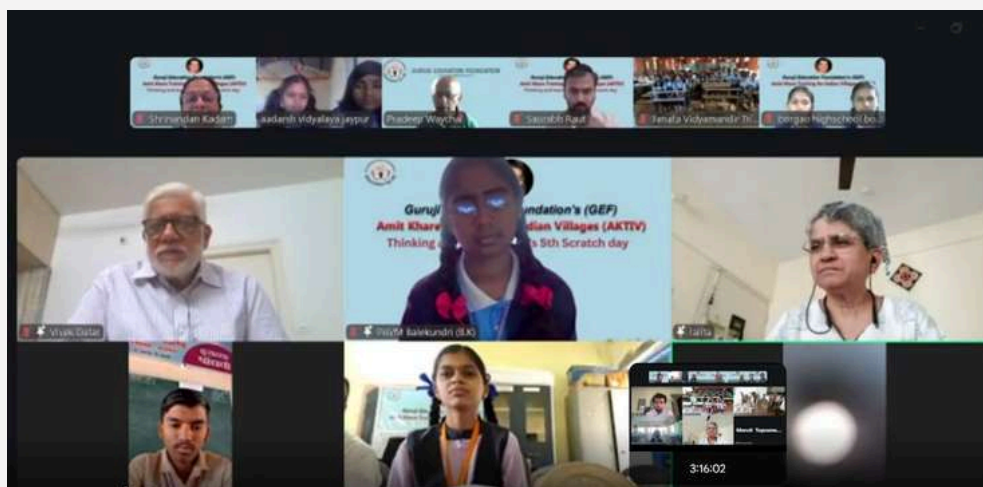
This year they added another leaf by providing 13 high-end laptops, which are now being used by our beneficiaries. The initiative was spearheaded Mr Prasana Iyengar, Mr Kunal Shah, and Mr. Sachin Thatte from TAP, and Mr Milind Nikte and Mr Richard Washington from GEF. Ms. Arpita Desai coordinated the initiative.

WINTER SCRATCH DAY 2026

With over 1300 students participating online, the Winter SCRATCH Festival held by Guruji Education Foundation (GEF) was proof of the Foundation's success in implementation of technology driven learning and problem solving among school children

Prof. Vivek Datar, Nuclear Physicist, former Raja Ramanna Fellow and former Project Director, INO, alongwith Mr. Prashant Nori, an alumnus of the prestigious Harvard Graduate School of Education, Creative Head at Wayground, Ed-tech innovator and former team member of SCRATCH Foundation were the chief guests for the online event held on February 14, 2026.

Appreciating the efforts of rural and semi-urban schools in adopting digital learning platforms, Prof. Datar encouraged students to use SCRATCH not only as a coding platform but also as a tool for creative thinking and structured problem solving. He spoke about how creativity combined with logic developed confidence in young learners and emphasised the importance of platforms like SCRATCH which empower students to become creators, and not just consumers of technology.



Prof. Vivek Datar answering questions from the ever curious school students

Mr. Prashant Nori motivated the students to experiment, iterate and improve upon their ideas in the various projects they developed using SCRATCH. He explained how platforms like Wayground support learner-centric, interactive education and encouraged students to think beyond marks and focus on problem-solving . Building products that truly serve students was another challenge, he added.



Mr Prasanth Nori sharing his insights with the students

Four competitions were held as part of the festival namely: The SCRATCH projects, Hackathon, Quiz and Essay writing. A panel discussion in which the finalists of the Essay competition participated was the highlight of the online event. The shortlisted projects that were built using SCRATCH platform were also screened during the event to encourage and motivate the students.

The entire programme was anchored by Ms Anvita Ghadge, Ms Nandini Ghadge –both students of Borgaon High School, Borgaon (Satara); Ms Aradhya Nikam and Ms Divya Pawar –both students of Adarsh Vidyalaya, Jaipur (Satara). GEF student Ms Krishnamai Thite introduced GEF. GEF student Pandurang Jadhav from Shri Guru Gobind Singhji Institute of Engineering & Technology (SGGSIE&T), Nanded, managed the live streaming and recording of the entire session. GEF supporters Mrs Kavita Kadam and Mrs Vijayanti Deogekar played an active role in essay evaluation, interviews and panel discussions.

The entire programme which was conceived and managed by our Scratch Program Coordinator, Mr. Saurabh Raut, was an excellent example of creativity, technology, problem-solving and team-work all put together.

Scratch Projects

Junior Category - Winners



Kai. Y. D. Patil Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Tandulwadi (Jalgaon)

Team: Soham A. Patil, Lalit D. Patil, Dharshana D. Patil



PMS RCSM Vidyalaya, Rabale (Navi Mumbai)

Team: Shreyas L. Suryavanshi, Pratik V. Annapure, Yash B. Lad



PMS RCSM Vidyalaya, Rabale (Navi Mumbai)

Team: Tanushree N. Taware, Shraddha R. Gaikwad, Sambodhi D. Gajghate

Innovative Approach Award

Kai. Y. D. Patil Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Tandulwadi (Jalgaon)

Team: Rita B. Patil, Samruddhi Y. Hire, Vaishnavi R. Patil



Scratch Projects

Senior Category - Winners



Pragat Vidya Mandir, Ramgad (Sindhudurg)

Team: Abha J. Hazare, Puja S. Ghagh, Gauri N. Ghadigaonkar



Borgaon High School, Borgaon (Satara)

Team: Anvita R. Ghadge, Nandini G. Ghadge, Sakshi P. Adagale



Pant Maharaj Adarsh Vidya Mandir, Balekundri (Belgaum),
Karnataka

Team: Shashank Mirajkar, Shivanand Kittur, Mamata Pujari

Best Idea Award

SSGMMS, Vadakoor (Thanjavur), Tamil Nadu

Team: Lakshanya R J, Kaashini A, Prethisha S, Oviyan S

Best Storytelling Award

Tulshidas Jadhav Prashala, Vairag (Solapur)

Team: Santosh D. Satpute, Pranav V. Deshmukh, Yash B. Aware, Shritej B. Shinde, Akash R. Devkar



Scratch Projects

Super Senior Category - Winners



Pragat Vidya Mandir, Ramgad (Sindhudurg)

Team: Nupur L. Tari, Bhakti V. Hatle, Manavi V. Ghadigaonkar



Kai. Y. D. Patil Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Tandulwadi (Jalgaon)

Team: Nandini R. Mahajan, Akshara A. Patil, Komal A. Patil



Sri Sri Gnan Mandir Matriculation School, Vadakkur (Thanjavur),
Tamil Nadu

Team: Arihanghini K, Sharvesh V A, Sri Vartha C, Varunavi V, Aadhavan V

Essay Writing

Junior Category - Winners



Samruddhi S. Kapase, Tulsidas Jadhav Prashala, Vairag (Solapur)



Khushi M. Karangutkar, Shivdav Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Shivdav (Sindhudurg)



P. Samivarsh, Sri Sri Gnan Mandir Matriculation, Vadakkur (Thanjavur), Tamil Nadu)

AND

Deekshitha, Shri Subramanyeshwar Study Center, Chintamani, Karnataka

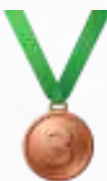
Senior Category - Winners



Bhakti N. Parab, Pragat Vidyamandir, Ramgad (Sindhudurg)



Sonal Salunkhe, Pant Maharaj Adarsh Vidya Mandir, Balekundri (Belgaum), Karnataka



Soham Jadhav, Madhyamik Vidyalay, Vijaynagar, Kapurgaon (Sangli)

Quiz

Junior Category - Winners



Z.P. School, Devwadi (Sangli)

Team: Amruta V. Khot, Swarali S. Khot



Shri Subramanyeshwar Study Center, Chintamani, Karnataka

Team: Deekshitha, Chetan, Malavika



Z.P. School Najik Pangari (Jalna)

Team: Dhanush Pawar, Vaishnavi Pawar, Aradhya Pawar

Senior Category - Winners



Jalgaon Highschool, Jalgaon

Team: Anushka K. Jadhav, Kanksha K. Jadhav



Z.P. School Najik Pangari (Jalna)

Team: Rupali Pawar, Sarthak Raut, Kalyani Pawar



Shri Vitthalrao Govindrao Nikam (Guruji) Madhyamik School,
Ambheri (Satara)

