Disha

CAMPUS

TO

CORPORATE

IN THIS ISSUE

Founder's Message

Starting one's first job after college is exciting and overwhelming at the same time. The environment is different from the one at campus. The deadlines are real, responsibilities are clear, and expectations are higher. With co-workers from different backgrounds, ages, and experiences, good communication skills and emotional intelligence are vital. Time and stress management becomes very important, as one balances tasks, meetings, and sometimes long working hours, along with one's personal time and responsibilities.

At Guruji Education Foundation, it has always been our endeavour to help our students prepare themselves for life in this world beyond their college. We consider planning, organizing, time management, teamwork, communication skills, etc. as critical components of holistic development, and all such elements are appropriately incorporated in both – our Adolescent Development Program at school level, and the Holistic Higher Education program at college level. As always, our mentors are willing and happy to provide any guidance or support that our students may need, even after they start working.

Through our partnership with Infosys Foundation, we have also recently launched a focussed initiative for our final year students, to prepare them for the recruitment and placement process, and be better prepared for the post-college life.

I am very happy to release this issue of Disha, dedicated to the theme of "Campus – to – Corporate", with a few lines of advice to students. Once you start working, you may not always know what to do, and that is normal. Asking questions is not a sign of weakness—it shows eagerness to learn. There will be moments of stress, but also moments of success and growth. Remember that no one expects perfection on day one. Be open to feedback, keep learning, and stay patient with yourself. And finally always remember that your work and career are only a part of your identity, and not your whole identity.

Dr. Pradeep Waychal

FOUNDER

From Team Disha

The transition from life as a student, to life as a professional, marks an extremely important phase in our lives.   This issue is dedicated to the theme of this very significant milestone - the "Campus to Corporate" transition.

We look at this transition from the lens of our alumni and students who share their experiences of how they have prepared for and navigated this transition.   And we also get expert perspectives from our mentors on what to expect on the other side of the transition, and how to prepare for the same.

While every issue of Disha is a result of extraordinary teamwork, the effort behind this issue has been led by Nimisha Dalvi, a GEF alumnus who is now pursuing a successful career, and one among the role models in terms of volunteering for the Foundation.

We do hope that you enjoy reading this issue, as much as we enjoyed putting it together for you. And finally a word of apology is due for the unfortunate and unforeseen delay in bringing out this issue of Disha. We will strive to do better.

Highlights

Scratch Day - Monsoon Scratch Festival 2025

Scratch Day held on 2nd August 2025 was a roaring success, with over 880 participants attending the online event, held to mark the conclusion of Monsoon Scratch Festival 2025.

Dr. Anil Kakodkar, former Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission and former Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy, and Ms. Anjali Chipalkatti, freelance educator for Scientific Inquiry at ALT – Art of Learning and Thinking, were the Chief Guests for the day.

Dr. Kakodkar shared his childhood journey and provided invaluable insights about developing a scientific approach at an early age. In her session themed around the Evolution of Human Brain and the Process of Thinking, Ms. Anjali Chipalkatti's shared beautiful stories about the process of thinking - not just in relation with studies and career, but also for analysing and making decisions in life.
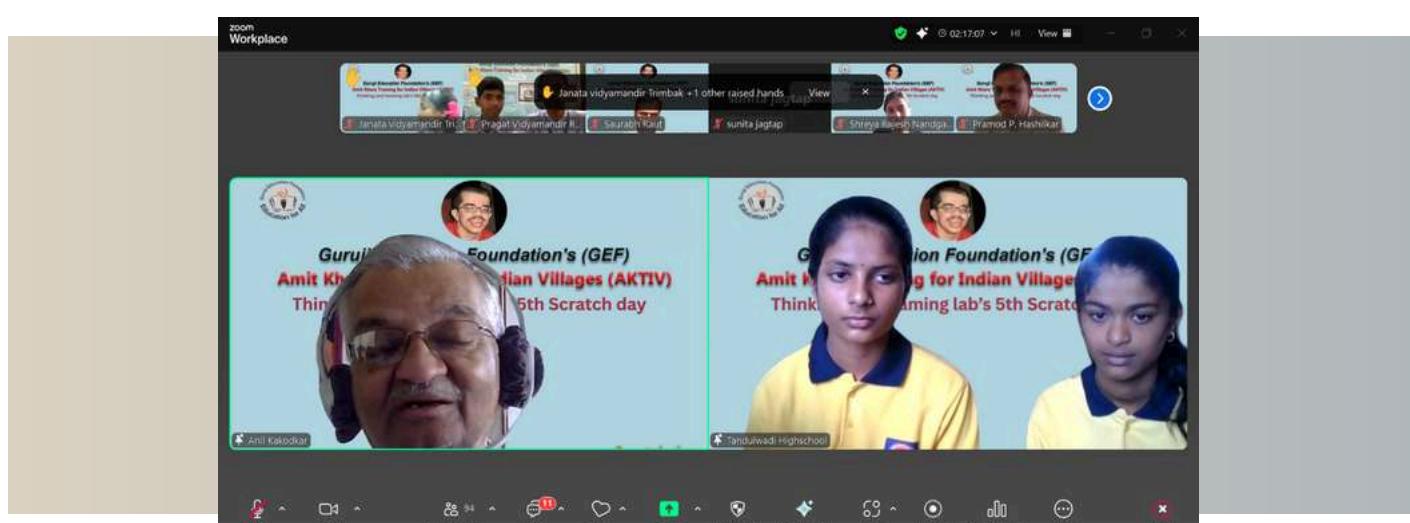
Dr. Anil Kakodkar interacting with the participants
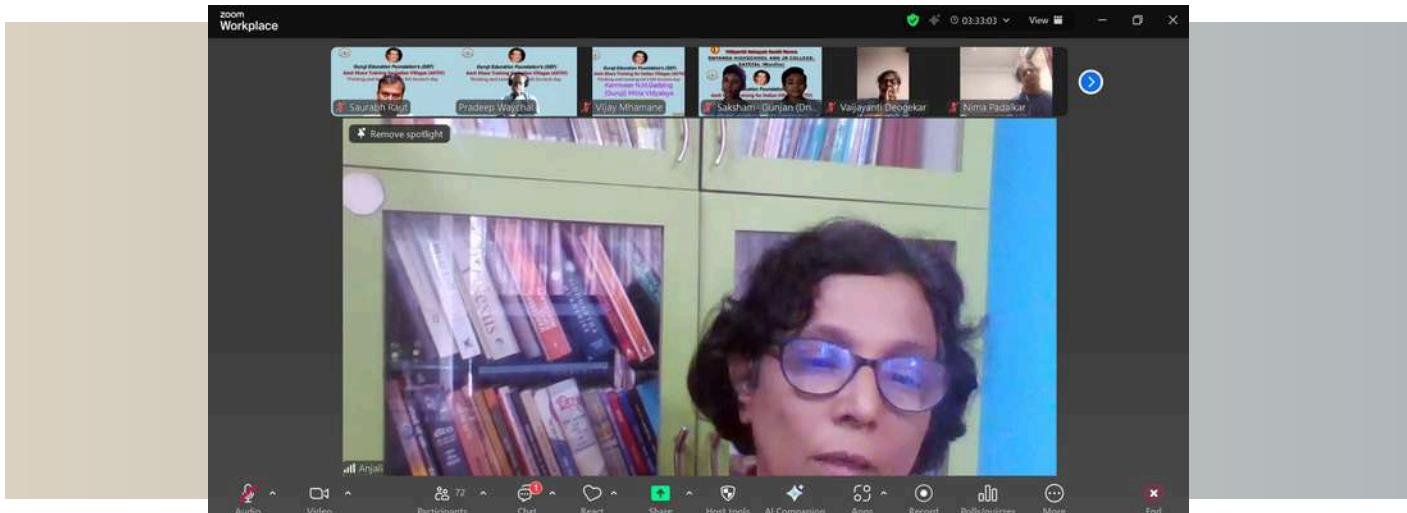
Ms. Anjali Chipalkatti speaking to the participants

While our HHE students, Gayatri Chingunde and Priti Sanghai, presented an introduction of Guruji Education Foundation, the entire proceedings of the Scratch Day event were ably conducted by our school students – Arnav Patil, Gunjan Hivarkar, Manasi Aaglave, Saksham Khaire, Sayali Jadhav, Yukti Pawar. The Monsoon Scratch Festival was executed under the leadership of Saurabh Raut, Project Coordinator, GEF, with guidance and support from Alok Kelkar, Gopal Kalpathi, Kavita Kadam, Sharad Deogekar, Vaijayanti Deogekar (all GEF volunteers) and Pandurang Jadhav (GEF student).

