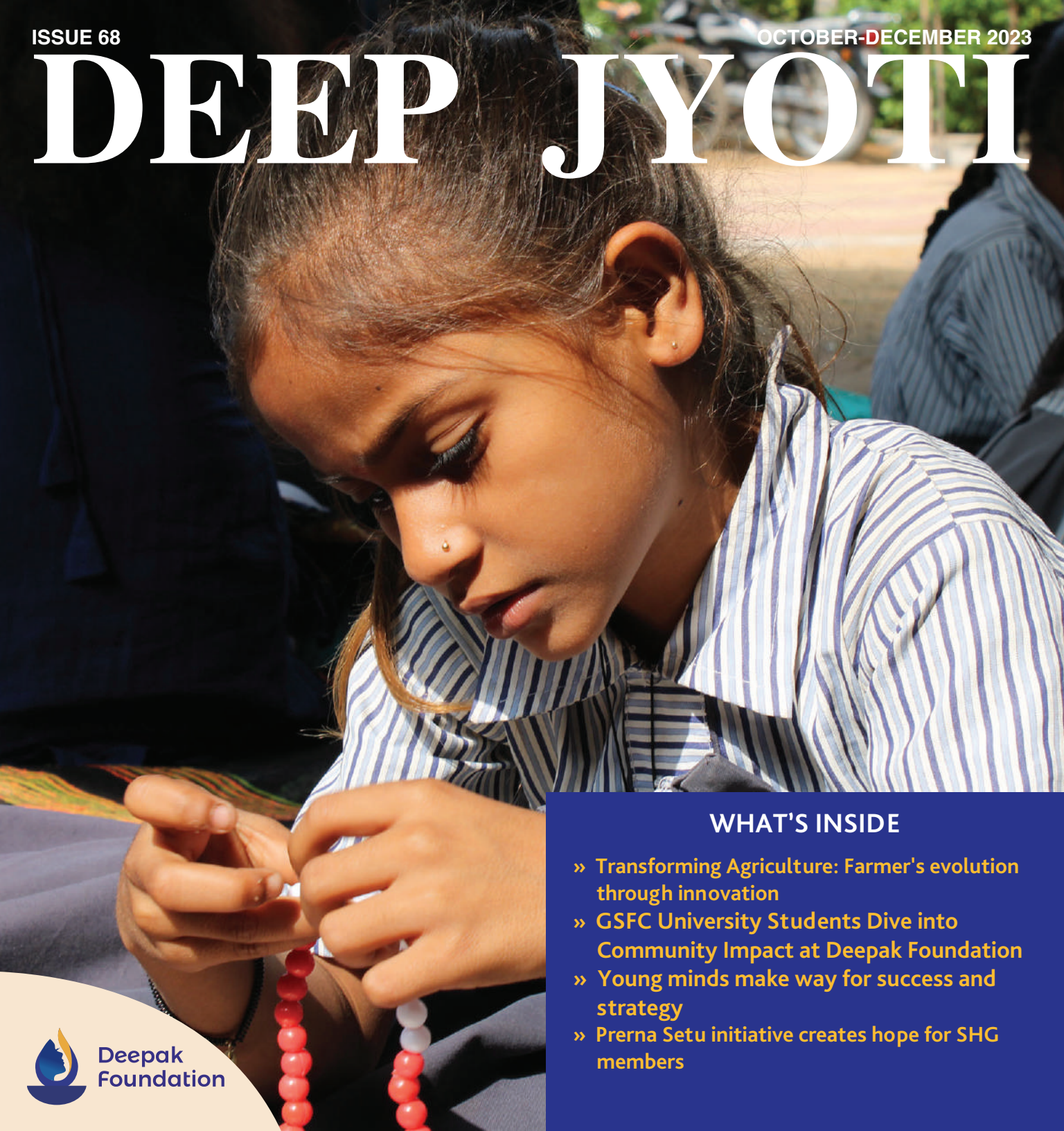


ISSUE 68

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2023

# DEEP JYOTI



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Deepak  
Foundation



## Creating impact at grassroot level



Six-year-old Vanshika Manojbhai Chudasama resides in Poicha village, Vadodara. There are five members in her family. She has a younger brother who is 9 years old, and her mother and grandmother are homemakers. In her household, her father is the only source of income. Her father is a tailor by trade. The family's annual income is around Rs 46,000. Deepak Foundation extended assistance through the Project Sangaath initiative. The team also gathered information about their dwellings during the Sangaath project eligibility survey. Upon visiting her residence, the team ascertained that Vanshika qualified for one of these programmes Sukanya Samruddhi Yojana.

