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# Students say 'no' to tobacco, junk food

## Art competition sees participation from 268 civic schools

**AMATULLAH CHINWALA**  
MUMBAI

Students from 268 municipal schools on Thursday took part in an inter-school art competition aimed at curbing the consumption of tobacco and junk food.

The event was jointly organised by Salaam Bombay Foundation and the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) at Damodar auditorium in Parel.

Among dignitaries who attended the event were Dr. Santoshi Suryakar, medical officer, school health programme, BMC; professor Dinkar Pawar, art department, BMC; and professor Suvarnagouri Ghaisas, music and art department, BMC.

Tshering D. Bhutia, vice-president, preventive health and nutrition, Salaam Bombay Foundation, said, "The performances looked at pathways to healthy living, a theme that resonated through all art forms. The students came up with innovative ideas to make their peers aware of the need for a



Paintings by students put on display at an inter-school art competition in Parel on Friday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

healthy environment. Students from convent schools and private schools get such opportunities to showcase their talents, but for the students of municipal schools, this is a huge opportunity."

The students performed songs, a skit, and displayed posters on quitting smoking. Bhushan Udgirkar, who teaches art in BMC schools, said, "The quality of the posters was good. One can ac-

tually see the level of maturity these kids have."

Sagar Lele, a trained singer who was one of the judges at the competition, said, "These children will contribute a lot to this country when they grow up. Therefore, this initiative is beneficial for the nation. The best part is that they were spreading the word through art forms which made this event more interesting."

# अरमान रोबोला 'बाहु' बल!

पालिका शाळेतील मुलांची किमया; मुंबई मॅरिथॉनमध्ये ठरणार आकर्षण

सकाळ वृत्तसेवा

मुंबई, ता. १६ : रविवारी होणाऱ्या मुंबई मॅरिथॉनमध्ये 'अरमान' यंत्रमानव मुंबईकरांचे लक्ष वेधणार आहे. विशेष म्हणजे, तंत्रज्ञानाबद्दल कोणतीही पार्श्वभूमी नसलेल्या पालिका शाळेतील मुलांनी त्याचा हात (आर्म) साकारला आहे. 'सलाम बॉम्बे' सामाजिक संस्थेच्या

रोबोटिक्स

करण्याचे

स्किल्स अँट स्कूल कार्यक्रमाच्या प्रकल्पांतर्गत रोबो तयार प्रशिक्षण मुलांना देण्यात आले. त्यासाठी मुलांना पुण्याच्या 'इंडियाफर्स्ट रोबोटिक्स' शैक्षणिक कंपनीने साहाय्य केले आहे.

'अरमान'

रोबोचा हात तयार करणाऱ्या विद्यार्थ्यांना तंत्रज्ञानाबद्दल कोणतीही पार्श्वभूमी नव्हती. काही मुले शहरातील झोपडपट्टीमध्ये लहानशा घरांमध्ये राहतात आणि सरकारी किंवा महापालिकेच्या शाळांत शिकतात.

## इथे पाहायला मिळेल रोबो

मुंबई मॅरिथॉनमध्ये सलाम बॉम्बेच्या चिअरिंग स्टेजवर 'अरमान' रोबो स्पर्धकांना पाहता येईल. 'स्किलिंग यंग इंडिया फॉर अ बेटर फ्युचर' अशी टॅगलाईन असलेला फलक घेऊन तो स्पर्धकांना प्रोत्साहन देण्यासाठी उभा राहणार आहे.

त्यांना 'सलाम बॉम्बे'ने 'इंडियाफर्स्ट रोबोटिक्स'चे व्यासपीठ उपलब्ध करून दिले. त्यांना रोबोटिक तंत्रज्ञानाबद्दलची मूलभूत माहिती देत रोबो तयार करण्याचे प्रशिक्षण देण्यात आले. प्रशिक्षणातून विविध प्रयोग करत अखेर त्यांनी 'अरमान' रोबोच्या हाताची यशस्वी निर्मिती केली. अरमानाच्या हाताची क्रिया अचूक होत आहे. रोबोची हालचाल योग्य प्रमाणात व्हावी यासाठी त्यामध्ये मोशन सेंसरचा वापर करण्यात आला आहे.

तळागाळातील विद्यार्थ्यांमध्ये कौशल्य आहे, पण त्यांना संधी मिळत नाही. अशा मुलांमध्ये रोबोटिक्स, आर्टिफिशल इंटेलिजन्स आणि नावीन्यपूर्ण शोध लावण्याबद्दलचा विचार जागवण्याचा प्रकल्पाचा उद्देश आहे. विज्ञान, तंत्रज्ञान, अभियांत्रिकी आणि गणित (एसटीईएम) विषयांसंबंधी नोकऱ्यांच्या बाजारपेठेत रोबोटिक्सचे शिक्षण घेतलेल्यांना सध्या प्रचंड मागणी आहे. सरकारी शाळेत शिकणाऱ्या विद्यार्थ्यांना त्या दृष्टीने नवीन संधी उपलब्ध करून देणे आणि त्यांना भविष्यातील संधीसाठी तयार करण्याच्या उद्देशाने आम्ही अशा प्रकल्पाचे आयोजन करतो, असे सलाम बॉम्बे फाऊंडेशनच्या कम्युनिकेशन विभागाच्या उपसंचालिका आदिती पारिख यांनी सांगितले.

## यापूर्वी विद्यार्थ्यांनी साकारलेली उपकरणे

२०१७-२०२० मध्ये दोन विद्यार्थ्यांनी मुंबईतील कोहिनूर टेक्निकल इन्स्टिट्यूटच्या प्रशिक्षकांसोबत काम करत रुग्णालयातील रोबो बनवण्यात मदत केली. संसर्गजन्य रोग झालेल्या आणि वेगळे ठेवण्यात आलेल्या रुग्णांची तो शुश्रूषा करतो. नववीच्या विद्यार्थ्यांच्या एका गटाने टोरो रोबो (बोलणारा आणि भाषांतर करणारा रोबो) च्या निर्मितीसाठी मदत केली आहे. जो इंग्रजीचे ११ भारतीय आणि चार परदेशी भाषांमध्ये भाषांतर करतो. नववीमध्ये असलेल्या रवी पटेल नावाच्या मुलाने आयओटी आधारित व्हाईस नियंत्रित होम ऑटोमेशन प्रणालीच्या प्रकल्पावर काम केले. ई-कचऱ्यापासून स्मार्ट कचरापेटी आणि मिनी ब्ल्यू-टुथ व पॉवरबँकही विद्यार्थ्यांनी तयार केली आहे.



'अरमान' रोबो

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## ROBOT MAKES DEBUT IN RUN

**MUMBAI:** A robot made its debut at the marathon by dancing for participants near Churchgate station. The robot named Armaan was created by Pune-based IndiaFirst Robotics, with students of NGO Salaam Bombay Foundation.

HTC

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**Date : 20th January, 2020**

## Robot greets participants at Churchgate

*Armaan, the mascot, was the first of its kind to be part of Mumbai Marathon*



**Hello!** Salaam Bombay Foundation's robot stood near Churchgate station through the day. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Around 100 people gathered at a cheering zone near Churchgate station as the members of Salaam Bombay Foundation unveiled Armaan, a mascot of the Tata Mumbai Marathon. The robot was created by underprivileged children from the NGO.

