



# **GURUJI EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

## **Quarterly Report**

**October - December 2024**

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# ABOUT GEF

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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

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We are happy to share with you our report for the October–November–December 2024 quarter.

This quarter witnessed the launch of our collaboration with Infosys Foundation, with the very first Science Lab being set up at Kai. Yadav Dagdu Patil Madhyamik Vidyalay, Tandulwadi.

On the Holistic Higher Education (HHE) front, we have crossed the 300 mark in terms of number of alumni and students covered under the program. These students span across 5 states viz Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Goa, Telangana, and Delhi.

Our Adolescent Development Program (ADP) program continues to grow. Goa has become the 5th state on the ADP map, and the count of schools being supported has now reached 51

The Executive Committee has been reconstituted. In the last report we had shared with you some of the steps that we planned to initiate, to support our growing scale of operations. The Committee will work towards ensuring focus and driving progress on these priority areas.

Executive Committee  
**Guruji Education Found**

# HIGHLIGHTS

## Inauguration of Science Lab at Tandulwadi School

A fully equipped Science Lab set up at Kai. Yadav Dagdu Patil Madhyamik Vidyalay, Tandulwadi was inaugurated by Prof.N. Venkataramani from IIT-Bombay and Dr.Lalita Deshpande of GEF, in the august presence of dignitaries from the school management.

This marks a significant step forward in our Infosys Foundation supported project for enabling Holistic Development of selected schools, under GEF's Adolescent Development Program.

In preparation for setting up such labs at more schools, science teachers from 4 other schools across Maharashtra also received guidance on conducting experiments using the new lab setup.

**दिनांक मसाली** चाळीसगाव 27-10-2024

### तांदूळवाडी विद्यालयात झाले विज्ञान प्रयोगशाळेचे उद्घाटन

शहर प्रतिनिधी | चाळीसगाव

तांदूळवाडी येथील कै.यादव दादू पाटील माध्यमिक व उच्च माध्यमिक विद्यालयात गुरुजी फाउंडेशन मुंबई व इन्फोसिस फाउंडेशन पुणे यांच्या मदतीने विज्ञान प्रयोगशाळेचे उद्घाटन पार पडले. डॉ.एन. वेण्कटरमणी आयआयटी मुंबई व डॉ. ललिता देशपांडे, आयआयटी मुंबई यांच्या हस्ते उद्घाटन झाले. त्या प्रसंगी त्यांच्या सोबत विद्यालयाचे प्राचार्य स्वप्निल निकम, कुतुहल पनसीचे सुपुत्रा दान्ते, निमित्ता कुलकर्णी उपस्थित होते. या लंकेचे लोकसंग झाले. तसेच त्याच ठिकाणी सदर लॅबमधील प्रयोगाची हताळणी करी करवी याचे ही राज्यस्तरीय

प्रयोग शाळेचे उद्घाटन करतांना डॉ.एन.वेण्कटरमणी व डॉ.ललिता देशपांडे. प्रशिक्षण याच ठिकाणी पार पडले. त्यात महाराष्ट्रातील चार शाळेचे विज्ञान शिक्षक यांनी सहभाग घेतला. त्या मध्ये माध्यमिक विद्यालय तांदूळवाडी उपशिक्षक जी. जी. वराडे, एस.बी चव्हाण, किरण निकम तर माध्यमिक विद्यालय सायगव्हाणचे तर मित्र विद्यालय माळेगाव विद्यालय सोलपूर, ज्यंबक विद्यालय मालवण

असे ९ वेगवेगळे शिक्षक योन दिवस हे प्रशिक्षण घेणार आहेत. तर उपक्रमासाठी गुरुजी फाउंडेशनचे प्रदीप वायचळ यांचे मोलाचे सहकार्य लाभले. तर संस्थेचे सचिव डॉ. रवींद्र निकम यांच्या माध्यमातून शाळेला मिळणारे याच सोबत सह उपक्रम स्तंभ, शारिरीक शिक्षण, वाचन क्षमता हे उपक्रम ही सुरु आहेत.