Following school teams were declared as the Winners of the Project and Quiz contests which were conducted as a part of the Monsoon Scratch Festival:

SCRATCH PROJECT
Junior category

🥇 Kai. Yadav Dagadu Patil Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Tandulwadi, Taluka Bhadgaon Dist. Jalgaon - Soham Amol Patil, Vaishnavi Ravindra Patil, Darshana Dinesh Patil, Samruddhi Yogesh Hire

🥈 Pragat Vidyamandir, Ramgad, Taluka Malvan, Dist. Sindhudurg- Purva Gurudas Jikamde, Vaishnavi Nilesh Ghadigavkar, Manali Mangesh Chavan, Nirvi Punaji Ghadigavkar

🥉 Sri Sri Gnan Mandir Matriculation School, Vadakoor, Taluka Orathanadu, Dist. Thanjavur - Yadhavan K, Oviyan S, Saivarshan B, Sekizhar

SCRATCH PROJECT

Senior category

1. Pragat Vidyamandir, Ramgad, Taluka Malvan, Dist. Sindhudurg - Janu Shankar Ghadigavkar, Vishwajeet Narayan Jikamde, Vedant Pravin Ghadigavkar, Omkar Pankaj Rane

2. Sri Sri Gnan Mandir Matriculation School, Vadakoor, Taluka Orathanadu, Dist. Thanjavur - R. Sri Nisha, S. Abirami, S. Prethisha, A. Kaashini, V. Varunavi

3. Janata Vidyamandir, Trimbak, Taluka Malvan, Dist. Sindhudurg - Shrawani Ramesh Mestri, Siddhi Santosh Aaeer, Manuja Santosh Sawant, Ovi Sachidanand Bhogate

SCRATCH PROJECT

Super-senior category

1. Pragat Vidyamandir, Ramgad, Taluka Malvan, Dist. Sindhudurg - Omtej Ulhas Tari, Gandharv Uttam Gavkar, Tanmay Babu Parab, Aditi Ajit Ghadigavkar

2. Kai. Yadav Dagadu Patil Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Tandulwadi, Taluka Bhadgaon Dist. Jalgaon - Akshara Amol Patil, Nandini Ravindra Mahajan

3. Sri Sri Gnan Mandir Matriculation School, Vadakoor, Taluka Orathanadu, Dist. Thanjavur - C. Harini, S. Iniya, C. Iniyamozhi, B. Priyadharshini, G. Sadhana

HACKATHON
Junior category

🥇 Kai. Yadav Dagadu Patil Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Tandulwadi, Taluka Bhadgaon Dist. Jalgaon – Ritika Bhagwat Patil, Lalit Devidas Patil, Pratiksha Deepak Khairnar, Lavanya Bhausaheb Pawar

🥈 Kai. Yadav Dagadu Patil Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Tandulwadi, Taluka Bhadgaon Dist. Jalgaon – Vaishnavi Ravindra Patil, Darshana Dinesh Patil, Samruddhi Yogesh Hire, Soham Amol Patil

🥉 Sri Sri Gnan Mandir Matriculation School, Vadakoor, Taluka Orathanadu, Dist. Thanjavur – Tharanika, Rebekkha, Dhivyasree, Bharathi

HACKATHON
Senior category

🥇 New English School, Chilewadi, Taluka Koregaon, Dist. Satara – Shreyasi Somnath Shedge, Madhuri Jitendra Dhole, Dhanashri Rajendra Dhole, Riya Vikas Salunkhe

🥈 Sri Pant Maharaj Adarsh Vidyalay, Pant Balekundri, Taluka Belagavi, Dist. Belagavi – Shashank Mirajkar, Shivanand Kittur, Sonal Salunke, Shraddha Patil

🥉 Kai. Yadav Dagadu Patil Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Tandulwadi, Taluka Bhadgaon Dist. Jalgaon – Sakshi Vasant Patil, Sanjana Santosh Pardeshi, Bhagyashri Sachin Patil

DEBATE
Junior category

🥇 <u>Pragat Vidyamandir, Ramgad, Taluka Malvan, Dist. Sindhudurg</u> – Nirvi Punaji Ghadigaonkar, Purva Gurudas Jikamde

🥈 <u>Rajashri Shahu Maharaj Vidyalay, Rabale, Dist. Navi Mumbai</u> – Pranit Vinod Zapde, Shreyas Lakshman Suryavanshi

🥉 <u>Kai. Yadav Dagadu Patil Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Tandulwadi, Taluka Bhadgaon Dist. Jalgaon</u> – Vaishnavi Ravindra Patil, Darshana Dinesh Patil

DEBATE
Senior category

🥇 <u>Pragat Vidyamandir, Ramgad, Taluka Malvan, Dist. Sindhudurg</u> – Diksha Praksah Chendurkar, Sakshi Anant Sawant

🥈 <u>Kai. Yadav Dagadu Patil Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Tandulwadi, Taluka Bhadgaon Dist. Jalgaon</u> – Sakshi Vasant Patil, Srushti Ravindra Patil

🥉 <u>Sri Pant Maharaj Adarsh Vidyalay, Pant Balekundri, Taluka Belagavi, Dist. Belagavi</u> – Sonal Salunkhe, Mamta Pujari

Highlights

Enhancing the maturity level of GEF Operations

As the scale of our operation grows, it is critical to build a robust structure of policies and processes. This quarter saw us make a significant stride towards this objective, with the release of our first set of policy documents, implementation of the defined compliances and processes, and identification of critical roles and responsibilities. The first set comprises the following 11 documents:

- Code of Conduct
- Child Protection Policy
- Conflict of Interest Policy
- Corruption & Bribery Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Finance & Accounts Policy
- Grievance Redressal Policy
- Human Resources Policy
- Inclusion Policy
- Monitoring, Evaluation, and Quality Framework
- Procurement Policy

All Management and Executive Committee members have committed to these processes.

Highlights

Thane Vaibhav's Seva Connect initiative features Guruji Education Foundation

Thane Vaibhav in its issue dated 17th July 2025, published a Marathi article, which spoke about our work in great detail.

The Thane Vaibhav article by Dr. Kushbu Taori

Here is a link to the Thane Vaibhav article in Marathi

https://epaper.thanevaibhav.in/editionname/Main/TVAIBV_MAI/page/6/article/TVAIBV_MAI_20250717_6_1

And a link to a LinkedIn post, with an English translation of the article

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/gurujii-education-foundation_gef-a-step-towards-parity-driven-by-activity-7353072543508975619-Ii3U?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAAFjP24BzLXDYNx1U5_NEkhi-rc773BDcyE

Highlights

GEF Featured in the 2025 Annual Report
of IIT Bombay Alumni Association

GEF is proud to be featured in the 2025 Annual Report of IIT Bombay Alumni Association (#IITBAA), as one of the notable activities of the Rural Initiatives Group.

Bhenshet Village – Water Security

RIG's water systems, led by Pravin Chaudhary, Prasad Bodas, and Yogesh Karnik, are now fully operational in Bhenshet. Residents, empowered by RIG's outreach, have taken charge of protecting the infrastructure showing strong community ownership.

Chiryacha Pada & Chinchpada – May 2025

As monsoon waters rose, villagers safely removed the pump near Pareti waterfall, showing sound judgement and technical confidence. A clear sign of RIG's long-term impact on community capacity.

Palsunda – Forest Conservation

RIG's reforestation efforts, ongoing since 2013, suffered a setback in May 2025 with the felling of mature trees by unknown individuals. This event has triggered introspection and led to plans for deeper community engagement to deter future violations and promote long-term conservation ethics.

HHE & ADP Expansion – Across Villages by Dr Pradeep Waychal (Guruji Education Foundation)

HHE (Holistic Higher Education) now supports 340+ students, while 57 ADP units reach over 1 lakh children—66% from rural areas and over half of them girls. Highlights include Scratch Foundation's SEC cohort, Tandulwadi's 'My School – Beautiful School' award, and Trimbak School's selection for a district-level CS

Hackathon. RIG members Dr. Dhananjay Mahajan, Shashank Tilak, and Alok Kelkar have contributed alongside the dedicated GEF team and volunteers across Maharashtra.

Academic Integration – VJTI & NEP 2020
The RIG-VJTI collaboration launched a multi-year integration of rural learning in engineering curriculum:

Year	Program Type	Credits
First Year	Rural Initiative Awareness	1.5
Second Year	Community Project	2
Summer/Winter	Training Programs	2
Third Year	Online Internship (6 months)	1 Sem
Final Year	Capstone Project	4

After fruitful years of follow ups & tackling the long-ignored issue of unpaid electricity bills in Zilla Parishad schools, Prasad Bodas launched a tech-led initiative in FY 2024–25. He built scripts to track and display real-time overdue bill data publicly which led to a one-time ₹13 crore clearance.
This is a standout example of how civic tech and persistence can drive real change.

References to GEF activities highlighted by the orange outlines

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MENTORS' SPACE

Campus to Corporate: Making a Successful Transition

ATUL MARATHE
MENTOR . TRAINER . CONSULTANT .
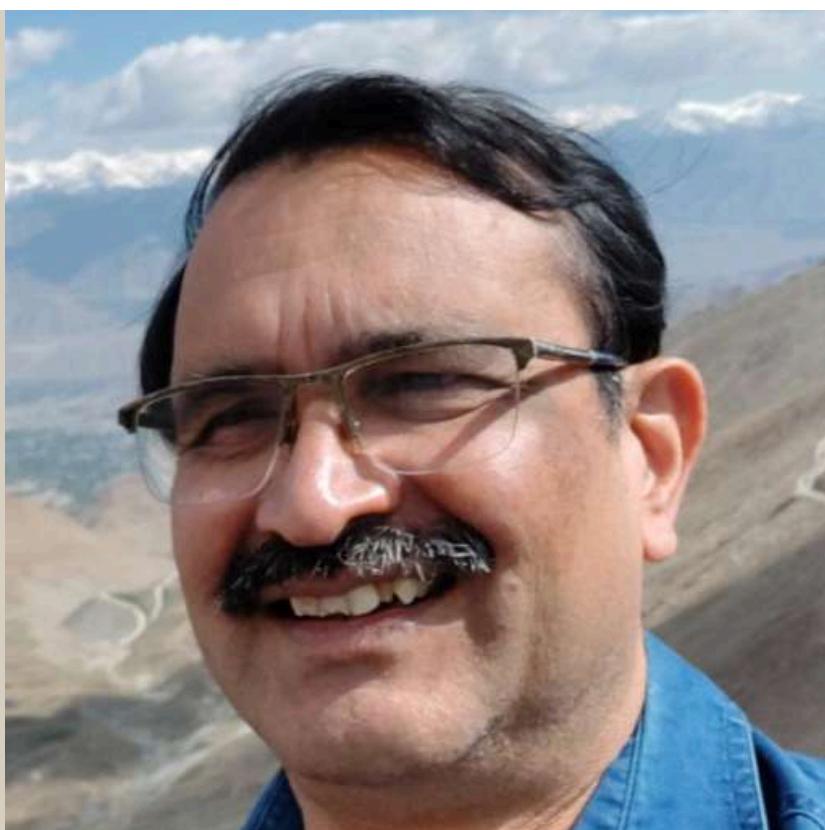
As graduation nears, a new chapter unfolds: the journey from campus life to the professional world. This transition can be both exciting and daunting. Whether you're preparing to step into a corporate job or planning to start your own venture, the habits and decisions you make in college can shape your early career outcomes.

Till 12th standard, we in India, are just in a rat race for marks, as marks decide

everything from admissions to career choices one can opt for. However, once you cross this stage and join a college, you need to rewire your mind set from just focusing on getting good marks.

