



GURUJI EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Quarterly Report

October – December 2025

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ABOUT GEF

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

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

GEF runs 2 broad flagship programs:

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

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

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

THE QUARTER IN A NUTSHELL

We are pleased to present our Quarterly Report for the October - November - December 2025 quarter.

Among the highlights in this report, the Dr. Prerna Rane Award that we have instituted this year, is our way of saluting the countless dedicated school teachers, especially those serving the underserved, who are doing amazing work with our school children. It is also very satisfying to see our Foundation being invited to conduct workshops on a variety of topics, and to a variety of audiences. We believe that it is a validation of the relevance and quality of the work being done by our Foundation and its volunteers.

Our network of Adolescent Development Program (ADP) schools has grown to 73, and we are on track to meet our target of 75 for 2025-26. The count of students currently being supported under our Holistic Higher Education (HHE) program is 162. Although we have a pipeline of 48 applications under process, and we are striving to reach out to more deserving students, at this point in time it appears that we may fall slightly short of our target of 200 for 2025-26.

Executive Committee
Guruji Education Foundation

HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Prerana Rane Excellent Teacher Award

The Dr. Prerana Rane Excellent Teacher Award was instituted by Guruji Education Foundation and its phase 1 was completed in the month of December.

The Award was rolled out on a pilot basis, to 10 schools actively participating in various GEF ADP programs. From the 28 applications received, a set of teachers were shortlisted based on predefined criteria, by a jury panel comprising Mr Avinash Kulkarni and Mrs Neeta Arsule.

The shortlisted teachers underwent a detailed evaluation process, which included personal interviews, and collection of structured feedback from multiple stakeholders – students, peer-teachers, school management, and selected parents. Two independent judges went to each location to carry out this process. Based on this comprehensive assessment, the following 9 teachers were selected to receive the award:

- Mr. Abhijeet S. Dhure, Janata Vidyamandir, Trimbak
- Mr. Ghanashyam G. Varade, Kai Y. D. Patil Madhyamik Vidyalay, Tandulwadi
- Ms. Geeta G. Mandaokar, Dnyanada High School, Satefal
- Mr. Mahadev P. Pawar, Pragat Vidyamandir, Ramgad
- Mr. Milind M. Kadu, N. M. Ghatwal High School, Wadner
- Mr. Mohan V. Jagdale, Mitra Vidyalay, Malegaon
- Mr. Netaji T. Bhosale, Tulsidas Jadhav Prashala, Vairag
- Mr. Sandeep Singh Mandloi, Ramkrishna Sarada Niketan, Lepa Punarvas
- Mr. Suraj S. Ganapati, Dnyanada High School, Satefal

Awards were presented at the hands of Mrs. Elizabeth Mehta, founder of Muktangan, at an award ceremony held on 10th December 2025 at Muktangan, Mumbai.



GEF is proud of the winners (Standing L-R: Suraj Ganapati, Sandeep Mandloi, Ghanashyam Varade, Mohan Jagdale. Sitting L-R: Geeta Mandaokar, Netaji Bhosale, Mahadev Pawar, Milind Kadu)

HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Prerana Rane Excellent Teacher Award (Contd.)



A snapshot from the award ceremony. Dr. Elizabeth Mehta presenting the award to Shri Netaji Bhosale

The award process includes capacity-building. The awardee teachers and their respective school principals were therefore invited on a study tour of two well-performing schools – Muktangan school in Mumbai, and another school located at Hiwali, Taluka Trimbakeshwar, District Nashik. During these visits, the teachers and principals observed innovative and child-centric teaching methodologies being practiced in these schools. The tour left a strong positive impact on the participants, and they evinced keen interest in adopting and implementing several of the observed practices in their own schools.

For the second phase of the award process, the awardee teachers with the help of their principals have submitted project proposals outlining initiatives they plan to implement in the coming academic year, with the sole aim of developing their students. They will complete the projects in the coming year after which the best projects will be awarded.

The first phase of the second iteration will start in the first term of the next academic year, and will cover more schools.

HIGHLIGHTS

“Good to Great” – A Workshop for Students of Department of Education, Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University

GEF conducted a workshop titled “Good to Great”, for students of D. Ed, B.Ed., M.Ed. and Ph.D in Education pedagogy. The 2-day workshop was conducted by GEF’s Sunil Dodeja and Dr. Lalita Deshpande, and comprised theoretical and practical sessions interspersed with each other.

