

AURA notes

A Window to our World

Mar 2024 - May 2024 Vol 3, Issue 9

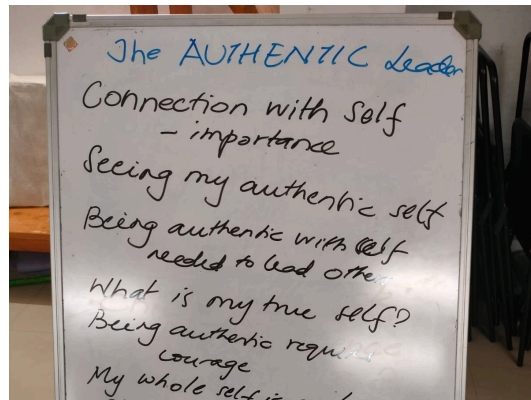
**We nurture marginalized children and youth, to
become
creative, connected and compassionate leaders**

Editor's Note!

Closing out the year with our last newsletter for the year 2023-2024. The last 3 months has been about wrapping up - tidying up the space, getting ready for the new year - team trainings, writing proposals, crafting budgets for programs and onboarding new members into the group. We accumulated **10,634 hours** in the last three months of the academic year. Collectively, we look forward to creating a deeper and wider impact in the community.



Sambhav Team huddle to set a plan for next year



Team training on leadership - 'The Authentic Leader'



One-day teacher training program in collaboration with Tesco Foundation



Mindful photography session facilitated and designed by Ami Gandhi at Sarjan Lab (Halol)



15 children embarked on an exposure visit to the Ark Foundation, where they were engaged in a storytelling session followed by art interpretation workshop led by Subha De



Sambhav recognized its participants by presenting appreciation cards for their commitment and involvement during the course of the year-long workshops



AURA welcomes **Meghna** and **Amreen** at AURA as a part of our team



AURA mentors explored self-expression and communication through art at a powerful and engaging workshop at the Ark Foundation



Interns from Jr. MHRM (MSU) represented AURA at an [NGO fair](#) hosted by the Faculty of Social Work (MSU)



Highlights

- We celebrate the successful **culmination** of our projects as we bid farewell to a year brimming with accomplishments
- **Sarjan Lab** children got an opportunity to experience two interactive workshops; one on **photography** and the other on **art and storytelling**
- AURA participated in the **NGO fair** at Faculty of Social Work, MSU
- **Sambhav's** reach has been growing through **Youth Adda events**
- **Tecso Global Foundation** invited **Sarai team** to lead a one-day training session for their educators
- AURA is excited to **welcome two new members on board**
- New projects and opportunities on the horizon for **Sarjan, Sarai, and Sambhav as we step into the new year**



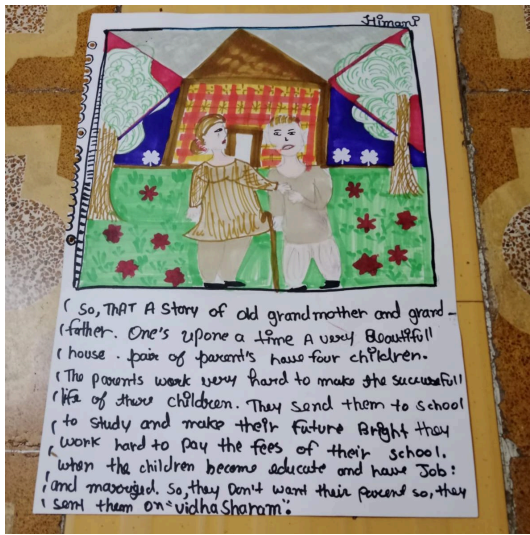
As part of the summer workshop, children at Sarjan Lab explored creativity through painting



Movie Screening: "*I am Kalam*," was viewed by the children to inspire the group to explore their ideas, dreams, and aspirations, while also promoting discussion and reflection on important themes and messages portrayed in the film.

Sarjan for Children

- Fostering **resilience** and social skills by enabling children to explore themes of **relationship with self and others** to overcome challenges
- Sarjan Lab's children had a fulfilling summer, exploring the art of **storytelling** and **art interpretation** at the **Ark Foundation**, while also discovering a new passion for **mindful photography**
- In celebration of **Earth Day**, the children showed their eco-awareness by cleaning the AURA center, organizing materials, and watering the plants



A child's interpretation of the storytelling workshop at the Ark Foundation



Fostering valuable social skills and cooperation among children through group work



Transforming learning into a fun and engaging experience for children through audio-visual aids



Exploring the value of strong bonds and connections with others

Sambhav for Youth

- Sambhav series of standalone workshops concluded with a Visioning session focused on enabling the youth to create a roadmap to better understand how they could make a meaningful contribution in the world
- Connected Vadodara's youth with Sambhav's mission through two engaging Youth Adda sessions at **Kamati Garden** and **Times Cafe** (Gotri)
- A dedicated team of young volunteers joins forces at Sambhav to spread its vision of nurturing connected and compassionate leaders

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



Sambhav sessions helped me open up in so many ways. I learned the importance of patience, accepting others' ideas, and bringing my best effort to any situation. Additionally, I discovered how vulnerability can build deeper connections and understanding with others. This experience has made me feel more open, comfortable, and able to express my thoughts and feelings. As a result, I've gained greater clarity in my life.