According to a member from the NGO, Armaan was the first robot ever to be a part of the Mumbai Marathon in any capacity. "A crew of eight students worked closely with an expert team from IndiaFIRST Robotics, a Pune-based robotics education company, to build a bionic arm that was then fitted onto the robot," the member said.

A lot of participants stopped mid-way to shake hands with the mascot as its arms moved extremely precisely. "The robot uses motion sensors to make sure that the arm moves just the right amount," the team member said.

Aditi Parikh, vice president, communications, Salaam Bombay Foundation said, "By teaching our students the basics of robotics, we have managed to open a whole new world of exciting opportunities that they wouldn't have access to otherwise. None of these students have ever worked on a project like this before."

### 'Display of talent'

Ms. Parikh also said the robot was an example of the talents and skills underprivileged children from government schools can display if provided with appropriate opportunities.

Armaan also held a placard which read, 'Skilling Young India For A Better Future'.

Salaam Bombay Foundation said it aimed at educating every child and empower children so that they could make correct choices about their health, education and livelihood.

## Publication: Lokmat – Hello Mumbai

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2020

# विद्यार्थ्यांनी बनविलेला रोबो ठरला खास आकर्षण

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

**मुंबई :** मुंबई मॅरेथॉनमध्ये सलाम बॉम्बे फाउंडेशनच्या विद्यार्थ्यांनी बनविलेल्या 'अरमान' या रोबोने त्यांच्या बायोनिक्स हातासह सर्व घाबपट्टेचे स्वागत केले. या तरुण समूहाने रोबोटिक्स तज्ञांच्या मार्गदर्शनांतर्गत हा बायोनिक्स हात तयार केला आहे.

सलाम बॉम्बे फाउंडेशन आणि पुणेस्थित इंडियाफेस्ट रोबोटिक्स यांच्या सहयोगाने विद्यार्थ्यांना रोबो तयार करणे शक्य झाले. सलाम बॉम्बे फाउंडेशनच्या स्किल्स स्कूल उपक्रमाचा हा भाग आहे. स्किल्स स्कूल उपक्रमामधून मुलांना व्यावसायिक कौशल्यांचे प्रशिक्षण दिले जाते. यामुळे ते रोजगार प्राप्त करू शकतात, ज्यातून त्यांना प्रत्यक्ष काम

मिळवता येईल आणि त्यांना त्यांच्या गरिबीच्या दुष्टचक्रातून मुक्त होता येईल.

सलाम बॉम्बे फाउंडेशन कम्युनिकेशन्सच्या उपाध्यक्ष अदिती पारिख म्हणाल्या, गरीब, पण प्रतिभावान किशोरवयीन मुलांना त्यांची रुची असलेल्या विविध क्षेत्रांमध्ये संधी उपलब्ध करून देण्याचा प्रयत्न सलाम बॉम्बे फाउंडेशन करत असते.

आम्ही त्यांना त्यांची प्रतिभा असलेल्या क्षेत्रांमध्ये कौशल्ये अधिक खुलवण्याची संधी देऊ इच्छितो. दुर्दैवाने ही किशोरवयीन मुले आणि त्यांच्या कुटुंबासाठी ही क्षेत्रे आवाक्याबाहेर राहतात. म्हणजेच त्यांच्या स्वप्नांना आकार मिळण्यापूर्वीच ती भंग पावतात.



विद्यार्थ्यांनी बनविलेला रोबो ठरला लक्षवेधी.

मला अरमानच्या निर्मितीमध्ये हातभार लावण्याचा अत्यंत आनंद होत आहे. आम्ही बायोनिक्स हातावर काम सुरु करण्यापूर्वी मला रोबोटिक्सबाबत काहीच माहिती नव्हते. मी कधीच विचार केला नव्हता की, मी अशा प्रकारचे यश कधी गाठू शकेन. माझ्यासाठी हे स्वप्न पूर्ण झाल्यासारखे आहे.

- ओमकार पासलकर, विद्यार्थी

## Publication: Navarashtra

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2020

# मुंबई मॅरेथॉनमध्ये सलाम बॉम्बे फाउंडेशनचा 'रोबो'

**मुंबई :** रविवारी १६ व्या मुंबई मॅरेथॉनमध्ये मुंबईकर अत्यंत उत्साहाने धावले. एनजीओ सलाम बॉम्बे फाउंडेशनमधील किशोरवयीन मुलांच्या एका लहान समूहाने या मॅरेथॉनमध्ये अनोख्या आनंदाची भर केली. या तरुणांना खूपच आनंद झाला, कारण चर्चगेट स्टेशनजवळ उभारण्यात आलेल्या सलाम बॉम्बे फाउंडेशन चीअरिंग झोनमध्ये त्यांच्या निर्मितीचे खूपच

कौतुक करण्यात आले. या किशोरवयीन तरुणांनी सहयोगाने तयार केलेला रोबो 'अरमान'ने त्यांच्या बायोनिक्स हातासह सर्वांचे उत्साहात स्वागत केले. या तरुण समूहाने रोबोटिक्स तज्ञांच्या मार्गदर्शनांतर्गत हा बायोनिक्स हात तयार केला आहे. या निर्मितीची कथा विविध कारणांसाठी प्रेरणादायी आहे. ही किशोरवयीन मुले अत्यंत गरीब असून शहराच्या झोपडपट्टीमधील अत्यंत लहान घरांमध्ये राहतात.



ते सरकारी शाळांमध्ये शिक्षण घेतात आणि रोजच्या गरजा भागवण्यासाठी त्यांना अनेक आव्हानांचा सामना करावा लागतो. रोबोटिक्सबाबत त्यांना काहीच माहिती नव्हते आणि भावी एआयबाबत ऐकलेच नव्हते. तसेच ही कौशल्ये अवगत करण्यासाठी आवश्यक असलेली आर्थिक संसाधने त्यांच्या आवाक्याबाहेर आहेत.

## Publication: Pratahkal

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2020

### तरूण किशोरवयीन मुलांनी बनवलेला रोबो ठरला १६ व्या मुंबई मॅरेथॉनमधील खास आकर्षण

मुंबई, दि. १९ (प्रतिनिधी) : रविवारी शहरवासी १६व्या मुंबई मॅरेथॉनमध्ये अत्यंत उत्साहाने धावले. एनजीओ सलाम बॉम्बे फाऊंडेशनमधील किशोरवयीन मुलांच्या एका लहान समूहाने या मॅरेथॉनमध्ये अनोख्या आनंदाची भर केली. या तरूणांना खूपच आनंद झाला, कारण चर्चिगट स्टेशनजवळ उभारण्यात आलेल्या सलाम बॉम्बे फाऊंडेशन चीअरिंग झोनमध्ये त्यांच्या निर्मितीचे खूपच कौतुक करण्यात आले. या किशोरवयीन तरूणांनी सहयोगाने तयार केलेला रोबो 'अरमान'ने त्यांच्या बायोनिक हातासह सर्वांचे उत्साहात स्वागत केले. या तरूण समूहाने रोबोटिक्स तज्ञांच्या मार्गदर्शनांतर्गत हा बायोनिक हात तयार केला आहे.

