



GURUJI EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Quarterly Report

April – June 2026

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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 happy to share with you the quarterly report for the April – June 2026 quarter.

April to June being a time when students and schools are in the midst of examinations and vacations, a lot of the activities during this quarter are generally focused on reviewing the previous year, and preparing for the rest of 2026-27 ahead. The Highlights section of this report amply reflects this.

As also reported in the Highlights, we continue to focus on technology enablement, and onboarding new employees to support our growing size and spread of operations.

The April-June quarter also marks the beginning of the period when new students under our Holistic Higher Education (HHE) program generally start coming in. This process is currently underway, and our count of active HHE students has reached 187 (with the current final year students expected to graduate, this number is likely to go down before going up again towards our target of 240 for FY27). The number of Adolescent Development Program (ADP) centres has gone up to 78.

Executive Committee
Guruji Education Foundation

HIGHLIGHTS

GEF joins Global School Forum

GEF has joined the Global Schools Forum (GSF), an organization that supports non-state education organizations in low- and middle-income countries to innovate, deepen impact, and achieve scale.

GSF supports a network of 219 organizations across 70 countries, and the membership provides us an opportunity to learn and share best practices and experiences.

More about GSF at <https://www.globalschoolsforum.org/>

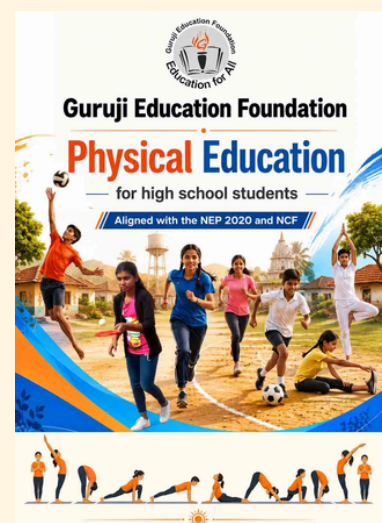
Meeting with Pune Zila Parishad CEO

Mr. Avinash Surve and Dr. Pradeep Waychal met with Mr. Gajanan Patil (IAS), CEO, Zila Parishad (ZP), Pune, and his team from the Education Department on 19th June 2026, to brief them about Adolescent Development Program (ADP) activities, and explore implementation plans in Pune district schools.

As an outcome of the meeting, to start with, Pune ZP wil identify a cluster of schools in the Panshet area for introducing our Scratch program. We expect the ADP program to reach many of the Pune district schools. Mr Avinash Surve and Mr Saurah Raut had another meeting with a represntative of Pune ZP Education Department on 2nd July 2026, to discuss the same.

Physical Literacy Handbook published

As part of our efforts to ensure greater quality and consistency in the delivery and outcomes of our programs, GEF has developed and published a handbook on Physical Literacy / Physical Education. The Handbook is closely aligned with the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020, and the National Curriculum Framework.

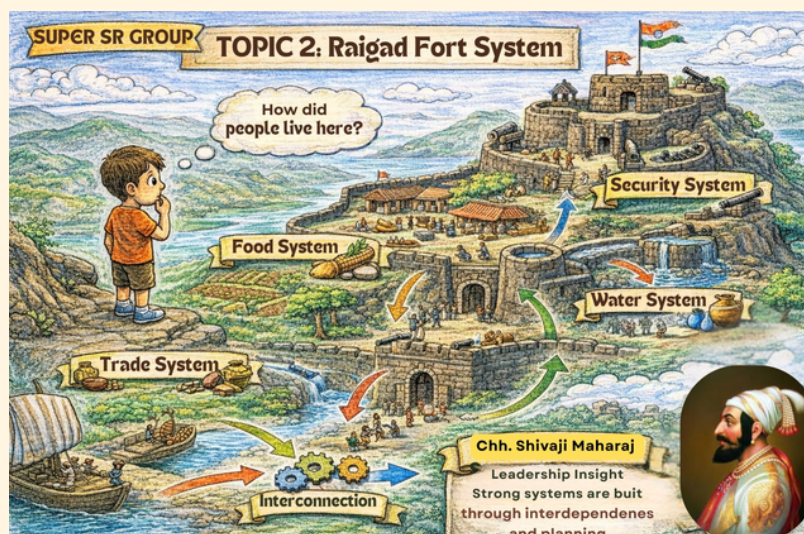
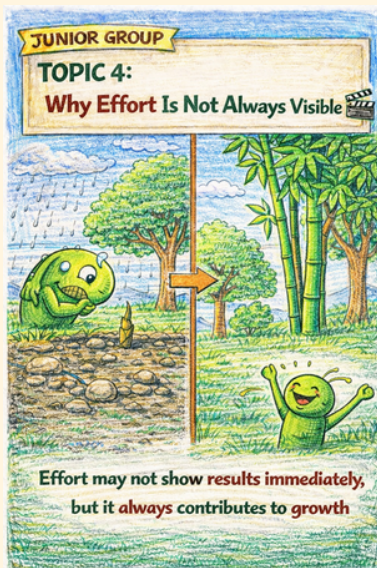