Besides a sound technical knowledge, which is well reflected in marks, students should prepare to become 'worthy' for an employer or customers, by being a productive employee with right skills and attitude, or as an entrepreneur where someone is willing to pay you for your ideas, products or services.

Unfortunately, just getting the best marks in college does not ensure this. So how can one go about becoming 'worthy'? Here are five critical points I would request every student should consider to ensure a smooth and successful transition.

1. Build Professional Skills alongside Academics

While academic performance matters, today's employers and entrepreneurial environments demand more than just grades. Start early to develop universally valued skills such as:

WHILE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE MATTERS, TODAY'S EMPLOYERS AND ENTREPRENEURIAL ENVIRONMENTS DEMAND MORE THAN JUST GRADES.

- Communication: Practice writing, public speaking, and networking. Participate in debates, presentations, and student clubs to hone clear, confident communication.
- Teamwork & Leadership: Join group projects, lead committees, or volunteer for campus events. Understanding group dynamics and leading peers will serve you well in corporate settings and when building your own team.
- Problem-Solving: Engage in competitions like hackathons, case studies, or business plan challenges that nurture creative and analytical thinking.

I am sure all are aware of Youtube videos and on line courses, which can help a lot here.

2. Take Internships and Real-World Projects Seriously

Internships are not just resume fillers —they're gateways to understanding workplace culture and expectations.

- Get Industry Exposure: Seek roles that align with your interests, and don't limit yourself to big brands; startups and NGOs offer hands-on experience too.

INTERNSHIPS ARE NOT JUST RESUME FILLERS—THEY'RE GATEWAYS TO UNDERSTANDING WORKPLACE CULTURE AND EXPECTATIONS.

- Network with Professionals: Use internships to connect with mentors who can guide, recommend, and even open doors for you later. Actively consider attending 'Meetup Groups' in your neighbourhood on topics that interest you – not necessary to have them in syllabus

- Reflect and Learn: Use each internship to clarify your interests and strengths, shaping your future career decisions.

3. Cultivate a Professional Digital Presence

Your digital footprint is often the first impression you make outside college. Invest in:
- LinkedIn: Create an updated, professional profile. Highlight achievements, projects, and skills. Connect with faculty, alumni, and professionals in your field.
- Personal Portfolio or Blog: Especially for creatives and engineers, a digital showcase of your work signals initiative and sets you apart.
- Digital Etiquette: Clean up your public social profiles. Employers and collaborators increasingly run background checks online.

4. Learn Essential Life and Soft Skills

Corporate life is not just about technical knowledge. Start practicing these while still on campus:
- Time Management: Balance academics, extracurriculars, and personal interests effectively. Use planners or apps to stay organized.
- Adaptability and Resilience: College is a safe space to face failures and adapt to changes. Use setbacks as learning opportunities—they'll prepare you for career ups and downs.
- Financial Literacy: Understand budgeting, savings, and basics of investment. These habits are crucial whether you draw a salary or bootstrap a startup.

5. Seek Mentors and Build a Growth Network

Your college network can be one of your biggest assets.
- Connect with Seniors and Alumni: They offer insights into various roles, companies, and industries. Don't hesitate to reach out for guidance or informational interviews.
- Faculty Relationships: Professors aren't just teachers—they can open research, internship, or entrepreneurial opportunities.
- Peer Groups: Collaborate with motivated peers to learn, share opportunities, and support each other's ambitions.

I find the old Indian mentality is to seek too much advice from parents (or blindly rely on their advice?), unlike the west. It is changing in cities with open minded parents more exposed to the world, who allow more freedom to their children to explore, but not so much for rural back ground students whose parents have less exposure. Parents have the best intentions for you to succeed, but their background and generation gap may be a challenge for them to realize the vast alternate options that you can choose today.

So rely more on experts and mentors who actively work or understand your areas of interest, to seek guidance on potential opportunities there.

Final Thoughts

The leap from campus to corporate life is smoother when you try and rewire your mind for a different priority set, taking conscious efforts during your college years. By developing professional and life skills, accumulating real-world experiences, and intentionally growing your network, you'll find yourself better prepared to thrive, whether as an employee or an entrepreneur. Remember, every step you take in college—however small—can be the foundation of a rewarding career journey. Your academic curriculum and syllabus are necessary, but not sufficient to achieve it.

PS: I have taken help from Perplexity AI engine to get you 80% of this content!

REMEMBER, EVERY STEP YOU TAKE IN COLLEGE—HOWEVER SMALL—CAN BE THE FOUNDATION OF A REWARDING CAREER JOURNEY. YOUR ACADEMIC CURRICULUM AND SYLLABUS ARE NECESSARY BUT NOT SUFFICIENT TO ACHIEVE IT.

CAMPUS TO CORPORATE
Student, Alumni, Mentor Perspectives

A PANEL DISCUSSION COVERING A RANGE OF PERSPECTIVES - FROM OUR STUDENTS WHO ARE STILL ON CAMPUS, OUR ALUMNI WHO HAVE MADE THE TRANSITION, AND OUR MENTORS WHO HAVE GUIDED MANY THROUGH THE PROCESS

OUR PANELISTS

AMRUTA RAUT. Alumnus. BE (Instrumentation) 2016. Instrumentation Engineer, Technimont, Mumbai

ASHWINI THAMKE. Alumnus. BSc – IT 2012. Senior Innovation Engineer, Fugro BV, Netherlands.

KALYAN GARDE. Alumnus. MA (Education) – TISS 2025, BE (Mechanical) 2018. Teacher, Jnana Prabodhini Gurukul, Nigdi

KOMAL PADOLE. Alumnus. BE (Electrical) 2021. Dy Manager – Electrical & Instrumentation with Kirloskar Ebara Pumps

NANDOO HATALKAR. Mentor. Over 3 decades of versatile professional experience

PRATHAMESH LOHAR. Student. 3rd year BDS. Nair Hospital Dental College, Mumbai

RIDDHI PAGEY. Alumnus. MSc – Microbiology, Nagpur University. eTMF Document Specialist at IQVIA

SANIKA AEER. Student. 1st year BSc - Computer Science, Ruia College, Matunga

SHIRISH GANGRADE. Mentor. Over 3 decades of professional experience. Currently GM – Sales & Marketing at Croda India

SHRAVANI JADHAV. Student. 1st year BE (Computer Science), Indira Gandhi College of Engineering, Ghansoli

AND OUR MODERATOR

NIMISHA DALVI. Alumnus. BBA (Finance) 2021. Senior Advisor, Gallagher Re

Our moderator, Nimisha Dalvi got into a freeflowing discussion with an eclectic panel of GEF students, alumni, and mentors, to get their views and experiences on "Campus to Corporate"

DREAMS, ASPIRATIONS, AND THE FIRST JOB

Nimisha: Let us start with the student view of Campus-to-Corporate. How did you as a student choose your stream? How did the first transition happen? For those who are currently students, what are your plans after graduation?

Prathamesh: I had been interested in Medicine since beginning, but unfortunately since I could not get a seat for Medical, I ended up choosing the next best option of Dental. I will be completing my graduation in 2027, after which I will have to do a 1-year internship at my college. Once I complete my internship, I will look out for opportunities for clinical practice. I am looking at Army Dental Corps as an option as well, and if I get an opportunity, then I will get to join the Army as a captain.

Sanika: I am currently in the 1st year of my BSc-Computer Science program, and I want to get into software development. I plan to apply for internships in the 2nd year, and for Campus Placement in the 3rd year.

Riddhi: My first job was in my core field microbiology, in which I have done my Masters. I joined a Nagpur-based manufacturing company before completing my MSc, where I grew as a Microbiologist. I then did a

postgraduate diploma in Clinical Research, on the basis of which I got an interview invite from IQVIA. I had applied through LinkedIn, and went through the interview process, got selected, and that is where I'm still working.

Ashwini: We had a common campus placement with multiple companies, including many of the top IT firms, coming for interviewing students from many different colleges together. I did reach the last rounds of the selection process for a couple of companies, but then they wanted me to shift to another city, which was not possible for me because of my family circumstances. So I started looking for opportunities on my own in Thane itself, and got my first job with a recently started company. I worked there for only 6 months, but learned a lot.

Shravani: Since the time I was about 5 years old, I was good in sports. People around me in school, including my teachers, always told me that I could have a career in defence. Simultaneously I also appeared for the Olympiad exams, and some aptitude tests, which indicated that I was a good fit for Engineering. To be honest, NDA requires you to have a good knowledge of History, Geography, Current Affairs etc. – subjects that I was just OK in. So I discussed with Pradeep Sir and my school trustee, and they recommended that I appear for the NDA exams, but keep Engineering as a backup option.

Shirish: For me, it's a three decades old story. I graduated from UDCT (now ICT) in 1991, with a degree in textile chemistry. That was the time when textile mills in Mumbai were all closing down. So I had to go through a lot of struggle in terms of finding a good job, despite coming out of a very good institute. I finally landed a job with Mafatlal Industries, which is now closed, but was quite well known in those days. I think in our times, students used to just take up any job that they could get, unlike today when the students are more knowledgable about the opportunities available, and conscious about building their career.

LEARNINGS FROM CAMPUS

Amruta: When I was in college, there were these societies – for cultural event and technical events, and I have learned a lot of things there - how to dress, how to go and make announcements, etc., that have helped me build my confidence. I was very active in sports and cultural events, and they have unknowingly built me. The way you walk, the way you talk, how you enter, how you exit, every little thing makes a difference at the corporate level. I would encourage all students to participate in such forums. It also gives you a chance to meet so many different people. You can learn so much just by listening.

Wherever you go in life, Communication plays a very important role. I would say learn to communicate in English, but even if you can explain your point confidently in say Hindi or Marathi, people will make out that you are knowledgeable, smart, and someone that they would like to work with.

Riddhi: I think the projects that we do in college are very important, and can help in the corporate career. Apart from that, polishing your communication skills in college, surely helps too. A skill-based learning approach in college, instead of exam-oriented learning, is greatly helpful in the corporate environment.