# HIGHLIGHTS

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## ADP Footprint Extends to Goa

With the successful conclusion of the Scratch Student-trainer Training program, Swastik Vidyalay Secondary School, Priol – Goa, achieved the double distinction of becoming the 1st school from Goa, and the 50th school overall, to benefit under GEF’s Adolescent Development Program (ADP). The program was conducted by Mr.Gopal Kalpathi, Senior GEF Volunteer.

Scratch training is conducted under our Amit Khare Training for Indian Villages (AKTIV) initiative, for improving critical, creative, and computational thinking, and teaming among students by using Scratch and other mediums as tools. AKTIV is a part of our 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.

Thanks to Shri Shirishkumar Amshekar, Principal and Mrs.Prabhati Desai, Computer Teacher and the entire management of Swastik Vidyalay for their wholehearted support.



# HIGHLIGHTS

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## Trimbak School Qualifies for District-level CS Hackathon

Janata Vidyamandir, Trimbak was 1 among the 10 schools that qualified to participate in the district-level CS Hackathon organized by the District Institute of Education & Training, Sindhudurg, in association with Zila Parishad (Education), Sindhudurg, Amazon Future Engineer, Leadership for Equity, and Code to Enhance Learning (CEL).

The objective of the CS Hackathon was to enhance 21st century skills such as Computational Thinking, Logical Thinking, Teamwork, and Coding as envisaged under the New Education Policy (NEP), 2020. The 10 teams for the CS Hackathon were selected based on their performance in an “Unplugged Challenge” held earlier.

Janata Vidyamandir, Trimbak is one of the beneficiaries of our AKTIV (Amit Khare Training for Indian Villages) program, which aims at developing Thinking and Teaming skills, using Scratch as one of the mediums. The student team of Manuja Sawant, Ovi Bhogate, and Durva Ghadigaonkar, represented the school under the guidance of their teacher Abhijit Dhure.

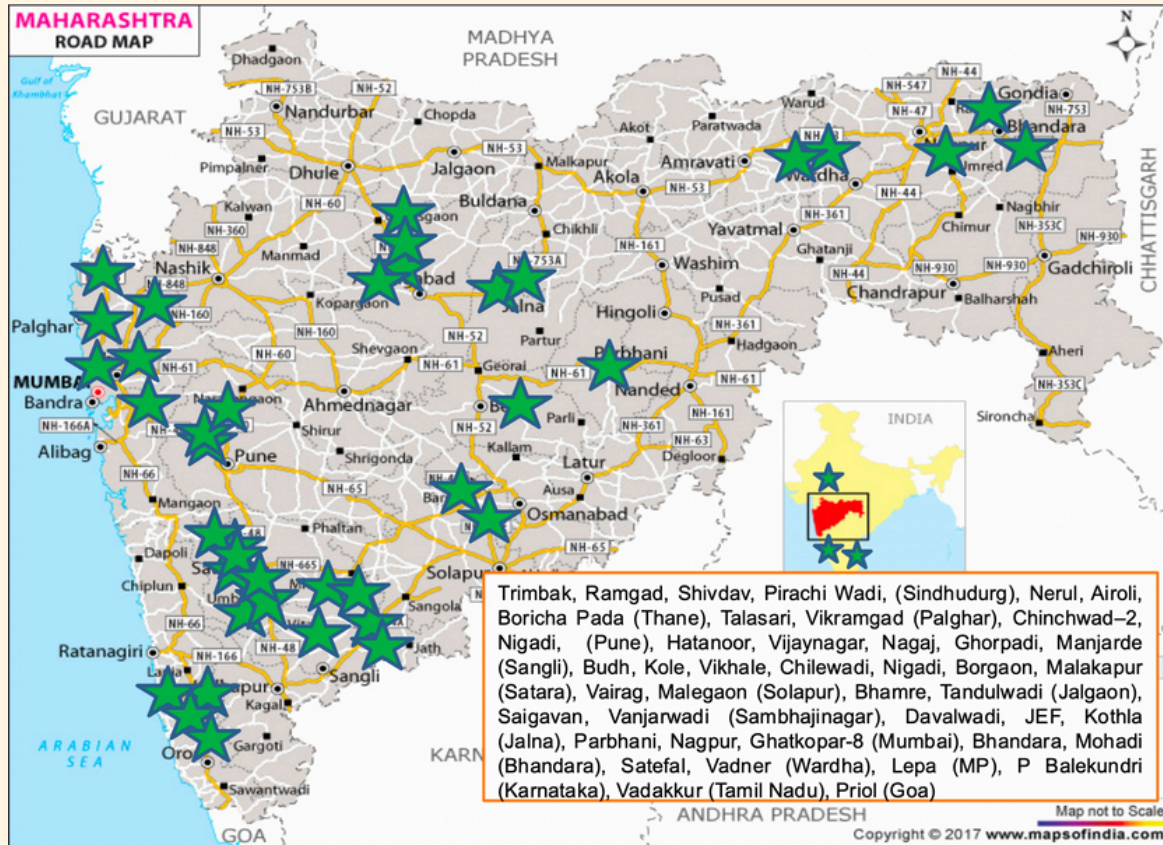
## GEF Executive Committee Reconstituted