HIGHLIGHTS

Monsoon Scratch Festival 2026 Announced

The build-up to the upcoming Monsoon Scratch Festival 2026 has started in full-swing, with the opening of the Registration process. With the overall theme of “Design the road for success”, the Festival aims to help students understand that success is not a one-time event. Rather, it is a system built through daily action, decisions, and coordination over time.

As usual, the Festival will feature various competitions including Projects, Debates, Quizzes, and a Hackathon. The project topics for all participant categories (Junior, Senior, Super-senior) too have been announced, and communicated through a set of attractive posters. Here are just a few:



HIGHLIGHTS

Engineering a Better Future

A workshop titled “Explore Yourself and the Situation Around to Engineer a Better Future” was conducted at Pune on 27–28 June 2026. The workshop was attended by 35 students of our Holistic Higher Education (HHE) program, from all over India.

The workshop included a number of individual and group activities which encouraged the participants to introspect,, and also reflect on their surroundings, including their family and their community. The participants undertook an MBTI assessment which helped them discover their personality types. The workshop also included a session which explained personality formation and influencing variables. Fun bonding games strengthened team spirit and engagement.

The workshop concluded with an exercise on Career Planning, with the participants setting goals across curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular domains.

The participants found the workshop to be a very insightful and enjoyable self-discovery exercise, and also an opporrunity to meet and know more about their peers from diverse backgrounds.

Feedback from a participant
Akshay Gogare, FinalYear BE, Goa College of Engineering

To GEF and to all my lovely new friends

I express my deep gratitude to GEF, for all its efforts towards each and every student. Commendable and truly energetic team. You brought in me the realization I on my own may possibly would not discover. The situation brought me here, and I am glad that I made the decision to attend this workshop , the value of which will forever resonate within me. I could truly go on and on, and yet not fully express my contentment.

To all my new gef buddies - it was great meeting you all. So much I learnt withing these two days I felt more bonded and connected. Different academic backgrounds yet connected in so many ways. All will me in my memory. Huge thanks and lots of love.

HIGHLIGHTS



A group photo of the participants along with the facilitators of the “Engineering a Better Future” workshop

A Workshop on Time Management

An online workshop on Time Management was conducted by Dr. Pradeep Waychal on 12 April 2026, for a group of 20 students. Various aspects of time-management such as setting priorities, avoiding procrastination, planning etc. were effectively covered through interactive sessions, real-life examples and activities. The workshop also underlined the significance of good health and stress management to better management of time and life, and the participants got an opportunity to practice a few simple exercises for managing stress.

Technology Enablement Highlights

Technology Enablement has been identified as one of our priorities, as we gear ourselves to meet the demands of our growing scale of operations.

In the last report we had mentioned about a software application being developed under the leadership of our alumnus, Ankita Raut, to support a new 6-monthly appraisal process. A pilot-run of this application has been successfully completed, and the system is now being rolled out for all our HHE students at Nanded centre. The Appraisal process will assess student performance across 4 dimensions – i) Academic, ii) Health & Nutrition, iii) Overall well-being & physical activities, and iv) Behavioural & emotional aspects.

We have also started using Salesforce Automation to manage our Outreach activities. Applications for on-boarding and mentoring are also expected to be rolled out soon.