- Jasleen Kaur Sawhney

(First Year Social Work Student, MSU)



In April, the Youth Adda was organized on Sunday morning, in the open at Kamati Garden creating an energetic space for self-awareness work



May Youth Adda - Art with Heart organized at Times Cafe in Gotri



Seen here are participants from the long-term standalone workshop



The volunteer group meet at AURA office for planning and coordinating efforts for Youth Adda events

Sarai for Teachers

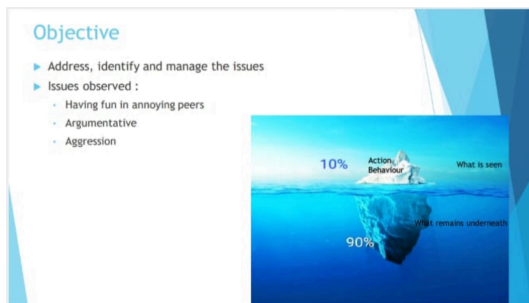
- Sarai's year-long advanced training program with **Sarv Saarthi Foundation** teachers concluded with presentations showcasing their learning journey
- Conducted a one-day teacher training program for educators of **Tecso Global Foundation**



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



Sarv Saarthi (Gurgaon) teachers connecting virtually for Sarai advanced training



Teachers presented the understanding of their learning through power point presentations



Amrita, a teacher, sharing her understanding during one of the sessions

Outreach for more than 600 children

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

- March marked the time for recap sessions to solidify the understanding of SEL components and its practices
- **5th graders** explored the theme of **emotions and how they impact the body**
- **Grades 6, 7, and 8** delved into the theme of **relationships with self and others**

Samvad - Grade 9 Shri Sarvajanik High School (Ranu)

- **Grade 9** adolescents at Samvad spent the year delving into **identity**. They explored personal identity, social identity, and cultural identity.



Fostering imagination and innovation through various creative and critical thinking activities



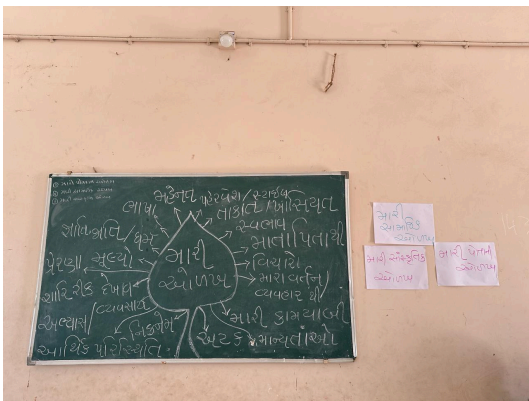
Encouraging creativity by exploring alternative approaches through creative and critical thinking activities



Children's creation of the Family Tree on display as part of an exercise to understand self and relations



Using energizers to enable children to refocus and maintain attention during longer sessions



Year-Long Identity Exploration: A Recap Session with Students of Grade 9 Sarvajanik School Ranu



In small groups, children exploring various aspects of self identity

Internship at AURA

- **15 interns** were part of the year taking AURA's mission to many more stakeholders
- **Amaan**, a recent master's graduate in Applied Psychology (Clinical and Counselling) from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), was part of a team where his role included ideating, proposal building, and guiding youth volunteers



Parul University Masters of Human Resources Management interns, Anoop, Vrunda, Smit and Sujan participate in the Sarai Orientation at Shram Mandir Trust



Shallu and Viweshwar, third year students from the integrated program of **Bachelors-Masters in Social Work (BMSW)** of MSU complete their year-long internship



AURA acknowledges and appreciates interns Parthiv, Jacklin, Aatman, and Sakshi's year-long journey



Amaan facilitating Authentic Leadership workshop with AURA team

Intern to Impact

During my time with AURA Education Trust, I gained invaluable insights into the different aspects of Social Emotional Learning (SEL). I discovered the importance of SEL in the development of children and youth, as well as its significant benefits for teachers

Furthermore, collaborating with diverse groups at AURA honed my communication, coordination, and persuasion skills. This experience wasn't just professionally enriching; it also fostered personal growth. I learned to embrace different perspectives, leading to greater patience, comfort, and self-confidence.

*I'm immensely grateful for my time with AURA.
It significantly impacted my life in countless ways.*

**- Vrunda Shah, Mhrm,
Faculty of Social Work, Parul University and an Intern at AURA**

Learning Hours

AURA clocked 10,634 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



Copyright © *2020|* *|AURA EDUCATION TRUST|*, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

|E/202 Safalya ParkLane, Gotri Sevasi Road, Vadodara 390021|

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).