



GURUJI EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Quarterly Report

July - September 2025

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ABOUT GEF

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

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

GEF runs 2 broad flagship programs:

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

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

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

THE QUARTER IN A NUTSHELL

We are pleased to share our report for the quarter of July - August - September 2025.

The Monsoon Scratch Festival was a grand success, and it was a matter of great pride to have Dr. Anil Kakodkar, Former Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission, as our Chief Guest for Scratch Day on 2nd August 2025, marking the culmination of the Festival. We have taken a significant stride in enhancing the maturity of our operations, with the release of the first set of our policies and processes during this quarter. Among the other highlights in this report, it is great to see a validation of our work by others who feature and talk about Guruji Education Foundation and its work, in their publications and reports.

Our networks of Adolescent Development Program (ADP) schools, and Holistic Higher Education (HHE) students, continue to grow, and we are on track to meet our targets for 2025-26. Our students continue to do well and make us proud.

Executive Committee
Guruji Education Foundation

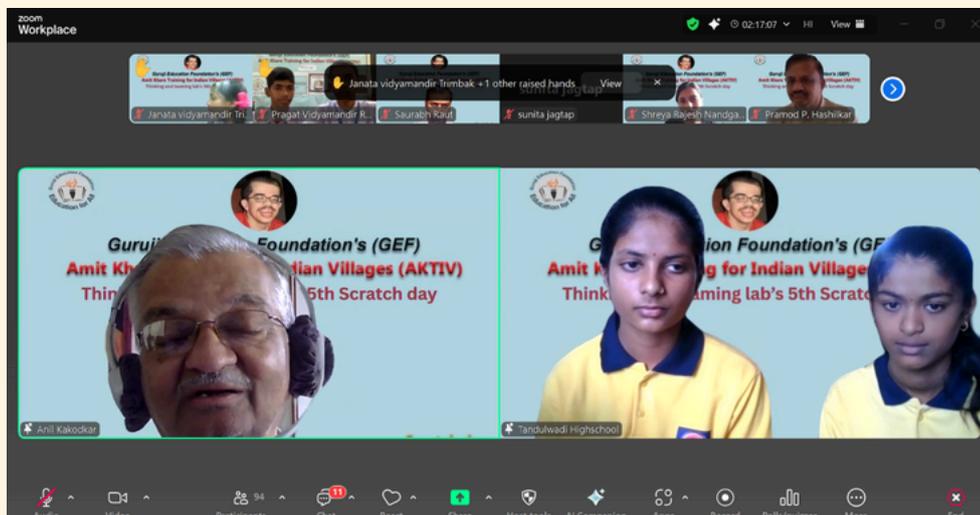
HIGHLIGHTS

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.