The GEF Executive Committee has been reconstituted, with the following distribution of responsibilities:

- Admissions - Sunil Patil
- Alumni Connect - Shridhar Vaishampayan and Meghana Karlekar
- Counselling - Anjali Lele
- Mentoring -Dr.Lalita Deshpande
- Outreach - Vidyut Navelkar
- Scratch Training - Gopal Kalpathi
- Spoken English - Sharad A Deogekar
- Technology -Tarak Sheth

# ADP UPDATES

Growing Spread



Trimbak, Ramgad, Shivdav, Pirachi Wadi, (Sindhudurg), Nerul, Airoli, Boricha Pada (Thane), Talasari, Vikramgad (Palghar), Chinchwad-2, Nigadi, (Pune), Hatanoor, Vijaynagar, Nagaj, Ghorpadi, Manjarde (Sangli), Budh, Kole, Vikhale, Chilewadi, Nigadi, Borgaon, Malakapur (Satara), Vairag, Malegaon (Solapur), Bhamre, Tandulwadi (Jalgaon), Saigavan, Vanjarwadi (Sambhajinagar), Davalwadi, JEF, Kothla (Jalna), Parbhani, Nagpur, Ghatkopar-8 (Mumbai), Bhandara, Mohadi (Bhandara), Satefal, Vadner (Wardha), Lepa (MP), P Balekundri (Karnataka), Vadakkur (Tamil Nadu), Priol (Goa)

Over 10000 beneficiaries across 51 schools (including 33 rural)