HIGHLIGHTS

Building a team to support our increasing size and spread

3 new employees – Prapti Rase, Shubham Rahad, and Santosh Nikte, have been onboarded in various roles, to support our growing scale. Here are their brief profiles:

Prapti Rase, Program Coordinator – Vidarbha

Prapti holds a Bachelor's degree in Journalism and Mass Communication, along with studies in Computer Applications and Translation Studies from Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha. During her Gandhi Fellowship with Piramal Foundation in tribal Jharkhand, Prapti successfully led community-level interventions on sensitive issues including early marriage and teenage pregnancy prevention, achieving measurable behaviour change among 700+ adolescent girls across 3 schools. Prapti is passionate about education, community engagement, and youth development. Through her work, she strives to create meaningful learning opportunities, strengthen school and community partnerships, and contribute to positive social change. Prapti enjoys writing, sketching, and using creative approaches to engage with communities and learners.



Shubham Rahad, ADP Executive

Shubham has completed his 12th standard education from Jalna Education Foundation. He is now in the 1st year of his Bachelor of Computer Applications (BCA) program, which he is pursuing alongside working with GEF. He has earlier worked as a Computer Teacher at Ashirwad Computers, and also worked at a cloth shop, and done labor work. Shubham enjoys coding and working with computers, and is always eager to learn new things. He also loves traveling in his free time.



Santosh Nikte, Program Coordinator – Konkan

Santosh is a versatile professional with extensive experience as a Graphic Designer and Computer Trainer, specializing in Adobe Creative Suite, MS Office, and document production. He is passionate about sharing knowledge, developing creative solutions, and delivering high-quality work with accuracy and efficiency.



HIGHLIGHTS

Other Highlights

All-staff Meeting and Outing

An all-staff meeting was held at Mumbai on 31st May 2026 to induct the newly joined employees into GEF. A few students and alumni were also invited for the meeting, to enable the new employees to get a first-hand perspective of GEF activities. The meeting was followed by an outing to Matheran.

Meeting with Mathematics Volunteers

A day-long meeting with all the volunteers working on the Mathematics Remediation project was held to work out a plan for 2026-27.

Mentor Connect

Interactions were held with many of the existing mentors to get feedback on their experience, and accordingly plan for the next year. While many of the interactions were online, a physical meeting with Pune-based mentors was held on 15 May 2026. Most mentors remain well-connected with the students. A few who are not, are planned to be replaced by others. Many of the mentors still not using the new Trunao system for Monthly Thinking Exercise, and we are working on strengthening its adoption.

HIGHLIGHTS



All-staff meeting at Mumbai. From left to right: Anita Mukane, Snehal Ghodake, Prapti Rase, Rajat Pujari, Santosh Nikte, Kalyan Garde, Krishna Patil, Priyanka Nikte

