

AURA *notes*

A Window to our World

July 2025 - September 2025 Vol 4, Issue 14

**We nurture creative, connected and
compassionate leadership in vulnerable children
and youth through Social Emotional Learning and
Development.**



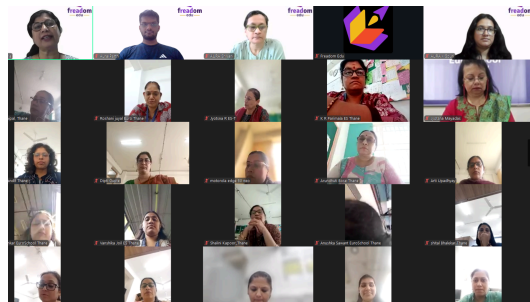
Editor's Note!

This season has been about growing with purpose and heart. As Sarjan and Samvad reach new spaces, Sambhav begins another Youth in Action journey and Sarai worked with

hundreds of teachers. We're reminded of the power of connection, reflection, and learning together. Each step forward is a shared moment of hope and possibility.



Perspective-taking helps youth appreciate diverse viewpoints and fosters empathetic responses.



Masterclass on Social-Emotional Learning for teachers associated with Freedom Edu

Highlights

- **Sarjan** expanded its reach by holding its inaugural session at **Model School, Halol**, in August.
- **Student-Led Conference** was introduced for **Sarjan** to empower children to take ownership of their experiences.
- **Samvad** has also expanded at **Elite High School, Sejakuva**, working with **around 200** new students!
- Our facilitator team for Sarjan-Samvad sessions has been officially named **TejVahinis**.
- **Sambhav** organized introductory sessions for **over 600 youth** from various universities.
- **Sambhav** has launched its second cohort for **Youth in Action**, with October 12 being the first training workshop for the participants.
- **Sambhav's** website is now live - check it out!
- **SARAI** team facilitated a series of masterclasses on Social-Emotional Learning for teachers associated with Freedom Edu, engaging with **around 750 teachers** from 12 schools.



Sarjan-Samvad Facilitator Team: TejVahinis



Youth presenting their project for a panel review



Children from Tarkhanda centre engaged in collaborative brainstorming



Children from Model School during a session on classroom culture

Sarjan for Children

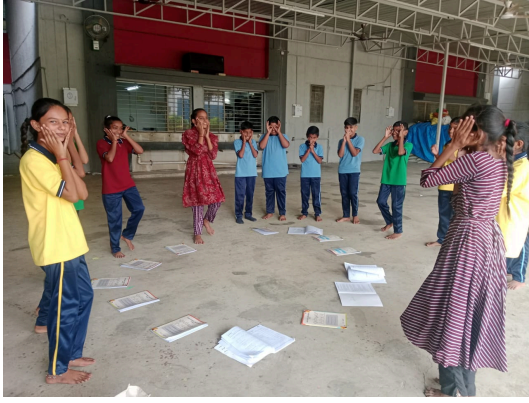
- Through **self-discovery** and **self-connection**, children understood their preferences and developed **growth mindset** by looking at setbacks as opportunities to grow.
- Students reflected upon their **relationships** and practiced active listening to **cultivate empathy** and understand others' emotions.
- Through plantation and collage-making, **multi-dimensional development** was achieved, blending artistic expression with **hands-on learning**.
- Sessions began at **Model Govt. School, Halol** with **72 children** from grade 6.



Our children at Halol Lab planting trees, contributing to a future that lasts



Collage by a student from Tarkhanda



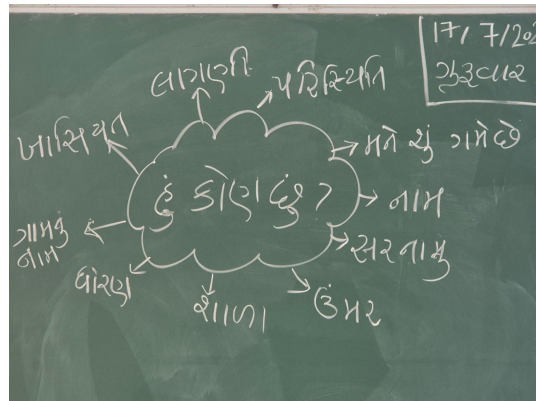
Students from Model School experiencing Sarjan sessions

Sarjan Outreach

- Through **mindfulness**, children focused on connecting with their emotions and building strategies to manage themselves.
- Children developed **active listening skills** to cultivate **empathy** and improve their relationships with peers and family.
- To **build social awareness**, children identified prevalent issues in their immediate surroundings through **community-mapping**.
- The first session for **Student-Led Conference (SLC)** enabled children to connect with their experiences and share their reflections with facilitators.