या निर्मितीची कथा विविध कारणांसाठी प्रेरणादायी आहे. ही किशोरवयीन मुले अत्यंत गरीब असून शहराच्या झोपडपट्टीमधील अत्यंत लहान घरांमध्ये राहतात. ते सरकारी शाळांमध्ये शिक्षण घेतात आणि रोजच्या गरजा भागवण्यासाठी त्यांना अनेक आव्हानांचा सामना करावा लागतो. रोबोटिक्सबाबत त्यांना काहीच माहित नव्हते आणि भावी आयुष्याबाबत ऐकलेच नव्हते. तसेच ही कौशल्ये अवगत करण्यासाठी आवश्यक असलेली आर्थिक संसाधने त्यांच्या आवाव्याबाहेर आहेत. आर्थिक चणचण ही अनेक प्रतिभावान तरूणांसाठी समस्या ठरत आहे. ज्यामुळे त्यांना ते पात्र असलेली संधी मिळत नाही.

पण सलाम बॉम्बे फाऊंडेशन आणि पुणे स्थित इडियाफर्स्ट रोबोटिक्स यांनी सहयोगाने या किशोरवयीन तरूणांना ते पात्र असलेली संधी दिली. हा समूह सलाम बॉम्बे फाऊंडेशनच्या स्किल्स स्कूल उपक्रमाचा भाग आहे. स्किल्सस्कूल उपक्रमामधून मुलांना व्यावसायिक कौशल्यांचे प्रशिक्षण दिले जाते, ज्यामुळे ते रोजगार प्राप्त

१८८ मुले व १८९ मुली आहेत. यामधून हा उपक्रम भारतात सामान्यतः आढळून येणारी विज्ञान, तंत्रज्ञान, अभियांत्रिकी व गणितामधील (एसटीईएम) लैंगिक तफावत मोडून काढण्यामध्ये कशाप्रकारे मदत करत आहे हे दिसून येते. बायोनिक हात तयार करण्यासाठी रचना निर्माणापासून ग्रिप यंत्रणेपर्यंत, हालचालींच्या



करू शकतात, ज्यातून त्यांना प्रत्यक्ष काम मिळवता येईल आणि त्यांना त्यांच्या गरीबीच्या दुष्टचक्रातून मुक्त होता येईल. रोबोटिक्स हा स्किल्स स्कूल उपक्रमांतर्गत असलेला अशाच प्रकारचा एक उपक्रम आहे.

सलाम बॉम्बे फाऊंडेशनने सध्या मुंबई, कोलकाता व बेंगळुरू येथे रोबोटिक्स उपक्रमाची अंमलबजावणी केली आहे. फक्त ३२ विद्यार्थ्यांसह सुरू करण्यात आलेल्या या उपक्रमामध्ये आज

तर्कापासून ऊर्जा स्रोतांपर्यंत अशा रोबोटिक्सच्या मुलभूत गोष्टी माहित असणे आवश्यक आहे. मुंबई मॅरेथॉन ही आशियातील सर्वात मोठी मॅरेथॉन मानली जाते आणि पहिल्यांदाच एक रोबो या मॅरेथॉनचा भाग बनला होता.

अरमानची निर्मिती हे योग्य ज्ञान व संधी दिल्यास गरीब पार्श्वभूमी असलेले तरूण देखील कशाप्रकारे चमकू शकतात याचे परिपूर्ण उदाहरण आहे.

**Publication: The Hindu**

**Date: 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2020**

## Co-created by PMC school students, robot 'Armaan' to greet visitors at Mumbai marathon

ALIFIYA NALWALA  
PUNE, JANUARY 17

FOR THOSE participating in the Mumbai Marathon on Sunday, a unique welcome awaits them — Armaan, a robot co-created by students of schools run by the Pune Municipal Corporation, will greet them at the stall by NGO Salaam Bombay Foundation.

The crew of eight Class IX students from two PMC schools — Narayanrao Samas Vidyalaya and Wamanrao Otkar

Secondary School — who are a part of NGO Salaam Bombay Foundation's skills@school programme's Robotics project, worked closely with a team from Indiafirst Robotics, a city-based robotics education company that trains students. The students' team helped build a bionic arm which goes up and down very precisely, repeating exactly the same movement over and over again. The bionic arm has been fitted onto Armaan, which also has motion sensors.

The eight youngsters — Ravi Patel, Sushant Kathane, Omkar

Pasalkar, Kajal Sonawane, Ashwini Bhargawe, Ninad Jadhav, Atharv Pawar and Swapnil Sonawre — are all 15 years old.

The group has done it all from scratch, from the structure-building to grip mechanism, logic of movement to power sources, the youngsters trained with experts to improvise and finally put together the robotic arm.

Patel, whose father is a construction contractor, said that until three months ago, he had no clue what robotics entailed.

"During the course, I learnt a lot of new things and I got very involved in the programming bit. Other than this project, I developed another robot which is based on voice-controlled... automation system," he said.

So inspired is another student, Kathane that he now wants to study mechanical engineering and eventually take up robotics as a career. "My parents are both vegetable sellers and we had never had a chance to learn something like this before. The excitement in the group is palpable."

Since 2017, the Salaam Bombay Foundation has collaborated with Indiafirst, offering training in robotics and artificial intelligence to young students.

From humble beginnings, where only 32 students (18 boys and 14 girls) enrolled for the course, pointing to a lack of awareness and overall scepticism about the field, to 377 students in 2019 (188 boys and 189 girls), it is also a step towards bridging the gender gap in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) education that generally exists in India.

Aditi Parikh, VP of Communications, Salaam Bombay Foundation, said, "In a job market dominated by STEM, demand for candidates with qualifications in robotics has seen a massive growth in recent times. By teaching our students the basics of robotics, we have managed to open a whole new world of exciting opportunities that they wouldn't have access to otherwise. None of these students have ever worked on a project like this before. The excitement in the group is palpable."

**Publication: Sakal – Mumbai Today**

**Date: 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2020**

## अरमान रोबोला 'बाहु'बल!

पालिका शाळेतील मुलांची किमया; मुंबई मॅरेथॉनमध्ये ठरणार आकर्षण

सकाळ वृत्तसेवा

मुंबई, ता. १६ : रविवारी होणाऱ्या मुंबई मॅरेथॉनमध्ये 'अरमान' संतमानव मुंबईकरांचे लक्ष वेधणार आहे. विशेष म्हणजे, तंत्रज्ञानाबद्दल कोणतीही पारदर्शनी नसलेल्या पालिका शाळेतील मुलांनी त्याचा हात (आर्मे) साकारला आहे. 'सलाम बॉम्बे' सामाजिक संस्थेच्या स्किल्स अँड स्कूल कार्यक्रमाच्या प्रकल्पांतर्गत रोबो तयार करणाऱ्या रोबोटिक्स करणाऱ्या प्रशिक्षण मुलांना देण्यात आले. त्यासाठी मुलांना पुण्याच्या 'इंडियाफर्स्ट रोबोटिक्स' शैक्षणिक कंपनीने साहाय्य केले आहे. 'अरमान' रोबोचा हात तयार करणाऱ्या विद्यार्थ्यांना तंत्रज्ञानाबद्दल कोणतीही पारदर्शनी नव्हती. काही मुले शहरातील झोपडपट्टीमध्ये लहानशा घरांमध्ये राहतात आणि सरकारी किंवा महापालिकेच्या शाळांत शिकतात.