Team: Shivraj D. Roman, Bhagyshri

Hackathon

Junior Category - Winners



Not awarded – as no team could fully complete the solution



Sri Sri Gnan Mandir Matriculation School, Vadakkur (Thanjavur),
Tamil Nadu

Team: Vidhya M, Prethisha S, Devana



PM Shri Shahu Maharaj Vidhyalaya, Rabale (Navi Mumbai)

Team: Yash B. Lad, Avishkar D. Kakanate, Sambodhi D. Gajaghate

Senior Category - Winners

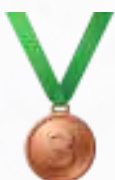


Not awarded – as no team could fully complete the solution



Pragat Vidya Mandir, Ramgad (Sindhudurg):

Team: Vishvajit N. Jikamade, Gandhav U. Gaonkar, Puja S. Ghagh, Gauri N. Ghadigaokar



Kai Yadav Dagadu Patil Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Tandulwadi
(Jalgaon)

Team: Akshara A. Patil, Nandini R. Mahajan, Komal A. Patil

FELICITATION BY THANE VAIBHAV

Thane Vaibhav, a leading local Marathi newspaper, had run a series “Sewa Connect” last year, which featured NGOs doing commendable work and making a difference. GEF was one among the 50 featured NGOs.



As part of their Golden Jubilee celebrations (having recently completed 50 years of publication), Thane Vaibhav had organised a function to publicly felicitate all the NGOs featured in “Sewa Connect”.



GEF team - Mr. Nandoo Hatakar (3rd from L), Mr. Sunil Patil (4th from L), Mr. Sanket Boyar (5th from R), Ms. Nishtha Dalvi (4th from R), Mrs. Sandhya Waychal (3rd from R) - receiving the commemorative plaque. Dr. Khushbu Taori-Modi (extreme R), who researched and wrote about GEF, along with other dignitaries from Thane Vaibhav are also seen in the photo

THANE + MUMBAI ANNUAL DAY

GEF Mumbai & Thane Centre celebrated its Annual Day on the 11th of January 2026 at IIT-Bombay, with 75+ attendees participating in the event.

Mr. Dilip Sarangdhar, Technical Director, SeaTech Solutions, and Mr. Gopesh Modi, Founder & Chairman, Nvest Solution, were the Chief Guests for the event, and shared their personal & professional experiences with the students. Mr. Sarangdhar underlined the importance of being a good human being for leading a fulfilling life and achieving professional success. He spoke about how genuine care and concern helps build authentic connections that are critical for both personal and professional success. He also provided interesting insights into the novel field of naval architecture, and spoke about recent innovations in the field.



Mr. Dilip Sarangdhar being interviewed by GEF students, Nishtha Dalvi and Soumya Shukla

Mr. Gopesh Modi spoke about being resilient in one's professional life, and the importance of having conviction in one's decisions in the face of setbacks. He encouraged students to take up entrepreneurship, by speaking about his life experiences and his decision-making philosophy as an entrepreneur.

A Yoga session conducted by Ms. Sadhana Patil, a talk by GEF alumnus Amruta Raut on her GEF experience, a song performance by Hemant & Shraddha Golatkar, and engaging games conducted by Mr. Sunil Dodeja, were among the highlights of the day.



Mr. Gopesh Modi being welcomed by GEF students Atul Kshirsagar and Samiksha Sadaye

As usual, the Annual Day was completely planned and organized by a team of GEF students and alumni, including Praful Tembe, Neeraj Kumbhar, Rajat Pujari, Shruti Malankar, Nishtha Dalvi, Soumya Shukla, Sanika Aeer, Rekha Arde, Shravani Jadhav, Atul Kshirsagar, Samiksha Sadaye, and Arpana Jadhav, under the able guidance of mentors Ms. Kavita Kadam, Dr. Vaijayanti Deogekar and Dr. Lalita Deshpande.

The Annual Day provided a great platform for the students to network with other students and alumni, and also with the community of GEF mentors and supporters. It was also an opportunity for the students to showcase their talents, and draw inspiration from distinguished personalities.

NAGPUR + WARDHA ANNUAL DAY

GEF - Nagpur and Wardha Centre celebrated its Annual Day on 1 February 2026 at Dnyanda School, Satefal, near Hinganghat. The event brought together nearly 200 school students, GEF students, parents, mentors, alumni, and supporters, reflecting a year of learning, growth, achievements, and strong community bonding.

The program began with an icebreaking and networking activity conducted by Shivsharan Mashalkar, a GEF student, which served as an engaging warm-up before the formal proceedings. This was followed by a dignified lamp-lighting ceremony symbolizing hope, knowledge and new beginnings. The soulful GEF welcome and theme song, performed by GEF and Dnyanda students, beautifully captured the foundation's journey. Juhi Barai (GEF student) presented an introduction to GEF, highlighting its mission, initiatives, and impact on students' lives.

A key highlight of the event was the interview of the Chief Guest, Shri Madhukar Uplenchwar, Founder of Vidyarthi Sahayak Samiti (VSS), Varora, conducted by GEF students Sakshi Pawar and Rutvik Ladhi. Shri Uplenchwar emphasized the importance of discipline, value-based education, and social responsibility. The first half also featured a theme dance on environmental awareness by Vidyarthi Sahayak Samiti students. Another inspiring moment was the interaction with Niraj Kumbhar and Rajat Pujari, GEF alumni from Mumbai, who shared their professional journey and long association with GEF.



Sakshi Pawar and Rutvik Ladhi conducting the interactive session with Shri Madhukar Uplenchwar, Founder, VSS, Varora (Centre), along with Shri Lucky Khilosiya, Jt Secretary, VSS, Varora (2nd from left) and Shri Gajanan Lonbale, Secretary, VSS, Varora (extreme left)

The second half began with a traditional dance on Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, setting a patriotic tone. A special address was delivered by Shri Harish Ethape, President of Adhyayan Bharti, Vidarbha, and Director of Children Theatre Academy, Vidarbha. In an interactive session conducted by GEF students Anuja Vaidya and Komal Hore, Shri Ethape offered valuable guidance on education, personality development, and social awareness. This was followed by a graceful poetic presentation by Rupal Walchale, and a talk on Social media by Parth Sharma, both GEF students. An interesting guessing game conducted by Rutvik Ladhi, with active participation of all students, brought forth the exceptional talent of GEF students. In a motivating and emotionally moving session, Swanand Buwa (GEF alumnus) and Mohini Pachrutkar (GEF student) shared their experiences, which further enriched the event. This was followed by a vibrant dance performance by Komal Hore. Finally Dr. Pradeep Waychal Sir, who could not attend the event in person, joined online to address the students. The event concluded with a vote of thanks and a sense of fulfillment, leaving everyone with cherished memories and renewed motivation.



A scene from the theme dance on Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj

The successful execution of the Annual Day was made possible by the dedicated efforts of all GEF students, alumni, volunteers and supporters. Special mention for the efforts of the event anchors - Shital Yekhande, Parth Sharma, Shweta Torotkar, and Kiran Dhote, and GEF alumni – Shubham Lingayat, Harshal There, Swanand Buwa, Rajat Pujari, and Niraj Kumbhar.

Special thanks also due to the management and staff of Dnyanda School, especially Shri Lucky Khilosiya, who made this event possible. And finally sincere gratitude to our mentors Shri Mohan Varadpande Sir, Vinod Thakre Sir, and Dr. Lalita Deshpande ma'am for their unwavering guidance .



The team behind the event, with the guests

PUNE ANNUAL DAY

Cyber Security, Social Welfare, and Artificial intelligence were the highlights of the GEF Pune Annual Day, held on February 8, 2026. The inspiring event was held at the Anantrao Pawar College of Engineering, Shahu Campus, Parvati, Pune and was attended by over 75 GEF supporters, mentors, alumni and students. Dr. Sanjay Shinde, Retired IGP, Mrs Veena Gokhale, Social worker, and Mr Shantnoo Patil, Head of Programme Management KOKO Networks, were the chief guests who graced the occasion.

Dr. Sanjay Shinde shared his journey from the time he joined the police forces, his experiences of dealing with organised crime during his Mumbai posting and most importantly he spoke about the threat of cyber frauds. He spoke about how citizens could stay alert and prevent becoming victims of such crimes. He also addressed the queries posed by the audience regarding cyber security.



