

AURA **notes**

A Window to our World

June - August 2024 Vol 4, Issue 10

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

Editor's Note!

Happy to step into the year with renewed energy and enthusiasm, ready to embrace new challenges and creating impact as we move along.



Sambhav, Youth adda in progress at the [Rock Soul Cafe!](#) Participants bringing their voice through facilitated group discussions



Sarjan outreach in-house training for facilitators, volunteers, and interns



Sarai works closely with teachers to build a learning space where students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally



Sarai team expanding the mission by incorporating social-emotional learning for the teachers of Shram Mandir Trust, Amrit Vidyalaya and Arpan Trust



College orientations of Sambhav to promote active participation and interaction



Samvaad, introducing the work of self at Latipura high school

Highlights

- Happy to share that we are back in the field and our work has grown deeper and wider as we connect, engage, and support more than **200 adolescents** to build resilience and navigate challenges for overall development
- A dedicated group of **10 mothers** became part of the Sarjan outreach team, volunteering their time throughout the year
- **Voltamp Transformers Limited** partnered with Sambhav to promote its mission and expand the impact
- Organised **3 Youth Addas** at three different locations in Vadodara over three months
- Introduced **Conversation Circle** - an extension for Youth Adda for more in-depth discussions
- Sambhav introduced a project this year on August 15, **Sambhav Youth in Action**. This project aims to support social initiatives by providing resources and mentorship to young entrepreneurs with impactful ideas
- Sarai is all set to embark on a year-long journey to cultivate mindfulness and self-awareness with teachers of **Shram Mandir Trust, Arpan Trust and Amrit Vidyalaya**



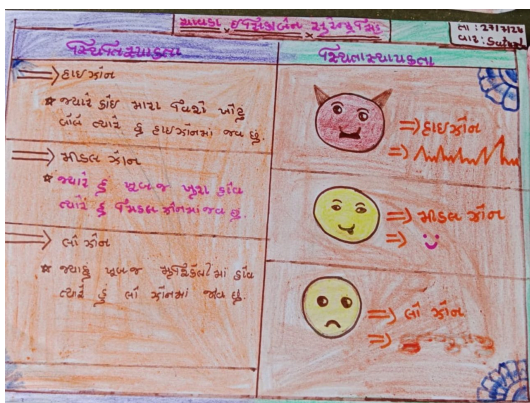
Visual representation of session in progress at Tarkhanda center



Through multi-dimensional activities such as gardening, children learn about environment and sustainability

Sarjan for Children

- Children at Sarjan Lab have been exploring the depths of **empathy**, **resilience** and **responsible decision-making**. They are learning to connect with others and understand the power of compassion.
- Social connections help kids learn empathy, communication, and collaboration. Children explored how these bonds foster growth and **resilience**, helping them develop the social skills they need to thrive.
- Children have fun learning to be creative at [Ark Foundation's art workshops](#) led by Subha De.



A child's expression of resilience



Children engaged in mindful activity at Arl studio



Develop communication and cooperation skills through pair work



Pair work to explore the value of strong bonds

Sambhav for Youth

- Reached out to **108 youths** in the last three months through Youth Adda, Sambhav Youth in Action and Sambhav Level 1: Foundational Stage (facilitator-led sessions)
- Connected with **120 students** from the **First Year BMSW, MSW, and Jr. MHRM** programs in the [Faculty of Social Work at MSU](#) through Sambhav orientations

- A two-day self-awareness workshop for **110 social work** students at [Parul University](#). The workshop included both international and domestic students
- At Youth Adda, participants expressed themselves through activities like painting, and self-collages and were introduced to **Wabi-Sabi**, a Japanese philosophy that celebrates individuality
- Facilitated two **Conversation Circles**, providing a space for deeper and more meaningful discussions. These conversation circles were introduced in response to feedback from regular youth adda participants who desired more in-depth conversations about self, self and others, and community
- Started the foundational course with **18 girls** at Tarkhanda, Halol. The first session intended to reconnect and build the group for the coming year

Sambhav is thrilled to announce the launch of [Sambhav Youth in Action](#). This project is empowering 51 youths from Vadodara, Halol and Tarkhanda village to turn their vision to reality. This project will be providing detailed guidance regarding the various aspects of running a venture, such as planning, budgeting, leadership, communication, and team management, with the primary aim of creating a set of assertive, impactful leaders.

[Click to view glimpses from Youth Adda event](#)



"I joined Youth Adda to step outside my comfort zone. The team here is welcoming and created a safe space for us to share our thoughts. Interacting with diverse individuals and learning new things helped me gain a better understanding of myself."

- Suzzan Patel
(Youth Adda Participant)



A workshop at Parul to celebrate differences and appreciate similarities



Conversation circles - a space for deeper meaningful discussions



Movie screening of "Laapata Ladies" at Tarkhanda



Sambhav Level 1 session in progress at Tarkhanda



Icebreaking activity at Youth Adda organized in a dance studio



Initial screenings of Sambhav Youth in Action projects

Sarai for Teachers

- [Sarai](#) will lead teachers from Shram Mandir Trust, Arpan Trust and Amrit Vidyalaya to embark on a learning journey to cultivate mindfulness and self-awareness



Listening actively to each other as teachers participate in pair-share exercise



Sarai session in progress with teachers of Kumar Prathamik Shala, Ranu

Outreach for more than 600 children

Ranu - Kanyashala (girls) Primary School; Kumarshala (boys) Primary School;

Narsipura - Narsipura (co-ed) Primary School

- **Grade 5** students learn to collaborate effectively to build a **positive classroom culture**, and develop their focus and observational skills
- **Grade 6, 7, and 8** students learn to **identify and utilize** their learning styles for more effective and enjoyable learning experiences. They also develop attention to detail through focused observation exercises
- Students **develop active listening skills and empathy** to improve communication and interpersonal relationships. They also **express their ideas and thoughts clearly**

Samvad - **Grade 9th Shri Sarvajanik High School, Ranu;**

Grade 9 to 12th Shree Sarvoday Highschool, Latipura

- **Self Identity** is the topic being explored with more than **200 teens** from two high schools in Ranu and Latipura. Teens who have a strong sense of identity make healthy choices and have a positive outlook on life. They are also better equipped to handle challenges, such as peer pressure and academic stress



Create a positive classroom culture to build strong connections with peers



Pair-share to enable children to develop valuable communication and collaboration skills



Encourage creativity by exploring creative and critical thinking activities



Year-Long Identity Exploration: First session with Students of Grade 9 to 12th Shree Sarvodaya Highschool, Latipura

Students practice mindful centering techniques to enhance their concentration, creativity, and overall well-being



Adolescents participate in calming activity to help them focus and be present

Internship at AURA

- 10 interns from the Faculty of Social Work, The Maharaja Sayajirao University join the team
- 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



Students from the Faculty of Social Work supporting small group dialogue

Learning Hours

AURA clocked 7522 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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