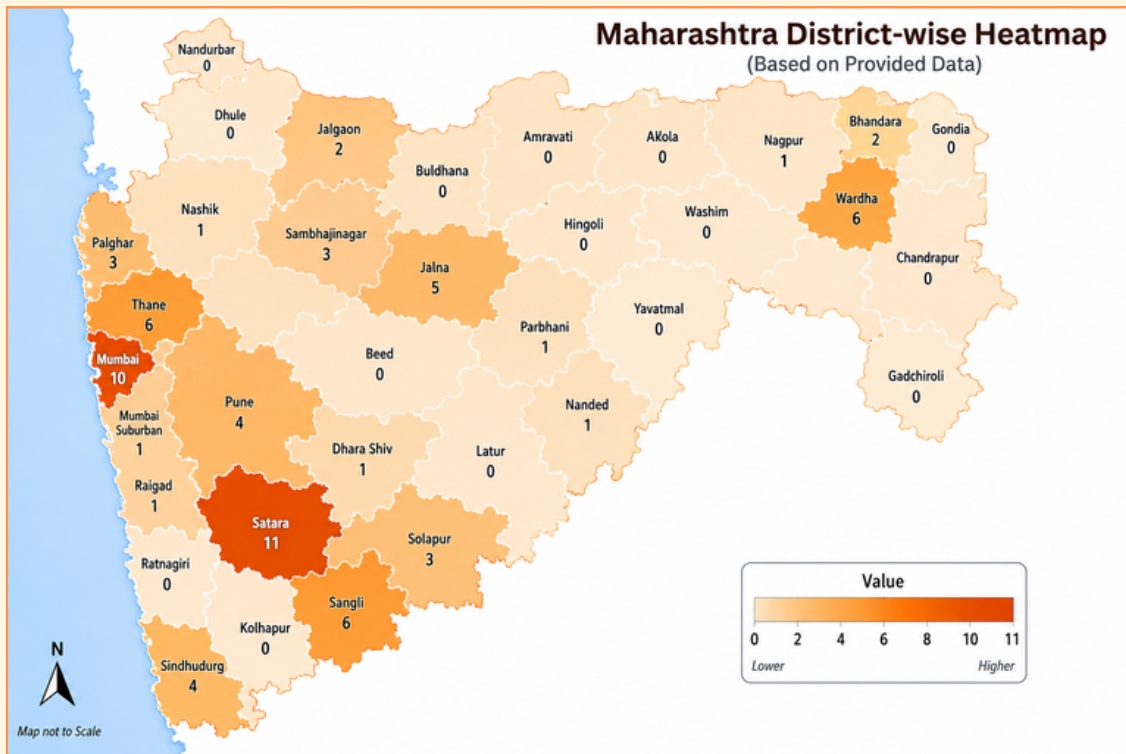


Matheran outing. Clockwise from left to right: Shubham Rahad, Saurabh Raut, Prapti Rase, Niraj Kumbhar, Saumya & Samarth Nikte, Manaswi Kumbhar, Krishna Patil, Rajat Pujari, Kalyan Garde

UPDATES

Adolescent Development Program

ADP Centres in Maharashtra



12000+ students from

78 schools*

(including 51 rural)

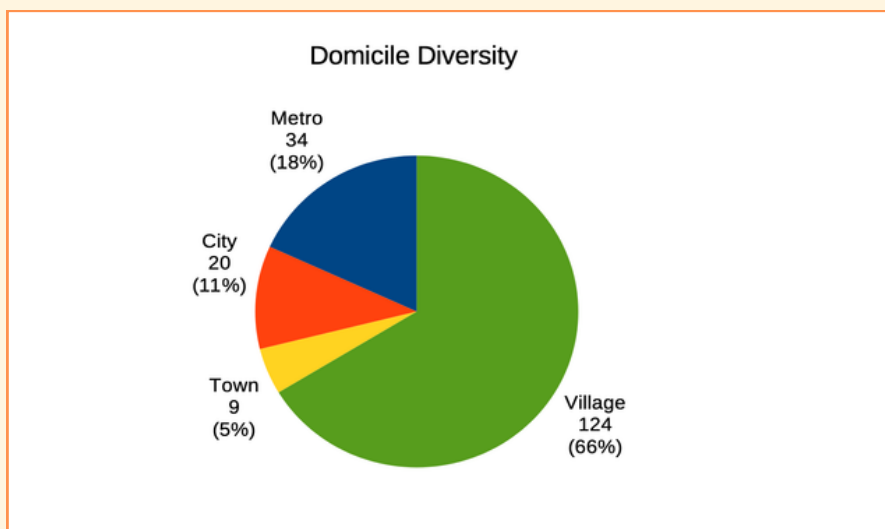
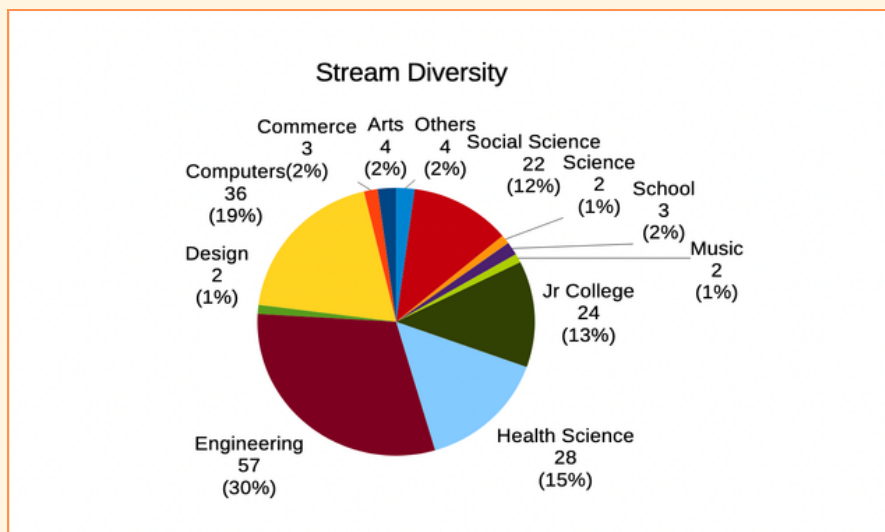
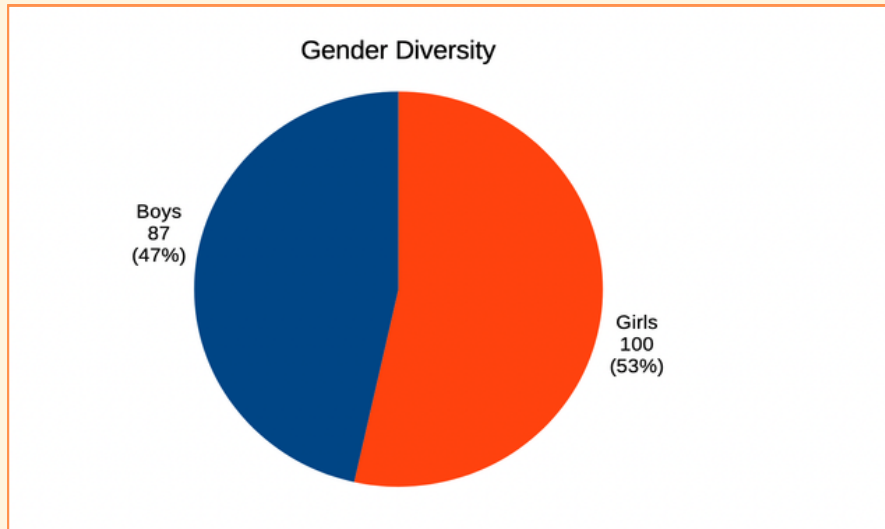
across 5 states