**इथे पाहायला मिळेल रोबो**

मुंबई मॅरेथॉनमध्ये सलाम बॉम्बेच्या चिआरिग स्टेजवर 'अरमान' रोबो स्पर्धकांना पाहता येईल. 'स्किल्स अँड इंडिया फॉर अ बेटर फ्युचर' अशी टॅगलाईन असलेला फलक घेऊन तो स्पर्धकांना प्रोत्साहन देण्यासाठी उभा राहणार आहे.

त्यांना 'सलाम बॉम्बे'ने 'इंडियाफर्स्ट रोबोटिक्स'चे व्यासपीठ उपलब्ध करून दिले. त्यांना रोबोटिक तंत्रज्ञानाबद्दलची मूलभूत माहिती देत रोबो तयार करण्याचे प्रशिक्षण देण्यात आले. प्रशिक्षणातून विविध प्रयोग करत अखेर त्यांनी 'अरमान' रोबोच्या हाताची यशस्वी निर्मिती केली. अरमानाच्या हाताची क्रिया अचूक होत आहे. रोबोची हालचाल योग्य प्रमाणात व्हावी यासाठी त्यामध्ये मोशन सेंसरचा वापर करण्यात आला आहे.

तळागाळातील विद्यार्थ्यांमध्ये कौशल्य आहे, पण त्यांना संधी मिळत नाही. अशा मुलांमध्ये रोबोटिक्स, आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजन्स आणि नावीन्यपूर्ण शोध लावण्याबद्दलचा विचार जागवण्याचा प्रकल्पाचा उद्देश आहे. विज्ञान, तंत्रज्ञान, अभियांत्रिकी आणि गणित (एसटीईएम) विषयांसंबंधी नोकऱ्यांच्या बाजारपेठेत रोबोटिक्सचे शिक्षण घेतलेल्यांना सध्या प्रचंड मागणी आहे. सरकारी शाळेत शिकणाऱ्या विद्यार्थ्यांना त्या दृष्टीने नवीन संधी उपलब्ध करून देणे आणि त्यांना भविष्यातील संधीसाठी तयार करण्याच्या उद्देशाने आम्ही अशा प्रकल्पाचे आयोजन करतो, असे सलाम बॉम्बे फाऊंडेशनच्या कम्युनिकेशन विभागाच्या उपसंचालिका आदितो पारिख यांनी सांगितले.

**यापूर्वी विद्यार्थ्यांनी साकारलेली उपकरणे**

२०१७-२०२० मध्ये दोन विद्यार्थ्यांनी मुंबईतील कोहिनूर टेक्निकल इन्स्टिट्यूटच्या प्रशिक्षकांसोबत काम करत रुग्णालयातील रोबो बनवण्यात मदत केली. संसर्जन्य रोग झालेल्या आणि वेगळे देवण्यात आलेल्या रुग्णांची तो शुश्रूषा करतो. नववीच्या विद्यार्थ्यांच्या एका गटाने दोरो रोबो (बोलगारा आणि भाषांतर करणारा रोबो) च्या निर्मितीसाठी मदत केली आहे. जो इंग्रजीचे ११ भारतीय आणि चार परदेशी भाषांमध्ये भाषांतर करतो. नववीमध्ये असलेल्या रवी पटेल नावाच्या मुलाने आयओटी आधारित व्हाईस नियंत्रित होम ऑटोमेशन प्रणालीच्या प्रकल्पावर काम केले. ई-कचऱ्यापासून स्मार्ट कचरापेटी आणि मिनी ब्ल्यू-दुध व पांढरबकही विद्यार्थ्यांनी तयार केली आहे.



'अरमान' रोबो

**Publication: Mid-Day**

**Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2020**



## Media matters

Education goes beyond what you learn in the classroom. It's not restricted to what textbooks contain. That's the philosophy that the folks behind Salaam Bombay Foundation, an NGO, kept in mind when they collaborated with St Xavier's College for an exhibition titled Education Beyond Books. It involves the students of the institution bringing the world of news alive through installations on print, electronic and digital media. It's meant to be an alternative learning experience, and what better time to launch it than on January 24, observed as the International Day of Education.

## Online: The Hindu

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2020



MUMBAI

### Exhibition encourages students to pick media as career option



Amatullah Chinwala

MUMBAI, JANUARY 24, 2020 01:56 IST  
UPDATED: JANUARY 24, 2020 01:56 IST



#### Children from municipal schools guided by college students to develop exhibits on the workings of media industry

A group of students from municipal schools and St. Xavier's College got together to set up an exhibition on how the media industry functions. Titled 'Education Beyond Books', the exhibition aimed at encouraging school students to look beyond the fields of engineering, medicine and law as career options.

The two-day exhibition held at the mass media department of St. Xavier's College concluded on Thursday.

The exhibits included a live newsroom and studio complete with an audience, a section on print media showcasing a magazine and newspaper developed by the schoolchildren, a live radio station, an audiovisual room playing a documentary, and a photography booth called 'Third Eye'.

One of the highlights was a tunnel that gave visitors the experience of being surrounded by media, and a game booth where one could choose a career option by throwing frisbees.



#### 'Giving back to society'

All the exhibits were developed by the group of schoolchildren with guidance from students of Bachelors of Mass Media (BMM). The exhibition was conceptualised and curated by Salaam Bombay Foundation Perrie Subramaniam, head of B.M.M. department at St. Xavier's College, said it is important for students to share their knowledge with society and not wait until they graduate.

"We always teach our students to give back to society and involve them in social enterprises. We got affiliated with Salaam Bombay to make sure that our students remain grounded, and know that it is not only them who are filled with knowledge, but also these kids who are underprivileged," Ms. Subramaniam said.

#### Beyond classrooms

"The collaboration with St. Xavier's was to let our children experience the college environment and allow them to interact with students who are specialising in the field of media," said Santosh Bodade, project coordinator for media academy at Salaam Bombay Foundation.

Promoted

Sayli Jhadhav, a Class VIII student from a municipal school in Tardeo, said she enjoyed the process of learning outside classrooms. "Interviewing people was my favourite part," she said.

First-year BMM student Pankhuri Joshi said it is important for schoolchildren to understand the significance of media. "We are in an era where we are constantly surrounded by media everywhere," she said.

Another BMM student, Natasha Dedhia, said it was a great experience to help the young children with voice modulation as they were quite shy in the beginning. "Gradually, they became confident," she said.