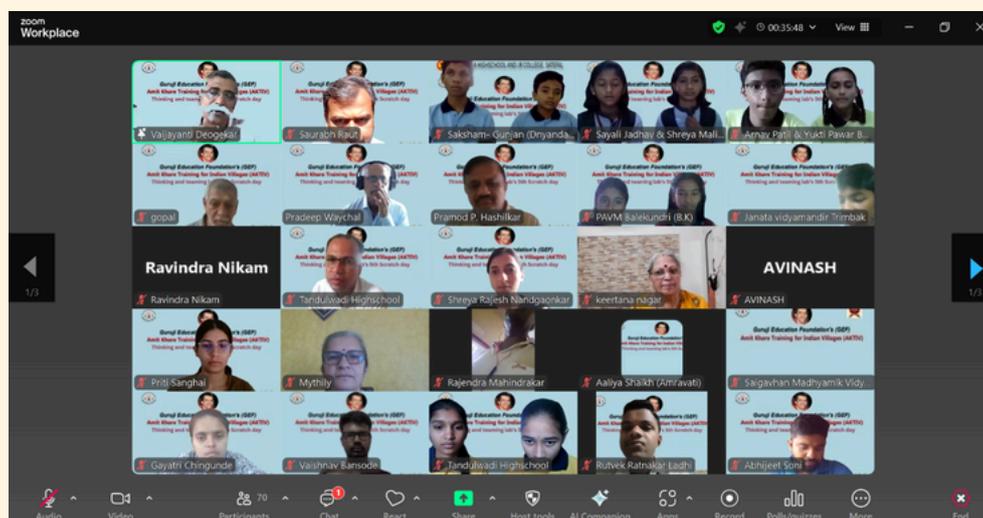
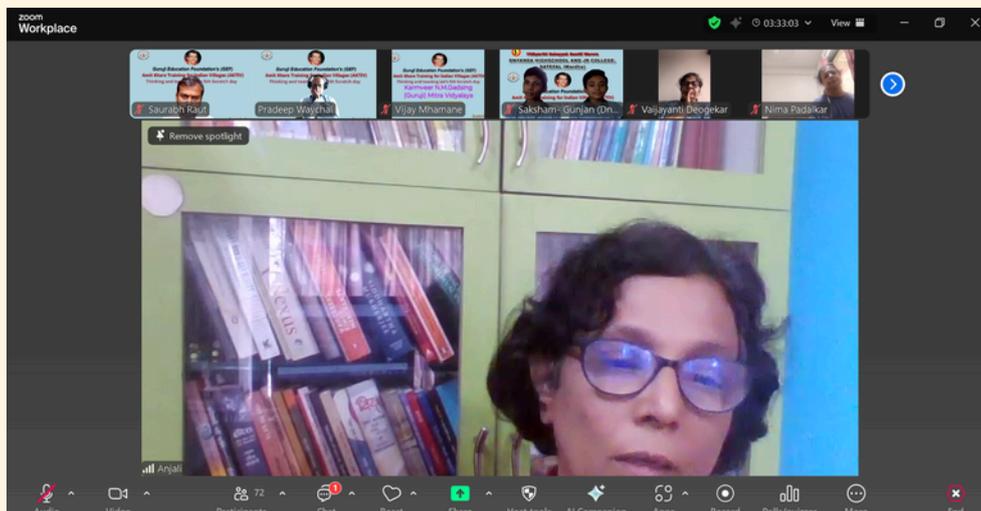
Dr. Kakodkar shared his childhood journey and provided invaluable insights about developing a scientific approach at an early age. In her session themed around the Evolution of Human Brain and the Process of Thinking, Ms. Anjali Chipalkatti's shared beautiful stories about the process of thinking – not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



HIGHLIGHTS

Scratch Day - Monsoon Scratch Festival 2025 (Contd.)

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 Manager, GEF, with guidance and support from Alok Kelkar, Gopal Kalpathi, Kavita Kadam, Sharad Deogekar, Vaijayanti Deogekar (all GEF volunteers) and Pandurang Jadhav (GEF student).



HIGHLIGHTS

Scratch Day - Monsoon Scratch Festival 2025 (Contd.)

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

SCRATCH PROJECT

Junior category:

- **First:** Kai. Yadav Dagadu Patil Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Tandulwadi - Sohala Amol Patil, Vaishnavi Ravindra Patil, Darshana Dinesh Patil, Samruddhi Yogesh Hire
- **Second:** Pragat Vidyamandir, Ramgad, Taluka Malvan, Dist. Sindhudurg- Purva Gurudas Jikamde, Vaishnavi Nilesh Ghadigavkar, Manali Mangesh Chavan, Nirvi Punaji Ghadigavkar
- **Third:** Sri Sri Gnan Mandir Matriculation School, Vadakoor - Yadhavan K, Oviyan S, Saivarshan B, Sekizhar

Senior category:

- **First:** Pragat Vidyamandir, Ramgad, Taluka Malvan, Dist. Sindhudurg - Janu Shankar Ghadigavkar, Vishwajeet Narayan Jikamde, Vedant Pravin Ghadigavkar, Omkar Pankaj Rane
- **Second:** Sri Sri Gnan Mandir Matriculation School, Vadakoor- R. Sri Nisha, S. Abirami, S. Prethisha, A. Kaashini, V. Varunavi
- **Third:** Janata Vidyamandir, Trimbak - Shrawani Ramesh Mestri, Siddhi Santosh Air, Manuja Santosh Sawant, Ovi Sachidanand Bhogate

Super-senior category:

- **First:** Pragat Vidyamandir, Ramgad, Taluka Malvan, Dist. Sindhudurg - Omtej Ulhas Tari, Gandharv Uttam Gavkar, Tanmay Babu Parab, Aditi Ajit Ghadigavkar
- **Second:** Kai. Yadav Dagadu Patil Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Tandulwadi- Akshara Amol Patil, Nandini Ravindra Mahajan
- **Third:** Sri Sri Gnan Mandir Matriculation School, Vadakoor - C. Harini, S. Iniya, C. Iniyamozhi, B. Priyadharshini, G. Sadhana

HIGHLIGHTS

Scratch Day – Monsoon Scratch Festival 2025 (Contd.)