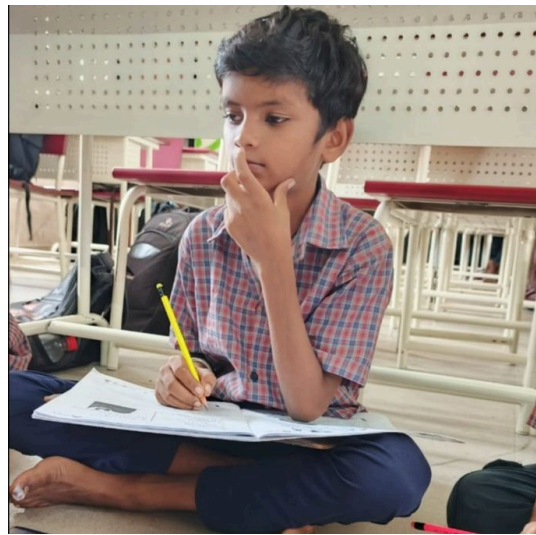
Expressing and taking ownership of own learning



Self-awareness helps children develop a healthy identity by understanding their own thoughts and emotions.



Students from Narsipura practicing active listening



Reflection for self-discovery and self-connection



Student-Led Conference allows students to reflect, express and celebrate their learning journey.

Samvad for Adolescents

- Through **self-reflection**, adolescents explored their personal values, beliefs and strengths to build a strong **sense of self**.
- Encouraging **awareness** of the surrounding community promotes **meaningful participation** and links personal identity with social responsibility.
- Through **mindfulness and positive self-talk**, adolescents experienced a mindset shift to build **self-confidence**.
- By viewing setbacks as **learning opportunities**, adolescents developed **effective goal-setting** by breaking down goals into small, achievable tasks.



Students from Sarvajnik School sharing reflections



Student from Latipura School sharing her ideas for community impact



Glimpses from Samvad's first session at Sejakuva

Student Voice:

If there are 10 steps to climb and you think you won't be able to, you will surely fail. But if you believe you can, you will at least climb 6 steps - even if you don't reach the top. The key is to attempt, otherwise you'll always feel like you cannot do it.

- Keyoor, Grade 12, Elite High School

TejVahinis

- Our facilitators, lovingly called TejVahinis, are the heart of Sarjan and Samvad.
- They are **homemakers** who have joined us with a desire to contribute to the community. Alongside them, we also have **young facilitators** who bring fresh perspectives and energy to the team.
- Together, they create safe, engaging, and meaningful spaces for students to learn and grow.



TejVahinis in action, facilitating sessions for Sarjan and Samvad

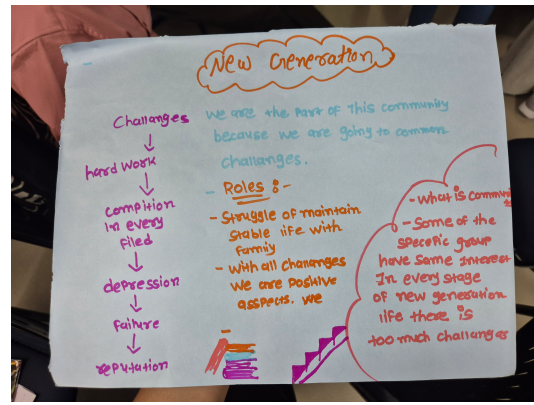
Sambhav for Youth

- Organized introductory sessions with youth from universities like **MSU** (Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda), **CHARUSAT**, **AISW** (Anand Institute of Social Work), and many more.
- Around **15 girls from Ranu** who **graduated from our Sarjan initiative** in primary school, engaged in two sessions to experience **self-reflection and self-discovery**.
- The second cohort for **Youth in Action** has additional themes like **Citizenship**, **Peace-building** and **Inclusivity**.
- Panel presentations were completed for the urban project groups.
- **3 engaging Youth Addas** were organized focusing on themes like cultivating a **hopeful future**, experiencing **self-discovery through art** and **community mapping**.

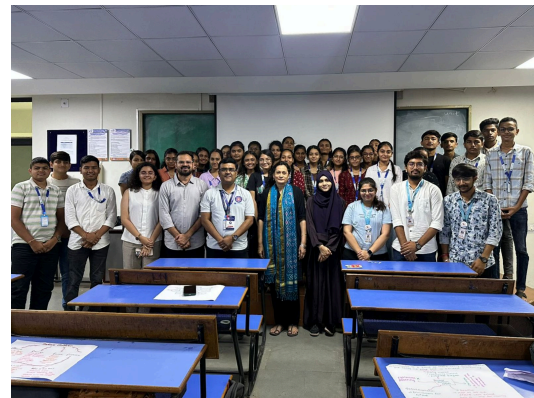


Your initiative, Sambhav, is working like a thread. I see all of us here as beads. We are all different beads, and you are joining us together into a necklace. A bead has no value on its own, but when it becomes a necklace, it becomes a valuable thing. So, thank you for bringing us together!