Kalyan: Until my 12th standard, I was pretty much focussed only on my studies, and hardly had any knowledge of the world outside. However during that period I came across a few Jnana Prabodhini students, who seemed very different in their views and ways of thinking. That attracted me to Jnana Prabodhini, and in the first year of my Engineering, I started volunteering with them. That is where I got exposed to leadership skills, business skills, presentation skills, project management, etc. and started discovering my likes and strengths. I also got to study the lives of great men like Vivekanand, Gandhiji, Tilak, Shivaji etc. All this gave me a lot of confidence, developed my personality, and helped me understand "who am I". I think it is important to get an exposure to a variety of things and discover "who am I" at the school and college level. Try out various things and discover your likes and strengths. The earlier you realize "who you are" the better.

The exposure at Jnana Prabodhini helped me do well in my final year project, and perform well in interviews. I could also build a network, which helped me in getting my first job in a startup. Most importantly I was able to understand and appreciate the concepts of life and career goals.

Unfortunately, I got so strongly drawn to all the new learnings and experiences at Jnana Prabodhini, that it led to a dilution of attention towards my Engineering studies, to the extent that I started getting backlogs.

GOALS & PASSION

Nimisha: Kalyan, do you feel you could have done something differently and handled it better?

Kalyan: While being passionate is a good thing, it is not the only thing. Our goal should be holistic i.e. you should be passionate about it, it should to take care of your financial needs, there should be a market demand, etc. Getting a wide exposure early, before joining college, can help you arrive at such a goal. Unfortunately, in my case it happened after I joined Engineering.

Secondly, I could have very easily avoided the backlogs if I could have balanced things and managed my time a bit better. In hindsight, one should definitely prioritize on getting good marks, clearing exams, and only then look at other extra-curricular activities. If you can't manage this, it is better to focus on the academics and marks.

Fortunately we have many mentors in GEF who can guide you in time management, career planning etc.. Don't hesitate to ask for help. Personally, I also benefitted from doing meditation, yoga, and pranayam. It helped me in not getting distracted, remaining focussed, and thus managing my time better.

Riddhi: I started in a manufacturing unit, and I knew that it could not be a long term option for me, as the unit was located outside the city, and at times the working hours were long too.

Actually my original passion was to be a doctor, but for some reasons, I could not pursue that option, and I decided to contribute to the clinical field in whatever way possible. So when I came across this course on Clinical Research during my MSc, I decided to give it a try, and luckily after completing the course I got an opportunity and got selected for the current job. In a way I restarted my career from the beginning after having worked for 2.5 years, but I was ok with it.

Nimisha: Prathamesh, you said that you are aspiring for Army Dental Corps. So what are you currently doing to prepare yourself for that?

Prathamesh: ADC has multiple selection criteria. There is a physical examination, where among other things, you should be able to run 5 Km in 30 mins. Then on the academic front, you need to appear for the NEET-PG. So at present, I am studying for the NEET-PG exam, and also working on my fitness to prepare myself for the physical examination. I am also in touch with a senior from our college who got selected for ADC, and seek his guidance too.

Nimisha: It is wonderful that you not only have an aspiration, but are also working towards it. Learning from seniors too is a great way to prepare yourself, not only for higher studies, but also for the Campus-to-Corporate transition.

Shirish: That is nice, Prathamesh. Best wishes for ADC, and I am sure that you will crack it, but as an advice, one should always have a plan B too. Many times we go after a dream, and then if there is a disappointment, we don't know what to do.

PREPARING FOR THE TRANSITION

Nandoo: I recently had the opportunity to work on identifying the inputs that we at GEF need to give to our students to help them better prepare for the Campus-to-Corporate transition.

Let me start with Resume Writing, Assessments, and Interview preparation. A lot of things are also changing with technology. With ATS (Applicant Tracking Systems), your resumes are not being screened by any recruiters, but are instead being segregated by automated rule-based filters. So, how to make your resume standout is critical. Branding and LinkedIn profile building have become important.

And this cannot happen overnight. Before Resume Writing, there is something called Resume Development, which starts in college itself. You need to develop your resume, target the things that you need to appear in your resume, and think in terms of how you will achieve that. This way, you have time to plan and develop your resume, instead of thinking about these things at the time of resume writing.

Interviews are another part of this transition. It starts with just being there for the interview on time, and familiarizing yourself with the new environment. Then there are other aspects like ensuring that you are presentable, carrying out last minute checks, making smalltalk with others around, which help you to be in tune

with the place, and walk in for the interview with confidence. Online Interviews are a totally different ballgame, and you need to get comfortable with the camera and the meeting platform.

THRIVING IN THE CORPORATE WORLD

Nandoo: One of the most important skills, I think, is Communication. Communication is not only limited to Grammar and Vocabulary, but include a vast range of capabilities starting from Listening, Empathy, Body Language, Etiquettes, Understanding cultural nuances and more.

To be a good listener, you need to practise Active Listening, without being distracted by your own thoughts, which act as a barrier. Understanding what is acceptable and what is not in different cultures, understanding a person's background and mood, using an empathic tone while conversing etc. help you connect with the person at a human level. All these things go long way.

Digital Literacy in terms of Microsoft Office – Advanced Excel, PowerPoint, Cybersecurity is important. Then there are other personal development dimensions like Time Management. Understanding of Finance is important, not only personal money management and wealth building, but also a broader understanding of banking, capital markets etc.

Komal: To what Nandoo Sir said, I would like to add networking, building professional relationships, communication skills, email writing and presentation skills. It is also crucial, to build your domain knowledge, and also keep yourself updated with technical courses.

Shirish: Adaptability is very important. How do you adapt to different situations, to the new environment, new technologies etc. How quickly you can learn and start delivering is also important. That is when your managers become more confident about you, start trusting you, and give you more responsibilities, leading to growth.

Ashwini: As Shirish Sir said, adaptability. You should be adapting to new tools, new technologies, and the company's work culture as well. You have to respect each person as a colleague, irrespective of the hierarchy.

Another thing is taking ownership of your work, and learning from your mistakes. Even if the project is a group project and the work is divided, while you are definitely responsible for your part, in some ways you also need to take ownership for the entire project. Hence collaboration, taking ownership, helping others etc. are important. You need to have good presentation and communication skills too, so that you can convey your ideas and thoughts effectively.

Shirish: I think there are three dimensions. First is the basic domain or subject knowledge, which you gain from your education and then develop it further with experience. e.g. if you are a doctor, you need to know about the medicine field.

Second is the skills required for the job. If you are a teacher, you should know how to teach, or if I am a salesman, I should know sales skills such as negotiation, pricing etc.

The third is continuous upskilling to grow in your career. Think about what would you like to get into 3-4 years down the line. Not only because you like it. You also need to be sure about its growth potential. Once you identify that role, start building your skills for it. The easiest way is to just look at your manager and see if you want to be in his or her role, and the skill sets that you will need for the role.

Most companies are very happy to help you in your growth. But everything starts with you. You have to choose and be clear about what you want to do.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT & APPRAISALS

Nandoo: Just as resume writing starts with resume development, your preparation for performance appraisals too needs to start from Day 1. You need to understand your manager's viewpoint – on what is considered as a wow performance, what is average, what is poor etc. These discussions need to be had well before appraisals. Just like you fill your Monthly Thinking Exercise in GEF, you need to start maintaining a diary of your work and achievements, the skills developed, challenges accepted, etc. End of the year, you don't have to struggle.

Also, while writing it down, you can use the CAR model – What was the CONTEXT of the situation? What was the ACTION you took? And what was the RESULT. If you start writing it down in this way, it becomes easy when you discuss with your Manager and get his/her feedback.

Ashwini: Whatever you are doing, you should document it. And then at the end of the year, instead of trying to recall, you have a ready summary of what you did for the company throughout the year.

You can't say "Oh, I did so much but my manager doesn't remember". It is your responsibility to document what you have done and remind your manager about your work and achievements. You have to create your own spotlight!

WORK-LIFE BALANCE & TIME MANAGEMENT

Shirish: I think in today's environment, everybody is stretched to the limits at both ends – on the home front, as well as on the job front. The stress levels are very high compared to what it used to be in the past. Job opportunities are limited, and so are career growth opportunities. At the same time, you have to also look after your family, do justice to your responsibilities on the home front, and you also have your own personal priorities.

It is not very straightforward, and I think it is up to each individual to draw the line and say this is my limit, beyond which, either I won't be able to handle, or I will not handle.

Komal: Time Management is very crucial for maintaining work-life balance. You need to stick to your work hours with full focus, and treat the time after that as your personal time.

Riddhi: Time management is something that I too learned after joining corporate. Obviously every task given to you is a priority, but you should be able to decide the priorities of the tasks and work accordingly. If the priorities are unclear, you can always discuss with your manager too.

Ashwini: Punctuality is something that you can start practising right from college. Learn how to juggle multiple assignments and projects so that you don't slip on any of them. A big part of time management & work-life balance is also discipline. What I have observed in Netherlands here, is that people work with complete focus during their office hours, and beyond that it is their personal time, where they don't carry their work. In India, there is a tendency to take long breaks, attend to personal calls, or spend time gossiping during work hours, and then stay in office beyond work hours, either to complete their work, or many a times just to impress their bosses. This is something that we should avoid.

Riddhi: Yes, and you need to remain composed and not get overwhelmed. There will be occasions where your Manager will call you at 9 p.m. at night, and ask for something to be done by the next morning. You need to understand the criticality and reasonableness of the task, know where to draw the line, and clearly communicate what is possible or not possible. You need time for yourself and your health too.

Ashwini: Absolutely. Whatever happens – you have a high workload, you're not happy with your boss, you are not happy with your team – you should learn to manage your emotions, and not just react to situations. Whatever happens at work, should not affect our personal life and your mental health. This is again an awareness that you can try to develop at the college level. If you do not do well in an exam, or something happens between you and your friends, you should be able to analyze and deal with each situation rationally. If you think it is bothering you and disturbing your mental peace, help is available - in GEF, and outside.