Dr. Sanjay Shinde, retired IGP makes a point during his interaction which was moderated by GEF students Prachi Tari and Janhavi Botalji

Mrs. Veena Gokhale, who is known for her philanthropic work, spoke about her role as a co-ordinator between deserving social organisations and prospective donors for the upliftment of the society. Her experiences of overcoming her personal setbacks to pursue social work were particularly inspiring.



GEF students Janhavi Gundawar and Akanksha Karve interviewing Ms. Veena Gokhale

Mr. Shantanoo Patil held an interesting interactive session on Artificial Intelligence which was well received by the audience.



Mr. Shantanoo Patil during his session on Artificial Intelligence

A dance performance by Ms. Shravani Deshmukh and a Quiz conducted by Mr. Pranav Nikam and Mr. Niraj Kumbhar were other interesting events of the day. The Annual Day event was effectively anchored by Ms. Vaibhavi Bavkar, Mr. Sandesh Tayade, Mr. Vishal Nikam, and Mr. Pratik Khot.

The success of the Annual Day was a combined effort of the GEF supporters, alumni and students. Mr. Avinash Surve, Ms. Jyoti Sulakhe, Mr. Sarang Sulakhe and Mr Saurabh Raut were the mentors who guided the students in organising the programme. Mr. Pranav Nikam and Ms. Sakshi Sabnis were the heads of the student management team. Mr. Niraj Kumbhar, Ms. Gayatri Jadhav and Mr. Rajat Pujari were actively involved in the alumni management. Student Ms. Siddhi Manjrekar and alumna Ms Dhanashri Bhojar were the school student coordinators. The entire photography for the event was done by GEF alumna Ms. Gayatri Phatak.

NANDED ANNUAL DAY

“Failures come along and make you stronger as you move forward on your path to success,” these motivational words were spoken by Mr. Shashanth Gowda, Indian Police Service probationer, Nanded, at the Annual Day held on March 7, 2026. The purpose of the GEF annual days is to provide motivation and inspiration to the beneficiaries so that they are rightly guided on their career paths.

Alongwith Mr. Shashanth Gowda, Dr. Vishwadhar Deshmukh, Professor of Marathi at Yashwant Mahavidyalaya, Nanded, and Mr. Pralobh Kulkarni, Principal of Zilla Parishad School, Pennur were the chief guests. The interaction with the chief guests was interestingly conducted by the students who interviewed the guests who shared their experiences and learnings.

Mr. Shashanth Gowda shared his journey which included instances of conquering failures, before entering the Indian Police Service. He also informed about the advancement in his field and the use of technology in improving work efficiency. Dr. Vishwadhar Deshmukh, who has completed his Ph.D in Comparative Literature/Translation Studies/ Adaptation Studies spoke about the teachings of Lord Buddha. He highlighted the difference between a Guru and the modern, ‘Sir’. He also shared many examples of successful people and their journeys.



GEF students Omkar Rasal and Shital Bhadre welcoming Shri Shashanth Gowda

Prof. Pralobh Kulkarni also spoke about his experiences and also about the importance of technology in shaping the development of the students. He also explained the role of GEF and the SCRATCH programme in the holistic development of students.

The programme was interspersed with several other interesting events such as the Power Point Presentation on GEF by Priti Sanghai, Poetry recitation by Tanvi Pawase, Ice-breaking and Networking activities conducted by GEF students Dnyaneshwar Haral, Rushikesh Deshmukh, and Ram Shrikanthe.

Krushna Bhule and Nikita Bhavar introduced the guests. Omkar Rasal and Shital Bhadre interviewed Mr Shashanth Gowda, while Aliya Sheikh and Sujata Chavan interviewed Mr. Pralobh Kulkarni. Interesting games were conducted by Dimple Mangrulkar, Shaurya Deshmukh, and Ayush Kadale. The entire programme was effectively anchored by Ms. Diksha Vhadade and Ms. Durga Khire.



One for keeps ... a group photo of the participants and organizers with GEF mentors, chief guests, and dignitaries from SGGSI & T

GEF students and alumni who played a major role in the organisation and successful execution of the Annual Day included Ritesh Gonde, Bhakti Suryawanshi, Shreya Nandgaonkar, Harish Wakde, Vaibhav Chavan, Amit Adsul, Ram Shrikanthe, Digambar Waghlikar, Nishikant Kamble, Rajat Pujari, and Niraj Kumbhar.

Dr. Lalita Deshpande and Mr. Dilip Chhatre provided constant support, mentorship and encouragement to the students in putting forward an excellent show.

TULJAPUR ANNUAL DAY

Guruji Education Foundation, Tuljapur held its Annual Event on 18th January 2026 at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Tuljapur, with enthusiastic participation by students from TISS, students and teachers from Mitr Vidyalay, faculty members, and supporters of the foundation. Prof. Ramesh Jare, Former Campus Director and Dean of TISS, and Mr. Yuraj Nale, a Marathwada historian, were the Chief Guests for the event.

In his inspiring interview which was conducted by Payal Tembhurnikar and Prashant Londhe, Prof. Ramesh Jare, shared his life story of childhood struggles, and the many challenges thereafter. He explained how education and hard work helped him become the Campus Director of TISS, and very impactfully underlined the importance of patience, effort, and dedication.



Prof. Ramesh Jare shares his life story in discussion with our interviewers Payal Tembhurnikar and Pankaj Londhe

Mr. Yuraj Nale spoke about his educational journey, love for reading, writings on the Marathwada Liberation Movement, his acceptance of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's thoughts, his work related to historical heritage, and his methods of stress management. This interview was conducted by Mayur Devpare and Anjali Waghchoure.



Mr. Yuvraj Nale being interviewed by Mayur Devpare and Anjali Waghcure

TISS counsellor Ms. Sumita Bhadrige conducted a special session themed “New Year Reflection: Group Artwork”, where the students reflected on the previous year and expressed what they wanted to leave behind, what they wanted to keep, and what they wished to grow in the new year through drawings and words. The students also participated in a creative activity “Our Picture, Our Dream”, where they drew their dreams and future goals. These activities provided a great platform for the students to display their imagination and creativity with confidence.



Creativity in action! A view of the participants deeply immersed in the activity

Other highlights of the day included an enthusiastic and energetic dance performance by students from Mitr Vidyalay, a song on Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj by Tanvi Satpute, and a dance set to old Marathi songs by the TISS students.

Starting with a joyful dance performance by Omprakash Patel, a few ice-breaking and networking activities, Saraswati Pujan, GEF theme song, GEF introduction by Krishnamai Thite, games conducted by Prashant Londhe, to the closing of the event with Pasaydan and a Vote of Thanks - the whole day was full of learning, joy, creativity, and inspiration. The event, very ably anchored by Payal Latelwar and Omprakash Patel, helped students build confidence, understand life values, and connect with people from different backgrounds.

Thanks to the combined efforts of everyone involved, the Tuljapur Annual Day was memorable, inspiring, and a grand success. The well-organized program was entirely planned and managed by the students, with guidance from Nishikant Kamble, Dr. Lalita Deshpande, and GEF alumni Niraj Kumbhar and Rajat Pujari.



A group photo to keep the memories alive

SAMBHAJINAGAR ANNUAL DAY

GEF Sambhajinagar Annual Day held at Government College of Engineering, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar on 28 March 2026 was a huge success, and a highly enriching and memorable experience for all who attended.

Mr. Ankush Nakhate, State Tax Officer and Mr. Nitin Kousadikar, Retired ACP, were the Chief Guests for the event. Mr. Bhagwan Sadawarte, who runs “Bina Chhatachi Shaala” (a school without a roof) for street children, and children of daily wage labourers, had also been invited as a Chief Guest, but had to unfortunately leave due to an emergency.

In his interview conducted by Akshara and Nandini Mahajan from Kai. Yadav Dagdu Patil Secondary School, Tandulwadi, Mr. Nakhate highlighted the importance of discipline in staying focused on ones goals, managing time effectively, and achieving success in life. Mr. Nitin Kousadikar’s interview was conducted by Sarthak Thakare and Ganeshwari Dholke. He spoke about how staying calm and cool in life helps in making better decisions and handling challenges effectively.



