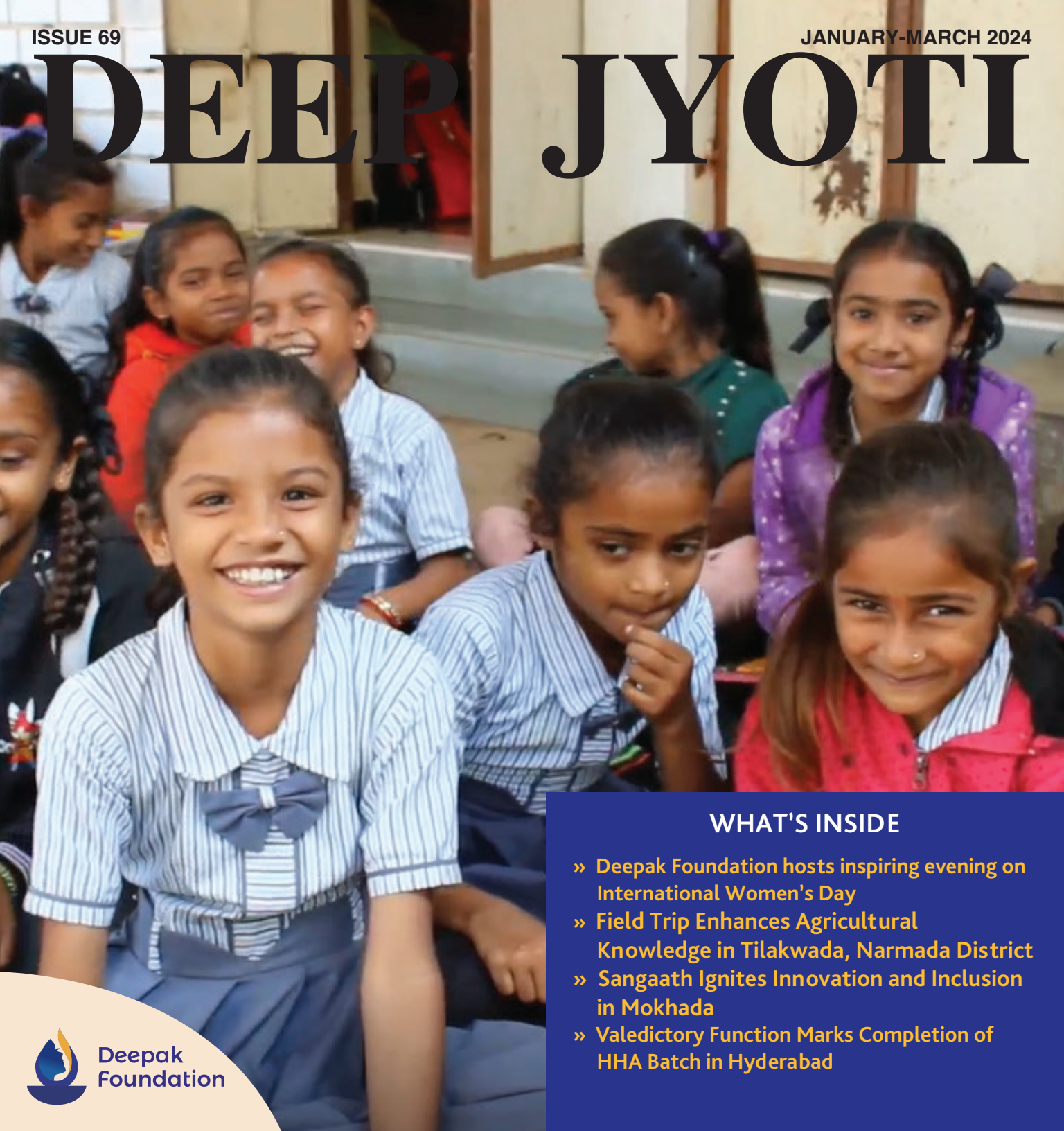


DEEP JYOTI



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Celebrating Women Empowerment: Deepak Foundation Hosts Inspiring Evening on International Women's Day



Deepak Foundation orchestrated a memorable evening on the eve of International Women's Day, dedicated to inspiring inclusion and celebrating the achievements of women from diverse backgrounds. The event brought together a wide spectrum of women, each contributing to impact and change in their respective spheres.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the **5th Smt Kantaben Mehta Memorial Awards**, honoring individuals who have demonstrated remarkable initiative, action, and impact in their endeavors. Director of Deepak Foundation, Dr. Jai Pawar, delivered her annual address, sharing insights and vision for the organization's commitment to women's empowerment.

