

# AURA **notes**

A Window to our World

Dec 2023 - Feb 2024 Vol 3, Issue 8

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**We nurture marginalized children and youth, to  
become  
creative, connected and compassionate leaders**

## Editor's Note!

We **clocked 14,032 learning hours in the last 3 months**, the highest in the last few years. None of this would have been possible without the relentless dedication of our incredible team of interns and volunteers - their hard work and commitment has been of tremendous support for our work with children, youth, and teachers.

Cheers to another season of captivating work, exciting learning discoveries, and joyous celebrations!



Inauguration of Annual Learning Fair - '*Nana Pagla Motti Chalaang*' by Mr. Ashutosh Roy, Mr. Alok Rathi, Mr. Alpesh Patel (Dignitaries from RISHI FIBC) and Ms. Jagruti Gala (Founder)



Students proudly share their year-long journey of self transformation with representatives from the Faculty of Social Work, Illa Pandya, Kavita Sindhav and Ushma Modi



**Taral Patel**, director, Voltamp Transformers Ltd., interacting with the students at the stalls



Students ready to showcase the work in their respective booths



20 girls from Sambhav (rural) were appreciated and recognized for their efforts to support the community



An interactive session on SEL (Social Emotional Learning) was conducted at Baroda Productivity Council for the mentors of various programs



Dr. M.N. Parmar, Dean of the Faculty of Social Work, Parul University, signed a MOU with AURA for deeper impact-based interventions with the youth.



An immersive experience for children as they see the various exhibits in Science City, at Ahmedabad

## Highlights

- A learning excursion was organized to the **Science City Ahmedabad** for **57 children of the Halol center**. This was an opportunity to nurture their creativity, spark curiosity, and inspire a lifelong love for science and technology



- **Team AURA** connected with the [Baroda Citizen's Council](#) to collaborate for two separate sessions. **60 children** participated in a self awareness workshop, while **20 project managers** experienced a seminar on **Effective Heartful Communication**
- Celebrated the successful completion of a year-long journey with Sambhav for **8 girls** from Tarkhanda in the Halol region.
- Signed an **MOU** to conduct more in-depth work on social-emotional learning and self-leadership with students at **The Faculty of Social Work, Parul University**
- **More than 700 children** attended the annual outreach learning fair, **Nana Pagla Motti Chalaang** in Ranu. The occasion was graced by many dignitaries representing different organizations of Baroda
- **24 students** from the Faculty of Social Work, MSU volunteered their time and energy towards the learning fair



Celebrating the culmination of the learning fair- **Nana Pagla Motti Chalaang**. Seen in the picture is the AURA team, group of volunteers and interns



Children outside the Science City in Ahmedabad



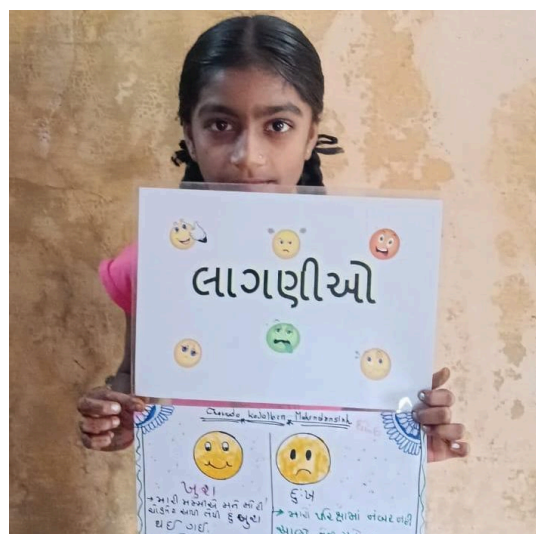
Swayampak, a multi-dimensional development experience where children learn life skills through peer interaction and group learning

## Sarjan for Children

- Children at Sarjan Lab explored **learning styles** and **emotions** to understand and recognize emotions and lay the groundwork for **managing emotions**
- The senior group explored empathy and resilience so that they can build a **positive feedback loop**, **strengthen their ability to navigate challenges**, and **build meaningful relationships**
- **Multi-Dimensional Development** was included through various experiences such as **field visits**, **hands-on activities**, and organizing of **sports day event**



Children in the Sports Day event held at Halol center



Self expression on the understanding of emotions

## Sambhav for Youth



- **8 youth girls** from Halol **successfully completed** their year-long self leadership journey
- Orientation workshop was conducted for more than **60** executive members of the **16 girls hostel of Baroda** at the **Pandita Gargi Hall** - This was in collaboration with Halls of Residence, MSU and National Service Scheme (NSS)
- **Power of resilience** was the topic for recent workshop that was conducted in February with a group of 15 youth
- Signed an **MOU** with the Faculty of Social Work, **Parul University** for deeper self-leadership work with the students
- In **February** Sambhav team along with Altaf and Jagruti met to discuss the **next steps**
- Group of 7 volunteers gather regularly to ideate and create spaces for the youth to connect, in the **Youth Adda project**



Sambhav group was excited to share appreciation cards to 20 girls who have been part of the year-long work in Tarkhanda, Halol



54 executive members from 16 girls hostel participated in a session to experience a glimpse of Sambhav



The Sambhav Team met on a Sunday in the month of February to discuss the way forward