HACKATHON

Junior category:

- **First:** Kai. Yadav Dagadu Patil Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Tandulwadi – Ritika Bhagwat Patil, Lalit Devidas Patil, Pratiksha Deepak Khairnar, Lavanya Bhausahab Pawar
- **Second:** Kai. Yadav Dagadu Patil Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Tandulwadi – Vaishnavi Ravindra Patil, Darshana Dinesh Patil, Samruddhi Yogesh Hire, Soham Amol Patil
- **Third:** Sri Sri Gnan Mandir Matriculation School, Vadakoor – Tharanika, Rebekha, Dhivyasree, Bharathi

Senior category:

- **First:** New English School, Chilewadi, Taluka Koregaon, Dist. Satara – Shreyasi Somnath Shedge, Madhuri Jitendra Dhole, Dhanashri Rajendra Dhole, Riya Vikas Salunkhe
- **Second:** Sri Pant Maharaj Adarsh Vidyalay, Balekundri (B.K) – Shashank Mirajkar, Shivanand Kittur, Sonal Salunke, Shraddha Patil
- **Third:** Kai. Yadav Dagadu Patil Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Tandulwadi – Sakshi Vasant Patil, Sanjana Santosh Pardeshi, Bhagyashri Sachin Patil

DEBATE

Junior category:

- **First:** Pragat Vidyamandir, Ramgad, Taluka Malvan, Dist. Sindhudurg – Nirvi Punaji Ghadigaonkar, Purva Gurudas Jikamde
- **Second:** Rajashri Shahu Maharaj Vidyalay, Rabale – Pranit Vinod Zapde, Shreyas Lakshman Suryavanshi
- **Third:** Kai. Yadav Dagadu Patil Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Tandulwadi – Vaishnavi Ravindra Patil, Darshana Dinesh Patil

Senior category:

- **First:** Pragat Vidyamandir, Ramgad, Taluka Malvan, Dist. Sindhudurg – Diksha Prasad, Sakshi Anant Sawant
- **Second:** Kai. Yadav Dagadu Patil Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Tandulwadi – Sakshi Vasant Patil, Srushti Ravindra Patil
- **Third:** Sri Pant Maharaj Adarsh Vidyalay, Balekundri (B.K) – 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



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 being sponsored under 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 1lakh 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:

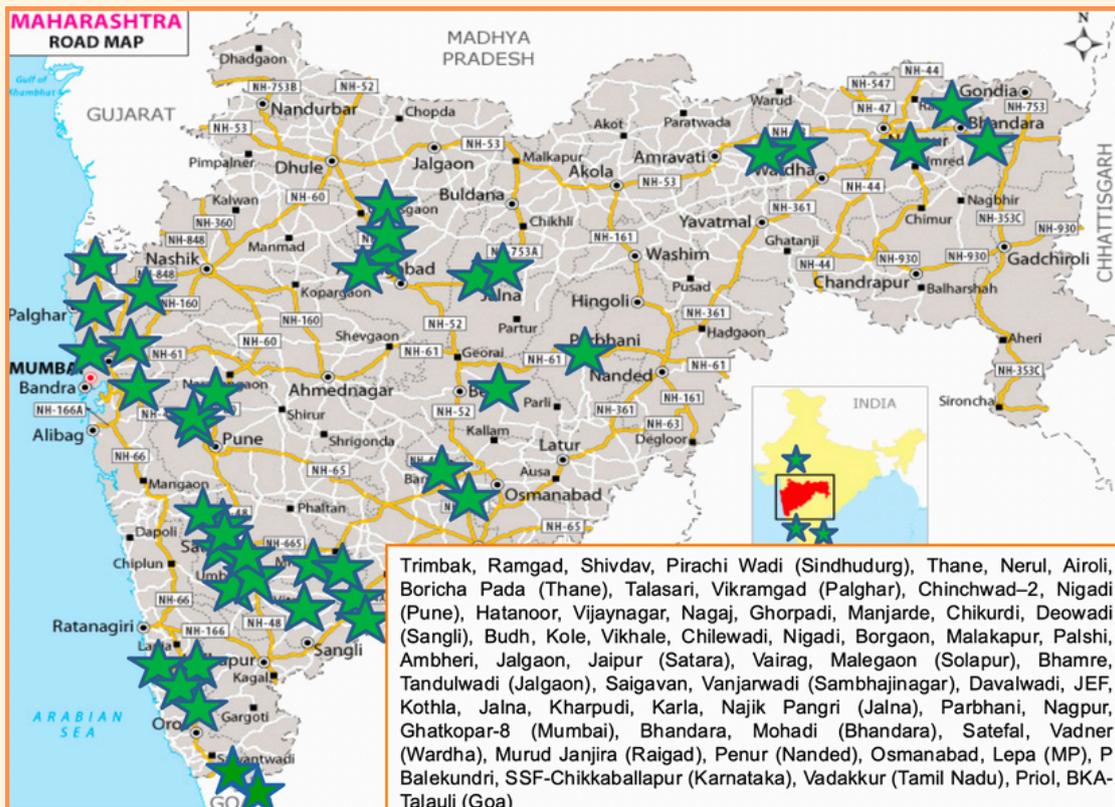
Year	Program Type	Credits
First Year	Rural Initiative Awareness	15
Second Year	Community Project	2
Summer/Winter	Training Programs	2
Third/Semester	Online Internship (6 months)	1 Sem
Final Year	Capstone Project	4

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.

UPDATES

Adolescent Development Program

Growing Spread



Over **12000** beneficiaries across **67** schools (including **44** rural)

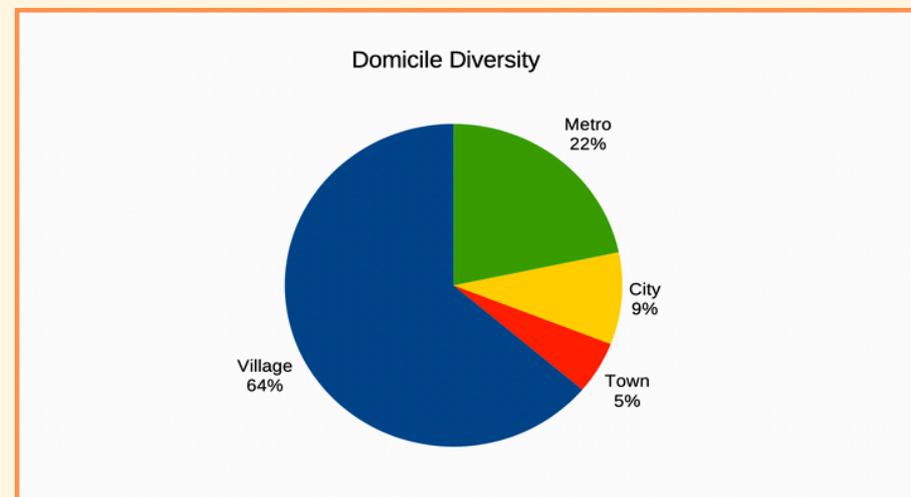
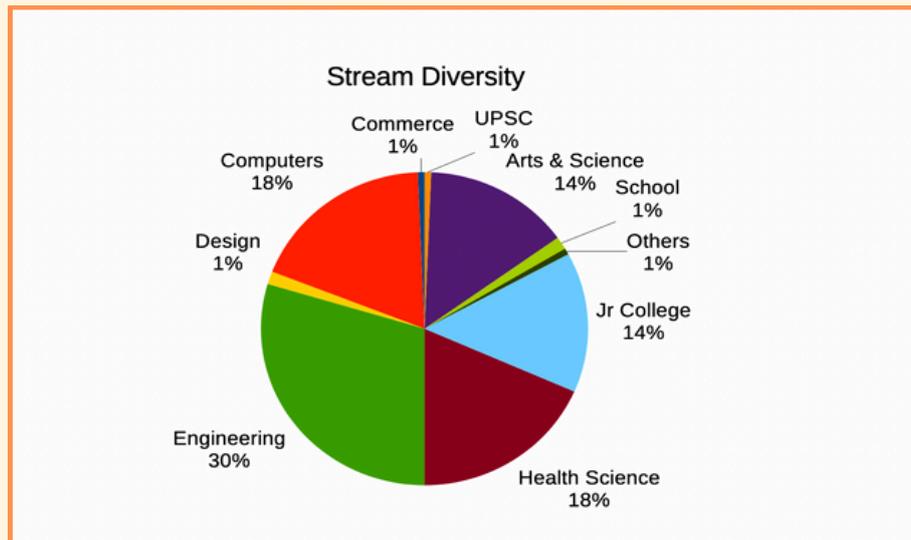
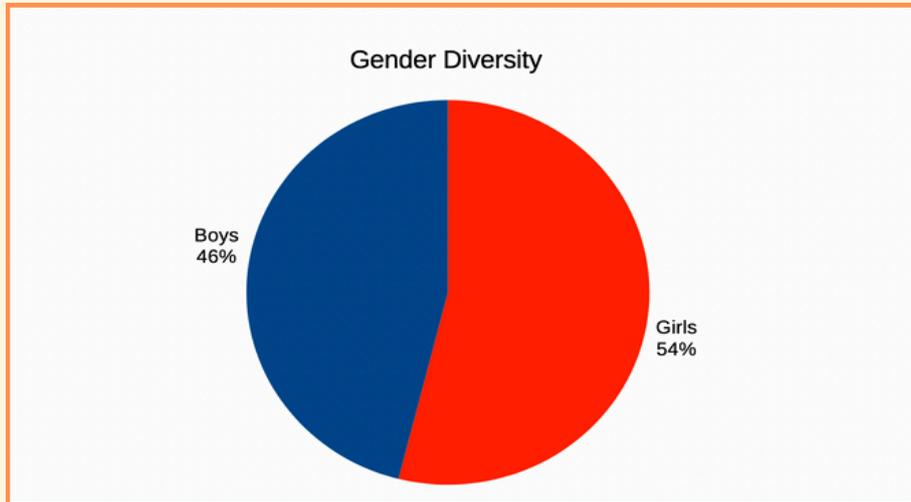
"Education is the foundation upon which we build our future, shaping minds and molding destinies."

