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### EDITORIAL DESK

After four successful releases and an overwhelming response, we are glad to release the fifth issue of "DISHA", the Quarterly Newsletter of our Guruji Education Foundation.

We hope you enjoy reading the newsletter. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please let us know if you would like to contribute to DISHA in any way.

We thank Mr. Abhay Joshi for the editorial help.

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## ANNUAL DAY PICTURES 2019



## The Last Day of SUPER 30 of Academic Year 18-19



## Interaction with an alumnus Ms. Gnanmalathi

**Ms Gnanmalathi, the sole bread earner of the family, has been an inspiration for many of us. She inspires us through her thoughts, her hardwork, her determination and the persistence to overcome the financial and personal issues faced so far.**

### 1. Malathi, tell us how GEF happened to you.

I was a promising student right from childhood, but my family always had financial issues which only worsened with time and made it difficult for me to pursue my dream profession of Engineering. I thought of enrolling myself for B.Sc. only to discover that I could afford the fees only by sacrificing my mother's necklace. Mortgaging my mother's sole piece of jewelry to finance my education was unacceptable, so I started looking for scholarships or loans. I got in touch with Mr. Tyagrajan through my sister's boss, who brought me to the doors of "Guruji Education Foundation". The foundation made me realize that you should have complete faith in yourself and the determination to reach your goal; financial issues can't stop you.

### 2. Tell us about your biggest achievement till date, personal or professional.

My personal achievements include completing my education with excellent performance which was essential for mapping a better future. I stood second in my college which was a very proud moment for my family and thus for me as well. Another personal achievement worth mentioning is my selection in campus recruitment.

Professional achievements include a few awards and words of appreciation which I received from my office for completing the job perfectly in the allotted time.

### 3. We would love to know your journey from your schooling till now, the obstacles you faced and how you overcame them.

Since my childhood, I have been facing financial problems. When I was in B.Sc., these problems intensified: I had no money to purchase books, college uniforms and other essentials for college. I came up with a solution and started tutoring students of 11th and 12th standard. That helped to resolve my financial problems to some extent and also helped me improve my communication skills and gain confidence with public speaking. It helped me improve my overall personality too.

### 4. How do you feel to be a part of GEF and how would your life have been without GEF?

I am immensely fortunate and the luckiest to have met GEF at the right time in my life. I often quote examples of our GEF students to

my siblings and other people around me. Being a part of GEF keeps my head held high with pride. All the mentors are humble, cheerful and grounded. They make sure that the student is brought up in the correct direction and is being led on the brightest path.

I would like to mention an instance related to this. Last year my sister underwent surgery for a tumor, and I had only informed Tyagu sir about it. Waychal sir was traveling and it wasn't possible for me to contact him then. When he came to know, he scolded me for not informing the foundation earlier which would have made the situation much easier to handle. I was overwhelmed and touched by his kind gesture. My own relatives weren't so concerned and thoughtful about us but GEF treated me as its own child. I am emotionally attached to GEF like a child is to its parents.

### 5. Who is your inspiration?

There are plenty of people who inspire me, the foremost is my mother. She herself being illiterate always wanted us to be educated and reach the top.

My father is an auto driver. He has been struggling and earning bread for his family all these years. He always talked about the importance of studies and how different life can be for an educated person. GEF founders and all the mentors are a great inspiration, who have stood like a pillar for so many children and are the reason behind so many success stories. They do this without expecting anything in return. Lastly, all my teachers, who guided me and helped me find myself, are a source of my inspiration.

### 6. What are your hobbies and do you find time to enhance them?

My hobbies are reading, crafting and sketching. I read an English newspaper everyday and also try to read novels. Although I love sketching and crafting, the time to do so is hard to come by.

### 7. What are your future plans?

My very first plan is to go abroad at least once, either through the office or with my family. Going with the family would be a dream come true: the precious smile on their faces would nullify all the expenses. I also want to buy a house in Mumbai for my family and move them out of the slum area we live in. It is difficult surviving there.



### 8. What do you find unique about GEF?

The most unique and the best part of GEF is every student has been allotted with a mentor. The mentor's job is to guide the student correctly, build his confidence and encourage him to perform well academically as well as in extracurricular activities. GEF makes sure the student is the best version of himself and his personality is developed overall.

My mentor is Manisha ma'am and I share a great bond with her. She has been with me through thick and thin. I share with her everything: personal as well as general matters. She used to call me thrice a week or more when I was in college and was aware of my difficulties. We still share a great bond and are in touch. I am very fortunate to be a part of the GEF family and thankful for all the warmth and love I have received from everyone.