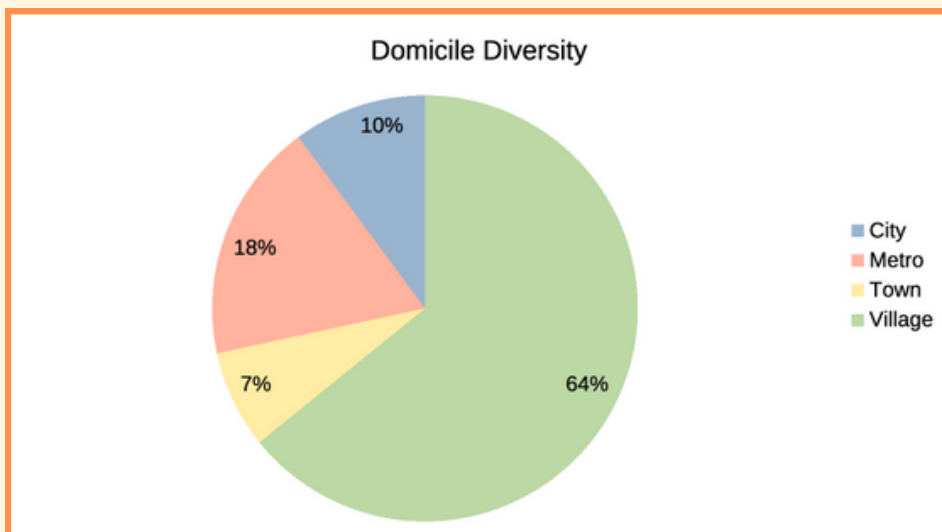
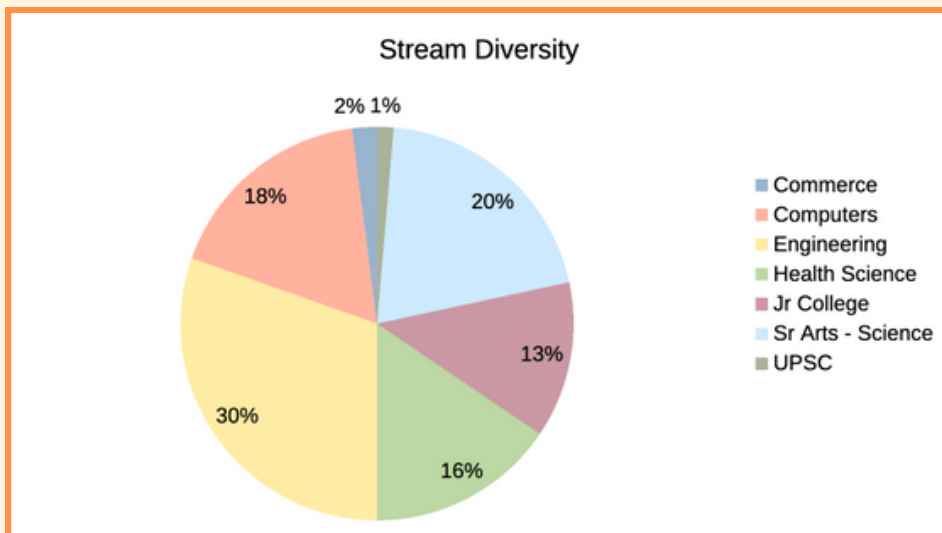
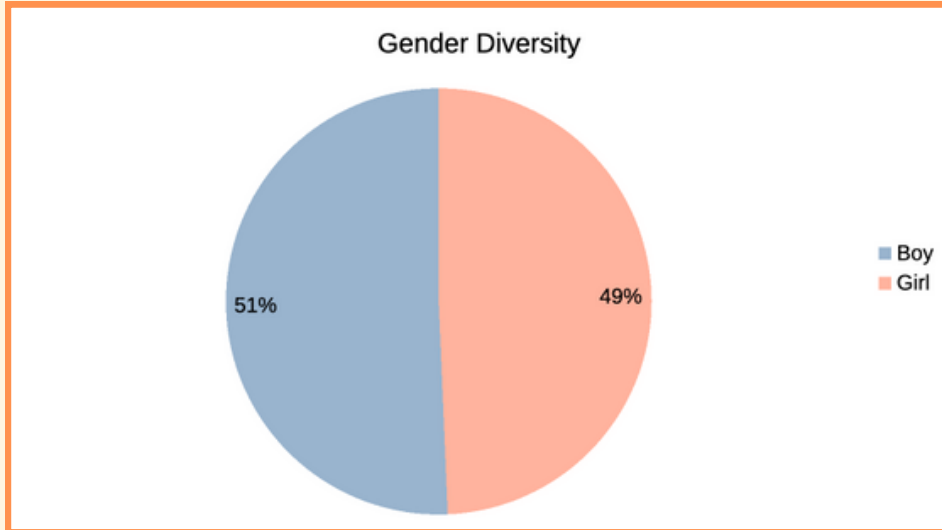
"Education is the foundation upon which we build our future, shaping minds and molding destinies."

~ Anonymous



# HHE UPDATES

## Catering to a Diverse Demographic Spread





# STUDENT STARS



**Ravindra Rathod** who is currently pursuing his post-graduation at NIPER, was a part of the team whose design titled “Portable Device for Measurement of Cardiac Arrhythmia” was approved and granted Certificate of Registration of Design by the Patent Office, Government of India.

**Nikita Patil** has been selected to join QSpiders, a software training institute based in Pune.

Nikita has completed her BTech in Computer Science & Engineering (Artificial Intelligence & Data Science) from Padmabhooshan Vasanttraodada Patil Institute of Technology, Budhgaon.