With an underlying motto of “One can give only if one has”, the workshop encouraged the attendees to empower themselves so as to mould and empower the next generation. Possession of adequate knowledge, application of the knowledge to show intelligence, and habits of Gradtitude, Resilience, Achievement Orientation, Positivity, Emotional Inetlligence, and Sophophilic Orientation (GRAPES) are the prerequisites for teachers to move up the ladder of “Good to Great”. These prerequisites were emphasised upon the attendees in practical ways.

Attendees collaborated and participated in practical sessions to learn team building skills, as also to achieve the impossible! The participants formed teams with new friends, and made 10 feet x 10 feet rangoli sketches of the map of India, Mahatma Gandhi, and Lord Ganpati. Such practical application of ideas coupled with moving out from the fear zone into the learning zone was much appreciated by all participants.

The importance of games and activities in the teaching–learning process was demonstrated through practical examples. Usage of games to assess student learning outcomes in a way that outcome on all fronts is positive, was also illustrated.

The cumulative experiences of modern teaching methods and pedagogy helped participants realize the quality and amount of work that could be achieved through effective group collaboration.



All smiles! The team seems justifiably pleased with the amazing rangoli that they created together!

HIGHLIGHTS

Maths Teachers Workshop for Janjati Kalyan Aashram Teachers

Janjati Kalyan Aashram, Nashik, has an educational program running in the tribal hamlets of Nashik district. They have identified around 25 tribal hamlets where there are children going to schools. They have also identified daughter-in-laws from the same hamlets, who are educated till 10th or 12th standard, as local teachers. These teachers run a Study Centre for the school going kids after school hours in the school premises. Teachers get periodical inputs from their mentors, and through workshops conducted once in 3 months.

GEF was invited to conduct one such Workshop on Basic Mathematics, involving understanding of numbers and the 4 basic mathematical operations. The workshop was conducted by Dr. Lalita Deshpande and Ms. Rashmi Karale of GEF, and focused on activity-based learning through games, and the use of simple teaching-learning materials.

The workshop was attended by 25 teachers and 10 mentors. The workshop started with an ice-breaking session and a few interactive games which were enjoyed by all the teachers and mentors. This was followed by group activities where teachers shared three things that they liked and felt confident doing, and three things that they did not enjoy. This exercise revealed that most teachers genuinely enjoy interacting with children and teaching them. Subsequently, various methods, activities, and games for teaching numbers were demonstrated. The four basic operations were taught using hands-on learning materials, with teachers actively participating in the activities. The sessions were highly engaging, and the teachers expressed enthusiasm about using these methods with their students. From a teacher development perspective, pictorial exercises were also given in groups, requiring observation skills and problem-solving to complete puzzles.

The workshop concluded with a consensus that teachers would practice these methods over the next three months, after which additional mathematical concepts would be introduced using a similar activity-based approach.