**Publication: Sakal**

**Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2020**

# जागतिक कर्करोग दिनानिमित्त तंबाखूची प्रतीकात्मक होळी राज्यभरातील विद्यार्थी राबवणार उपक्रम

मुंबई, ता. २ : व्यसनविरोधी संस्कार करून राज्याची नवी पिढी व्यसनमुक्त आणि आरोग्यसंपन्न राखण्याच्या उद्देशाने 'सलाम मुंबई फाऊंडेशन' विविध उपक्रम राबवत आहे. त्याचाच एक भाग म्हणून महाराष्ट्रातील प्राथमिक आणि माध्यमिक शाळांमध्ये तंबाखूमुक्त अभियान राबविण्यात येत आहे. त्याअंतर्गत ४ फेब्रुवारी रोजी जागतिक कर्करोग दिनानिमित्त राज्यभरातील शाळांत 'तंबाखूची प्रतीकात्मक होळी' करण्यात येणार आहे.

जिल्हा शिक्षण विभाग, राष्ट्रीय तंबाखू नियंत्रण कार्यक्रम, सलाम मुंबई फाऊंडेशन आणि जिल्हातील स्थानिक संस्था-संघटनांच्या प्रयत्नांतून यवतमाळ आणि वर्धा जिल्हांतील जिल्हा परिषद शाळा, तसेच नंदुरबार व धुळे जिल्हांतील सर्व प्राथमिक आणि माध्यमिक शाळा तंबाखूमुक्त जाहीर झाल्या आहेत. यंदाच्या वर्षीही राज्यातील १० जिल्हे तंबाखूमुक्त शाळांचे म्हणून घोषित करण्यासाठी प्रयत्न सुरू आहेत. दोन वर्षे जागतिक कर्करोग दिनाचे औचित्य साधून

शालेय शिक्षण विभागाच्या पुढाकाराने तंबाखूविरोधी उपक्रम महाराष्ट्रात आयोजित केले जात आहेत.

४ फेब्रुवारी रोजी होणाऱ्या 'तंबाखूची प्रतीकात्मक होळी' उपक्रमामुळे राज्यातील सर्व विद्यार्थ्यांत व्यसनमुक्तीचे संस्कार होण्यास मदत होईल. यंदा विद्यार्थ्यांद्वारे तीस हजार कुटुंबे तंबाखूमुक्त करण्याचा प्रयत्न करण्यात येणार आहे. विद्यार्थी आपल्या शाळेत तंबाखूजन्य पदार्थांची प्रतीकात्मक होळी करतील. तिथे महाराष्ट्र शिक्षण विभागाचा तंबाखूमुक्त जीवनाचा संकल्प केला जाईल. त्याआधी शिक्षक विद्यार्थ्यांना तंबाखूचे दुष्परिणाम, तंबाखूचे व्यसन सोडण्याचे फायदे आणि युक्त्या सांगतील. आपले कुटुंब व्यसनमुक्त राखण्यासाठी प्रेरणा देतील. उपक्रमातून ज्या विद्यार्थ्यांचे पालक तंबाखूजन्य पदार्थ सोडतील आणि १५ ऑगस्टपर्यंत २०२० पर्यंत तंबाखूमुक्त राहतील त्यांना 'सलाम मुंबई फाऊंडेशन'कडून 'महाराष्ट्रभूषण', मार्गदर्शक शिक्षकांचा 'महाराष्ट्ररत्न' सन्मानपत्र देऊन २ ऑक्टोबर २०२० ला गौरव करण्यात येईल.

**Publication: Lokmat**

**Date: 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2020**

## शाळांमध्ये आज तंबाखूजन्य पदार्थांची प्रतीकात्मक होळी

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

मुंबई: जागतिक कर्करोग दिनानिमित्त ४ फेब्रुवारी रोजी महाराष्ट्रातील शाळांमध्ये 'तंबाखूची प्रतीकात्मक होळी' हा उपक्रम राज्यातील शाळांमध्ये तंबाखूमुक्त अभियानांतर्गत राबवण्याचे निर्देश शाळांच्या मुख्याध्यापकांना देण्यात यावे, असे निर्देश शिक्षण आयुक्तांना देण्यात आले आहेत.

महाराष्ट्राच्या नव्या पिढीत व्यसनविरोधी संस्कार करून महाराष्ट्राची नवी पिढी व्यसनमुक्त आणि आरोग्यसंपन्न राखणे, हे यामागचे प्रमुख उद्दिष्ट आहे. शिक्षण विभाग, राष्ट्रीय तंबाखू नियंत्रण कार्यक्रम, सलाम मुंबई फाउंडेशन यांच्याद्वारे महाराष्ट्रातील शाळांमध्ये हे अभियान राबविण्यात येते. तंबाखूजन्य पदार्थांच्या सेवनामुळे आरोग्याची हानी कशी होते याविषयी विद्यार्थ्यांमध्ये जनजागृती व्हावी, तंबाखू सेवनाचे दुष्परिणाम, त्यामुळे आरोग्याची हानी याविषयी विद्यार्थ्यांना माहिती मिळावी आणि त्यांनी ती इतरांपर्यंत पोहोचवावी या उद्देशाने या उपक्रमाचे आयोजन करण्यात आले आहे.

**Publication: Maharashtra Times**

**Date: 4th February, 2020**

## तंबाखू कंपन्यांवर बंदीची मागणी

म. टा. विशेष प्रतिनिधी, मुंबई

तंबाखूच्या वाढत्या सेवनामुळे तरुणाई कर्करोगाच्या विळख्यात सापडत आहे. त्यामुळे विद्यार्थीदशेपासूनच मुलांना तंबाखू व तंबाखूजन्य पदार्थांपासून दूर ठेवण्यासाठी शिक्षण विभागाने कंबर कसली आहे. त्यासाठी आज, ४ फेब्रुवारी रोजी असलेल्या जागतिक कर्करोग दिनाच्या पार्श्वभूमीवर 'तंबाखूची प्रतीकात्मक होळी' करण्याचे आदेश राज्यातील सर्व शाळांना दिले आहेत. मात्र या ऐवजी तंबाखूची विक्री करणाऱ्या कंपन्यांवर बंदी आणण्याची मागणी मुख्याध्यापक व शिक्षकांकडून करण्यात येत आहे.

कर्करोग दिनानिमित्त शिक्षण विभागाने राज्यातील सर्व शाळांमध्ये 'तंबाखूची प्रतीकात्मक होळी' करण्याचा निर्णय घेतला आहे. तंबाखू नियंत्रण अभियान व सलाम मुंबई फाउंडेशन यांच्या माध्यमातून राज्यातील सर्व प्राथमिक आणि माध्यमिक शाळांमध्ये हा उपक्रम राबविण्यात येणार आहे. शाळांच्या मुख्याध्यापकांना हा कार्यक्रम राबवण्याचे आदेश देण्याच्या सूचना शिक्षण विभागाने शिक्षण आयुक्त, माध्यमिक, उच्च माध्यमिक व प्राथमिक विभागाचे शिक्षण संचालक यांना दिले आहेत.

**Publication: Online Business world**

**Date: 15th July, 2020**

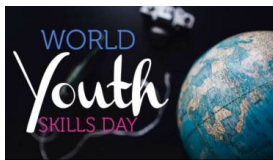


**Nandina Ramchandran**

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## Virtual Skill Development: A Challenge Or Opportunity For Resource Challenged Youth?