Shirish: I agree with Riddhi and Ashwini about mental health. The way we go to the gym for our physical fitness, we also need to take care of our mental and emotional wellbeing, be it doing some sort of meditation, any relaxation exercises, engaging in sports and hobbies etc., so that we detoxify ourselves from all the stress. There are many ways of dealing with it, and GEF too provides such interventions.

CAREER PROGRESSION & CAREER SWITCHES

Shirish: After switching a few jobs, I realized early in my career that I was more inclined towards sales, marketing and technical value selling. So I started building my career in that direction - initially doing some technical service roles, then 100% business roles, and now I am taking care of multiple businesses with technical value selling.

Nandoo: Not only at the beginning of the career, but throughout, one has to look for an intersection of aspiration, capabilities, and opportunities. What am I aspiring to be, am I capable of doing that, and is there a market requirement for it.

Ashwini: I think we should first look at the role, and the learning it provides - where will you learn and grow the most. At the beginning of your career, you should try and get as much as possible. So you should always be checking - "Will this job teach me something new?". As you upskill yourself, as you grow, there will be a commensurate increase in the salary you can command. But you should not be falling into the trap where the company is paying you well, but your job is routine and does not add any value to you.

Today, you cannot possibly have a career that you start with and hope to retire in the same career. You will have to continuously upscale yourself, develop your skills, and align to whatever is new. As you progress in your careers, the right questions to ask are - What is it that I don't know and haven't learnt in my career? Is that something that I would like to do? Is this the path I want to pursue with my career? You should always be looking for a job which you can do for at least the next 3 - 4 years.

Amruta: When you are a Graduate Trainee in a company, you have an advantage there. You have been selected based on your talent at that very young age and the company has invested in grooming you. So personally, I feel that initially you should spend few years at one company to understand the organisation, how the work culture is. Once you gain the confidence, then you may want to switch in future.

Komal: I agree with Amruta, that you have a great opportunity to grow in the organization where you start as a Graduate Trainee, However in my case, my first organization was largely into Mechanical Engineering, and did not have an

Electrical & Instrumentation department, which was my core area. I was the only person with an E&I background, and there were no seniors that I could learn from or discuss with. That led me to look for a switch fairly early in my career. In my new organization now, I am a part of a team and there's a lot of knowledge sharing here.

Nimisha: Kalyan, you made a drastic career switch from Engineering to Education. Do you think that the circuitous journey that you went through, has it made you a better person than if your path had been totally smooth, and you had directly gone into education and become a teacher?

Kalyan: In my case, only because I went through Engineering and got exposed to a variety of experiences, that I realized that I was actually cut out for Education.

I think different people have different journeys. For example, someone like Sachin Tendulkar started early, discovered his passion, and his circumstances and family support allowed him to focus only on cricket. On the other hand you also have someone like Dhoni, who got into cricket by accident, discovered his passion, had to work with the railways for livelihood, struggled, and would probably have given up cricket if things had not clicked for him within a certain time. Today he too is counted among the greats. So it is not about when you start, or the route you take. It is about having an ambition and working towards that. That is your journey.

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE CAREER

Shirish: I am a big advocate of continous learning. Whenever I hire new joinees, I look for two major attributes – one, is the ability to deal with different situations, and second is the learning aptitude. I would give weightage to candidates who can show examples of how they managed challenging situations in their projects, how they were creative etc. So for me the behavioural aspects are very important – how one approaches and solves a problem, how they handle people, their ability to build a good team etc.
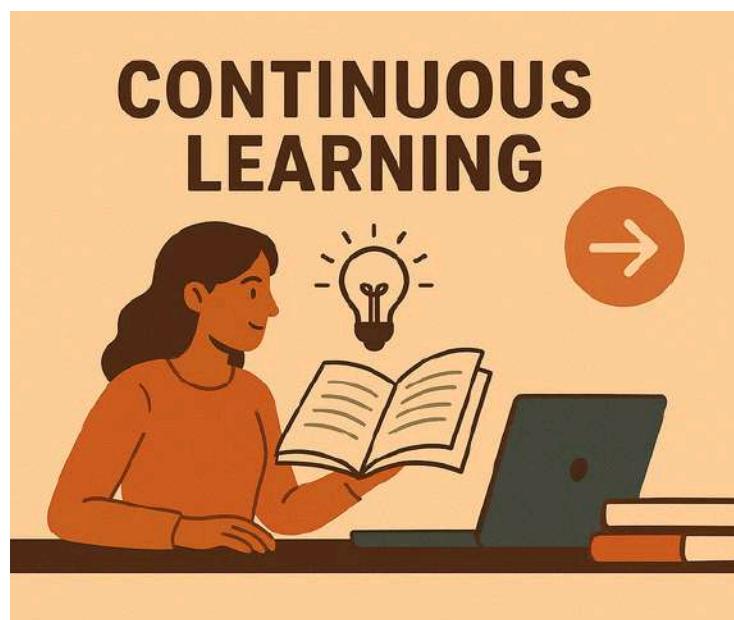
Doing fantastic a job in the current role may get you good ratings in your appraisal, but that may not get you promoted. You may be doing a super job, but what is required to move to the next level is totally different. You need to keep updating yourself, upskilling yourself. That is the mantra.

Ashwini: And for learning, there are a lot of resources available online today. You have micro-courses and certifications on platforms such as Coursera and Udemy. LinkedIn too has its own learning platform. Whichever industry you are working in, stay updated with the trends and the latest developments in industry. There are many avenues - follow the relevant leaders to see what they are doing, subscribe to newsletters, attend webinars.

Shirish: I think everyone looks at the new employee, like a new member coming into a family. So you need to be careful about how you behave at all times. While you are bringing some of the technical expertise or technical knowledge required for the role, you need to adapt to the expectations and be seen as a dependable person.

Rapid Fire Fun!

We asked our panelists what they bought or planned to buy from their first salary (especially something frivolous!!)

Prathamesh: "With my first salary? Maybe I will buy something for my family. Not something big, but at least some small things for each of my family members."

Ashwini: "I got my first income when I used to work part time after my 10th exam. I got 1000 rupees a month, and I also got an extra Rs.500 once for a job well done. And I used all of that towards my fees for the next year's college admission.

Then there was a time in college, when I used to conduct classes for CET (Common Entrance Test), and I was tutoring 2-3 girls at a time. That is when I got Rs.7000 at once, and I remember buying a Samsung phone with that amount. That was my first camera phone, and that's the memory that I have of the first thing I bought for myself."

Shirish: "I distinctly remember that the only thing I wanted to do with my first salary was to buy Nike shoes. And I did that. I got Rs. 750 as my first salary, and that was the cost of those Nike shoes in those days. I still remember that.

But later on, I bought a saree for my mom and that is also one of the fond memories I have. Khatau sarees used to be very famous in those days, and I bought a Khatau saree for my mom during that early phase of my career. That is a very emotional memory for me."

Komal: "With my first salary, I took my parents and grandmother for dress shopping."

Riddhi: "I don't actually remember what I bought with my first salary. May be I did not due to my family's financial background, but I did buy a phone after a year, and that too on EMI. Yes, I bought a phone for myself!"

Amruta: "Sari for Mom, Glucometer for Dad, MP3 player and Kindle for my sisters. I remember I had blown up my entire salary in a day!"

Sanika: "I will buy an electronic device for myself."

Nandoo: "In my times, we did not really have the choice of electronics that you all have today. When I started, I used earn a salary of Rs.500 and I just used to hand over my salary to my mother. On the fun side, during our vacations, I do remember signing up as an "extra" for a few movie shootings, and spending the daily allowance on buying a shirt for myself."

We also asked our panelists - "What did you learn in your first job that you still remember? You may or may not have liked your first boss or a teacher, but what did you learn from him or her, that you still apply, and would like to pass on?"

Shirish: "Something that I learnt from my first boss was people management. The way he actually used to treat us and the kind of maturity he used to show, was exemplary. And the age gap was not very high, he must just have been maybe 5-7 years senior to us. He used to treat us well and we always felt well-protected under him. That is something that I have tried to adopt. It is crucial that your team should trust you."

Prathamesh: "For students like myself in a medical college, every professor is almost like a boss in an organization. The relationship is much beyond just lectures, exams and marks. There is a lot to learn from them - the clinical knowledge they have, their expertise and vast experience in operating patients. And also how to communicate with the patient, because that's fundamental for succeeding in our field."

Riddhi: "My first job was in a manufacturing unit, which had people working on the floor. So one thing that I definitely learnt, was communicating with the workers. We usually focus on how to communicate with our colleagues or with our boss, but in a manufacturing setting where the workers are the fundamental units, learning how to communicate with them was crucial.

People management is something that I too have learnt from my first boss. He always used to make us feel involved. Even though I was new and from a different background (life sciences), he would still come and ask for my inputs - "Riddhi, what can we do to improve this product?", "What can we do to create a variant of this product?" and so on. Yes, these are the things I truly appreciate, and have learnt from him."

Ashwini: "When I joined my first company, there were only 3-4 people, and we used to work like 12 hours a day. And even in those circumstances, punctuality was the one thing that my boss was always insistent on. Irrespective of when we may have left office the previous evening, we had to report to office on time. I used to have the office keys, and I remember the multiple occasions when I was the first one to reach, and had to unlock the office door, with no one else being around.

But then he was very kind as well, and he used to teach us a lot. He was a Mechanical Engineer who had shifted to IT, and was very knowledgable. He used to sit with us and show us how things could be done. Perhaps another thing that I unconsciously gained from him was the confidence to change careers and still be successful."

Sanika: "If I don't understand something, I like to ask questions. I like teachers who try to explain things even if it gets repetitive. I like that they give real life examples for my better understanding and don't get frustrated with my questions."

Amruta: "During our induction training, our boss used pay surprise visits and ask us questions. Because of the questions he asked and the details he went into, we started learning, going back to the textbooks and reading up on everything beforehand, as we didn't want to get insulted in front of the whole batch. This was a very good takeaway for me - just because I have started working does not mean that I should not be learning new things. And because I was learning in depth my foundation became very strong."

CAMPUS TO CORPORATE
Experiences

OUR ALUMNI AND STUDENTS SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES AND LEARNINGS FROM VARIOUS STAGES OF THEIR CAMPUS TO CORPORATE JOURNEYS.