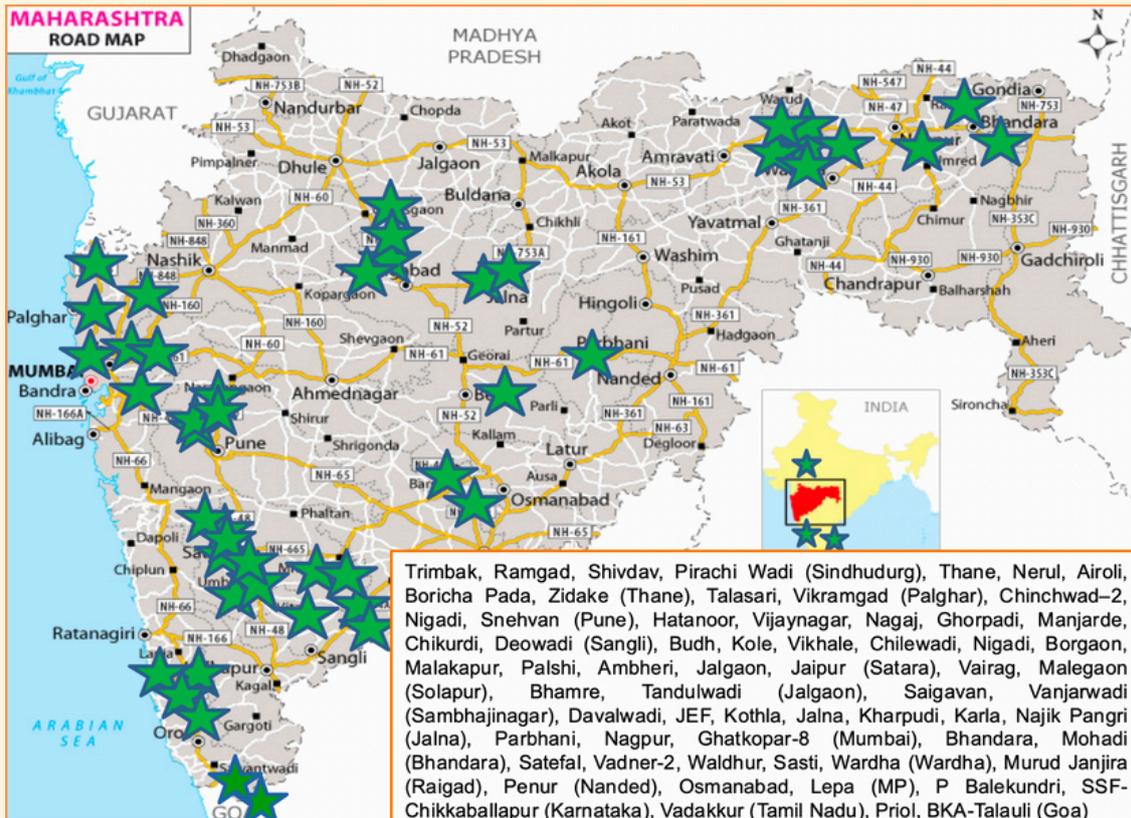


Participants deeply engrossed in the workshop activities

UPDATES

Adolescent Development Program

Growing Spread



Over **12000 beneficiaries** across **73 schools** (including **48 rural**)

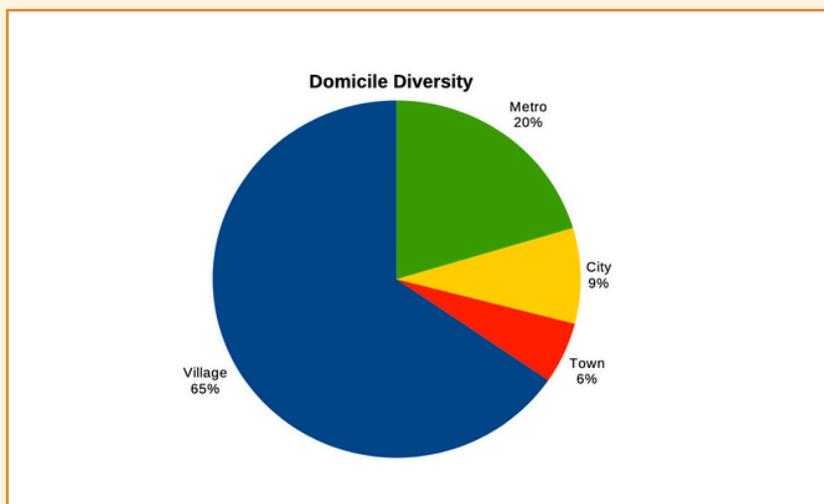
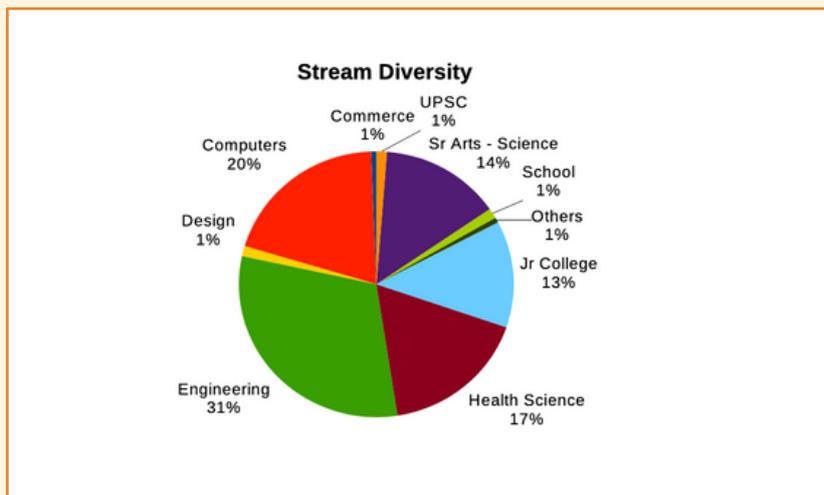
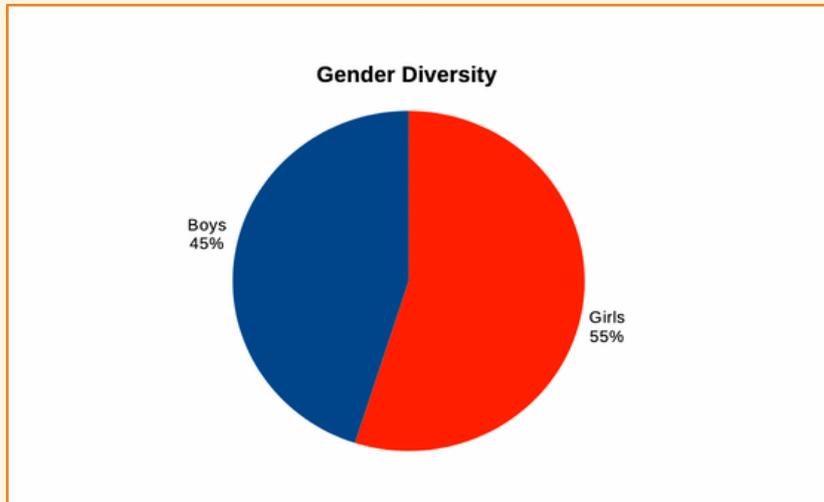
"Education is the foundation upon which we build our future, shaping minds and molding destinies."