### 9. Any advice or message to our students?

I think education is extremely important and I believe that one should learn religiously throughout one's life. In my experience, it is difficult to get back to the books once you start earning. The most important thing is to stay in touch with your teachers, mentors, and friends and never forget your roots.

- Apeksha Mane



## SUPER 30 LAST DAY

माझे नाव सृष्टी भिसे. मी इयत्ता सहावीमध्ये शिकत असताना माझ्या आयुष्यात सुपर ३० सारखे आल्हाददायी व आनंदी सुख आले. सुपर ३० मध्ये मला खुप मजा येत असे. हा कार्यक्रम दर रविवारी असे. यात आम्ही प्रार्थना शिकलो. सकाळी कोवळ्या उन्हात हवेचा आनंद घेत, आम्ही योगा करायला शिकलो. योगा करून झाल्यावर शोभा मॅडम, सुनील सर आणि प्रदीप सर अशा कर्तृत्ववान व्यक्तिमत्वाच्या माणसांकडून आम्हाला मार्गदर्शन मिळायचे. रोजच्या जीवनात पौष्टिक आहार किती महत्वाचा असतो हे सुपर ३० ने पटवून दिले. आपण रोज नवीन मित्र बनवले पाहिजेत हे सुपर ३० ने शिकवले. आपण नेहमी एकत्र, मिळून मिसळून रहायला हवे याची समजूत सुपर ३० ने दिली. सुपर ३० मध्ये सुरुवातीला काही मुले एकटीच जेवत असत, नंतर त्यांना एकत्र जेवायची सवय लागली. जेवणाच्या आधी प्रार्थना म्हणायची तर मित्रांसोबत गप्पा मारत जेवणाची वेगळीच मजा यायची. या नंतर छया ताई आम्हाला चित्रकलेचे प्रशिक्षण द्यायची. कधी वॉली पेंटींग तर कधी सूर्यफूल. आम्हाला देखील तिच्याकडून शिकून घ्यायला खूप आवडायचे. जीवनात एक चांगला चित्रकारच नाही तर चांगली व्यक्ती सुद्धा झाले पाहिजे हा त्यांचा दृष्टिकोन होता. अभ्यासा सोबतच खेळाचे महत्व सुपर ३० ने शिकवले. सुपर ३० हा एक असा उपक्रम आहे जिथे आम्हाला अभ्यास आणि खेळा सोबतच कंप्युटर सुद्धा शिकायला मिळाले. येथेच आम्ही पसायदान म्हणायला शिकलो. असा आनंदाचा प्रवास करता करता कधी एक वर्ष संपले हे कळलेच नाही.

सुपर ३० चा शेवटचा दिवस जसा जवळ येत होता तसे आमचे सुपर ३० साठी प्रेम अधिकच वाढत होते. आणि शेवटी तो दिवस आला ज्या दिवशी आम्ही मित्र मैत्रीणी वेगळे झालो. या आधी शाळा असायची तेव्हा सुट्यांचे वेध लागायचे. पण आता सुट्यांमध्ये कधी एकदा शाळा सुरु होते आणि सुपर ३० चालू होते असे वाटते. शेवटच्या दिवशी जेव्हा आम्ही ट्रेडिशनल लूक मध्ये आलो तेव्हा एकमेकींच्या साड्या पाहून एकमेकींच खूप कौतुक केलं. दिवसाची सुरुवात प्रार्थनेने झाली. प्रार्थना झाल्यानंतर सुट्यांमध्ये आम्ही जे वॉली पेंटींग करणार होतो त्यासंबंधी चर्चा केली. नंतर आम्हाला दिलेल्या प्रोजेक्ट वर आम्ही चर्चा केली इतकेच नाही तर तो प्रोजेक्ट शिक्षकांसमोर सादर करून दाखवला. प्रोजेक्ट सादर केल्यानंतर त्यावर कमेंट्स देखील आम्हाला मिळाल्या. फक्त कमेंट्सच नाही तर आम्हाला काय चुकल काय बरोबर याचे प्रशिक्षण सुद्धा मिळाले. त्यानंतर ४ वाजता कार्यक्रमाची तयारी सुरु झाली. त्या आधी आम्ही प्रार्थना म्हणून जेवण आटोपले आणि अप्रतिम कार्यक्रमाची तयारी केली. माझ्या सर्व मित्र मैत्रीणींनी मिळून हा कार्यक्रम पार पाडला. या कार्यक्रमात कुणी साफसफाई तर कुणी डेकोरेशन तर कुणी सूत्रसंचालनाचे काम केले. प्रत्येकाने आपले काम व्यवस्थित पार पाडले. त्या नंतर आमच्या सरानी केलेले भाषण ऐकून आम्हाला स्फूर्ती मिळाली. सर्व शिक्षकांचे मनोगत ऐकून झाल्यावर पुढचा कार्यक्रम आला तो खाली जाऊन डान्स करण्याचा. या सर्व कार्यक्रमात आम्ही खुप मजा केली, फोटो काढले. शिक्षक सुद्धा आमच्या बरोबर तेवढीच मजा घेत होते. आणि तेवढ्यातच साडेपाच वाजल्यामुळे आम्हांला वर जाव लागल. आम्ही वर गेलो आणि प्रार्थना म्हणालो आणि अशाप्रकारे आमच्या सुपर ३० चा सूर्य मावळला.