Pair share discussion on what it means to be resilient at a Sambhav workshop

## ***Intern to Impact***

*In this busy and fast living era the only thing I miss is working upon ONESELF; knowing your inner self and hearing your inner voices. AURA helped me to start working upon myself through helping others. I define my journey where SAMVAD has enhanced my confidence, leading to achieve essential SARJANS and an inner harmony that made everything SAMBHAV through working upon every aspect which oneself aspires to achieve, but struggle to accomplish.*

***- Dev Thakur, Jr, Mhrm,***

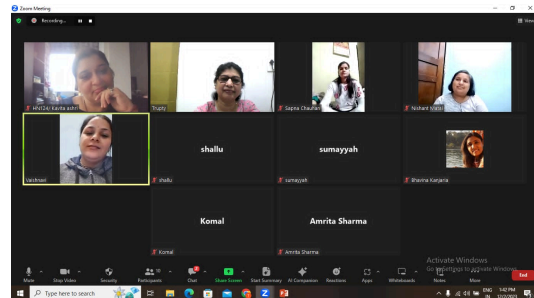
***Faculty of Social Work, MSU and an Intern at AURA***

## **Sarai for Teachers**

- **8 online sessions** have been completed with the teacher group from **Sarv Saarthi Foundation**. As the year comes to an end, each teacher will create a project that will address the social-emotional needs of the students
- Happy to share that AURA will be training teachers from [Shram Mandir Trust](#) and **Arpan Trust** in the coming year
- Organized a workshop on **Effective Heartful Communication** with project managers of Baroda Citizens Council



Participants were encouraged to engage in a pair-share assignment to break the initial barriers at the BCC workshop



Online workshop in progress with the teachers of the Sarv Saarthi Foundation

## **Outreach for more than 600 children**

Ranu - Kanyashala (girls) Primary School; Kumarshala (boys) Primary School; Narsipura - Narsipura (co-ed) Primary School

***Nana Pagla Motti Chalaang*** was a one-of-a-kind learning mela (fair) organized in collaboration with Rishi FIBC to give an opportunity to the children from the above schools to exhibit and share the year-long learning in their own words.

The mela was attended by key stakeholders, principals from various government schools, professors from the Faculty of Social Work Department, NGOs, and students from MSU.

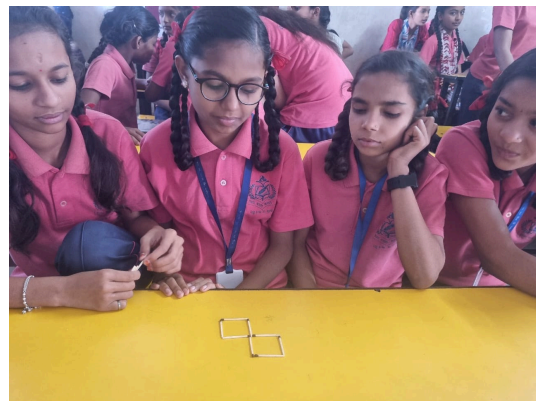
Themes were allotted to each group:

- **Self-awareness - theme for Grade 5**
- **Power of Resilience - theme for Grade 6,7,8**
- **Self Identity - theme for Grade 9**

Here is the [link](#) to some captured moments of the event. Visit [AURA's Instagram page](#) to see more videos from that day.



Children sharing their 5 coping strategies in difficult times



Encouraging creativity by exploring alternative approaches through creative and critical thinking activities

## Other Events

### What else is happening . . .

- **12 interns** are part of the internship experience at AURA. They are from Maharaja Sayajirao University and Parul University
- Interns from the Faculty of Human Development Family Studies designed and implemented social-emotional learning sessions for children of Grades 6, 7, & 8 at a government school

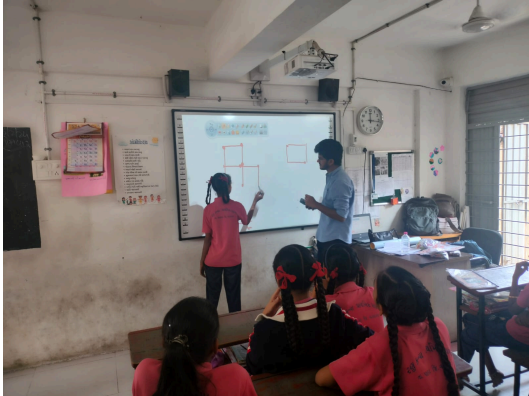




HDFS interns with students of Grade 8 at Gayatri Vidhyalay



Glimpses of children's work



**Rishabh**, a product design student, has been volunteering his time for the sessions at Ranu. His connection and contribution in the implementation of the critical thinking sessions with the children has been remarkable



**Giulia**, a student from the University of Trento, Italy, volunteered her time connecting with children and understanding the work better. Despite facing language differences difficulties, Giulia connected with the students

## Learning Hours

### AURA clocked 14,032 learning hours in the last 3 months

AURA focuses on deep transformation which is a factor of time and high-quality learning inputs. Our interventions are effective because our learners get a generous and intense dose of time in which to explore, experience, experiment, and be empowered.

This is all for now! We would love to hear from you, write to us with your comments at [connect@auraplace.com](mailto:connect@auraplace.com)

As Maya Angelou says, "*be present in all things and thankful for all things,*" deep gratitude to our trustees, patrons, and well-wishers who believe in this work and are the pillars of our foundation.





Awareness • Understanding • Reflection • Action



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