

# AURA **notes**

A Window to our World

March 2025 - June 2025 Vol 4, Issue 13

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



## **Editor's Note!**

As we step into a new academic year, we're filled with excitement and gratitude. Our work with children, youth, and educators continues to grow—and so does our team! We're thrilled to welcome new members who share our mission. Here's to another year of connection, creativity, and impact.



United Way team members participate in a group activity during the teacher training session



We hosted an onboarding session, in Tarkhanda village near Halol, to share our work and welcome new children.

## Highlights

- Sarjan Outreach wrapped up its year with **Sarjanatmak Samvad**, a learning fair focused on emotion recognition, alongside learning styles, self-awareness, and gratitude
- Sarjan Lab enrolled new admissions for a year-long program focused on deep social-emotional learning
- Sarai organized a session on **managing workplace stress** for the team from Billion Lives Foundation.
- Organized an introductory Sambhav session for **70 youth** from various tribal communities at **VIVEC**
- The 6-month Sambhav Youth in Action program culminated, celebrating **49 participants** who impacted **1,800 lives** in and around Vadodara. The event drew nearly 200 attendees from diverse backgrounds
- We're excited to welcome **Shipra** (Ahmedabad) and **Sujata** (Pune) to the Sambhav team!
- Our [Aura website](#) just got a fresh new look – check it out!



A group discussion for the youth during VIVEC's introductory session



Team Sarai in a training session with the Billion Lives Foundation team





On stage, Youth in Action participants perform a drama depicting their personal experiences



Volunteers, interns, and members from the Faculty of Social Work joined for the children's fair in Ranu



The Sambhav team just got bigger and brighter! Say hello to our fantastic new members and volunteers!



Team training and prep work before they head out to start the new year at the schools in Ranu

## Sarjan for Children

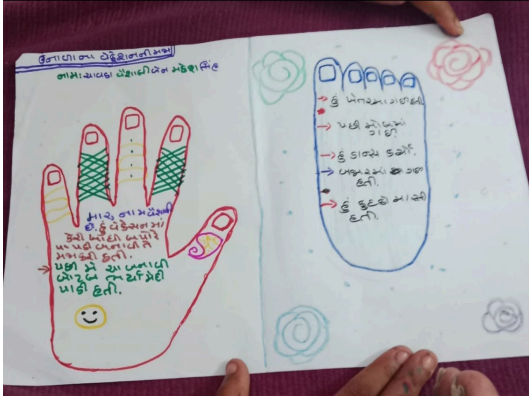
- Children deeply explored decision-making. This helps them learn to weigh options, understand consequences, and build confidence in their choices, preparing them for future challenges.
- Through **storytelling, reading, and writing**, children actively developed their **linguistic skills**. These activities enhance vocabulary, improve comprehension, encourage creative expression, and lay a strong foundation for effective communication.
- Through activities like playing with mud provided a rich, **tactile, sensory experience**, children connected more deeply with their environment and fostering creativity.
- Creating **best out of waste** helps children develop creativity while fostering early habits of environmental responsibility and sustainability.



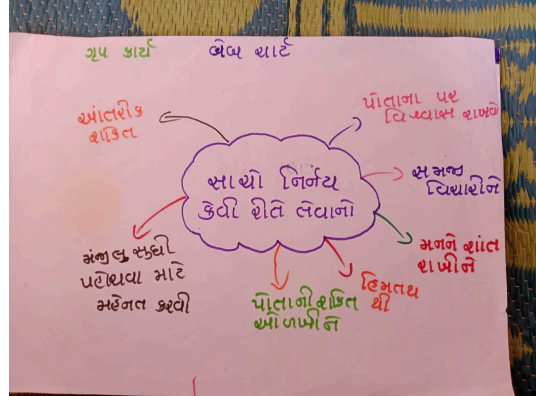
Our children at Tarkhanda Center are getting mindful with breath work during yoga



Children involved in a group discussion



A child's expression through their drawing post a session



Mind mapping for a decision-making session



Children's thoughts taking center stage in group discussions



Using mud as a form for little hands to share their expression

## Sambhav for Youth

- Wrapped up **Tap the Mirror** series in Vadodara, where youth explored self-understanding, emotional intelligence, and confidence-building.
- About **70 young people** from various **tribal communities** had the chance to connect with themselves through an introductory session at VIVEC.
- On April 27th, we celebrated **49 participants of our Youth in Action (YIA) project** at the FGI auditorium, highlighting their experiences and the impact they made on 1,800 lives in and around Vadodara.
- Kicked off the new academic year by announcing a new **Youth in Action** cohort on June 16th.