The event was graced by the presence of Deepak Foundation Trustees, including Ms. Ila Mehta, Dr. Riddhi Mehta, and Dr. Ruchi Mehta, who added to the occasion's significance. Ms. Vatsala Patil, Former Assistant Commissioner (GST), served as the chief guest, offering words of motivation and treating attendees to melodious Garba performances.

Adding to the vibrancy of the evening, students from Samaj Suraksha Sankul captivated the audience with their energetic dance performances. Panel discussions on topics such as "Invest in

Women," "Impact for Future," and "Women for Women" provided a platform for insightful dialogue and exchange of ideas.

Distinguished panelists included Dr. Ruchi Mehta, Trustee of Deepak Foundation; Dr. Abha Chhabra, Senior Scientist at ISRO; Dr. Isha Desai, Trustee of The Wishing Factory; Dr. Jatinder Kaur, Head of UPL Sarus Conservation; Dr. Geetika Madan Patel, Vice President at Parul University; Ms. Swati Sutaria Vakharia, Founder of Nabhi Sutra; Ms. Pooja Makhija, Executive Director at phonon.io; Ms. Sushama Oza, Veteran Social Development Sector Professional; Dr. Niyati Lakhani, Medical Superintendent at GMERS; Ms. Avi Sabavala, Corporate Trainer; Dr. Sunita Upendra Sharma, Dean (I/C.) at Faculty of Management Studies, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda; and Dr. Manisha Vyas, Dean at Faculty of Science, School of Science & Technology, Vanita Vishram Women's University.

The evening served as a testament to the power of women's leadership and collaboration in driving positive change and fostering a more inclusive society. Deepak Foundation remains committed to advancing the cause of women's empowerment and creating opportunities for women to thrive and excel in all spheres of life.



Empowering Self Help Groups: Field Trip Enhances Agricultural Knowledge in Tilakwada, Narmada District

Sixty members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) from Tilakwada, Narmada district, embarked on a valuable field trip following a week of intensive training on Animal Husbandry, Vermicompost, and farming techniques. Facilitated by the HRIDAY (LIC-HFL) project, this exposure visit to the Plasticulture Development Centre in Vadodara aimed to deepen participants' understanding of the concepts learned during their training.

The field trip provided SHG members with a firsthand experience of innovative agricultural practices and technologies. At the Plasticulture Development Centre, they had the opportunity to witness modern farming techniques, including plasticulture, drip irrigation, and greenhouse cultivation. Through guided tours and interactive sessions, participants gained insights into the application of these techniques in real-world agricultural settings.



The exposure visit not only reinforced the theoretical knowledge gained during the training but also equipped SHG members with practical skills and strategies to enhance their agricultural practices. By witnessing successful agricultural models and learning from experts in the field, participants were empowered to confidently apply their newfound knowledge and abilities. Furthermore, the field trip served as a catalyst for networking and collaboration among SHG members, fostering a sense of community and shared learning. By exchanging ideas and experiences, participants were able to explore innovative approaches to agriculture and identify opportunities for collaboration and growth.

Overall, the exposure visit to the Plasticulture Development Centre proved to be a valuable and enriching experience for SHG members from Tilakwada. Armed with enhanced knowledge and skills, they are now better equipped to contribute to a more sustainable and productive future for themselves and their communities.



Sangaath Ignites Innovation and Inclusion in Mokhada, District Palghar, Maharashtra

Innovation, impact, and inclusion took center stage as the Sangaath team from Gujarat and Maharashtra convened for an inspiring envisioning workshop in Mokhada, District Palghar, Maharashtra. This gathering epitomized the essence of Sangaath – a platform dedicated to fostering positive change and empowering communities. During the workshop, participants delved deep into the project's achievements, reflecting on past success and exploring avenues for future growth. The atmosphere buzzed with energy as ideas were exchanged, and innovative approaches to community empowerment were brainstormed. A key focus of the workshop was to maximize value for participants by connecting them with relevant government schemes and resources. By leveraging these opportunities, the Sangaath team aims to ensure that community members derive maximum benefit from the initiatives undertaken. Furthermore, the workshop emphasized the importance of building bridges and forging strong linkages within the community. These connections are essential for sustaining long-term impact and fostering a culture of collaboration and support.