~ Anonymous

UPDATES

Holistic Higher Education

Catering to a diverse demographic spread





STUDENT STARS



Gayatri Mene who is a 4th year Electronics & Telecommunication Engineering student at Maharashtra Institute of Technology (MIT), Alandi, has been selected for placement as a Workday Graduate Engineer Trainee at Strada Global, Mumbai.

Gayatri has an excellent academic record with a current CGPA of 9.1.

Umesh Jakune, who recently completed his B.F.Sc. (Bachelors in Fisheries Science) with a CGPA score of 8.2, has qualified for admission to the M.F.Sc. (Masters in Fisheries Science) program at College of Fisheries, Ratnagiri.



Nikita Patil who recently graduated with a B.Tech. (Artificial Intelligence & Data Science) from Padmabhooshan Vasantodada Patil Institute of Technology, Budhgaon, has been selected for placement at Zensar Technologies, as a Junior Associate Process Executive.

Sakshi Ghadge presented her research paper “Empathy and Homonegativity Among Gen Z Individuals” at the International Conference on Social Transformation in the 21st Century.

The paper is shortly going to be published in the reputed IIP: World Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences.



Ritesh Gonde, 3rd Year student of Civil Engineering at Shri Guru Gobind Singhji Institute of Engineering & Technology (SGGSIT&E), Nanded, topped his batch in the 5th Semester exams, with an SGPA of 9.91.



STUDENT STARS



Shivam Yadav, Final Year student of Computer Science & Engineering at Shri Guru Gobind Singhji Institute of Engineering & Technology (SGGSIT&E), Nanded, completed a remote internship as a Backend Engineer with StayAccom.

Shivam has also received an internship and placement offer from Raja Software Labs, Pune.

Maitreyi Bhumbar was a member of the team that won the C-zone Volleyball Tournament. Based on this performance, she has been selected for the state-level Ashwamedh Sports Event to be held at Nanded. She has also been selected for the Inter-University Volleyball Tournament to be held at Paten, Gujarat.

Maitreyi is presently a 2nd Year Mechanical Engineering student at Shri Guru Gobind Singhji Institute of Engineering & Technology (SGGSIT&E), Nanded.



Veda Khandekar was selected to represent the Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded team, at the Inter-university basketball tournament held at Lakshmibai National Institute of Physical Education, Gwalior.

Veda is currently in the 2nd year of her Instrumentation Engineering program at Shri Guru Gobind Singhji Institute of Engineering & Technology (SGGSIT&E), Nanded.

Vishal Nikam, who is pursuing a postgraduate course “Writing for Film, Television, and Web Series”, at the Film & Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune, won the 2nd prize for his script titled “Navra Nako Ga Bai”, at the university level in Chhatrapati Shivaji University, Kolhapur.



Sharvari Patil, First Year student of the BS+MS program at IISERR, Thiruvananthapuram, was a part of her college team that won the 2nd prize in a dance battle held as part of the Inter-IISER Cultural Meet.



ALUMNI



STARS



Kalyan Garde is now a certified Happiness course teacher, and is eligible to conduct Pranayam (Sudarshan Kriya) and Guided Meditation sessions.

Kalyan is BE (Mech), and MA (Education), and works as a teacher at Jnan Prabodhini Gurukul, Nigdi.

Pooja Raut, who is a Graduate Engineer Trainee at Atlas Copco, has been recognized with a Star Award, in appreciation for her performance in the Flutter Mobile Application Development project.