*With the usual pattern of internships, apprentice and training almost at standstill, skill training too has moved online.*



This year, World Youth Skills Day will have an unprecedented context and milieu. Worldwide, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions have closed down due to the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing lockdown measures threatening the continuity of education and skills development. Estimates say that close to 70% of the world's learners have been affected by closures of institutes across education levels.

The pandemic has also brought about a never-before-seen focus on the digital teaching and learning approach globally.

In India too, there has been a paradigm shift in working and learning styles. This is especially true for the learning scenarios of the crores of students in the country who are now home with the shutdown of schools. India has almost 25 crore school students from Classes 1 to 12. They study in 15.5 lakh schools, of which 70% are run by the Central and State governments. More than three months of lockdown later, it's still unclear if schools can reopen with most states preferring a prudent, cautious, wait and watch approach.

Many of these students, especially those studying in government schools, were undergoing vocational skill training that integrated skill training with secondary education. With the usual pattern of internships, apprentice and training almost at standstill, skill training too has moved online.

However, experts are raising questions over the efficacy of online learning especially for students from the lower strata of the society. They are citing reasons like lack of smartphones and mobile/internet data packs as some of the biggest barriers to online learning. Truly enough, a survey conducted in April by a child rights organisation across 23 states -- including Delhi, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana -- had found that about 56 per cent of children in India did not have access to smartphones. The study Scenario amidst COVID 19 - Onground Situations and Possible Solutions was conducted with the aim of analysing the access to technology.

There is a significant urban-rural digital divide too in India. While 27% of people have access to mobile devices in urban areas, in rural India, it is an abysmal 5%. Education or skill training in the lockdown has been possible only for those who have access to technological devices and the internet. But for the large majority of students from government schools, it has presented a deeper crisis. There is a dark possibility that the digital have-nots are pushed to the edge and are left out of the race. As learning moves online, students with lesser or no digital access will get further disadvantaged and may come to be at a higher risk of dropping out altogether.

The numbers are, no doubt, disappointing. Does that, however, mean that an aspect as seminal as skill training takes a backseat during this period? The answer would be no. In fact, unforeseen times like these bring about an increased focus on the need for blended models of learning which are scalable, sustainable and have a quick turnaround time.

It is more important than ever now that young students are imparted diversified skill sets even more meticulously so that they remain employable in the post-pandemic world. Companies wanting to maximise profits will aim to lower their labour costs and may prefer workers who are more adaptable and equipped with new-age skills.

This is also the time when the continuity for all kinds of skill training programmes is crucial since on-ground activities are not likely to happen anytime soon. As we talk about the 'new normal', we need to strengthen the backend for skill training programmes so that when the situation improves, we are ready to hit the ground running with our activities automatically picking up with speed and agility.

While challenges like lack of smartphones/mobile devices, mobile/internet data packs, the ability to recharge, fluctuating internet connectivity, a dearth of discipline are a reality, we need to explore aspects like 'learning and training anywhere, anytime' -- an idea that is integral to the concept of lifelong learning. We will have to strongly examine where we stand in terms of technical preparedness, bolster our ability to organize digital education and skilling and mobilize teachers and trainers so that they continue offering effective e-learning. One way of addressing the inequitable access to digital platforms is by redirecting resources toward providing access where it currently is unavailable. More service providers and companies need to come forward to invest in recharging mobile data packs or internet connections for students from the lower strata.

Another way forward is for organisations to conduct mass drives where people can donate their old laptops, tablets, smartphones or any other mobile devices that can be refurbished and provided to students from resource-poor backgrounds. Private companies too can come forward to fund tablets as a part of their CSR initiatives to bridge the digital divide.

This is also when we need to look at skilling from a broader perspective, taking technology into account. There are a plethora of online resources and platforms that impart varied new-age skills that young students can use to equip themselves with. While online skilling can be done through live sessions using Zoom/Google/Microsoft based platform, it is also possible to explore many mobile applications that support and promote Digital Learning. Enguru for Conversational English and Dhangyan for Financial Literacy are few among many that are readily and easily available. Many bigger IT companies like TCS are offering their Learning Management Systems (LMS) free of cost to NGOs to facilitate and streamline online deliveries. Other organisations can offer access to such knowledge platforms and online learning resources to facilitate self-learning. The course material can be downloaded and kept for ready reference. The students need not revisit it online every time.

Imparting skill training through media like television or radio are also platforms that can be explored. The Maharashtra government had already sought air time on national television and radio from the Central government to conduct educational programmes for children residing in areas where online learning could be a problem due to lack of internet access.

Moreover, in the current scenario, skill training has to be practical by ensuring that all the training materials and props reach the homes of the students, especially those who live in slums. The shift requires teachers and trainers to become facilitators of knowledge enabling the youth and instilling the required competencies in them. For instance, a home-based pocket training kit for Beautician or Home Appliance trades, delivered to a trainee can ensure that he/she can practice while attending live sessions or watching the videos. Such a model can easily be replicable for training in other trades like Mobile Repair, Bakery & Confectionary, Jewellery Design, Media and Entertainment, Sports etc.

The government on its part is already encouraging skill seekers to acquire new skills and utilise their time effectively. The National Skill Development Corporation's (NSDC) eLearning aggregator portal, eSkill India portal offers more than 400 courses curated from various knowledge providers. In the last two months, eSkillIndia has partnered with English Score, SAS India, Saylor Academy (USA) and UpGrad, thereby providing skill seekers with varied online opportunities.

While the shift to online or distance learning in skill development may be an emergency response, the pandemic has taught us that short term solutions can be and have to be found to create long-term positive impacts. Tools to ensure young beneficiaries continue enhancing their skills and knowledge are a pre-requisite. This has led to extensive experimentation. It has also necessitated that skill development projects are able to ride out the global crisis by adapting to the virtual mode and allowing young beneficiaries to continue enhancing their skills and preparedness for the new normal.

*Disclaimer: The views expressed in the article above are those of the authors' and do not necessarily represent or reflect the views of this publishing house*

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# NEP Scores Full Marks For Addressing Issues In Vocational Education, Could Have Considered Past Learnings

*The NEP comes at an opportune time considering India is currently in a sweet spot as far its demographics are concerned.*

**10** August, 2020  
by Gaurav Arora



At a time when skill-based education is a fundamental requirement, there has been a growing demand for the Indian education system to focus upon it.

The New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 announced by the Central government recently brings hope for some positivity in this direction by holding at its core the holistic development of students who will enter the workforce of the future. While NEP 2020 has proposed significant changes in school and higher education, it has also given seminal importance to vocational skill development.

The NEP comes at an opportune time considering India is currently in a sweet spot as far its demographics are concerned. As per the National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, 2015, it was estimated that the average age of the population in India by 2020 would be 29 years as against 40 years in the US, 46 in Europe and 47 in Japan. This means it's high time for India to cash in on the opportunity to supply a workforce to its industries and to the rest of the world. To this end, it helps that the NEP is focussing on integrating vocational education into all educational institutions including schools, colleges and universities. It also aims to provide access to vocational education to at least 50% of all learners by 2025.