Gurdeep Sinh,
(Youth Adda Participant)



Cultivating empathy and social awareness in youth through community-mapping



Over 600 youth were successfully **engaged through introduction sessions** designed to build rapport and set the foundation for the program.



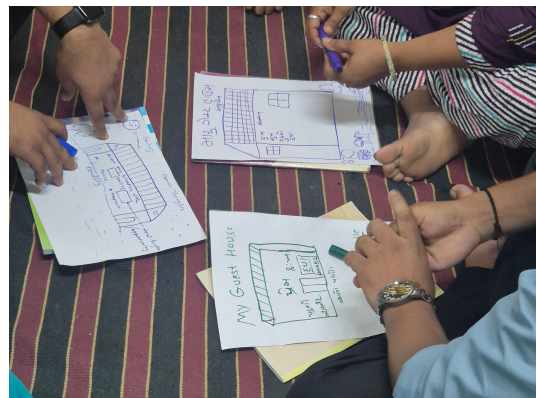
Youth Adda themes included **Building Hope**, fostering creative expression through **Art with Heart**, and social engagement via **Community Mapping**.

Sarai for Educators

- On July 14th, we culminated the **Sarai sessions** for the team of 20 social workers from United Way through a session on self-connection and creating vision boards.
- We resumed Sarai sessions with **45 teachers from Amrit Vidyalaya**, with a session focusing on recognizing emotions and cultivating self-regulation strategies.
- We also organized a session for the teachers at Model School Halol on **self-regulation strategies** in the classroom.
- Sarai led **three training sessions** for the TejVahini team, focusing on self-discovery, turning judgments to curiosity, and self-regulation strategies for the classroom.
- We also conducted sessions with the teachers at **Kumarshala, Narsipura and Latipura**.



Teachers from **Amrit Vidyalaya** are cultivating **emotional awareness** by conversations, self-reflection, and creating practical **self-regulation strategies** for a more supportive classroom.



Teachers from **Model School** sharing their perspectives and experiences



SARAI sessions with teachers from Ranu Kumarshala and Latipura

Educator Testimonials:

Through the masterclass, I learnt how to slow down, take time out for myself and speak up for myself. Now, I understand why it is important to listen to others without interrupting or judging.

- Deepali Waghode, Educator at ES Wakad

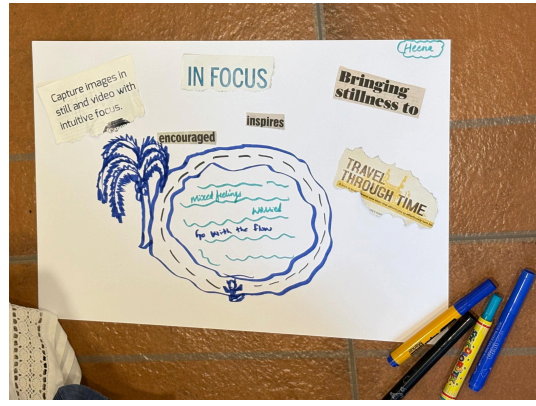
I remembered learning about the Emotion Wheel in the previous session and also introduced it to my students. Whatever was discussed in the previous sessions, I tried to implement in my class and have always noticed positive results.

- Laxita, Educator at Amrit Vidyalaya

Snapshots from Sarai Culmination with United Way

Creating Vision Board





Internship at AURA

- AURA provides an opportunity for students from various fields to gain a deeper understanding of **Social Emotional Learning**, enabling them to **apply theoretical knowledge in practical settings**, **develop crucial interpersonal skills**, and **contribute to meaningful community initiatives**.
- We are proud to have around **30 interns** currently who are supporting us in our various programs.



Partnering for Impact

We're excited to announce that we've welcomed **Kavish Gadia** to our **Advisory Board**! In the past months, we held **two productive meetings**, providing a comprehensive briefing on our current standing, immediate challenges and strategies to maximize impact. These initial discussions have laid a strong foundation, and we're now working with them to define **clear next steps** that will leverage their expertise to help guide our strategy and future

growth. We look forward to sharing more about the positive impact of their involvement soon.

Skill Development

In September, two members of our team, Gouri and Sumayyah, attended a CSR Proposal-drafting workshop organized by CSRBox at Ahmedabad. They gained valuable, actionable insights on how to **transparently measure and communicate impact in proposals**. These new strategies will be crucial as we refine our CSR approach, helping us enhance community engagement and integrate our social mission even more effectively in the future.

Learning Hours

AURA clocked 9,077 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 they get 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

In honor of Jane Goodall, "*cumulatively small decisions, choices, actions, make a very big difference*", we celebrate our beneficiaries, trustees, patrons, and well-wishers who believe in this work and are making the choice to create a difference in the world every single day.



Awareness | Understanding | Reflection | Action



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](#).