- In June, we also organized three engaging Youth Adda sessions.

Click to watch our participants share experiences on Nation Plus news channel



*This has been a journey of not just learning but true self-discovery —Your words, your passion for creating real impact, and the way you believed in all of us have left a lasting impression on me. You didn't just teach us skills — you showed us what leadership from the heart looks like. Thank you for inspiring me to dream bigger, work harder, and lead with kindness and courage. I'll always carry these lessons forward in my journey as a social entrepreneur.*

**Shivanshi,**  
(Youth in Action Participant)



Group discussions enable participants to help build important self-leadership skills like understanding self, staying motivated, and working well with others



Sambhav Co-founders, Jagruti Gala and Altaf Shaikh, addressing the audience



On stage: Taral Patel (Executive Director) and Kunjal Patel (Managing Director) from Voltamp Industries



A diverse audience from various backgrounds, industries, and organizations, were present for the YIA culmination



Umang, a Sambhav team member, recognizing Siddhant, a YIA participant for his achievement



**Hope** was the theme of the addas, where young voices came alive through conversations, music, and meaningful dialogue.

## Sarai for Educators

- A stress management session was conducted for 31 team members of the **Billion Lives Foundation**.
- A training session was facilitated with **United Way of Baroda's** social workers, where participants explored the power of emotional awareness through conversations and self-expression.
- Sarai led **two training sessions** for the Sarjan team, focusing on **student well-being and self-discovery**.





# Outreach for more than 1000 children

## Celebration Of Year-Long Journey

**Ranu:** Kanyashala (girls' primary), Kumarshala (boys' primary), and Grade 9 at Shri Sarvajanic High School.

**Narsipura:** Narsipura (co-ed) Primary School.

**Latipura:** Grades 9-12 at Shree Sarvodaya Highschool.

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On March 25th, over **1000 children** from five schools showcased their year-long learning through a creative fair. The event drew approximately **150 attendees**, including guests from **RISHI FIBC Ltd.**, **AURA** well-wishers, **MS University** professors, school principals and teachers, college students, and representatives from various organizations.

The main focus of the fair was on **emotion recognition**. Along with that, themes such as learning styles, **self-awareness** and **gratitude** were the focus of the fair's activities

- Adding to the fair's vibrancy, an **art exhibition** featured pieces created by students from the five schools.
- These artworks explored themes such as ***Friendship***, ***Curious Me***, and ***Because I am a girl, I want to study***.
- The stalls were entirely managed by **students from Grades 5 to 9 and 11**.
- This year's fair also included **drama performances**, a new and engaging addition.
- Many visitors noted a significant improvement in the children's **presentation skills, confidence, and overall approach** to showcasing their topics compared to the previous year.
- [Click here to watch](#) a local channel's coverage of the learning fair.



Students at Narsipura School, during their pair-share, sharpen their active listening skills



KumarShala students experience mindful doodling for building focus and attention



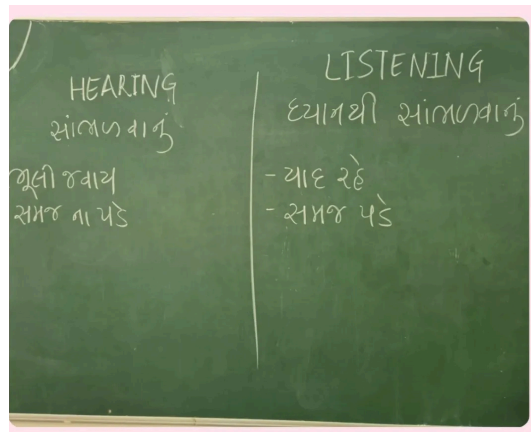
Young girls from KanyaShala immersed in creativity, expressing themselves through colors and imagination



Shubha De, educationist and Outreach Program Head at Ark Foundation, guides children as they transformed their imagination into art for the learning fair



Samvad session in progress—creating space for young voices and fostering acceptance within the circle.



Children's voices on the board sharing their understanding on the power of listening, not just hearing

## Snapshots from Children's Culmination

### **Sarjanatakmak Samvad**







## Internship at AURA

- As part of summer internship, **Aayushi and Parita, second-year B.Tech students** from PDEU (Pandit Deendayal Energy University - Gandhinagar), joined to support **AURA's** mission.
- 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.**



Aayushi and Parita are adding their creative touch to our workspace

## Learning Hours

**AURA clocked 8,889 learning hours in the last 4 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.



**AURA**  
a learning place

Awareness | Understanding | Reflection | Action





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**Our mailing address is:**

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

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