Mr. Nitin Kousadikar, Retired ACP, being welcomed by Ganeshwari Dholke



Mr. Ankush Nakhate, State Tax Officer, addressing the audience

The day started with a welcome song by Gauri Ingale, networking activities conducted by Shravani Sarode, and an introduction to GEF by Renuka Kachre. Among the highlights were a musical performance by Amar Somvanshi and Gauri Ingale, both music students, who happen to be visually impaired, and a Ganesh vandana dance performed by Komal Patil, a school student from Tandulwadi. A zumba dance session was conducted by Bhagyashree Bahirat, Shravani Sarode and students from our Tandulwadi school.

Prem Petkar, Shravani Sarode, and Sujay Kadve shared their experiences of practising Yoga. Shravani Sarode, Sarthak Thakre, and Pranav Malave also conducted some very interesting games that kept the participants charged through the day. The day ended with Pasayadan sung by Gauri Ingale. GEF students Sujay Kadve, Shubhangi Bobade, and Pranav Malave were the anchors who kept everyone engaged throughout the event.

The event was thoughtfully planned and well executed entirely by the students, with mentorship and support from Manish Burande, Vaibhav Bansode, Niraj Kumbhar, Rajat Pujari, Nishikant Kamble, Kavita Kadam, Dr. Lalita Deshpande, and Dr. Dilip Bhawe. Thanks are also due to Swapnil Nikam and Ghanshyam Varade who enabled the participation of Tandulwadi School students.



A group photo of the participants and organizers with the dignitaries

Mentors' Space





JOY OF LEARNING

ARPANA JADHAV
GEF SUPPORTER & MENTOR

Ever wondered why many parents of students in almost all schools complain that their children were great in studies till primary school and slowly their performance declined. They stop taking homework seriously, their exam results are on the decline and going to school doesn't feel exciting anymore.

It all starts when a child returns home with a report card with great marks....the teachers praise the child, parents are extremely happy and are proudly announcing that their child has scored well. The underlying message the child gets....marks make parents and teachers happy. The focus in homes and classrooms has clearly shifted from learning to marks.

I often wondered as a school student how my mother who had passed her matriculation examination and later even her graduation with a second division, had her history and geography facts on her finger tips while I struggled to memorise them. She could perfectly explain the system of wind flows, the time differences, the ocean currents without a glance at the textbook. And here we are, despite scoring high marks, we tend to forget what we studied last year.

Our previous generations clearly focused on learning rather than studying for marks. When a student starts reading a lesson, the idea should be to start understanding the wonders of the world we live in. What makes the world go round, how History has shaped today's world, how Science helps in developing our surroundings, the importance of solving mathematical problems, the beauty in Art and Literature.....

In lower classes, when the concepts are of a very basic level, children thrive, but in higher classes, the explanation of the concepts suffers due to restricted time tables. Also students thinking and pondering about a topic too takes a back seat as frequent exams and the stress to score high kills the wonders of learning.

Students can take upon themselves the responsibility to find joy and fulfilment in education. Just observing and asking questions about small things that happen around us is enough to arouse curiosity. Instead of just using a mobile phone, trying to find how you can instantly connect to someone miles away can open doors to immense knowledge. If a topic in the classroom seems difficult, discuss it with classmates and teachers during lunch time or free periods. Solving a difficult maths problem can be looked at as a challenging game rather than an irritating exercise.

Small shifts in our conversations can help in shifting the focus from marks to learning. Explaining why the topic is important in today's world arouses the students' interest in learning. Also, with Google, enthusiastic students will learn more about any subject than they would in a class with limited time. Also, parents instead of getting worried and scolding children every time for scoring less can try to find what the children are unable to learn and grasp. Once the interest in learning and understanding is developed, marks will automatically follow.

Small changes in schools and homes can truly make education bring joy rather than stress to the students.

Perspectives



We invited a few school teachers to share their views



THE NEED FOR POSITIVE CHANGE IN SCHOOLS

SANDEEP SINGH RAJPUT

**TEACHER, RAMAKRISHNA SARADA NIKETAN SCHOOL,
LEPA PUNARVAS, DIST. KHARGONE, MAHDYA PRADESH**

A school is not only a place for studying, but also the place where a child's future, personality, and thinking are shaped. In today's time, giving only book knowledge is not enough. Schools must also help students become mentally, technically, emotionally, and socially strong.

First of all, there should be a strong and healthy relationship between teachers and students. When teachers act not only as educators but also as guides, motivators, and friends, students feel comfortable sharing their problems, questions, and ideas. This creates a better learning environment and increases students' confidence. If teachers recognize students not only by marks but also by their efforts and abilities, learning becomes more meaningful.

Technical knowledge is also very important in modern education. Students should be connected with smart boards, computers, the internet, digital learning, and practical education so that they do not remain limited to memorizing lessons. They should understand concepts clearly and be able to answer every question with confidence. This prepares them for future challenges.

Mental and emotional development is equally important. Many students fall behind because of academic pressure, fear, or lack of confidence. Schools should provide motivation, open communication, sports, art, group discussions, and life skill activities so that students become emotionally strong as well. A good student should not only be intelligent but also sensitive and empathetic.

An ideal school is one where education is combined with values, technology with sensitivity, and discipline with care. If such positive changes come in schools, students will not only become good learners but also good human beings.



ऑनलाइन शिक्षण पद्धतीत शिक्षक म्हणून माझी भूमिका

MAHADEV P PAWAR

**TEACHER, PRAGAT VIDYAMANDIR, RAMGAD, DIST.
SINDHUDURG**

ऑनलाईन शिक्षण पद्धतीत शिक्षक म्हणून माझी भूमिका

आजच्या तंत्रज्ञानाच्या युगात शिक्षणाची पद्धत पारंपरिक वर्गखोल्यांमध्ये मर्यादित राहत नाही. इंटरनेटच्या माध्यमातून विद्यार्थी कुठूनही, कधीही शिक्षण घेऊ शकतात. अशी शिक्षणपद्धती म्हणजे ऑनलाईन शिक्षण (Online Learning), जी आजच्या काळात अत्यंत महत्वाची ठरत आहे. या पद्धतीत शिक्षकाची भूमिका पारंपरिक शिक्षणापेक्षा काही वेगळी आहे; शिक्षक फक्त माहिती देणारा नसतो, तर मार्गदर्शक, प्रोत्साहक, संप्रेषक आणि तंत्रज्ञान सुलभ करणारा बनतो.

१. शिक्षकाची भूमिका मार्गदर्शक म्हणून

ऑनलाईन शिक्षणामध्ये शिक्षकाची सर्वात महत्वाची भूमिका म्हणजे मार्गदर्शन करणे. विद्यार्थ्यांना इंटरनेटवर उपलब्ध असलेल्या शैक्षणिक संसाधनांचा योग्य उपयोग कसा करावा हे शिकवणे हे शिक्षकाचे मुख्य कार्य ठरते. उदाहरणार्थ, विद्यार्थ्यांना योग्य ई-बुक्स, शैक्षणिक व्हिडिओज, अभ्यासक्रम ऑनलाईन पोर्टल्स यांचा वापर करून शिकविणे. शिक्षक विद्यार्थ्यांच्या शंकांचे निरसन करतो, त्यांना अभ्यासाच्या योग्य मार्गदर्शन करतो आणि शिकण्याची दिशा निश्चित करतो.

मार्गदर्शक म्हणून शिक्षक फक्त ज्ञान देत नाही, तर विद्यार्थ्यांना स्वतंत्र शिकण्यास प्रवृत्त करतो. ऑनलाईन शिक्षणामध्ये प्रत्येक विद्यार्थ्यांचा शिकण्याचा वेग वेगळा असतो; त्यामुळे शिक्षकाला वैयक्तिक लक्ष देणे अत्यावश्यक असते.

२. शिक्षकाची भूमिका संप्रेषक म्हणून

ऑनलाईन शिक्षणात संपर्क साधणे आणि संवाद ठेवणे हे महत्वाचे असते. शिक्षक विद्यार्थ्यांशी ईमेल, व्हिडिओ कॉल्स, चॅट प्लॅटफॉर्मस आणि चर्चासत्रांच्या माध्यमातून संवाद साधतो. या संवादाद्वारे शिक्षक विद्यार्थ्यांच्या अडचणी समजतो आणि त्यांना योग्य मार्गदर्शन करतो.