**Sumit Gursale** has successfully cleared his Chartered Accountancy (Intermediate) exams.

**Rutuja Raut** who is doing her BTech (Electrical Engineering) at Walchand College of Engineering, Sangli, has been selected for placement by L&T Pvt. Limited.



**Anand Gadge** has been selected for placement as a Graduate Engineer Trainee by Tech Mahindra.

Anand is doing his BE (Information Technology) from DY Patil College of Engineering, Akurdi, and will be graduating in May 2025.



# STUDENT STARS



**Shaijal Aher** has joined Interglobe Aviation (Indigo Airlines) as Officer AO & CS.

Shaijal is also in the final year of her Bachelor of Computer Applications (BCA) program.



**Hariom Thadke** who is pursuing B.Tech (Computer Engineering) from Shri Guru Gobind Singhji Institute of Engineering & Technology (SGGSIE&T), Nanded, has received a placement offer from TCS Ltd for the role of a System Engineer



**Sakshi Ghadge** who is currently pursuing MSc in Applied Psychology from Central University of Tamilnadu, has successfully cleared her UGC-NEET exam, and thus qualified for the post of Assistant Professor, and admission to PhD.



**Rajesh Pokharkar** has received a placement offer from Accenture Ltd. for the role of an Assistant System Engineer.

Rajesh is currently pursuing BE (Computer Engineering) at RMD Sinhadgad School of Engineering, Warje.



**Snehal Ghodake** who is a student of XI standard at Modern College, Shivajinagar, stood 1st in her class with 97.5% marks



# STUDENT STARS



**Mayuri Sangekar** who is pursuing B.Tech (Civil) at Government College of Engineering, Aurangabad, presented her paper titled “Inclinometer-based Health Monitoring and Digital Twin Development for a Simply Supported Beam Subjected to Point Load” at the 39th Indian Engineering Congress, organized by The Institution of Engineers (India).

**Ayush Pamula** has joined IQVIA, a Fortune 500 company, in the role of eTMF Documents Specialist.

Ayush recently completed his M.Sc in Biotechnology from Smt.CHM College, Ulhasnagar, with a CGPA of 9.0.



**Aakash Pamula** has been excelling in athletics, and stood 2nd in Discus Throw and 3rd in Shot Put in Thane Zone, at the Mumbai University Games held in October 2024.

Aakash is currently in the second year of his B.Com studies at B.K.Birla College, Kalyan.

**Molika Sharma** was one among the 52 volunteers selected (out of more than 200) for a special NSS camp that involves going on a trek, with the aim of learning new skills and building meaningful bonds with other volunteers.





# ALUMNI



# STARS

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**Pratiksha Vaidya** who completed her Civil Engineering in 2022 has been selected as Water Conservation Officer Grade B (non-gazetted) in the Soil and Water Conservation Department.

Currently she is working as Civil Engineering Assistant in the Bhima Canal Circle of the Water Resources Department.

# WAY FORWARD

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We have a buzzing quarter ahead with a series of Annual Days coming up in the timeframe of January - March 2025 as follows:

- 11 January 2025 : Nanded
- 26 January 2025 : Pune
- 02 February 2025 : Thane
- 16 February 2025 : Tuljapur
- 22 February 2025 : Sambhajinagar (Aurangabad)
- 02 March 2025 : Nagpur

These Annual Days, are a celebration of our collective journey, showcasing the brilliance of our students and the dedication of our teachers. The Annual Days are fully managed by students to aid their development. Please do reach out to us in case you would like to attend any of the Annual Days.

The next quarter will also witness culmination of the Mini Scratch Festival which was launched in November 2024. We have seen some amazing entries being submitted in line with the defined theme of GRAPES (Gratitude, Resilience, Achievement Orientation, Positive Attitude, Emotional Quotient, and Sophophilic Orientation), and it is heartening to see the creativity and thinking skills of our students come to the fore. The Festival also includes a Scratch Quiz for the schools that have been newly onboarded. We will keep you posted on the dates of the grand finale, and we do hope that you would be able to join us to get first-hand experience of the enthusiasm and efforts of our students.

