

AURA **notes**

A Window to our World

December 2024 - February 2025 Vol 4, Issue 12

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



Editor's Note

In the past few months, Sarai, AURA's Train-the-Trainer program, partnered with five organizations to train around 100 teachers. The training focused on the importance of social-emotional learning (SEL) and its impact on students' emotional well-being. Teachers were equipped to recognize and address students' emotional needs, improve classroom dynamics, build positive relationships, and support students' personal growth. Kudos to the team led by Trupty, along with Gouri and Radhika.



Children from Halol Center immerse themselves in the history and leadership stories at the **Statue of Unity** during their educational visit



Sambhav Youth in Action (SYIA) workshop in progress. Participants bring their voices through facilitated group discussions

Highlights

- A learning visit to the **Statue of Unity** was organized for children at the Halol Center. They discovered the rich history and were inspired by the legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's leadership, realizing the profound strength of unity.
- Team AURA and the **Baroda Citizen's Council** teamed up to deliver **10 workshops** in **10 schools** in Vadodara, enhancing students' self-awareness and emotional well-being.
- In collaboration with the **Udayan Shalini Foundation** (Vadodara), Sambhav conducted a series of workshops for **20 youths**, exploring self-awareness and interpersonal relationships.
- With two workshops conducted, **18 youth** enrolled in Sambhav's "**Tap the Mirror**" series are progressing in their journey of self and interpersonal discovery.
- **14 Educators** from Shram Mandir Trust and Arpan Trust have successfully completed their "**Train the Trainer**" program.
- December marked the conclusion of the **ARK Foundation's** year-long "**Teachers as Learners**" series, which provided educators with a clear understanding of arts integration through interactive workshops.



In the frame: The Sarjan team is at training, developing their social-emotional competencies



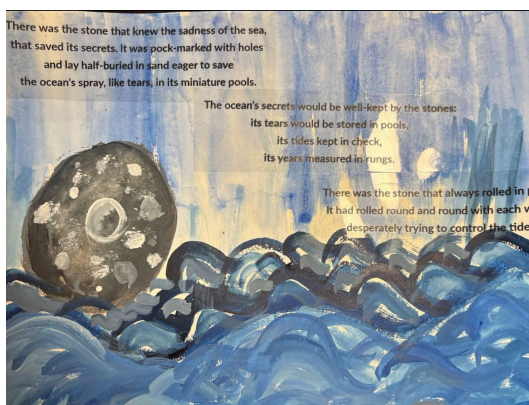
Interactive group discussion with youth from **Udayan Shalini Foundation** during Sambhav's introductory session



Children at the Halol Center celebrate Republic Day through expressive dance and drama performances



Children from 10 government schools from Makarpura, Vadodara, participate in self-awareness sessions conducted by Team Sarjan in collaboration with the **Baroda Citizen's Council**



Visuals of the art expressions from the workshop, showcasing educators' unique perspectives organized by Ark Foundation

Sarjan for Children

- Sarjan Lab children explored **mindfulness** and **emotional awareness** to equip children with the tools they need for emotional resilience, healthy relationships, and a **strong sense of self**.
- **Multi-dimensional development** was included through various experiences, such as **educational visits**, **hands-on activities**, and organizing a tree plantation workshop.
- AURA intern **Remanika**, with support from Sambhav Youth in Action's **Team Paryavaran**, conducted a session at Halol Center about the importance of **tree plantation and environment**.
- Halol Center children learned about good touch and bad touch - a session conducted by Sambhav Youth in Action's **Team Surakshit Bachpan**. This empowered them to **recognize boundaries** and report harmful situations, creating a safer environment



Visual representation of session in progress at Tarkhanda Center



Children involved in a brainstorming activity to express their ideas without fear of judgment and encourage collaboration



Group discussion facilitated by Remanika, on building environmental awareness



Parent - Educator meeting at Tarkhanda Center



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



Team Surakshit Bachpan at Halol Center; emphasizing importance of healthy boundaries

Sambhav for Youth

- Over three months, **115 youths** were reached through various Sambhav programs.
- We're excited to share that Sambhav teamed up with the [Udayan Shalini Foundation](#) for a **three-month workshop series**. These facilitator-led sessions helped youth deepen their self-understanding, connect better with others, and build healthier relationships.