The parents were briefed by the Sangaath team about the plan. Vanshika can withdraw 50% of the amount by the time she is 18 years old and can withdraw the remaining 50% by the time she is 21 years old.

After that, the account will be terminated. In the case of marriage, full amount is received. There are interest rates as high as 8.2%. The Central Government offers a minor savings programme for daughters known as the Sukanya Samruddhi Yojana under the aegis of Beti Bachao – Beti Padhao Yojana flagship. The team completed the application after briefing them about the program's advantages.

## Sangaath team assist for widow pension benefits

Kokilaben Arjunsinh Gohil, a resident of Somnath Nagar, Angadh village, Vadodara, is 44 years old. She belongs to a family of three members, with herself being the housewife and illiterate. One of her sons works as a casual labourer, while the other son does not contribute much to the family's income. The annual income of the family is approximately Rs. 75,000, and they reside in a makeshift hut.

Project Sangaath has been providing guidance and assistance to people regarding various government schemes. During the eligibility survey conducted as part of the Sangaath Project, Kokilaben's household information was collected, and she was issued an Adhikar Card. Kokilaben attended a small group meeting organized by the Sangaath team in Somnath Nagar where she was informed about widow pension and availing the benefits of the scheme.

Upon further assessment, the Sangaath team determined that Kokilaben was eligible for the "Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme." They provided her with detailed information about the scheme and the necessary documents Sangaath team assisted Kokilaben in preparing all the required documents. The facilitator filled out the application form for the "Widow Pension Scheme" and submitted.



## Transforming Agriculture: Farmer's evolution through innovation

In the village of Kukarda, Chhota Udepur where long-standing farming customs prevailed, an inspiring tale of change took shape. Nanjibhai Dubhil, a seasoned farmer with five decades of experience, embarked on a journey that would redefine not just his own life but also the future of agriculture in his community.

Nanjibhai faced familiar challenges in the realm of traditional farming. The repetitive cropping cycles led to diminishing yields, and financial constraints posed additional obstacles on his path. Trapped in a cycle of stagnation, Nanjibhai longed for a transformation that would rejuvenate his land.



Nanjibhai's pivotal moment arrived with the initiation of the Sanrakshan Watershed Project. Confronted with the looming threat of soil erosion, he took the courageous step of building a stone bund on his land, survey No. 159. This 24.5 cubic meter structure acted as a shield against erosion and symbolized Nanjibhai's resolve to carve a new path. The fruits of his labor became apparent after the initial monsoon season. Nanjibhai observed a tangible outcome - a decrease in soil erosion. The financial rewards were equally noteworthy, earning him ₹12,000 in labor fees.

This triumph signified not only a financial victory but also ignited a fresh passion within him. The watershed program also introduced Nanjibhai to a completely new opportunity - dragon fruit cultivation. Despite his background in cotton and toor cultivation, he embraced this unexplored territory. The promise of dragon fruit's potential sparked his curiosity, leading him to embark on

this innovative journey.

The venture into dragon fruit cultivation demanded more than just enthusiasm, it required funds for acquiring the necessary cultivation poles. Nanjibhai's dedication remained unwavering. Using his earnings from the stone bund project, he procured the poles, showcasing his dedication to change and progress. With dragon fruit saplings provided by the Sanrakshan Jalstrav Vikas Samiti, Nanjibhai delved into this horticultural pursuit. His openness to learning and adapting was remarkable, highlighting a notable departure from his traditional practices. The strenuous task of reconstructing the stone bund once again earned him Rs. 12,000, which he reinvested into the dragon fruit initiative. Nanjibhai connected with the horticulture department in Chhota Udepur, and he will receive an incentive subsidy of Rs. 1,35,000 for dragon fruit farming from the Government's Horticulture Department.

Nanjibhai's journey demonstrates how taking initiative and being innovative can lead to transformation. His stone bund project not only protected his land but also paved the way for him to start growing dragon fruit. This shift not only increased his sources of income but also motivated other farmers in Kukarda to consider new approaches. **Lessons Learned:** As the dragon fruit plants thrive, Nanjibhai's optimism grows. In about a year, he will start reaping the rewards of his hard work in the form of a promising income. His achievements and the path he have forged showcase his perseverance and highlight the untapped potential in traditional farming communities.