- शृष्टी रोहिदास भिसे

*My Name is Srushti Rohidas Bhise. I am studying in 6<sup>th</sup> standard and I am fortunate to be a part of the Super 30 program conducted at Raja Shivaji school, Thane.*

*Super 30 meets used to happen every Sunday and we used to eagerly wait for them. Our Sundays were vibrant and full of energy and enthusiasm. This was the last Sunday for the academic year 2018-19, we started our day with prayers. We then continued with Yoga under the morning sunshine. We were guided by efficient and elite personalities like Shobha Madam, Sunil Sir, Pradeep Sir.*

*Super 30 has made us understand the importance of healthy diet. Super 30 has taught us the meaning of friendship and the importance of friends. Initially we used to sit and eat alone but soon we started sitting together, sharing and enjoying our meals. We inculcated the good habit of praying before meals, i.e. thanking god for making us fortunate enough to have food. We also learned Pasaydan.*

*After meals, there were drawing sessions by Chhaya Didi. She not only taught us painting but also how to be a great human. The importance of extracurricular and cocurricular activities was conveyed through the Super 30 program. We also received computer lessons along with studies and sports. The journey of the Super 30 program was so joyful that we were not prepared for the last day when it came.*

*Throughout the super 30 program, our friendships strengthened and love for each other intensified. Earlier I used to eagerly wait for school vacations but now, I am eagerly looking forward to school's reopening and being a part of the super 30 program again.*

*On the last day of the year, we all wore traditional attire and due to our strengthened bond, I could compliment one of my friends on her dress saying "Your Saree is so beautiful!" I felt so happy. After prayer we discussed the wall paintings which were to be finished during vacations. We submitted our allotted projects to ma'am, presented them to our friends and answered their questions. We got comments and feedback from everyone. There was a follow-up session to make us understand the parts we lacked during our presentations and to give us tips on how to give impactful presentations. Afterwards, we said our prayers, ate our meals and started preparing for the 4 pm event.*

*A few of us started decorating the school, some were cleaning and the rest started preparing for their parts. Everyone who was involved in this event, carried out their part very beautifully, with full energy and enthusiasm. After the Event, our Sir gave us a very inspiring speech which boosted my confidence. Other teachers shared their thoughts which were very beautiful and emotional as well. The final event was catwalk and dance which we enjoyed to fullest, clicked plenty of pictures. The teachers also revisited their childhood and participated in every event and enjoyed it thoroughly.*

*It was 5:30, an end to the Super 30 program for this year and a new beginning to our memories that we have made. We all gathered and prayed (Pasaydana). - Shrushti Rohidas Bhise*

## SOME MORE SALIENT PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVERS



- 01. Shashikant Manjare - Unique Solutions
- 02. Dilshad Pathan - Infosys Pvt. Ltd.
- 03. Kiran Chhatre - MS in Germany
- 04. Madhur Bajpai - Ola
- 05. Nikita Bavkar - Tata Motors, Pune
- 06. Suraj Tawde - Film making & Free Lancer
- 07. Swapnali Jagtap - Arihant Mangalam Enterprises
- 08. Omkar Mane - Taxpert Professional
- 09. Kajal Sonawane - Hexaware Technologies
- 10. Madhuri Rohane - Navi Mumbai Corp School,
- 11. Niraj Kumbhar - K.K. Jhunjhunwala

## WEDDING BELLS

*Best wishes on this wonderful journey, as you build your new lives together. Let's come together and congratulate them.*

**Vrushali Shinde  
&  
Rohit Nalawade**



**Pratibha Haval  
&  
Pratik Hashilkar**



**Vijaya Salunkhe & Paresh Dalvi**