~ Anonymous

UPDATES

Holistic Higher Education

Catering to a diverse demographic spread





STUDENT STARS



Pankaj Rajput 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, was felicitated for securing the first rank in the 1st Year of Engineering at G.H. Rasoni 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 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.

Rupali Kapse 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.





STUDENT STARS



Rutuja Rahire, 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.

Veda Khandekar 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.



Maitreyi Bhumbar, 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.

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



WAY FORWARD

After the successful conclusion of Summer Scratch Festival 2025, the wheels of Winter Scratch Festival 2025 have already been set in motion. With its underlying theme of environment and sustainability, the festival promises to raise the levels of thinking abilities, and social impact to even greater heights. Do keep a watch as we continue to share various announcements and updates on this front.

In line with our plans, the number of schools under Adolescent Development Program (ADP) has reached 67 in this quarter, and we are well on track to meet our target of 75 by the end of the year. On the Holistic Higher Education (HHE) front too, with a current count of 152 students, we are aiming to reach our target of supporting 200 deserving students.

We plan to continue our efforts of reaching out to corporates for the purpose of CSR donations. As another avenue for fund-raising, we are planning a musical concert on 10th January, 2026 at Chembur, Mumbai, and we will be reaching out to you for your help in making this successful.

Looking forward to your continued support and encouragement to fuel our aspirations.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

Here is an early version of an article by Dr, Pradeep Waychal titled “Building Psychological Strength among Adolescent Indians”, to be soon published in external media

Building Psychological Strength among Adolescent Indians

Indian adolescents are navigating a complex landscape of academic pressure, rapid digitalization, high family expectations, and career uncertainties. A 2024 National Mental Health Survey reports that one in seven Indian adolescents experiences mental health challenges, resulting in increased number of depressed, anxious, and stressed adolescents. Therefore, adolescents require developing their psychological strength to manage their thoughts, regulate emotions, and behave productively.