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



WAY FORWARD

The coming months will witness a frenzy of activity with the 2026 Annual Days across centres scheduled over the January to March timeframe. As usual, among other things, the Annual Days serve as a showcase of talent, a platform to interact with accomplished guests, and a crash course of hands-on management and leadership.

The wheels of Winter Scratch Festival 2026 have already been set in motion, with a line-up of exciting competitions that include Projects, Essay writing, Quiz, and a Hackathon. The Festival will culminate with a Scratch Day on 7th of February, 2026.

In what would be a first of its kind exercise for GEF, a Musical Concert is planned in Mumbai on 10th of January, 2026, as a fund-raising initiative. This is a part of our outreach efforts to expand our network of supporters.

We plan to soon initiate a 6-monthly appraisal process for our HHE students, to assess their performance across 4 dimensions - i) Academic, ii) Health & Nutrition, iii) Overall well-being & physical activities, and iv) Behavioural & emotional aspects. We are hopeful that such an exercise will help us better customize developmental interventions for our students.

As always, we look forward to your continued support, encouragement and feedback.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

Here is an early version of an article by Dr, Pradeep Waychal titled “AI: A Boon or a Bane”, to be soon published in external media

AI: A Boon or a Bane?

The arrival of any new technology is always good news and should be welcomed by all. It improves life in multiple ways and pushes human beings to operate at higher, more efficient, and more productive levels.

Consider a few examples. Luggage bags became wheeled, making it easier for us to manage our belongings independently. This also took away the jobs of many porters but pushed them toward higher-end occupations. Auto-rickshaws arrived, to take away jobs of horse-carters, to develop more productive and efficient travelling. Similarly, think of railway reservation systems, payroll processing, equity trading, and banking operations before the advent of computers—and how computers made all these activities more productive and efficient. People who were once burdened by the drudgery of manual calculations were freed to take on higher-value work.

We should look at the new technology on the horizon—Artificial Intelligence (AI)—in the same light. Yes, the bar has been raised higher, and this technology will have an even broader and deeper impact. It will significantly enhance human productivity and efficiency across a wide range of domains, while replacing certain jobs that were traditionally considered uniquely human, such as coding, recruiting, and writing. However, jobs that require problem identification, analysis and project formulation may not be affected by AI, at least in the near future. According to the *World Economic Forum's January 2025 report*, in the next five years, 9.2 crore existing jobs will disappear while 17 crore new jobs will emerge—resulting in a net gain of 7.8 crore new jobs. The report further states that new opportunities will arise in AI and information-processing technologies, robotics and autonomous systems, energy generation, storage, and distribution, as well as new materials and composites. These jobs will demand skills in AI and big data, networks and cybersecurity, along with soft skills such as creative thinking, resilience, flexibility, curiosity, lifelong learning, leadership, and social influence. As the job landscape changes significantly, expertise in talent management, teaching and mentoring, and self-motivation will also be crucial.

Artificial Intelligence certainly has significant disruptive power. Generative AI (GenAI) and large language models (LLMs) are making headlines for improving productivity and efficiency. Phanish Puranam of INSEAD, in his book *Re-Humanize*, asserts that, for long enough time, AI will support rather than replace human beings—a state he calls “bionic.” According to *IEEE Spectrum*, a Stanford study found that employment for early-career workers has dropped by 7% since late 2022, while that for senior workers has risen from 3% to 12%. Some experts predict the emergence of Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) and Artificial Superintelligence (ASI), which could potentially perform all tasks that humans can. According to *BBC News*, this possibility has apparently driven tech billionaires such as Mark Zuckerberg to establish “safe havens” in places like Hawaii—an amusing overreaction to what they perceive as an impending doomsday.

While experts attempt to predict AI's trajectory, they often assume that human intelligence will remain static. Yet humanity, endowed with unique thinking and organizational capacity, has always found ways to improve life and create meaningful work. The productivity gains from new technologies can dramatically enhance our quality of life. We may, in the future, work only three to four days a week (down from the current five or six) to earn a living. This would allow us to dedicate more time to personal interests—potentially leading to new creative inventions and discoveries.

In his *TED Talk* “Let's Teach for Mastery,” Sal Khan has explained how human skills can be developed—and technology can certainly aid and accelerate that development. All of this should make us optimistic about the future of humanity, where AI will prove to be more of a boon than a bane. Of course, realizing this future will not be easy; leaders in every field will have to work diligently and responsibly to bring about necessary changes.

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

To donate & volunteer

Please visit

<https://www.gurujifoundation.in/get-involved>



Donations to GEF are Income Tax exempt under Section 80G in India and 501C3 in USA

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