संप्रेषक म्हणून शिक्षकाची भूमिका फक्त माहिती पोहोचवणे नसून, सकारात्मक संवाद तयार करणे देखील आहे. विद्यार्थी जेव्हा सहजपणे प्रश्न विचारू शकतात, आपले मत मांडू शकतात आणि शिक्षक त्यांना प्रतिसाद देतो, तेव्हा शिकण्याची प्रक्रिया अधिक प्रभावी होते.

३. शिक्षकाची भूमिका प्रोत्साहक आणि प्रेरक म्हणून

ऑनलाईन शिक्षणात शिक्षक विद्यार्थ्यांना प्रेरित करणे फार महत्वाचे आहे. पारंपरिक वर्गखोल्यांमध्ये शिक्षक समोर असतो, तर ऑनलाईन वर्गात शिक्षक शारीरिकदृष्ट्या समोर नसतो; त्यामुळे विद्यार्थी सहज विचलित होऊ शकतात.

शिक्षक विद्यार्थ्यांना प्रोत्साहित करतो, त्यांचे आत्मविश्वास वाढवतो, आणि त्यांना नियमितपणे शिकण्याची प्रेरणा देतो. यासाठी शिक्षक ऑनलाइन क्विझेस, प्रकल्प आधारित शिक्षण, डिजिटल बॅजेस किंवा सराहनापत्र यांचा वापर करतो. यामुळे विद्यार्थी केवळ शिक्षण घेण्यास प्रवृत्त होत नाहीत, तर आत्म-प्रेरित होतात.

४. शिक्षकाची भूमिका तंत्रज्ञान सुलभ करणारा म्हणून

ऑनलाइन शिक्षणात शिक्षकाला तंत्रज्ञानाचे ज्ञान असणे अनिवार्य आहे. शिक्षक विविध ऑनलाइन प्लॅटफॉर्म, ई-लर्निंग टूल्स, व्हिडिओ कॉन्फरन्सिंग अॅप्स आणि शैक्षणिक सॉफ्टवेअर्स वापरतो.

उदाहरणार्थ, Zoom, Google Meet, Microsoft Teams किंवा Moodle यांसारख्या प्लॅटफॉर्मवर शिक्षक वर्गाचे आयोजन करतो, विद्यार्थ्यांचे मूल्यांकन करतो आणि अभ्यासक्रमाचे नियोजन करतो. तंत्रज्ञान सुलभ करणारा म्हणून शिक्षक विद्यार्थ्यांना नव्या टूल्स वापरण्यास शिकवतो आणि त्यांच्या डिजिटल कौशल्यात सुधारणा करतो.

५. शिक्षकाची भूमिका मूल्यांकन करणारा म्हणून

ऑनलाइन शिक्षणामध्ये शिक्षकाचे आणखी एक महत्त्वाचे कर्तव्य म्हणजे विद्यार्थ्यांचे मूल्यांकन. शिक्षक विद्यार्थ्यांचे परीक्षांमधील गुण, प्रकल्प, ऑनलाइन क्विझेस, चर्चासत्रातील सहभाग आणि असाइनमेंट्स या सर्वांचा विचार करून मूल्यांकन करतो.

मूल्यांकन फक्त गुण देण्यापुरते मर्यादित नसते; शिक्षक विद्यार्थ्यांचे शिकण्याचे प्रमाण, प्रगती, कमजोर भाग आणि सुधारणा करण्याची गरज ओळखतो. या मूल्यांकनाद्वारे शिक्षक विद्यार्थ्यांना योग्य प्रतिक्रिया देतो आणि पुढील शिक्षणाची दिशा ठरवतो.

६. शिक्षकाची भूमिका मार्गदर्शक शास्त्रज्ञ म्हणून

ऑनलाईन शिक्षणात शिक्षकाला शास्त्रीय दृष्टिकोनातून शिकविणे आवश्यक असते. शिक्षक विद्यार्थ्यांच्या मनोवैज्ञानिक, सामाजिक आणि शैक्षणिक गरजा लक्षात घेऊन शिक्षण पद्धती ठरवतो. उदाहरणार्थ, काही विद्यार्थी दृश्य माध्यमातून चांगले शिकतात तर काही वाचन-लेखनाद्वारे शिकतात; शिक्षक हे ओळखून शिक्षणाची पद्धत त्यानुसार समायोजित करतो.

यामुळे शिक्षक विद्यार्थ्यांच्या व्यक्तिगत शिकण्याच्या शैलीनुसार शिक्षण देतो, ज्यामुळे शिकण्याची गुणवत्ता वाढते.

७. शिक्षकाची भूमिका समन्वयक म्हणून

ऑनलाइन शिक्षणामध्ये शिक्षकाचा आणखी एक महत्त्वाचा भाग म्हणजे समन्वय साधणे. शिक्षक विद्यार्थ्यांसोबत पालक, सहशिक्षक, शैक्षणिक सल्लागार आणि संस्थेशी संपर्क ठेवतो.

शिक्षक विद्यार्थ्यांच्या प्रगतीबाबत पालकांना माहिती देतो, संस्थेकडून आवश्यक संसाधने मिळवतो, आणि सहशिक्षकांसोबत अभ्यासक्रमाचे नियोजन करतो. समन्वयक म्हणून शिक्षक हा विद्यार्थ्यांना संपूर्ण शिक्षणाच्या प्रक्रियेत मार्गदर्शन करणारा मुख्य धुरा ठरतो.

८. शिक्षकाची भूमिका सर्जनशीलता प्रोत्साहित करणारा म्हणून

ऑनलाइन शिक्षणात शिक्षकाला सर्जनशीलता आणि नवोन्मेष शिकवणे आवश्यक असते. शिक्षक विद्यार्थ्यांना प्रकल्प, विचारविनिमय, समस्या सोडवण्याची पद्धत आणि क्रिएटिव्ह असाइनमेंट्स देतो.

यामुळे विद्यार्थी केवळ माहिती लक्षात ठेवत नाहीत, तर तर्कशक्ती, विश्लेषण क्षमता आणि सर्जनशील विचारसरणी विकसित करतात. शिक्षक विद्यार्थ्यांना विचार करण्यास आणि प्रयोग करण्यास प्रोत्साहित करतो, जे भविष्यातील यशासाठी अत्यंत आवश्यक आहे.

९. शिक्षकाची भूमिका जीवन कौशल्य शिकवणारा म्हणून

ऑनलाइन शिक्षणात शिक्षक केवळ शैक्षणिक ज्ञान नाही, तर जीवन कौशल्ये देखील शिकवतो. विद्यार्थ्यांना वेळेचे व्यवस्थापन, आत्मसंयम, समस्या सोडवण्याची क्षमता, डिजिटल साक्षरता आणि सामाजिक जबाबदारी यांसारखी कौशल्ये शिकवली जातात.

शिक्षक विद्यार्थ्यांना सकारात्मक विचारसरणी, टीमवर्क, संवाद कौशल्य आणि निर्णयक्षमता यांचे महत्त्व पटवतो. यामुळे विद्यार्थी संपूर्ण व्यक्तिमत्व विकसित करतात.

१०. शिक्षकाची भूमिका सतत शिकणारा म्हणून

ऑनलाइन शिक्षणामध्ये शिक्षक देखील सतत शिकतो. नवीन शैक्षणिक तंत्र, डिजिटल टूल्स, शिक्षण पद्धती आणि अभ्यासक्रमाबाबत अद्ययावत राहणे आवश्यक आहे. शिक्षक जितका ज्ञानार्जन करतो, तितकेच तो विद्यार्थ्यांसाठी अधिक उपयुक्त ठरतो.

शिक्षक नवीन साधने वापरून शिकवतो, नवीन शिक्षण तंत्र अवलंबतो आणि शिक्षण प्रक्रियेत सुधारणा करतो. सतत शिकणारा शिक्षक विद्यार्थ्यांसाठी प्रेरणास्त्रोत ठरतो.