Energized by the learnings and inspired by Mokhada's success stories, the Sangaath team emerged from the workshop with renewed determination. Armed with fresh ideas and a shared vision, they are poised to unleash a wave of innovation and drive positive change in the communities they serve. The workshop in Mokhada served as a testament to the transformative power of collaboration and collective action. Through Sangaath, individuals from diverse backgrounds and regions come together to create a brighter, more inclusive future for all.

Empowering Communities through Pulses Cultivation: A Success Story from Mokhada

In line with the 2024 theme of 'Pulses: Nourishing Soils and People,' a remarkable achievement in promoting and cultivating pulses has emerged from the tribal villages of Mokhada block in Palghar District. This success story is attributed to the Integrated Village Development Project (IVDP), a collaborative effort between JM Financial Foundation and Deepak Foundation. Championing the cultivation of pulses such as Chickpea and Pigeon pea, this initiative not only enhances soil health but also provides rich nutrition to communities. These pulses, known for their resilience and commercial value, have become the cornerstone of agricultural transformation in the region.



The strategy of Chickpea and Pigeon Pea Cultivation as residual moisture crops has been instrumental in leveraging post-rainy season conditions in paddy fields. This innovative approach not only generates additional income for farmers but also addresses malnutrition by providing essential nutrients to families. Moreover, these pulses play a crucial role in enhancing soil fertility through nitrogen fixation, contributing to sustainable agricultural practices.

The results speak volumes about the impact of this initiative:

- Households covered under pulses promotion: 944
- Land Cultivated: 312.25 acres
- Cumulative Yield: 466 Quintals
- Net Profit: INR 22.51 lakh

Celebrating Success: Valedictory Function Marks Completion of HHA Batch in Hyderabad

In a heartwarming celebration of achievement, the valedictory function for the Home Health Aide (HHA) batch of the year 2023-24 was organized in Hyderabad, Telangana. The event was attended by esteemed guests, including Dr. Anita Gero, representatives from the DNL team, SHE Team from Medchal District, Dr. Kavitha (an HHA alumni), community leaders, and members of the Deepak Foundation team.

The atmosphere was filled with pride and joy as students showcased their learnings from the program through engaging skits and songs centered around Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) practices. These creative presentations not only demonstrated the students' understanding of crucial health and hygiene concepts but also served as a source of inspiration for the audience. A highlight of the event was the distribution of Completion Certificates to the outgoing batch of HHA students. This momentous occasion not only recognized their hard work and dedication throughout the program but also marked the beginning of a new chapter in their journey as qualified Home Health Aides.

As the valedictory function concluded, it left behind a sense of accomplishment and optimism for the future. The success of the HHA batch of 2023-24 serves as a testament to the impact of education and training in healthcare, and highlights the continued commitment of organizations like Deepak Foundation towards building a healthier and more empowered society.



Project Samanvay is motivating rural communities in Vadodara

60 Self Help Group (SHG) members from Charanpura Village, Vadodara completed a 7-day training program focused on livelihood-based skill development. This valuable initiative equipped them with knowledge and techniques in Animal Husbandry & Vermicomposting.

These newfound skills will inspire SHG members to generate income and build a more sustainable future for themselves and their families. Funded by Deepak Phenolics Limited and implemented by Deepak Foundation.



EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

National Conference on Anemia and Nutrition Addresses Critical Health Concerns

In a concerted effort to tackle the pervasive issue of anemia and its complex relationship with nutrition, the National Conference on Anemia and Nutrition convened a diverse panel of experts in Vadodra, Gujarat. The conference, which took place over the course of several days, aimed to illuminate the path towards eradicating anemia through comprehensive understanding and actionable strategies.



At the forefront of the conference were distinguished panelists who engaged in dynamic discussions on various facets of anemia and its underlying causes. The first panel, led by Dr. Hemangini Gandhi, brought together experts from diverse fields to explore the root causes of anemia, the power of personalized treatment plans, and the broader societal factors influencing its prevalence.