The newly reconstituted Executive Committee has initiated steps to identify areas of improvement, and to improve our operations and programs. We look forward to sharing progress on this front in the quarters to come, and also look forward to receiving any feedback and suggestions that you may have,

# CLOSING THOUGHTS

मा नवी इतिहासामध्ये क्षमता आणि किंमत याच्या गुणोत्तरामध्ये

संगणकाएवढी कुठल्याही क्षेत्रामध्ये किंवा नवीन शोधामध्ये प्रगती झालेली नाही. शास्त्रज्ञ संगणकाची क्षमता वाढवत आहेत, किंमत कमी करत आहेत आणि संगणकाचे वापरकर्ते मात्र त्या क्षमतेचा पुरेपूर फायदा घेऊ शकत नाहीत.

ही घटना वेगवेगळ्या स्तरावर होते आहे. अनेक जण संगणकाचा उपयोग केवळ वर्ड साखे 'दूल' वापरून टायपिंग करतात किंवा एक्सेल साखे स्प्रेडशीट आकडेमोडीसाठी वापरतात. परंतु त्यामध्ये सुद्धा वर्ड किंवा एक्सेल याची संपूर्ण क्षमता किंवा वैशिष्ट्ये आपण वापरत नाही. कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता किंवा मशीन लर्निंग यांचा वापर तर खूपच दुरची बाब आहे.

आजकाल अनेक महाविद्यालयांमध्ये व शाळांमध्ये संगणकाचे वेगवेगळे कार्यक्रम राबवले जातात. त्यामध्येही बहुतेक विद्यार्थ्यांचा कल नवनवीन संगणकीय भाषा शिकण्याकडे असतो. त्या भाषा शिकून आपण कुठल्या मानवी समस्या सोडवू शकतो याकडे त्यांचे दुर्लक्ष होते.

आता काळ बदलतो आहे आणि नुसत्या भाषा शिकून नोकरी मिळणे दुरापास्त होणार आहे. परंतु आपल्या दृष्टिकोनामध्ये काही बदल होतोय असं दिसत नाही.

शाळांमध्ये तर हे बदल लगेच केले पाहिजेत. अनेक उच्चभूषण शाळांमध्ये स्कॅच किंवा पायथॉन

## संगणकाद्वारे विद्यार्थ्यांचा सर्वांगीण विकास



अशा भाषा शिकवल्या जातात. त्यामध्ये शिक्षक शुद्धलेखनाप्रमाणे कुठल्या कुठल्या कमांड द्यायच्या त्या सांगतात व मुले ती काही विचार न करता देतात आणि त्यातून काय तयार होते हे पाहतात. अर्थात अनेक मुलांना कॉम्प्युटरवर काम करणे, काहीतरी रंगीबेरंगी तयार करणे याच्यामध्ये गंमत वाटते आणि ती त्यामध्ये रमतात.

परंतु हा त्यांच्यावर आणि संगणकावरसुद्धा अन्याय आहे. म्हणजे उद्या आपला क्रिकेटमधील एखादा पट्टीचा खेळाडू - रोहित शर्मा, यशस्वी जयस्वाल - यांना जर आपण शेवटच्या क्रमांकाला फलंदाजीला पाठवतं तर जे होईल ते सध्या होते आहे.

अमेरिकेमधल्या एमआयटीमधील मिशेल रेजिनिक यांचा स्कॅच, शालेय विद्यार्थ्यांच्यासाठीचा अतिशय प्रसिद्ध

### प्रदीप वायचाळ

९८२०४३९४८२

संगणकाचा प्लॅटफॉर्म, विकसित करण्यामध्ये सिंहाचा वाटा आहे. त्यांनी असे जोरदार प्रतिपादन केले आहे की, स्कॅचचा वापर करून आपण शालेय विद्यार्थ्यांच्या निर्मितीक्षमतेचा विकास केला पाहिजे, विचारक्षमतेचा विकास केला पाहिजे. ते म्हणतात विद्यार्थ्यांनी प्रकरणाद्वारे शिक्षण घेतले पाहिजे त्यामुळे निर्मितीक्षमता, समस्या निराकरण-क्षमता यांचा विकास होईल आणि त्यांना अधिक खोल ज्ञान मिळू शकेल.