Psychological Strength is complex and multi-dimensional. We, at Guruji Education Foundation, have defined it to consist of Gratitude, Resilience, Achievement-orientation, Positivity, Emotional Intelligence, and a Sōphophilic (knowledge-oriented) mindset – collectively called as GRAPES. We must build the strength to ensure that adolescents not only survive, but thrive leading to the development of a healthy and progressive society and nation.

Gratitude

Gratitude is a thankful appreciation for what an individual receives, both tangible and intangible. It shifts focus from scarcity to abundance, thus enhancing contentment and motivation. Gratitude also helps people connect to something larger than themselves – to other people, nature, or a higher power, and initiates a virtuous cycle. A 2024 Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) study found that individuals practicing daily gratitude journaling, reported a 23% reduction in stress levels and a 17% improvement in sleep quality.

Resilience

Resilience is the ability to withstand adversity and bounce back from failures. This is especially critical in India, where limited opportunities often lead to a higher rate of failures. Resilient individuals too experience stress and emotional upheaval, but they work through perseverance, grit, focus, and locus of control to manage them. The resilience is not innate, and can be systematically built through self-reflection, learning from setbacks, and mentoring.

Achievement Orientation

It is the passion to achieve something significant in life - to set lofty goals and accomplish them, priming the progress of humanity. Achievement Orientation aligns efforts with purpose. It goes beyond mere academic grades, includes taking calculated risks and persisting through challenges, and helps channel energy towards immediate and long-term goals. It requires embracing deep learning, and seeing setbacks as opportunities for growth, rather than an assessment of one's worth.

Positivity

Positivity is the ability to identify opportunities within challenges, while acknowledging reality. It is the practice of focusing on the good in given situations and looking at setbacks as temporary. Positivity enables adolescents to reframe challenges, support creative problem-solving, and have a positive impact on their physical and mental health. According to the Happiness Survey India (2024), individuals who engaged in positive self-talk and reframed negative experiences, showed a 28% improvement in their perceived quality of life.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

Article “Building Psychological Strength among Adolescent Indians”

Continued from earlier page

Emotional Intelligence

Emotional Intelligence (EI) involves recognising, understanding, and managing emotions in oneself and others in positive ways, so as to relieve stress, communicate effectively, empathize with others, and defuse conflict. It helps in handling interpersonal challenges and nurturing meaningful relationships, reducing isolation, and increasing support systems during adversity. A 2023 NASSCOM Talent Report revealed that leaders with high EI outperformed their peers by 20% in managing team conflicts and building trust.

Sophophilic Mindset

A sophophilic mindset - or love for learning - goes beyond mere information gathering, to developing wisdom. It expands perspectives and increases adaptability. Further, it fosters curiosity, humility, and open-mindedness. An All India Survey on Higher Education report (2024) noted that students who engaged in voluntary learning projects outside their curriculum, demonstrated 25% higher problem-solving skills and adaptability - both critical 21st century skills.

How can parents and others develop GRAPES?

The simplest way is they themselves living the above six dimensions. Besides, they can present case-studies of individuals – both common people and celebrities – who have displayed these strengths. Parents need to give more importance to developing these aspects than academics. They need to promote frank conversations with adolescents so that they can freely discuss their feelings and challenges without fear of judgment, and inculcate the habit of journaling in adolescents.

For Gratitude, adolescents can regularly share things for which they are grateful with their near and dear ones. For Resilience, adolescents must attempt solving problems themselves to the extent possible, or with scaffolding from parents. They must learn to accept failures, and parents must assure them that failures don't define their worth. For Achievement Orientation, adolescents can be guided to set their missions, and the micro-goals aligned with it. They should be praised for their methods and not just the results, thus balancing process and goal orientation. For Positivity, they can be guided to reframe challenges through positive self-talk and look at the silver lining. Emotional intelligence can be developed via reflective exercises and active listening to self and others. A Sophophilic mindset can be cultivated by developing lifelong learning habits. This includes promoting reading, and structured learning of new topics or areas, through real-life projects.

Conclusion

In a rapidly evolving India, psychological strength will be a bridge between potential and realized achievements. By nurturing GRAPES, we will be able to build a society and country that is both, materially and spiritually successful.

Dr. Pradeep Waychal

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

To donate & volunteer

Please visit

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



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

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