## Workshop on nutrition organized

A combined effort by Deepak Foundation and Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth's Ayurveda Nutrition department students resulted in 57 parents receiving knowledge on creating healthy children at Pune Bhawani Peth's Patrachawl Vasti.



**The engaging workshop covered:**

**Delicious alternatives to junk food:** Students presented healthy and tempting recipes, inspiring parents to make nutritious choices for their kids.

**Interactive learning through street play:** A fun and informative street play performed by the students emphasized the importance of hygiene. Maintaining cleanliness in food preparation and surroundings.

**Family environment:** Fostering a supportive and nurturing home for children.

**Parental role:** Understanding parents' crucial role in guiding their children towards healthy habits.

**Expert guidance:** A pediatrician provided valuable insights, answered parents' questions, and addressed their concerns, ensuring they have the knowledge and confidence to make informed decisions about their children's well-being.

This effort exemplifies how community engagement can empower parents and improve children's lives.

## Applaud for budding sportsmen, prize distribution organized for KHO-KHO tournament

Under the aegis of Project Vivek Vidya initiative in Pune, Maharashtra, a prize distribution event was organised for KHO-KHO tournaments, engaging children from class 4th to 7th at various community level venues. The winning teams received acknowledgment and medals for their achievements.

Distinguished guests, Mr. Mangesh Bhalerao, sports coach & teacher from Sevasad D.Ed College graced the event. Both the guests shared valuable insights on meditation, sports, punctuality, and dedication, contributing significantly to the overall development of the participants.

Total 192 children were honored during this event. Parents and Vidya Sathis were also recognized as key contributors towards the projects. Mr. Bhalerao showcased generosity by offering to coach children without charging any fees. In addition, he also expressed his commitment to providing ongoing support to dedicated children in the future. This initiative not only promotes physical activity but also plays a crucial role in nurturing life skills among the young participants.





## Young minds make way for success and strategy

Project Vivek Vidya, a visionary project dedicated to equipping children with the tools they need to thrive, doesn't just focus on reading, writing, and math. It nurtures critical thinking, creativity, social and emotional intelligence, and the power to communicate with confidence. From 11 schools across Hyderabad, young chess enthusiasts battled it out on checkered battlefields. Project Vivek Vidya's Inter-School Chess Competition is a testament to the transformative power of education. It goes beyond textbooks and formulas, nurturing well-rounded individuals equipped with the skills to think critically, solve problems creatively, and face any challenge with confidence.



## An Inspiration to all: Pooja Galani Gaikwad, runner and cyclist

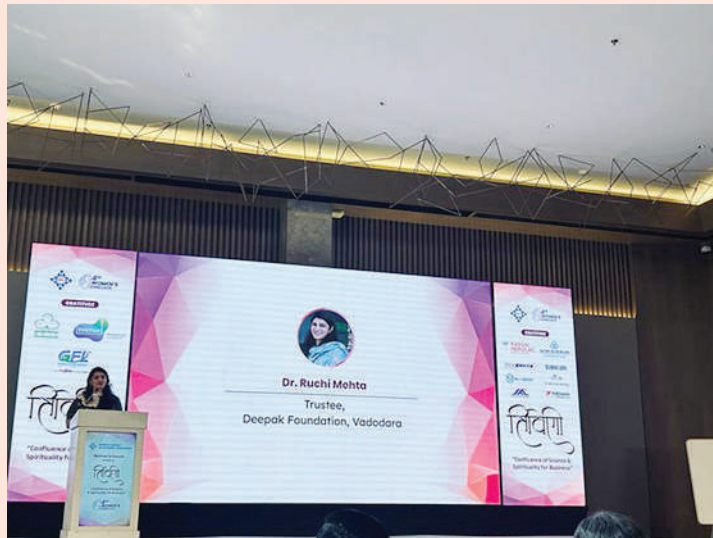
Renowned Vadodara runner and cyclist Pooja Galani Gaikwad paid a visit to Samaj Suraksha Sankul. She interacted with the students of Samaj Suraksha Sankul and Home Health Aide batch. She shared her experiences and unwavering passion for her adventure cycling. She interacted with the children, motivating them to pursue their dreams and never give up. Her first cycling expedition from Manali to Leh in July was a testament to her determination and resilience. She pushed her limits and emerged victorious, proving that anything is possible with hard work and dedication at any age. Her visit to Samaj Suraksha Sankul was also a reminder that success is not just about achieving personal goals, but also about making a positive impact on the lives of others. The students were captivated by her story and were inspired by her determination and resilience. During Ask me anything session, students asked her many questions about her training, expeditions, and her targets for the future.



## EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

### Dr. Ruchi Mehta's inaugural lecture at the 4th Women's Conclave Triveni

Lessons on resilience, leadership and patience were the core theme of Dr. Ruchi Mehta's inaugural lecture at the 4th Women's Conclave Triveni with the theme Confluence of science and spirituality for Business. Trustee, Deepak Foundation Dr. Ruchi Mehta emphasised on building an ecosystem for women for realise her dreams. The women's conclave was organised in Bharuch, Gujarat.



### Women leadership in social development sector

Director Dr. Jai Pawar has transformed the definition of women leadership in social development sector. Her vision has increased productivity, enhance collaboration, inspire organizational dedication, and improve fairness. Champion of creating more opportunities for unprivileged communities, women, challenging gender bias and stereotypes, and provide support for women to develop the necessary skills and networks. She shared her rich experiences from Social development domain at the Gujarat State Fertilizers Chemical University for the generation of tomorrow.





## EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

### GSFC University Students Dive into Community Impact at Deepak Foundation Projects in Savli & Nandesari

Giving back is also a great way to get to know your community and its citizens. When you volunteer, you can meet lots of new people. Working alongside individuals who also care about improving their surroundings will allow you to broaden your network of friends. Additionally, it will help you to better understand the circumstances of other members of your community. Having a broad, open-minded perspective of the different walks of life around you will help you to be an effective and empathetic citizen. Students contingent from GSFC University paid a visit to the project sites in Nandesari run by Deepak Foundation. They visited the Anganwadi under ICDS project, Project Vivek Vidya, Project Sangaath, Livelihood project. Students interacted with the field team members and exchanged notes.



From classrooms to communities, GSFC University students took a deep dive into the impactful work of Deepak Foundation in Savli. Their journey wasn't just about learning, it was about connecting, understanding, and making a difference. This immersive experience went beyond textbooks, broadening their perspectives and fostering empathy. They returned with not just new friends, but a commitment to making a positive impact in their own communities.

### Perna Setu initiative creates hope for SHG members

To overcome social stigmas around employment and give women the agency to break out of the shackles of subordination, entrepreneurship is an innovative and simple tool. To boost the participation of women in the entrepreneurship ecosystem, Self Help Groups are providing that platform. Deepak Foundation managed SHGs in Nandesari area came together for knowledge exchange session known as the Perna Setu series with Deepak Group's Marketing & Sales team in Nandesari area headed by Shri Girish Satarkar, Executive Director, Deepak Group. As the term Perna connotes inspiration and Setu means bridge, the core vibe of the series is to build a bridge while inspiring each other.



## Parth shines as an example, credits Sankul for his achievements

Upon arrival at the institution, Parth Makwana was enrolled in the 11th-grade commerce stream. His family was comprised of 3 brothers and 2 sisters. His mother abandoned them without any information, and his father's drinking problem made the children fearful of staying with him. His elder sister admitted the 3 brothers to Bal Gokulam Institute in the year 2010. Parth was in class 4th at that time, faced numerous hardships and worried about his bleak future. This led the child to focus on studies, resulting in a transfer from Bal Gokulam to Juvenile Children's Home (Shastri Bridge) and later to Samaj Suraksha Sankul, Deepak Foundation on in 2017.

Adapting to the new environment, the child expressed his desire to succeed but was occasionally disturbed by personal issues, hindering his progress. The counselor provided guidance and encouragement, helping the child integrate into the organization, engage in activities, and excel in endeavors such as creating a cooler from waste material.

Recognized for his diligence and conduct, he was appointed as a committee member to mentor students. Proficient in computers, he assisted with data operations, earning a stipend of Rs. 3000. Encouraged by this, he pursued further education with Sankul's support, displaying gratitude for the assistance. Additionally, he assisted in caring for younger students and managing student files, leading to being honored as the Best Student at the Annual Function and subsequently elected as President of the organization. Alongside his accomplishments at Sankul, he secured employment at Policy Pvt. Ltd., starting at Rs. 16,000 per month with a subsequent salary raise to Rs. 20,000 per month. Noteworthy achievements included owning a house in the Gotri area and diligently repaying the loan.



For any queries or suggestions, please write to us at:



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