निष्कर्ष

ऑनलाईन शिक्षण पद्धतीत शिक्षकाची भूमिका पारंपरिक शिक्षणापेक्षा अधिक व्यापक, गुंतागुंतीची आणि जबाबदारीची आहे. शिक्षक मार्गदर्शक, प्रोत्साहक, संप्रेषक, तंत्रज्ञान सुलभ करणारा, मूल्यांकन करणारा, समन्वयक, सर्जनशीलता प्रोत्साहित करणारा आणि जीवन कौशल्य शिकवणारा असतो.

या सर्व भूमिकांमुळे विद्यार्थी फक्त शैक्षणिक ज्ञान मिळवतात असे नाही, तर स्वतंत्र, सर्जनशील, आत्मविश्वासी आणि जबाबदार नागरिक म्हणून विकसित होतात. शिक्षक आणि विद्यार्थी यांचा संवाद, शिक्षकाची सक्रिय सहभागिता, प्रोत्साहन आणि तंत्रज्ञानाचा योग्य वापर या सर्वांचा संगम केल्यास ऑनलाईन शिक्षण खरोखरच प्रभावी ठरते.

ऑनलाईन शिक्षणामध्ये शिक्षक ही फक्त माहिती देणारी व्यक्ती नाही, तर तो विद्यार्थ्यांच्या उज्वल भविष्यासाठी मार्गदर्शक, प्रेरक आणि सहाय्यक ठरतो. यामुळे शिक्षकाचे कार्य अत्यंत महत्त्वाचे ठरते आणि शिक्षणाचा गुणवत्तापूर्ण अनुभव विद्यार्थ्यांना प्राप्त होतो.

MY ROLE AS A TEACHER IN ONLINE EDUCATION

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In today's technological era, education is no longer limited to traditional classrooms. Through the internet, students can learn anytime and from anywhere. This method of learning is known as online education, which has become extremely important today. In this system, the role of a teacher is somewhat different from traditional teaching; a teacher is not just a provider of information, but also a guide, motivator, communicator, and facilitator of technology.

1. Role of a Teacher as a Guide

In online education, the most important role of a teacher is to guide students. The teacher helps students understand how to effectively use the educational resources available on the internet. For example, guiding them to use appropriate e-books, educational videos, and online learning portals. The teacher clears students' doubts, directs them in their studies, and helps them stay on the right learning path.

As a guide, the teacher not only imparts knowledge but also encourages independent learning. Since each student learns at a different pace in online education, giving individual attention becomes essential.

2. Role of a Teacher as a Communicator

Communication is crucial in online learning. Teachers interact with students through emails, video calls, chat platforms, and discussion forums. Through this interaction, teachers understand students' difficulties and provide proper guidance.

As a communicator, the teacher's role is not just to convey information but also to build positive interaction. When students feel comfortable asking questions and expressing their opinions, and receive timely responses, the learning process becomes more effective.

3. Role of a Teacher as a Motivator and Encourager

In online education, motivating students is very important. Unlike traditional classrooms where the teacher is physically present, in online settings students may get easily distracted.

Teachers encourage students, build their confidence, and inspire them to learn regularly. They may use online quizzes, project-based learning, digital badges, or certificates of appreciation to keep students engaged and motivated. This not only encourages learning but also develops self-motivation among students.

4. Role of a Teacher as a Technology Facilitator

In online education, it is essential for teachers to have knowledge of technology. They use various online platforms, e-learning tools, video conferencing apps, and educational software. For example, platforms like Zoom, Google Meet, Microsoft Teams, or Moodle are used to conduct classes, assess students, and plan lessons. As a facilitator, the teacher also helps students learn how to use these tools and improves their digital skills.

5. Role of a Teacher as an Evaluator

Another important responsibility of a teacher in online education is evaluation. Teachers assess students based on exams, projects, online quizzes, participation in discussions, and assignments.

Evaluation is not limited to giving marks; it also involves understanding students' learning levels, progress, weaknesses, and areas that need improvement. Based on this, teachers provide feedback and guide future learning.

6. Role of a Teacher as an Academic Guide

In online education, teachers need to adopt a scientific and thoughtful approach. They consider students' psychological, social, and academic needs while planning teaching methods. For instance, some students learn better through visual aids, while others prefer reading and writing. Teachers adjust their methods accordingly, ensuring better learning outcomes.

7. Role of a Teacher as a Coordinator

Coordination is another key aspect of online teaching. Teachers stay connected with students, parents, co-teachers, academic advisors, and institutions. They inform parents about students' progress, obtain necessary resources from institutions, and collaborate with other teachers for curriculum planning. As a coordinator, the teacher becomes the central link in the entire educational process.

8. Role of a Teacher in Promoting Creativity

In online education, fostering creativity and innovation is essential. Teachers assign projects, encourage discussions, and provide problem-solving and creative tasks. This helps students not only retain information but also develop critical thinking, analytical skills, and creativity. Teachers encourage students to think independently and experiment, which is vital for future success.

9. Role of a Teacher in Teaching Life Skills

Online education also involves teaching life skills along with academic knowledge. Students learn time management, self-discipline, problem-solving, digital literacy, and social responsibility. Teachers also emphasize the importance of positive thinking, teamwork, communication skills, and decision-making, helping in overall personality development.

10. Role of a Teacher as a Lifelong Learner

In online education, teachers themselves must continue learning. They need to stay updated with new teaching methods, digital tools, and educational trends. A teacher who keeps learning becomes more effective and serves as an inspiration for students. By adopting new techniques and improving continuously, teachers enhance the overall learning experience.

Conclusion

The role of a teacher in online education is broader, more complex, and more responsible than in traditional teaching. A teacher acts as a guide, motivator, communicator, technology facilitator, evaluator, coordinator, promoter of creativity, and life skills educator.

Through these roles, students not only gain academic knowledge but also develop into independent, creative, confident, and responsible individuals. Effective communication, active teacher involvement, encouragement, and proper use of technology together make online education truly impactful.

In online education, a teacher is not just an information provider but a mentor, motivator, and supporter who plays a crucial role in shaping students' bright futures.



SCHOOL EDUCATION IN RURAL AREAS

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ग्रामीण भागातील शाळा शिक्षण

स्वप्निल रविंद्र निकम

प्राचार्य

कै.यादव दगडू पाटील माध्यमिक व उच्च माध्यमिक विद्यालय, तांदुळवाडी

तालुका भडगाव जिल्हा जळगाव

ग्रामीण भागातील शाळांना आज इंग्लिश मीडियमचे ग्रहण लागले आहे, परंतु यावरही मात करत वारे गुरुजी यांनीही नुकतेच जगात मराठी शाळेचा डंका लावलाच. असो, आपणही त्याच पद्धतीने काम करू शकतो. कसे? तर इयत्ता पाचवी नवोदय परीक्षा व इयत्ता आठवी एन एम एस परीक्षा मध्ये आपल्या विद्यालयातील जास्तीत जास्त विद्यार्थ्यांना प्रवेशित करून त्यांना दररोज शाळा सुरू होण्याअगोदर एक तास मार्गदर्शन वर्ग घेऊन. त्यांना त्याबाबतीतली सविस्तर माहिती मार्गदर्शन जर आपण घेतले तर 100% आपले विद्यार्थी ही त्यामध्ये यशस्वी होऊन शिष्यवृत्तीसाठी पात्र होतील आणि शाळेचे नाव आणि विद्यार्थ्यांची नावलौकिक होईल. तसेच विद्यार्थ्यांना शासनाच्या माध्यमातून मिळालेल्या गणित व भाषा पेटीच्या माध्यमातून आपण एक ज्ञानरचनावाद नुसार शिकवून विद्यार्थ्यांचे सामान्य संबोध त्या माध्यमातून समजावू शकतो व त्यामध्ये गुणवत्ता निर्माण करू शकतो.