I'm glad to share my thoughts and experiences of my Campus to Corporate journey, in this issue of Disha.

After completing my SSC, I pursued a Diploma in Computer Engineering from Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil Polytechnic, Satara. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I had a one-year gap in my education. During this period, I joined my first company, which turned out to be a truly life-changing experience for me. Later, I pursued my graduation in Bachelor of Arts with a specialization in Economics and Psychology from Nowrosjee Wadia College. The reason I shifted from a technical to a non-technical field was my growing interest in management, which I discovered during that one-year career gap.

Coming from a small town, I always had fears about my future - especially regarding my career and the corporate world. I may not be very expressive in person, but I hope my words here can inspire other students who are on a similar journey.

VINITA SHARMA

HR EXECUTIVE, VOINSYS IT SOLUTIONS
BA Economics & Psychology, 2025
Diploma in Computer Engineering, 2020

The journey I remember was not easy. I faced several rejections before getting selected. I now realize that I was an outdated version of myself compared to who I am today. The selection process was quite tough, but it taught me an important lesson, if you have strong communication skills, leadership qualities, convincing power, and a willingness to learn, no one can ignore your profile.

Of course, I wasn't selected in my very first interview. In fact, I didn't even know what exactly to do during the interview, sounds funny, right? But over time, with experience and rejection, I learned how to present myself better. That phase truly helped me grow and understand what interviewers look for.

To prepare myself, I used various resources - from YouTube videos of competitive interviews, to seeking guidance from experienced professionals with over 5 years in the industry. I also built a strong professional network through LinkedIn, which has been invaluable in my journey.

After entering the corporate world, in the beginning I lacked confidence, and was overwhelmed with self-doubt, uncertainty and fear. However, after a few months of support and guidance, I began to learn how to face challenges head-on. My corporate journey has taught me so much, and I continue to grow every day. Some of the key skills I've developed in my corporate work include:
- Problem-solving and logical thinking,
- Self-confidence and grooming for corporate presence
- Effective communication and listening skills
- Leadership qualities
- Staying updated with new technologies and market trends

One of the most important realizations I've had is that success in the corporate world isn't just about technical knowledge. It's about staying current, being adaptable, and developing essential soft skills like leadership, problem-solving, and the ability to communicate clearly. If you cannot evolve with the changing demands of the industry, it becomes difficult to survive in today's competitive environment.

I'm truly thankful to Pradeep Sir, Vishnu Sir, and the entire supportive team who helped me reach new heights in my career and personal development. I am proud to say that I am an alumnus of the Guruji Education Foundation.

Moving from campus to corporate life was a big change for me. In the beginning, I faced challenges like adjusting to a new work culture, managing time, and taking responsibility for my tasks. Slowly, I learned to be more disciplined, professional, and confident.

I completed my Bachelor's degree in Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering in 2024. During my studies, I developed a strong interest in the semiconductor and VLSI domain, which led me to pursue internships and projects related to electronics and chip design. These experiences built a strong technical foundation and helped me prepare for industry roles.

Currently, I am working at RRP Electronics Pvt. Ltd. as a Process Engineer). I joined RRP through an off-campus opportunity, as I was not selected during the on-campus placements. Here, I am gaining practical experience in the electronics domain by working with various production and quality processes.

KOMAL CHAVAN

**PROCESS ENGINEER,
RRP ELECTRONICS PVT LTD
BTech (Electronics &
Telecommunication), 2024**
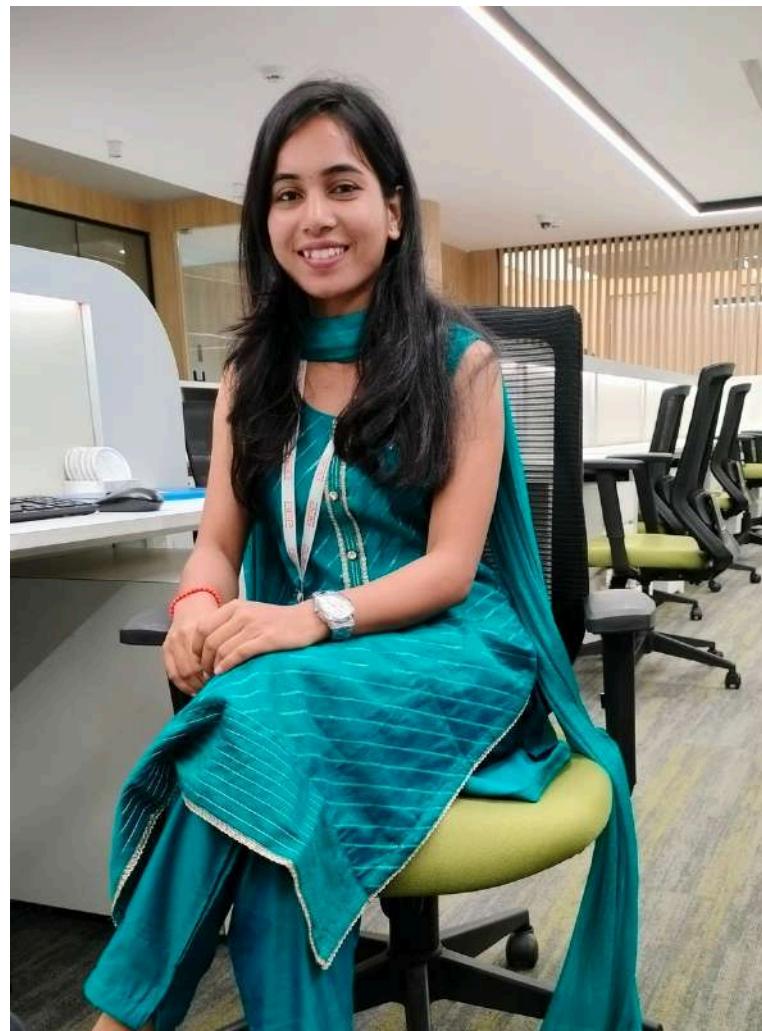
This role has helped me improve my technical skills, professional attitude, and understanding of real-world industrial practices.

The selection process to enter the corporate world was quite competitive. I appeared for several interviews — some successful, some not. Each interview taught me something new — how to communicate clearly, remain confident under pressure, and

continuously improve my technical and soft skills. Not getting selected in some rounds initially helped me identify my weaknesses and work on them with determination.

The induction and training phase in my company was a great learning experience. It helped me understand the practical applications of engineering concepts and the importance of teamwork, process discipline, and safety. Senior engineers guided me throughout, making the transition from a student to a professional smoother.

Overall, this journey taught me the value of consistency, adaptability, and continuous learning. Achievements gave me confidence, and failures taught me patience and resilience. Every experience added to my growth and helped me become a more responsible and skilled professional

Stepping out of college and stepping into the professional world was both exciting and overwhelming—a true mix of curiosity and uncertainty. Preparing for interviews was a journey in itself, and I was fortunate to have the constant guidance of Waychal Sir, who stood by me at every step and helped me make the right career choices. The support from Guruji Education Foundation played a vital role in shaping my confidence and skills.

To me, the transition from campus to corporate is about adapting to a new phase of life. where the environment, expectations, and responsibilities are very different. On campus, my focus was on learning, exams, and friendships. while in the corporate world the focus automatically shifted to deadlines, teamwork, responsibilities, documentation and real-world problem-solving.

As the years passed, I faced both successes and failures—each achievement became a source of strength, while every setback

CHHAYA ROHANE

**MEP ENGINEER,
ARENA CONSULTANTS
BTech (Mechanical), 2021**

became a lesson. Life after marriage brought a new chapter, where balancing personal and corporate responsibilities often felt like juggling in a circus. Yet, with careful planning, patience, and a positive mindset, it's absolutely possible to manage both successfully. and even the toughest days can be managed gracefully.

Looking back, my journey from campus to corporate has been about adaptability, resilience, and the immense power of guidance and mentorship—lessons that continue to inspire me and will stay with me for a lifetime.

Recently, I had the opportunity to go through a three-round interview process, comprising Technical Round 1, Technical Round 2, and a HR Round - and I am truly grateful to share that I successfully cracked the interview.

What I Learned About CGPA

The first big realization I had during this journey is that CGPA is only the entry ticket. It may decide whether you get shortlisted for the interview, but once you're inside the room, your CGPA stops speaking for you. From that moment on, what really matters is:

- Your skills
- Your mindset
- Your communication
- Your confidence

In fact, throughout the process, I was never asked a single question about my CGPA — not even once up to the HR round. What the panel truly evaluated was:

- My technical knowledge
- My approach to solving real-world problems
- My clarity of thought while tackling challenges
- My communication skills, because even the best ideas hold no weight if you cannot express them clearly and confidently

PANKAJ RAJPUT

Final Year, BTech (Electronics & Telecommunication), SGGSIE&T, Nanded

Selected for placement at Johnson Controls

A Reflection on My "Weakness"

This interview also reminded me of something very personal from my diploma days. Back then, one of my biggest habits was constantly asking "why" ... Why is this happening?, Why does it work this way? Why can't it be done differently?

Over time, I began to see this as a weakness — because it made me slow, made me dive too deep, and sometimes frustrated others. But in this interview, I realized something powerful: That very habit of asking "why" — of questioning and digging deeper — is not a weakness. It's actually my biggest strength.

It has shaped my engineering mindset: a mindset where I don't just memorize answers, but try to understand the root of every concept. It's what has helped me
- Strengthen my fundamentals
- Approach problems with depth
- Build the ability to connect theory with real-world applications

And in this interview, this very curiosity was the quality that helped me stand out and ultimately crack the process.

Stop Comparing Yourself to Others

Another realization I had is how often we compare ourselves with people around us - "Oh, He has a 9+ CGPA.", "She has done more projects.", "They have multiple internships." and so on.

It's natural to think this way, but here's the truth: these comparisons don't decide your success.

If you ever feel others are better than you, pause and remind yourself - Everyone has their own prime time. Instead of doubting yourself, ask:
- "How am I improving?"
- "How am I building myself today?"
- "How can I be a better version of myself tomorrow?"

That shift in focus — from comparing to improving — is where real growth begins.