* 72 schools across 20 Maharashtra districts
+ 2 each in Karnataka and Goa, 1 each in Tamil Nadu
and Madhya Pradesh

UPDATES

Holistic Higher Education

187 active students with a diverse demographic spread





STUDENT STARS



Shivam Yadav, who has just completed his Final Year (Computer Science & Engineering) from Shri Guru Gobind Singhji Institute of Engineering & Technology (SGGSIT&E), Nanded, has been selected as a Mentee under the LFX Mentorship program.

LFX Mentorship is a global program supported by Linux Foundation, and provides paid projects where selected Mentees work with experienced Mentors on various open source projects. Typically only about 50-60 mentees from India get selected per term.

Sakshi Kide, final year student of BTech (Electronics & Telecommunications) at Shri Guru Gobind Singhji Institute of Engineering & Technology (SGGSIE&T), Nanded, has secured placement as an Assistant System Engineer (Trainee) at Tata Consultancy Services.

Sakshi also received effusive appreciation from Phoenix Social Welfare Foundation (an NGO), for her outstanding efforts towards developing their website, and the excellent selfless attitude she displayed while carrying out this work.

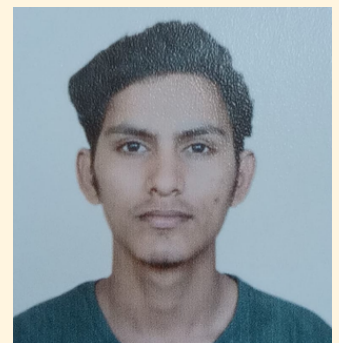


Shravani Sarode, who is now in the final year of her BTech (IT) at Government Engineering College, Chh. Sambhajinagar, has been selected by Tata Consultancy Services Ltd, for placement in the TCS Digital cadre.

The TCS Digital cadre is a premium engineering track that provides opportunities to work on advanced technologies such as Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, Cloud Computing, etc.