- **18 youth** enrolled for the series "**Tap the Mirror**" workshops empowering individuals through emotional awareness, confidence building.
- Organized an **Open Mic Night** at Savitri Urban Food Forest, providing youth with a platform at Youth Adda to express their thoughts in an engaging environment.
- With **12 projects** in their final phase and **4 full-day** workshops completed, Sambhav Youth in Action is getting ready to share with you the difference they're making . **Stay tuned for our upcoming issue!**
- To expand visibility and reach diverse audiences, Sambhav participated in the three-day "**Be Here Now**" **eco-art festival** organized at Savitri Urban Food Forest.

[Click to view glimpses from Youth Adda \(Open Mic Night\)](#)



"This experience taught me to accept setbacks and failures and use them as opportunities for growth. On a deeper level, I connected with myself in a way I hadn't before. It was challenging for me to work with children, but through my project, my perspective has been entirely transformed."

- Rishita Sharma
(Sambhav Youth in Action Participant)



Glimpse from Youth Adda: Open Mic Night



Participants understanding 'Empathy' through roleplay during session



Participants during pair share activity at SYIA workshop



Conversation Circle: Youth actively participating in group discussion

Participants engaged in a team-building activity during the workshop, with a focus on understanding group dynamics



"Tap the Mirror" workshop: Active listening and sharing in small groups.



Team Goal: Taking sports to underprivileged children



Sambhav's interactive booth at "Be Here Now" eco art festival

Sarai for Educators

- Educators from **Arpan Trust** and **Shram Mandir Trust** completed their 4-month journey with the [Train the Trainer program](#).
- An orientation session on self-discovery and community building was organized for a team of **17 social workers** from **United Way of Baroda**.
- Conducted educator training session at Amrit Vidyalaya (Kalol) to support personal and professional growth.
- **Ranu Teacher Training:** A **3-hour** teacher training session for the Ranu Outreach Team is organized **each month**, offering **hands-on support, observations, and feedback** to help improve their skills. A total of **12 teachers and 9 interns** participate in the training sessions. The training for developing the necessary knowledge, skills, and attitude to implement the SEL approach in the classroom is provided through **experiences, practices, and discussions**.

"Never thought about myself this way before. Sarai's activity of describing "Who am I" made me think about who I want to be as a Leader and how I can better manage my team"- Nilam, Executive Director, United Way



Listening actively to each other as educators



Expressing self through creative activities



Sarai session in progress with educators at Arpan trust



Educators collaborating in pairs during the Sarai session

Outreach for more than 600 children

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

- **Grade 5** students explored **emotions**, learning to identify and understand them while practicing mindfulness. This helps them **manage their feelings** better, which is important for learning and getting along with others.
- **Grade 6** students explored the **traits of friendship**, how to build strong **family relationships**, and the ability to bounce back from challenges (**resilience**). These skills are crucial for **navigating social situations** and **building a strong support system**, which helps them thrive both in and out of school.
- **Grades 7 and 8** focused on building strong relationships. They learned how to **communicate effectively**, **solve disagreements peacefully**, and work together. This helps them understand how to support each other and create a positive environment.

Samvad - Grade 9 Shri Sarvajanik High School, Ranu;
Grade 9 to 12 Shree Sarvoday Highschool, Latipura

- **Self-identity is the topic being explored by over 400 teens** from two high schools in Ranu and Latipura. Teens with a strong sense of identity make healthy choices and have a positive outlook. They are also better equipped to handle challenges, such as peer pressure and academic stress



Session in progress at Kanya Prathamik Shala, Ranu



Facilitating dialogue for better understanding



Students during a Samvad session



Children at Narsipura Prathamik Shala engaged in small group activity



Session in progress: Sarjan team conducting interactive sessions

Internship at AURA

- **9 interns** from the Faculty of Social Work, The Maharaja Sayajirao University and **5 interns** from the Faculty of Social Work, Parul University, join the team.

- Remanika, an undergraduate student in Corporate Communications from O.P. Jindal Global University in Sonipat, joined AURA for a month-long internship in supporting with the Social Media.
- The internship at AURA provides interns with a comprehensive experience working with diverse age groups across various programs. They gain in-depth knowledge of social emotional learning modules by actively participating in the team training sessions, and contribute in the implementation.
- **16 students** from Maharaja Sayajirao University and Parul University were introduced to AURA's **2-hour experiential session** as a part of their collateral visit.



Interns are actively engaging in AURA's programs, contributing significantly to its mission



Students from Maharaja Sayajirao University and Parul University during their collateral visit



Jr. MHRM interns are working diligently behind the scenes supporting with SYIA documentation

Learning Hours

AURA clocked 12,596 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

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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