My Key Takeaways

From this journey, here are the lessons I want to share with anyone preparing for opportunities ahead:

- Don't underestimate yourself because of numbers — they only open the first door.
- Build strong fundamentals and real-world problem-solving ability.
- Communicate your thoughts clearly — your voice matters as much as your ideas.
- Trust your own skills, stay curious, and never stop asking "why."
- Believe that your prime time will come — just keep learning, keep growing, and keep moving forward.

At the end of the day, it's not just about clearing an interview — it's about proving to yourself that you are capable of standing out in a room full of talent. And that belief, once built, stays with you forever.

During my college years, I was quite confused about my career path—whether to pursue a future in software or in my core field. I learned almost all major programming languages, but mastering them required daily practice, which became difficult during the busy exam periods. Eventually, I decided to focus on building my career in the electrical domain.

I began preparing for interviews by strengthening my technical knowledge and focusing on clearing my concepts. However, I realized that one of my biggest challenges was English communication, which made me nervous during interviews. Fortunately, in my final year, GEF introduced English-speaking classes and mock interview sessions, which helped me significantly improve my communication skills and confidence.

My first interview was with Petrofac, conducted in offline mode. Although I couldn't clear it, this failure taught me valuable lessons about preparation and confidence. After working on my weaknesses, I successfully cracked interviews with Siemens, Toyo, and Mahindra & Mahindra. Following my college's Training & Placement policy, I chose to join Mahindra & Mahindra as a Graduate Apprentice Trainee (GAT).

I recently completed my GAT training period and have now been confirmed as an Assistant Manager in the Strategic Sourcing Unit at Mahindra & Mahindra.

SAMPATTI GIRGAVAKAR

ASSISTANT MANAGER, MAHINDRA & MAHINDRA
BTech (Electrical), 2024

When preparing for placements, the first step is to identify your area of interest and focus on related placement drives. But I soon realised that this alone is not enough. Most placement processes consist of three stages:

1. Aptitude Round – Tests your basic knowledge of Mathematics, Reasoning and English. This round requires focused preparation beyond academics.

2. Technical Round – Evaluates your academic and technical knowledge.

3. Interview Round – The most crucial stage where your personality, confidence and communication skills are assessed.

Initially, I was able to clear the first two rounds but often stumbled at the interview stage. Even when I knew the right answers, I couldn't express them confidently in front of interviewers – mainly due to my fear of English speaking and lack of confidence.

To overcome this, I began practicing English conversations with my friends and regularly conducted mock interviews with them. This consistent effort helped me improve my communication, gain confidence, and finally, I was able to crack my first interview for an internship and then placement.

This journey taught me that preparation with practice and confidence gives success.

SANSKRUTI JADHAV

ex-INTERN, TATA AUTOCOMP (currently on a break from work) BTech (Electronics), 2024

Stepping from campus into the corporate world felt like entering an entirely new universe. On campus, life had a rhythm—lectures, projects, and friends. But suddenly, I found myself in a place where deadlines were strict, expectations were high, and teamwork was essential.

The initial days were filled with excitement and anxiety. I soon realized that technical knowledge alone wasn't enough; adapting, communicating, and continuously learning were even more important. Mistakes happened, failures came, but they built determination. Gradually, success followed—I completed projects, solved problems, and received appreciation.

Looking back, I feel that interviews taught me discipline, while the job taught me patience. And the biggest lesson of all is that learning never stops.

Throughout this journey, the guidance and support of Guruji Education Foundation has always been a source of strength for me. Their education, encouragement, and backing have made my transition from campus to corporate more confident and enriching.

SAGAR MORE

SHAURYA TECHNOSOFT BTech (Electronics & Telecommunication), 2024

This article, originally in Marathi, was translated to English using ChatGPT.

Yes! I finally got selected for TCS, and it still feels like a dream come true! After months of rigorous preparation, consistent effort, and a strong belief in myself, I successfully cracked the TCS Ninja selection process through a mix of dedication and smart strategy.

I spent time revising my core subjects, practicing aptitude and coding questions daily, and attempting several mock tests to strengthen my speed and accuracy. Along with technical preparation, I also focused on improving my communication and confidence through group discussions and interview practice sessions.

The selection process was a well-structured multi-stage journey. TCS Ninja is one of India's most sought-after entry-level hiring programs by Tata Consultancy Services, open to B.E./B.Tech (all streams), MCA, and occasionally B.Sc IT/BCA graduates. The eligibility requires at least 60% throughout academics, no active backlogs, and a maximum 2-year gap in education. Having met this criteria, I qualified for the next steps of the process.

SUYASH SUDHIR SUMANT

ASST SYSTEMS ENGINEER, TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES
BTech (Electronics & Telecommunication), 2024

It all began with the TCS NQT (National Qualifier Test) — an online assessment covering numerical ability, reasoning, verbal skills, programming logic, and coding. After clearing the test, I faced three rounds of interviews — Technical (TR), Managerial (MR), and HR. Each round tested different aspects of my abilities: from programming and DBMS knowledge to logical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills. The interviewers were very observant and evaluated how well I could think under pressure. The key was to stay patient, confident, and positive throughout the entire process.

Getting selected by TCS has truly opened doors to structured training, global project exposure, and a promising career path in one of the most trusted IT companies. This achievement is not just about securing a job; it's about beginning a new chapter filled with learning, growth, and opportunities.

I am sincerely grateful to GEF and my mentor Hatalkar Sir for their constant support, guidance, and encouragement throughout my education. His mentorship played a huge role in shaping my journey. I look forward to contributing my best to TCS with a positive attitude, dedication, and continuous learning.

MY EXPERIENCE IN CLINICAL DUTIES
Campus to Corporate of a different kind

SAPNA ACHARYA
3RD YEAR, B.SC. NURSING,
S.TECH COLLEGE OF NURSING, BHILWARA

Here is an account of my one month experience of hospital clinical duties – my own experience of what "campus to corporate" means to a student of Nursing.

For my training, Aarif Khan Sir, our Clinical Instructor, assigned me to SIMS Hospital, which is a newly opened big hospital in Bhilwara. Since the opening of SIMS hospital, it had always been my dream to work there, and I was really happy that my dream could come true.

Week 1: General Ward - The Starting Point

My first week in the General Ward was both exciting and overwhelming. I was faced to a variety of cases, from common condition to more serious conditions. In the morning, the day would start with rounds—where the senior doctors, nurses, and interns would visit each patient. They would discuss symptoms, test results, and treatment plans. I learned a lot just by observing the interactions between the medical staff and patients.

My tasks included taking vitals, updating charts, and assisting in patient care. Most importantly, I learned how effective communication helps calm and comfort anxious patients.

Week 2: Orthopedic Ward - Learning to handle trauma

The second week in the Orthopedic Ward introduced me to trauma care involving fractures, dislocations, and post-surgery recovery. One of the most memorable experiences was helping a patient who had just undergone hip replacement surgery. The orthopedic ward was intense, especially because many of the patients were in severe pain, but it was rewarding to see their progress.

I became more confident with medical equipment, patient history-taking, and understanding post-operative care. The orthopedic team was incredibly helpful, always explaining the rationale behind each treatment decision, which made me understand the clinical approach more deeply.

Week 3: Gynaecology Ward - A different kind of care

In the Gynaecology Ward, I had the chance to interact with different level of case's , from routine prenatal check-ups to more complex gynaecological surgeries.

I gained insight into the emotional and psychological side of patient care. Many women in the ward were either about to give birth or recovering from childbirth, and the experience of being part of that journey was both humbling and inspiring.

One patient, who had undergone a C-section, taught me a lot about post-surgery recovery. I learned the importance of signs of infection, pain management, and emotional support during the healing process. It was a delicate balance between physical care and providing emotional support, and I realized that sometimes, being there to listen was just as important as medical intervention.

Week 4: Reflections

By the fourth week, I had gained a deeper understanding of the clinical environment. I had been able to apply everything I learned in the previous weeks, from patient interactions to medical procedures, across different wards. In the general ward, I learned the importance of general care; in the orthopedic ward, I gained technical skills related to trauma management; and in the gynaecology ward, I learned the importance of emotional intelligence in patient care.

My one month of clinical practice was a memorable learning experience. It gave me a view of the challenges and rewards of working in a hospital, and I am grateful for the opportunity to interact with patients, learn from experienced professionals. It has strengthened my passion for medicine.

GEF'S PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

An Infosys Foundation sponsored initiative

SHARAD DEOGEKAR
HEAD, SPOKEN ENGLISH & PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
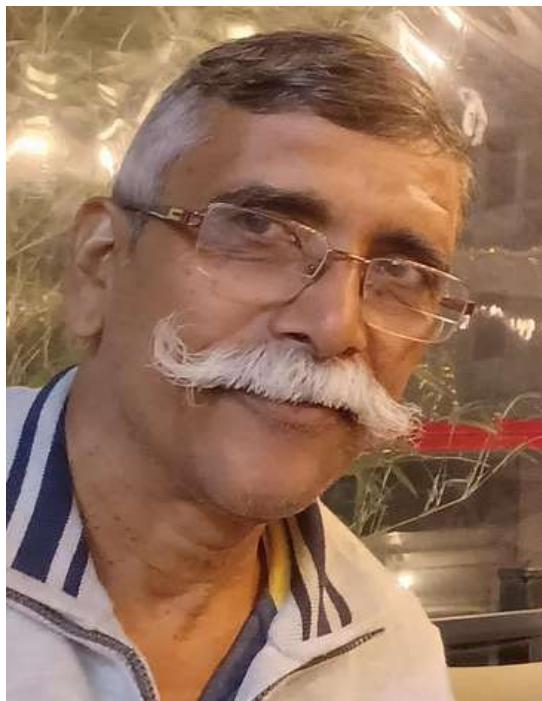
GEF has been working towards the holistic development of underprivileged students. Throughout their academic journey, we implement various developmental programs to help them achieve their goals. While these efforts have been effective, there remains scope to further enhance students' performance in the placement processes.

Based on our experience, students often face challenges in securing placements due to factors such as limited communication skills—especially in English—which affects their performance in interviews and group discussions, difficulties with aptitude tests, anxiety, and lack of personalized guidance.