Akshay Gogare has been selected for placement as a Graduate Engineer Trainee, with IFB Industries Ltd, Goa. Akshay has just completed his BE (Electrical & Electronics) from Goa College of Engineering, Farmagudi.

Akshay was also an active participant in various co-curricular activities. He was the Design Head in the College Council, ENEXSA, and Technical Lead in the Automation & Robotics Club, ARM.





STUDENT STARS



Molika Sharma has been accepted for admission to the MSc Clinical Psychology program at University of Exeter, UK. Molika has just completed her BA (Honours) in Applied Psychology from Amity University, Jaipur with a CGPA of 9.2.

Premprasad Petkar, who has just completed his BTech (Electronics & Telecommunication) from Government College of Engineering, Jalgaon, has been selected for placement as an Engineering Trainee at Jain Farm Fresh Foods Ltd.



Vishwa Shetty, who is currently in the 3rd year of his MBBS studies at Grant Government Medical College (GGMC), Mumbai, won 3 prizes at the “D Rhythmia” Intercollegiate Dance Competition held at GGMC – 2nd in Solo, Runners Up in Duo, and 1st in Group category. He was also the joint Head of the Event organizing team.





ALUMNI



STARS



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

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

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

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



Sanket Bhoyar, has joined Ernst & Young, one of the global Big 4 consulting firms, as Senior Consultant. In this role he is supporting Government of Maharashtra as a client, and contributing to various high-impact governance and development projects.

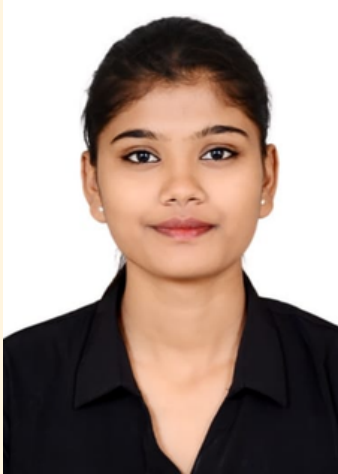
Sanket, who completed his MA in Social Work from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, in 2022, was earlier working in the Planning Department of Government of Maharashtra.



ALUMNI



STARS



Shaijal Aher has joined as Branch Post Master, Hivare KH Branch Office, Department of Posts.

Shaijal has done her Bachelor of Computer Applications (BCA) and was earlier working with Interglobe Aviation (Indigo Airlines)

Jayshree Mestry, who has just completed her Diploma in “Sustainable Rural Reconstruction in Gandhian Perspective” from Gandhi Research Foundation, Jalgaon, has been selected by Shantilal Muttha Foundation, Pune, for placement as Taluka Coordinator.

Jayshree had earlier completed her BCom as a GEF student.



WAY FORWARD

The coming quarter will mark the graduation of our HHE students currently in their final year of studies, and hopefully will be fully ready for their next step – be it employment, or higher studies, or preparation for competitive exams.

The Scratch Day marking the culmination of the Monsoon Scratch Festival – 2026, is planned for 1st August 2026. We do hope that you will join us for this event which is going from strength to strength with each instance.

Also upcoming is a Workshop for Mathematics Teachers, which is planned to be held on 18–19 July 2026.

We have just completed the 2nd cycle of our alumni survey to assess the impact of higher education on their lives, and we hope to publish a complete analysis of the survey results in the first month of the coming quarter.

As usual, please do continue sending in your suggestions and feedback, and help GEF in its journey of continuous improvement.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

We bring to you here an article by Dr, Pradeep Waychal, originally published in The Print at <https://theprint.in/yourturn/subscriberwrites-forgotten-stars-of-india-gijubhai-badheka-an-educationist-and-a-visionary/2965261/>

SubscriberWrites: Forgotten Stars of India – Gijubhai Badheka – an educationist and a visionary

Gijubhai's dedication helped establish the Montessori Education System in India. He adopted and incorporated the 'play-way' method of teaching and learning too.