शाळा उन्नती

शाळेच्या उन्नतीसाठी सन २०२४-२५ पासून महाराष्ट्र शासनाच्या शाळा गुणवत्ता व आश्वासन मूल्यांकन आराखडा (स्कॉफ) स्वयं मूल्यमापन व त्रयस्थ समितीच्या बाह्य मूल्यांकनात शाळेला अ+ श्रेणी प्राप्त करू शकतो. यामध्ये पाच क्षेत्र असून १२७ मानकांमधून प्रत्येक शाळेला किमान ११६ मानके भरायची असून स्वयं मूल्यमापन झाल्यानंतर त्रयस्थ समितीच्या माध्यमातून बाह्य मूल्यांकन होते आणि त्यामध्ये आपल्याला 90% पेक्षा अधिकचे गुण मिळाल्यास शाळा अ + श्रेणीमध्ये येते, म्हणजे शाळेने गुणवत्तापूर्ण काम केलेले आहे असे लक्षात येते. शासनाने दिलेल्या श्रेणीमुळे आपण आपल्या भागातील पालकांना व विद्यार्थ्यांना सांगू शकतो की आमची शाळा शासनाच्या माध्यमातून अ + श्रेणी प्राप्त असून आपण आपल्या पाल्याचा प्रवेश आमच्या शाळेत घ्यावा. प्रवेशित झालेल्या बालकांमध्ये गुणवत्ता निर्माण करण्याचं काम आम्ही शंभर टक्के करू असे आश्चस्त करावे आणि त्यानुसार जर आपण काम केले तर नक्कीच आपल्याला विद्यार्थी प्रवेशासाठी सुद्धा अडचण येणार नाही. तसेच प्रत्येक आठवड्यात गैरहजर विद्यार्थी असतील तर प्रत्येक सोमवारी शाळा भरण्यापूर्वी किंवा शाळा सुटल्यानंतर अशा बालकांच्या घरी जाऊन त्यांच्या पालकांची भेट घेऊन त्यांच्या काय

अडीअडचणी आहेत त्या समजून घेऊन प्रामाणिकपणे जर सोडविल्या तर या माध्यमातून शिक्षक पालक व विद्यार्थी समन्वयकही राखला जातो आणि गुणवत्तेमध्येही वाढ होते व गळतीचे प्रमाण कमी होते.

विद्यार्थी अधिक गुणवत्ता पूर्ण साठी

राज्यात विविध एनजीओ शालेय विद्यार्थ्यांसाठी काम करतात. जसे की गुरुजी एज्युकेशन फाउंडेशन मुंबई या संस्थेमार्फत विद्यार्थ्यांना मोफत स्कॅच कोडींग शिक्षण, इंग्लिश स्पोकन ऑनलाईन तासिका व गणित मार्गदर्शन वर्ग घेतले जातात. यासारख्या संस्थेची समन्वय राखल्यास आपण आपल्या विद्यार्थ्यांमध्ये अधिकचे ज्ञान गुणवत्ता वाढवू शकतो.

भौतिक सुविधा व डिजिटल पद्धत उपलब्धता

सन २०२३-२४ पासून महाराष्ट्र शासनाने भारतरत्न डॉक्टर बाबासाहेब आंबेडकर आदर्श शाळा अभियान अंतर्गत मुख्यमंत्री 'माझी शाळा सुंदर शाळा' अभियान सुरू केले आहे. त्यामध्ये आतापर्यंत एकूण तीन टप्पे पूर्ण झालेले असून जर या अभियानामध्ये शाळेने उत्तम पद्धतीने सहभाग घेत कामकाज केले तर त्यामध्ये तालुकास्तर ते राज्यस्तरापर्यंत विविध लक्ष रुपयापर्यंतची पारितोषिक मिळू शकतात. त्यामधून आपण शाळेच्या भौतिक सुविधा किंवा डिजिटल साहित्य उपलब्धता करून घेऊ शकतो. मी स्वतः कै.यादव दगडू पाटील माध्यमिक विद्यालय तांदुळवाडी तालुका भडगाव जिल्हा जळगाव या ठिकाणी मुख्याध्यापक म्हणून काम करतो. या अभियानामध्ये पहिल्या टप्प्यामध्ये आम्ही तालुकास्तरावरती प्रथम क्रमांक मिळवून शाळेने तीन लक्ष रुपयांचे पारितोषिक जिंकले व दुसऱ्या टप्प्यामध्ये पुन्हा त्यामध्ये जिल्हास्तरावरती खाजगी व्यवस्थापन गटातून प्रथम क्रमांक मिळवत 11 लक्ष रुपये एवढे पारितोषिक आम्ही या ठिकाणी जिंकलो. या माध्यमातून आम्ही शाळेसाठी विविध असं विद्यार्थ्यांच्या उपयुक्तेसाठी गुणवत्तेसाठी विविध साहित्य असेल वर्ग सुशोभीकरण केले या माध्यमातूनच शाळेला एक नावलौकिक सुद्धा या ठिकाणी मिळाले म्हणून मी म्हणतो की आपण सातत्य+ मेहनत= यश नक्की हमखास मिळेल आणि मग आपण नक्कीच म्हणुया की जगात काय भारी तर आपली मराठी शाळा लय भारी...

SCHOOL EDUCATION IN RURAL AREAS

SWAPNIL RAVINDRA NIKAM

**PRINCIPAL, KAI. YADAV DAGDU PATIL SECONDARY SCHOOL, TANDULWADI, BHADGAON,
DISTRICT JALGAON**

Today, schools in rural areas are increasingly influenced by the trend of English-medium education. However, overcoming this challenge, teachers like Vare Guruji have recently made Marathi schools stand out on a global level. We too can work in a similar way. How? By ensuring that the maximum number of students from our school appear for the Navodaya exam in Grade 5 and the NMMS exam in Grade 8. If we conduct one hour of guidance classes daily before school begins and provide them with detailed preparation and information, then 100% of our students can succeed and become eligible for scholarships. This will enhance both the school's reputation and the students' recognition.

Additionally, by effectively using the Mathematics and Language kits provided by the government, we can teach based on constructivist methods. This helps improve students' conceptual understanding and overall quality of learning.

School Development

For the development of schools, from the academic year 2024–25, under the Government of Maharashtra's School Quality and Assurance Framework (SQAF), schools can achieve an A+ grade through self-assessment and external evaluation by a third-party committee. This framework includes five domains and 127 standards, out of which each school must fulfill at least 116 standards.

After self-assessment, an external evaluation is conducted. If the school scores more than 90%, it is awarded an A+ grade, indicating high-quality work. With this recognition, we can confidently inform parents and students in our area that our school has achieved an A+ grade and encourage them to enroll their children. We should assure them that we will work with full dedication to develop quality among students.

If we work accordingly, we will not face difficulties in student admissions. Also, if there are absent students, teachers should visit their homes every Monday—either before or after school—to understand and resolve their problems sincerely. This helps maintain coordination among teachers, parents, and students, improves quality, and reduces dropout rates.

Improving Student Quality

Various NGOs in the state work for school students. For example, Guruji Education Foundation, Mumbai, provides free Scratch coding education, spoken English online sessions, and mathematics guidance classes. By collaborating with such organizations, we can further enhance students' knowledge and quality.

Physical Facilities and Digital Availability

In the year 2023–24, the Government of Maharashtra launched the “Chief Minister’s My School, Beautiful School” campaign under the Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Ideal School initiative. So far, three phases have been completed. If schools participate effectively, they can win prizes ranging from the taluka level to the state level, worth lakhs of rupees.

These funds can be used to improve physical infrastructure and digital resources. For example, I work as the headmaster at Late Yadav Dagdu Patil Secondary School, Tandulwadi, Taluka Bhadgaon, District Jalgaon. In this campaign, our school secured first place at the taluka level in the first phase and won a prize of ₹3 lakh. In the second phase, we again secured first place at the district level in the private management group and won ₹11 lakh.

Through this, we enhanced school facilities, beautified classrooms, and provided useful resources for students, which also improved the school’s reputation.

Therefore, I firmly believe: Consistency + Hard Work = Guaranteed Success.

And finally, we can proudly say: “What’s the best in the world? Our Marathi school is the best!”

Talent + +



Award-winning Drawings

For the very first time, we organized a drawing competition to provide a platform for our school students to exhibit their talent. We had two categories of entries:

- Juniors (5th to 7th standard)
- Seniors (8th to 10th standard)

The entries truly reflected a wide range of creativity and expression, and our judges had a hard time arriving at the most deserving winners. Here they are!