In response to these challenges, we have developed a comprehensive program that includes student introspection and career counselling, vocabulary enhancement, an Art of Living course to manage anxiety, MBTI assessments to help students understand their personality types, time management training, and communication assessments conducted by a professional agency. The agency provides each student with a detailed report based on aptitude and technical mock tests, as well as various communication exercises. This report identifies the student's strengths and areas for improvement and offers specific inputs to reinforce strengths and develop weaker areas.

Each student is assigned two placement mentors—one experienced and one comparatively younger—who conduct mock interviews, analyze the student's performance, and provide targeted guidance to improve their chances of success in upcoming interviews. The mentors continue to support the students until they achieve their desired placements.

The program also incorporates a curated set of virtual learning modules available on the Infosys Springboard platform, including foundational communication skills, personal effectiveness and soft skills, advanced language proficiency, professional and digital skills, financial and economic literacy, and new age careers ensuring all-round development.

Unlike traditional placement assistance programs that offer broad, general guidance through lectures, this initiative provides personalized, one-to-one support until successful placement is secured.

The process is supported by the Trunao software platform to enhance productivity and maintain quality. Sponsored by the Infosys Foundation, the program is also open to eligible non-GEF students. It has already proven beneficial for many participants.

Student Stars

Pankaj Rajput

Pankaj, who is currently in the 4th year of his B.Tech. (Electronics & Telecommunications) program at Shri Guru Gobind Singhji Institute of Engineering & Technology (SGGSIT&E), Nanded, has been selected for placement at Johnson Controls.

Shital Yekhande

Shital was felicitated for securing the first rank in the 1st Year of Engineering at G.H. Raisoni College of Engineering, Nagpur, with a GPA of 9.7.

Shital is pursuing B.E. (Cyber Security), and is currently in the second year of her studies.

Sujata Chavan

Sujata, who is a 2nd year Instrumentation Engineering student at Shri Guru Gobind Singhji Institute of Engineering & Technology (SGGSIE&T), Nanded, stood first in her branch with a GPA of 8.49 in the 1st year Engineering exams.

Student Stars

Rupali Kapse

Rupali was part of her college team that stood 5th in SAE BAJA India. SAE BAJA is an international inter-collegiate engineering design competition organized by the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE).

Rupali is currently in the 2nd year of her B.Tech (Mech) program at Government Engineering College, Karad. She is also an active sportsperson and a part of volleyball, hockey, and cricket teams that have won top places in various tournaments at inter-collegiate and zonal levels.

Rutuja Rahire

Rutuja, 2nd year student of Computer Engineering at Shri Guru Gobind Singhji Institute of Engineering & Technology (SGGSIT&E), Nanded, was a member of her college Volleyball team that won the gold medal at the recently held Inter-collegiate tournament.

Maitreyi Bhumbar

Maitreyi, 2nd year Mechanical Engineering student at Shri Guru Gobind Singhji Institute of Engineering & Technology (SGGSIT&E), Nanded, was a member of her college Volleyball team that won the gold medal at the recently held Inter-collegiate tournament. She has also been selected for the C-zone team.

Student Stars

Veda Khandekar

Veda represented her college basketball team, which won a silver medal at the Inter-collegiate tournament. She was also selected for the C-zone team, which won the gold medal at the inter-zone tournament.

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

Sakshi Ghadge

Sakshi received her degree in M.Sc. Applied Psychology from Central University of Tamil Nadu, at the convocation ceremony held in September 2025.

TALENT++

Jayshree Supriya Laxman

GEF Alumni

जगाचा पोशिंदा   FEEDER OF THE WORLD

व्वा! काय सांगताय,
शेती चा खरंच विकास होईल ?
अरे गण्या, ऐक हे ferilizer वापर
पैसाच पैसा येईल ll

बिचारा कोणाच्या सांगण्यावरुन
नवीन गोष्टींना भुलून गेला ?
घरा-दाराच्या काळजीपोटी
पैशापायी धावून गेला ll

शेतीसाठी कर्ज भेट थेट बँकेकडुन
कारण पैसा नव्हता रे घरी l
शेतीत धान चांगल आल तर ठीक
नाहीतर जमीन,घर सावकाराच्या पदरी ll

Wow! What are you saying?
Will farming really prosper?
Hey Ganya, listen — use this fertilizer,
You'll be rolling in money soon!

Poor man, who did he trust?
Who lured him with new ideas?
Worried for his home and family,
He ran after the lure of money.

He took a loan from the bank
Because there was no money at home.
If the crops turned out well, fine —
If not, the land and house went to the
moneylender.

माहिती नव्हती रे कशाची	He had no knowledge of such things,
भुल दाखवणाऱ्याला भुललो l	Was deceived by false promises.
एका चुकी पायी आता	Because of one mistake,
अख्ख आयुष्य गमवुन बसलो ll	He lost his whole life.
कसे सावरू आता घराचे वजन ?	How should he now bear the burden of home?
कसे पुर्ण करु लेकीचे शिक्षण ?	How will he fulfill his daughter's education?
कर्जापायी हतास झालो रे देवा	Crushed under debt, he pleads to God —
कोणाकडे मागू आता घासाचे दोन कण ?	From whom should he now beg for two morsels of food?
शेती केली तर पाऊस नाराज	If he farms, the rains betray him,
पाऊस आला तर अतिवृष्टी l	If the rains come, there's a flood.
मी जगाव की मराव ?	Should he live or die?
का दुसऱ्याच्या कर्जाखाली दबाव?	Or live crushed under another's debt?
सावकार तू मोठा रे	O moneylender, you are mighty indeed,
किंमत ठरविणारे आम्ही कोण ?	But who are we to decide the price?
मरतोय शेतात, उन्हा-पावसाची धार घेत	We die in the fields under the blazing sun and rain,
आमच्या कष्टाची किंमत करतोय कोण ?	But who decides the worth of our sweat?
घाम गाळायचा आम्ही	We shed the sweat —
दाम ठरवायचा तुम्ही l	You fix the price.
काय केल रे शेतकऱ्यासाठी ?	What have you done for the farmer,
जो तु बनवलं मला गुलामी ll	Who made me your servant in slavery?
पैसा दाखवलास नी मोठा झाला	You flaunted your wealth and grew rich,
तरीही आता घरा-दारावर नजर l	Yet your eyes are on our homes.
तिकडे शेतकरी आत्महत्या करतोय	There, a farmer ends his life in despair —
तेव्हा कोणाला फुटतोय पाझर ?	Does anyone's heart melt then?

कोण? किती धावले त्याच्यासाठी ?
जेव्हा त्याने कर्जापायी स्वतःला संपवले l
बँक, सावकार त्याचा घरी
फक्त स्वतः च्या profit चेच बघीतले ?

Who runs to help him,
When he kills himself because of debt?
The bank, the lender — they only care
For their own profits.

का या पोशिंद्याला ओळखत नाही रे ?
की स्वतः उच्च आणि तो ?
तो नसेल तर तू पण क्षीण आहेस रे
तुला आज जगवणारा जगाचा पोशिंदा आहे तो ll

Why don't you recognize this provider of life?
Do you think you are above him?
Without him, you too would perish —
For it is he, the farmer, who feeds the world.

तू आहेस तरी कोण ?
त्याची किंमत ठरवणारा l
तू फक्त बघ तो असेल उद्या
तुझ्या पोटाची जिरवणारा ll

And who are you,
To decide his worth?
Just wait and see —
He is the one who fills your stomach.

TALENT++

Govind Sawant

GEF Alumni, Bachelor of Fine Arts, 2022

TALENT++

Abhilasha Rakte

2nd Year MBBS, Govt Medical College, Parbhani
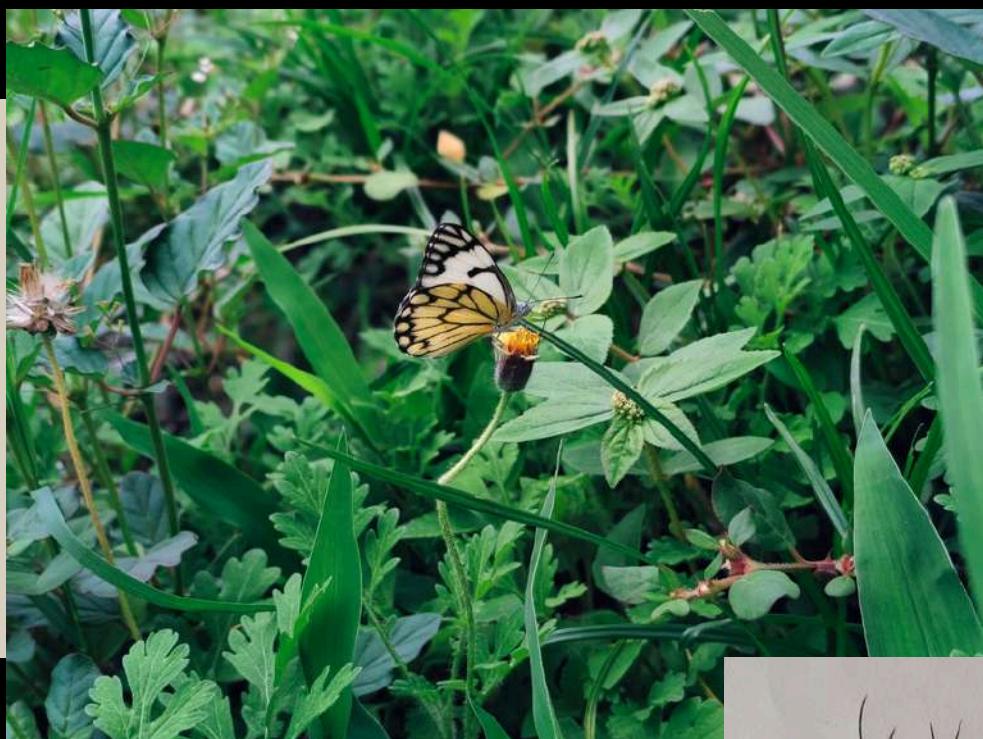
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