[Sunil Dodeja](#) 23 June, 2026 12:47 pm IST

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Passed on – 23 – 06 -1939

This month marks the passing away of an Indian Star who tried making an impact on the education systems of India. A lawyer by profession Gijubhai's interest in the education system piqued when it dawned upon him that his son would undergo the same "small terror" experiences that he underwent during schooling. He had experienced corporal punishment, fear, punishment, excessive control,

and rote memorization during his own schooling.

Not wanting his child to undergo similar schooling, Gijubhai set his heart and mind to finding alternates to the 'established' education practices, a specific freedom in itself. He had realised that the "small terror" experiences destroyed creativity and the inherent learning desires in most children.

Gijubhai abandoned his career path and immersed himself into finding the right pedagogy that could support mind development, that could work for humanity. He believed that children would happily go to school and learn well if they are treated with respect and have the freedom to explore. He also believed that fear should have no role to play in educating a child.

His readings and research led him to Maria Montessori. Gijubhai's dedication helped establish the Montessori Education System in India. He established a school, called it Bal Mandir, to put his thoughts and plans into action. Along the way he learnt about another microcosm wherein teaching was done in the 'play-way' method. He adopted and incorporated this method of teaching and learning too.

Gijubhai's path to educating children was entirely rooted in behavioural psychology. Storytelling, games, music, crafts, conversation, and hands-on activities are not distractions from learning but powerful ways of achieving

CLOSING THOUGHTS

Continued from previous page

it. He emphasizes that discipline should evolve from self-regulation and engagement rather than coercion. Parents and teachers must respect children's dignity, encourage independence, and avoid constant comparison with others. Education should cultivate curiosity, imagination, empathy, character, and a lifelong love for learning. Schools should create joyful environments where children feel safe to explore, question, and make mistakes. Learning should connect with the child's culture, experiences, and interests rather than remain confined to textbooks. Gijubhai also stresses the importance of reading habits and rich language experiences in shaping young minds.

Teaching infants (early childhood learners) in an integrated way, means, helping them learn concepts as a whole experience, not as separate subjects like language, math, or science. The option of combining all learning, cross subject learning help connect real-life experiences, emotions, language, and thinking together. For example, when children are taking nature walk; they can observe plants and insects (science), describe what they see (language), collect leaves and sort them (math – grouping) and experience joy and curiosity (emotional development). Another example can be making lemonade. In that, squeezing lemons (motor skills), counting spoons of sugar (math), talking about taste (language) and understanding change (science), is an excellent example of integrated learning. No purpose is correctly served by

compartmentalising and differentiating between science, maths and language. Children learn by doing, feeling, and experiencing everything together, more easily and more happily.

Gijubhai advocated education that develops thoughtful, confident, compassionate, and self-reliant human beings rather than simply producing successful examination candidates. His ideas remain remarkably relevant to modern child-centered, competency-based education approaches.

Gijubhai wrote many books, educational works, parenting guides, teacher manuals, and children's stories. 'Divaswapna' is an imaginary story of a teacher who brings in innovative methods in his class, despite the opposition in the school. His other books are Montessori Padhati, Shikshak Ho To, Kem Sikhavvu, and Vaarta Nu Shastra.

His numerous children's story collections, including adaptations of folk tales and classics, reflect his belief that literature is one of the most powerful tools for education. Through stories, children encounter moral dilemmas, develop imagination, absorb cultural values, and thinking evolves.

In conclusion, a striking feature of Gijubhai's work is that although it was written nearly a century ago, many of its core ideas closely resemble today's modern approaches

to experiential learning, competency-based education, social-emotional learning, constructivist pedagogy, and child-centered schooling. Reading Divaswapna alongside Shikshak Ho To and Vaarta Nu Shastra provides perhaps the clearest and most practical introduction to his vision of transforming education through trust in children and faith in their natural capacity to learn.

One does hope that his efforts enlighten us to change and adopt the 'age-old' yet modern teaching methods to prepare the coming generation for the challenging times ahead.

Author – Dr. Pradeep Waychal –

– Founder and Managing Trustee – Guruji Education Foundation.

–B Tech – COEP- Pune , M-Tech – IIT, Double PhD – IIT Mumbai and Delhi,

MA –Phycology –IGNOU.

These pieces are being published as they have been received – they have not been edited/fact-checked by ThePrint.

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mission of “Education for All”**

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