The panelists, including former ACS Shri. A. M. Tiwari, Dr. Upendra Gandhi, Dr. Shweta Khandelwal, Dr. Yuvraj Singh Jadeja, and Dr. Kaumudi Joshipura, shared valuable insights gleaned from their extensive experience in public health, medicine, and academia. They emphasized the importance of understanding the scientific underpinnings of different types of anemia, such as iron deficiency and genetic predispositions, while also advocating for holistic interventions that address economic disparities, limited healthcare access, and cultural practices.



Dr. Hemangini Gandhi, as the moderator, skillfully guided the discussion, ensuring that diverse perspectives were heard and constructive dialogue flourished. The panelists' presentations and discussions sparked critical thinking and inspired attendees to consider innovative approaches to combating anemia at both individual and societal levels.



The conference concluded with a renewed sense of purpose and commitment among attendees to collaborate towards effective solutions for anemia and malnutrition. As the fight against anemia continues, the insights shared at this conference serve as a beacon of hope for improved health outcomes and a brighter future for communities affected by this critical health concern.

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Project Sangaath Honored with Excellence Award at CSR Convention

Project Sangaath, a collaborative effort between Deepak Foundation and Deepak Group, has received widespread acclaim by winning the prestigious Excellence Award in the Rural Development & Infrastructure Initiative Category at the CSR Convention held on February 17th, 2024. This recognition, bestowed by the Sakshamthad Foundation, Parul University, and HelpAge India, underscores Project Sangaath's remarkable contributions to community development and positive transformation in rural areas.

The award is a testament to Project Sangaath's outstanding efforts in establishing vibrant and sustainable communities, driven by a commitment to long-term solutions in critical sectors such as education, healthcare, infrastructure, and livelihoods. Through active engagement and ownership, Project Sangaath has produced significant results that have enhanced the lives of countless individuals and paved the way for a brighter future.

Ms. Smita Maniar, Head of R&D at Deepak Foundation, graciously accepted the award on behalf of the Foundation, alongside the dedicated Sangaath team. Their unwavering dedication and tireless efforts have not only earned them this prestigious accolade but also reaffirmed Deepak Foundation and Deepak Group's ongoing commitment to exemplary CSR endeavors.

This recognition serves as a testament to the power of teamwork, determination, and collaboration in effecting meaningful change. As Project Sangaath continues its mission to improve the lives of communities and promote equitable and sustainable development, this award serves as a motivating force to strive for even greater heights of excellence.

Deepak Foundation remains steadfast in its dedication to creating a more equitable and sustainable society, and this award is a testament to their unwavering commitment to this noble cause.



From 11th Grader to Home Health Hero: Alpa's Inspirational Journey

In a tale that encapsulates the power of determination and the transformative journey of self-discovery, Alpa Prajapati emerges as a shining example of resilience and passion. From her humble beginnings as an 11th grader to her current role as a confident and independent Home Health Aide, Alpa's journey is a testament to the possibilities that unfold when one follows their heart.

Alpa's story goes beyond mere academic pursuit; it's a narrative of finding purpose and shaping a meaningful career path. Motivated by the encouragement of friends, she embarked on the challenging yet rewarding journey of becoming a Home Health Aide. Fueled by curiosity and a genuine desire to help others, Alpa immersed herself in the course, viewing each lesson and practical session as a stepping stone towards her personal growth. However, the road to success was not without its obstacles. Yet, Alpa's unwavering determination and resilience propelled her forward. With the unwavering support of her instructors and the camaraderie of her fellow students, she navigated through challenges and emerged stronger than ever.

The pinnacle of Alpa's journey came during her internship – a real-world test of her newfound skills and capabilities. Here, she demonstrated not only her competence in caring for patients but also her innate ability to provide comfort and support during times of need. The sense of responsibility that came with her role further fueled her passion, affirming her calling as a caregiver.

Today, Alpa stands as a transformed individual – not merely a qualified Home Health Aide, but a beacon of independence and confidence. Her journey serves as an inspiration to all, reminding us that with courage, determination, and the right support, we have the power to unlock our potential and build fulfilling careers that make a profound impact on the lives of others. Alpa's story resonates as a testament to the limitless possibilities that await when we dare to pursue our passions and embrace the journey of self-discovery.



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



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