Poster inviting entries for the Competition

JUNIORS

1st Samruddhi Yogesh Hire, 7th Std, Kai Yadav Dagdu Patil Madhyamik Vidyalay, Tandulwadi, Dist. Jalgaon

2nd Purva Gurudas Jikamade, 7th Std, Pragat Vidyamandir, Ramgad, Dist. Sindhudurg

3rd Manjiri Ganesh Jadhav, 7th Std, Janata Vidyamandir, Trimbak, Dist. Sindhudurg

SENIORS

1st Nirja Sanjay Parab, 10th Std, Pragat Vidyamandir, Ramgad, Dist. Sindhudurg

Joint 2nd Suyash Machchindra Mohite, 9th Std, Vasantao Patil Vidyamandir, Manjarde, Dist. Sangli

Joint 2nd Nupur Laxmikant Tari, 8th Std, Pragat Vidyamandir, Ramgad, Dist. Sindhudurg

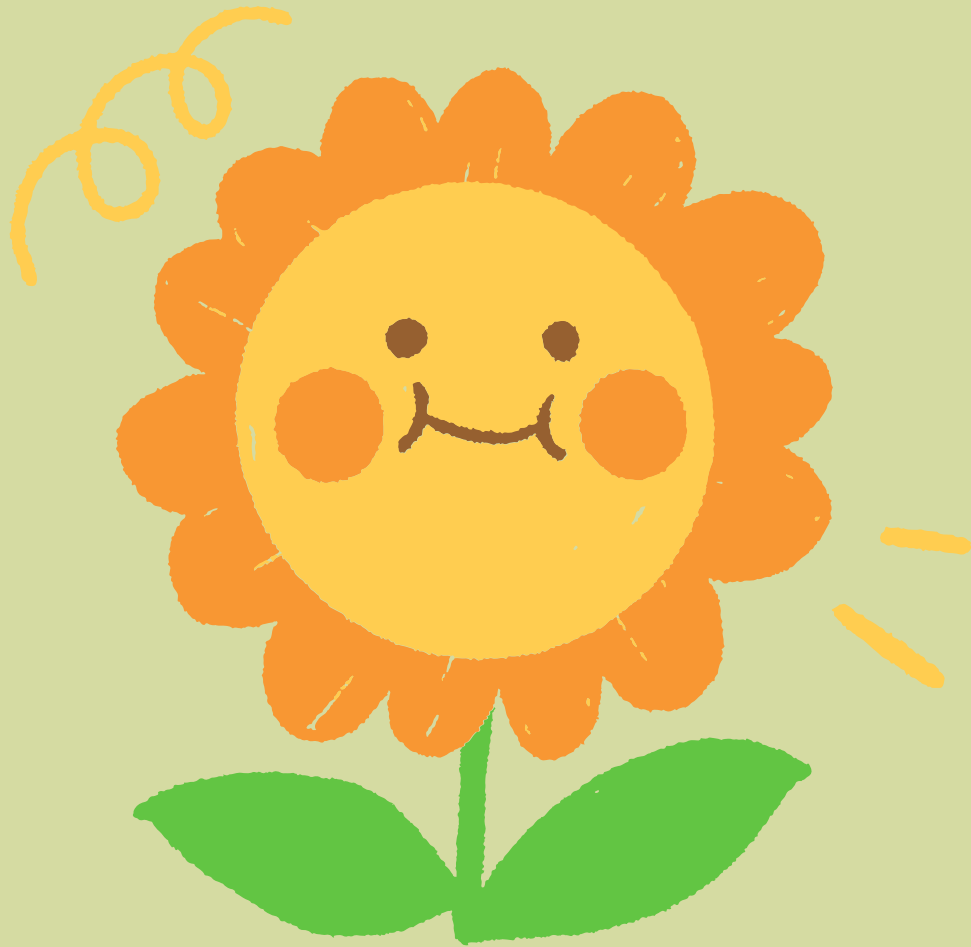
We present here the winning entries from the Juniors category. The winners from the Seniors category will be published in the next issue of Disha.



Manjiri Ganesh Jadhav

7th Std, Janata Vidya Mandir, Trimbak, Dist. Sindhudurg





STUDENT STARS

Amar Somvanshi a student of BA (Music) at New Arts and Science College, Ahmednagar, won the 1st prize at the Maharashtra state level essay-writing and braille-reading competitions organized by the National Federation of the Blind, Maharashtra (NFBM). He also participated in the poetry-reading competition organized by NFBM.

Amar has also passed his Tabla, Harmonium, and Vocal exams securing A grades.



Sakshi Sabnis, was a part of the ILS Law College team that won the 12th Kashibai Navale National Moot Court Competition, organised by Sinhgad Law College, Pune. Sakshi is currently in the 3rd year of her Integrated BA+LLB program at ILS Law College, Pune.

Shital Yekhande was a member of the team BlueBytes that presented an IoT-based Urban Circular Groundwater Monitoring System, and secured the runners-up position at the India-Israel Hackathon organized by GH Rasoni University, Saikheda with support from the Israeli Consulate, Mumbai.

Shital is a 2nd year student of BTech (Cybersecurity) at GH Rasoni College of Engineering, Nagpur.



Tanmay Pradhan, Final Year student of Electrical Engineering at Shri Guru Gobind Singhji Institute of Engineering & Technology (SGGSIT&E), Nanded, has secured placement as a Graduate Engineer Trainee at Toyo Engineering India.

Anuj Tale was the Team Lead of a 3-member team which stood 5th in the eYantra Robotics Competition (EYRC) held at IIT-Bombay. With 544 teams, including from IITs and NITs, participating from all over India, it is a highly creditable achievement.

Anuj is currently a 2nd Year BTech (Electronics & Telecommunication) student at Shri Guru Gobing Singhji Institute of Engineering & Technology (SGGSIE&T), Nanded.



Pranav Malave, 2nd Year BTech (Mech), Govt College of Engineering, Chh. Sambhajinagar, was part of a 2-member team that was 1st in Mecathon, a project modeling event at a national-level Tech Fest organized by his college. He was also a member of teams that stood 3rd in the CAD Clash and Bridge-It events at the same Tech Fest. His teams also won the 1st prize in Shobhayatra, a college-level project modeling competition, and Mech O Quiz, a department-level quiz competition. Pranav was also the runners-up in Chess at college-level.

Harish Wakde a 2nd Year BTech (Instrumentation) student at Shri Guru Gobing Singhji Institute of Engineering & Technology (SGGSIE&T), Nanded, was a member of the college team which won the Volleyball tournament organized as a part of Zenith-2026, a Maharashtra state level Inter-collegiate sports event organized by SGGSIE&T.





ALUMNI STARS

Kalyan Garde, has successfully completed his MA (Education) from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai.

Kalyan also presented a paper titled “Nurturing Sankalpshakti i.e., Power of Resolution through Varsharambha and Varshant Upasana”, at the National Conference on "Integrating Indigenous Knowledge System with Modern Education: An Interdisciplinary perspective", organized by Goa University.

As a GEF student, Kalyan had earlier done his BE (Mechanical) from Sinhagad College of Engineering, Vadgaon. He is now working as a teacher at Jnana Prabodhini, Pune. Kalyan is also an Art of Living teacher, and is eligible to conduct and teach Pranayam (Sudarshan kriya) and Guided Meditation



Kajal Sonawane recently got promoted as Assistant Vice President at JP Morgan Chase. She was also recognized with the Avenues Excellence award for her outstanding contribution to automation as part of the Payments Technology, Production Management - Issues Management team.

Kajal had graduated in 2019 with a BTech in Computer Engineering from Vivekanand Education Society's Institute of Technology (VESIT), Mumbai.



Jayshree Mestry participated in and successfully completed the Gram Samvad Cycle Yatra (from 30 January to 12 February 2026), covering 2 states—Maharashtra and Gujarat. The Yatra was a large-scale social awareness initiative for promoting the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi, and bringing positive change in society. It involved traveling through 5 districts and conducting various social programs in around 25 villages, while passing through nearly 80 villages in total.

Jayshree has completed her BCom as a GEF student, and is currently pursuing a Diploma in “Sustainable Rural Reconstruction in Gandhian Perspective” at Gandhi Research Foundation, Jalgaon.

Anuradha Kapase, who is working as a Design Engineer at Tata Technologies, was recognized as “Champion of the Month”.

Anuradha is an alumna of Government College of Engineering, Chh. Sambhajinagar, having completed her BTech in Electrical Engineering in 2023.



We would love to hear your
feedback on this issue of
Disha

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