त्यांनी शिक्षणामधील आणि शिक्षणानंतरचे सांघिक क्षमतेचे महत्त्व पण अधोरेखित केले आहे. त्यांच्या

मते, विद्यार्थ्यांना प्रयोग करण्याची मुभा, काही थोडेबहुत धोके असतील तरी, देण्याची आवश्यकता आहे.

बहुतेक शालेय उपक्रमामध्ये यातील कुठल्याही गोष्टी होत नाहीत आणि पुन्हा एकदा तो मुलांवर व संगणकावर अन्याय आहे. त्या दोघांचीही क्षमता आपण दुर्लक्षित करत आहोत.

मरिना बेअर रिजनिंग यांच्या सहकारी आहेत आणि त्यांनी त्यांच्या 'ब्रिपॉण्ड कोडिंग' या पुस्तकामध्ये संगणकाचा वापर आणखी काही नवीन आणि महत्त्वाच्या गोष्टी करण्यासाठी केला पाहिजे असे ठासून सांगितले आहे. त्यांच्या मते संगणकाचा वापर करून मानवी मूल्ये, जसे की दयाळूपणा, निःपक्षपातीपणा सहानुभूती यांचा विकास केला पाहिजे. जीवन कौशल्य जसे की सकारात्मक वर्तणूक नैतिक विचार आणि भावनिक बुद्धिमत्ता यांचा विकास करण्यावर भर दिला पाहिजे. गेले दोन दशके त्या यांच्यावर काम करत आहेत. आपणास आश्चर्य वाटेल की त्यांचे हे काम दुसरी इयत्ता व त्याखालील मुलांच्यावर होते आहे. साहजिकच अशी मानवी मूल्ये आपण जेवढ्या तवकर मुलांमध्ये रुजवू

तेवढा आपल्याला जास्त फायदा होणार आहे. बेअर या शिक्षण सांगतात की, संगणकाची भाषा ही नैसर्गिक भाषेसारखीच एक भाषा आहे व त्यामुळे विद्यार्थ्यांना व्यक्त करणे व संभाषण करणे यासाठी आणखीन एक पर्याय मिळत आहे आणि हा पर्याय नैसर्गिक भाषेपेक्षा जास्त परिणामकारक आहे. आपण यापासून कित्येक मैल दूर आहोत.

आताची शाळेमधील मुले जेव्हा नोकरीच्या शोधांमध्ये, आणखी सहा आठ दहा वर्षांनी बाहेर पडतील तेव्हा त्यांच्यामध्ये विचारक्षमता आणि सांघिक क्षमता या नसतील तर त्यांना नोकरी मिळणे अशक्य होणार आहे. तसेच त्यांच्यामध्ये मानवी मूल्यांचा विकास झाला नसेल तर त्यांचे सामाजिक जीवनही कठीण होणार आहे. येथे वाचकांच्या हे लक्षात आलेच असेल की आपण केवळ आयटी नोकऱ्याची गोष्ट येथे करत नाही कुठल्याही क्षेत्रामध्ये नोकऱ्यासाठी या गोष्टीची नितांत आवश्यकता असणार आहे. बेअर यांनी हा मुद्दा मांडताना असे म्हटले आहे की, जसे ज्याला लिहिता येते तो प्रत्येक जण लेखक बनत नाही तसेच ज्याला कोडिंग येते तो प्रत्येक जण प्रोग्रामर बनणे आवश्यक नाही

त्यासाठी सर्वच शिक्षणतज्ज्ञांनी, शाळा व्यवस्थापनांनी, शिक्षकांनी आणि पालकांनी संगणकाचा योग्य उपयोग करून आपली पुढची पिढी सुदृढ आणि सुरक्षित करण्यावर भर दिला पाहिजे.

In this Marathi article published in "Tarun Bharat", Dr.Pradeep Waychal writes about harnessing the power of computers for holistic development.

Here is a link to the English version of the article

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