Among the various elements of the policy, many are directly linked to employability. As a first step, the NEP aims to alter the incumbent misperception around vocational education as a less desirable option by fully integrating it within mainstream education, rather than developing it separately. This is a crucial aspect since it will expose students to various streams of vocational education while they are in the school itself. In our personal experience at the Salaam Bombay Foundation, this model of integrating vocational training at the secondary school level has worked out to be highly effective. Since 2014-15, our skills@school programme has trained around 20,000 adolescents in government and government-aided schools with skill-building, enabling them to think about progressive career paths. Trainings for the courses are conducted within the school premises before or after school hours. This in-school nature of training is testimony to its acceptance within the education system.

Another major area where the NEP scores is that it empowers students by offering them the flexibility to explore multiple vocational programmes and the freedom to change streams. Students will be able to make a vocational choice and spend time pursuing this academic choice, while also benefitting from access to courses that are broader-based.

The plethora of reforms the draft introduces – both in the academic and skill development area -- are commendable, yet it also has certain inherent limitations.

While setting up some really ambitious targets for vocational education, it is unclear if NEP has taken any learning from the achieved outreach of the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) that was launched in 2009. Under the RMSA's vocationalisation of secondary and higher secondary education, 3,654 government schools in 31 States/UTs covered 3.65 lakh students between Classes 9 and 10. As of July 2019, this number was just 2.5% of the total government and government-aided schools pointing out that the outreach is still very low. The NEP could have taken into consideration statistics and experiences like these while framing its aspirations.

Another aspect where the policy wavers is its proposal about setting up of a separate National Committee for Integration of Vocational Education (NCIVE) consisting of stakeholders from across ministries. In India, there is no dearth of committees and organisations to cater to the skill sector with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), National Skill Development Authority (NSDA), National Skill Qualification committee (NSQC), National Council on Vocational Training (NCVT) and Directorate General of Training (DGT) to name a few. In fact, in 2017, a committee headed by Sharda Prasad, former director-general of general employment and training in the ministry of labour and employment, had suggested a merger of a majority of 40 sector skill councils (SSCs) running skill development centres to half their numbers. In this scenario, the need for another committee to add to these ones could be a question mark.

Capacity building is another area where the policy sounds too ambitious. It expects educational institutes to robustly bolster their set-ups requiring them to collaborate with bodies like ITIs, polytechnics, local industries, SSCs, induct external experts in different vocations, conduct assessments of all vocational education courses, develop equipment and laboratories etc. In a country like India where there's a paucity of even basic infrastructure in many educational institutions, expecting investments of this level and putting a large part of the onus of skilling exclusively on the educational institutions alone could prove to be a deterrent to the whole exercise.

Nonetheless, the NEP has proposed some ground-breaking reforms in its attempt to create space for a synergized pedagogy that amalgamates 'hands-on' and 'project-oriented' with academics. However, it is now about having a focused approach in translating the policy into on the ground action which could need more precision.

For instance, the policy mentions providing exposure to students to vocations during Grades 6-8 so that they can make informed choices in Grades 9-12. By the ages of 11 to 13, some students are yet to develop the maturity, ability and even decision-making capacity to appropriately choose what vocations could prove right for them. The policy document could have better articulated as to why this age group has been chosen to provide exposure to for an important future decision.

The NEP also calls for a scalable model to train large numbers of teachers making use of the capacities of school complexes, DIETs and Departments of Education at Universities. Instead, exploring low cost and portable delivery models without compromising on the quality of training may have worked better. One of the reasons why the RMSA model of integration of skills and education hasn't worked is because of its cost heavy nature that is high on Capital Expenditure spends and lacks scalability. At Salaam Bombay Foundation, we have been able to develop such low-cost models through a portable 'Skills in a Bag' Model for our skills@school programme.

There are some other areas too where the policy could have lent more clarity, especially areas like curriculum revamp. It suggests working with the Pandit Sunderlal Sharma Central Institute of Vocational Education (PSSCIVE) and State Institutes of Vocational Education (SCERTs) to create vocational education material that is adapted to local needs. An overview of some of the courses currently deployed under the RMSA and conceptualized by PSSCIVE shows the likes of multi-skill foundation courses with components of gardening, nursery, agricultural techniques and plumbing. While these courses are no doubt gainful, the question is are these enough to prepare our adolescents for 21st-century skills? At a time when skills like Robotics, Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence are slated to enormously influence the workplaces of the future, it may be necessary to expand the purview of the policy to focus upon these as well.

Further, the NEP also talks about incentivising and creating more apprenticeships and other opportunities for work-integrated training for students. While this is a credible proposal, it is necessary to examine its feasibility in light of the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) which was launched in 2016. Till 2018, the NAP had trained only 2.9 lakh apprentices against a cumulative target of 20 lakh that was set. With just 15% of the target met, the overall target of training 50 lakh apprentices by 2020 seems unlikely. Data analysed by Salaam Bombay Foundation from the NAPS portal of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in June 2019 reveals that out of 64,390 establishments registered, only 10,8195 (16.8%) had one or more apprentices undertaking training with them. These figures need thorough review before setting more aggressive pathways for apprenticeships under NEP.

All in all, while the policy can be lauded on several angles, there is still a need to revisit a few aspects. As operational plans for the next five years are rolled out, it is necessary to take into account the learnings from the achievements and failures of the last ten years of all programmes that have dealt with vocational education and its integration with school education. For now, the policy certainly attempts to address some fundamental issues that have plagued the sector for a very long time and therefore score full marks for it.

*Disclaimer: The views expressed in the article above are those of the authors' and do not necessarily represent or reflect the views of this publishing house*

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**Date: 19th August, 2020**



A photograph clicked by one of the kids during the classes

## This one's for you, kid

Thirty children from Salaam Bombay Foundation's media academy, belonging to lesser-privileged families, have been sharpening their camera skills at home, with help from photographers Hridgandha Mistry, Colston Julian, Jaideep Oberoi, Vicky Roy and Fabiano Rodrigues. Today, on World Photography Day, and tomorrow, some of these lensmen, and other experts, will share their experience with these

young enthusiasts. "We've been training kids in media skills so that they can approach it as a career option. Our students have been practising at home but we felt that they should be connected to experts for guidance," shared Rajashree Kadam, VP, projects (arts and media). The experts will shed light on various aspects and interact with the kids on their takeaways. Check their Facebook page to tune in to the webinars.

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Date: 20th August, 2020



News » Entertainment » Hindi » Events » Mumbai » A Mumbai-based NGO adopts virtual route to bring photography classes to children from humble backgrounds

## A Mumbai-based NGO adopts virtual route to bring photography classes to children from humble backgrounds

By - TNN | Pallabi Dey Purkayastha | Created: Aug 20, 2020, 16:58 IST | [f](#) [t](#) [p](#)



A screen grab of the class and some of the pictures the students have taken

Amidst COVID 19 pandemic, the unique Mini Master Class workshop webinar series was planned by the organisation ahead of World Photography Day which is celebrated worldwide on August 19.

In the words of Alfred Stieglitz, "In photography there is a reality so subtle that it becomes more real than reality." To celebrate World Photography Day, which is dedicated to the art, craft, science and history of photography, Salaam Bombay Foundation partnered with four masters for an interactive series of mini master classes where children from resource poor backgrounds were trained on the finer nuances of photography. These names include - Hridgandha Mistry - Director, Shari Academy of Professional Photography and Mentor Profoto: Lighting Pro, Jaideep Oberoi - Brand Ambassador - Canon EOS, Luxury & Lifestyle Photographer, Vicky Roy - Documentary Photographer and Fabiano Rodrigues - Photographer & Digital Creator. It is very rare that resource-challenged youth growing up in Mumbai's slums have access to instruction of this quality.



As a prelude to this day, these four master photographers took 30 students from Salaam Bombay Foundation's Media Academy under their wing in a 10 day long master class beginning 1st August. In these interactive sessions, the masters discussed the scope of photography as a career and imparted technical knowledge based on pre-decided topics such as portraits, skylight, landscape, black and white photography, storytelling through photographs, etc. All images were clicked by the students on their mobile phones from their homes. Students were given feedback either on the phone or on-line through zoom chats. Soft skills training and mentorship along these lines by the master photographers, added value to the master class. By the end of the master class, a strong mentor-mentee relationship bonded both masters and their students. The final photographs are now on display on the social media handles of Salaam Bombay Foundation and the masters.

Speaking about the initiative, **Ms Rajashree Kadam** - Vice President - Projects (Arts & Media) said, "Amidst the pandemic situation where physical connectivity has been a big challenge for most of us, at Salaam Bombay Foundation we decided to take the virtual route in order to ensure that the children continue to get mentorship from the best in the photography world. Apropos to the World Photography Day, the Mini Master Class webinar series is another step in bringing about a difference to the lives of the underprivileged youth of the society. There are many ancillary support functions in photography that also provide viable career options currently not within the purview of these youth. Continuation of skilling during these times is the need of the hour and online modes of teaching the new normal."

Photography, since the dawn of the digital camera and the smartphone, has evolved into an art form that can be accessed by anyone, at any time. No other medium is as good a documentary of digital culture as photography. As human beings are wired to respond to images faster than text, there will always be a place for photographers in tomorrow's world.

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**The Salaam Bombay Media Academy** provides exposure to media as a potential vocation and develops 21st-century relevant employability skills that enhance economic prospects. These students growing up in Mumbai's slums, go to BMC schools, and have very few opportunities to discover and develop latent talent. The rigorous three-year programme trains them in journalism, print production, design and photography, and develops strong communication, writing, and interpersonal skills.

A live chat with the masters was also concluded to give them a platform to share their experiences and to motivate their students to shoot for the stars. Mr **Mahesh Palkar**, Education officer – BMC was part of one of the chat sessions with the masters which amplified the motivation levels of these children.

**Publication: Online BW Education**

**Date: 20th August, 2020**



## **Salaam Bombay Foundation Adopts Virtual Route To Bring The Masters Of Photography To The Homes Of Children From Resource Poor Backgrounds**

*The Salaam Bombay Media Academy provides exposure to media as a potential vocation and develops 21st-century relevant employability skills that enhance economic prospects.*



**20** August, 2020  
by BW Online Bureau

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On World Youth Skills Day  
2020, Salaam Bombay  
Foundation Presents  
Evolutionary Hybrid  
Approaches To Vocational  
Skill Training Models

In the words of Alfred Stieglitz, "In photography, there is a reality so subtle that it becomes more real than reality." To celebrate World Photography Day, which is dedicated to the art, craft, science and history of photography, Salaam Bombay Foundation partnered with four masters for an interactive series of mini masterclasses where children from resource-poor backgrounds were trained on the finer nuances of photography. These names include - Hridgandha Mistry - Director, Shari Academy of Professional Photography and Mentor Profoto: Lighting Pro, Jaideep Oberoi - Brand Ambassador - Canon EOS, Luxury & Lifestyle Photographer, Vicky Roy - Documentary Photographer and Fabiano Rodrigues - Photographer & Digital Creator. It is very rare that resource-challenged youth growing up in Mumbai's slums have access to the instruction of this quality.

As a prelude to this day, these four master photographers took 30 students from Salaam Bombay Foundation's Media Academy under their wing in a 10-day long master class beginning 1st August. In these interactive sessions, the masters discussed the scope of photography as a career and imparted technical knowledge based on pre-decided topics such as portraits, skylight, landscape, black and white photography, storytelling through photographs, etc. All images were clicked by the students on their mobile phones from their homes. Students were given feedback either on the phone or on-line through zoom chats. Soft skills training and mentorship along these lines by the master photographers, added value to the master class. By the end of the master class, a strong mentor-mentee relationship bonded both masters and their students. The final photographs are now on display on the social media handles of Salaam Bombay Foundation and the masters.

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**Publication: Online Mental Health Post**

**Date: 22nd September, 2020**



HEALTHTECH

## **Salaam Bombay Foundation Webinar emphasizes the role of Immunity Boosting during COVID 19 on the occasion of National Nutrition Month**



While good health is a prerequisite for the development of an individual, nutrition plays a crucial role in developing and maintaining this health. Adolescents being in the phase of rapid growth and development have higher nutritional demands to meet the needs of their physical, physiological and psychological growth. Adolescence is also a period when typical emotional and behavioural patterns are set in, which are then carried throughout adulthood. With a continuation of focus on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits during the current pandemic, Salaam Bombay Foundation organised a webinar titled – ‘Role of Nutrition on Immunity Boosting During COVID 19 and Looking At Nutrition & Health Through the Lens of School & Community Nutrition Gardening’.

The guest of honour on the occasion was **Dr. Krishna Methekar, Deputy Director, FSSAI, Western Region of India** who spoke about – ‘Role of Nutrition in immunity boosting during COVID 19 pandemic’. The other guest speakers at the webinar were **Mrs. Gene Gomes – Prinicpal, Michael High School** who spoke on the topic – ‘Kitchen gardening in school premises- Experiences’ and **Mrs. Preeti Patil – Founder, Urban Leaves, India** who spoke on the topic – ‘Kitchen gardening and composting at home using waste material and innovative techniques’. The webinar also focussed on the importance of School & Community Nutrition Gardening which was in sync with the guidelines outlined by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). The aim is to encourage setting up School Nutrition (Kitchen) Gardens which would help in addressing malnutrition and micro-nutrition deficiencies among school children as children will learn the skill to grow their own food.

While appreciating Salaam Bombay Foundation, **Dr. Krishna Methekar, Deputy Director, FSSAI, Western Region of India** commented, *"I would like to thank Salaam Bombay Foundation for the sincere efforts they have been putting in with their Preventive Health Programme even during the lockdown. It is important to eat nutritionally rich foods, get enough Vitamin C through fruits and practise all manners of safety and hygiene. To make the young aware of all this is very commendable. And yes, physical activity for the body coupled with yoga for the soul makes for a healthy future generation of Indians."*

**Ms. Priti Vaishnav, Senior Manager, Preventive Health Programme, Salaam Bombay Foundation** said, *" At SBF we have been constantly striving to create awareness on nutrition and healthy dietary practices that can be an effective way to help adolescents make the right food choices which would positively affect their growth, development and daily activities. This in turn has positive outcomes for their academics and extracurricular activities. And we have been doing this through our programme 'KHANA – Knowledge on Health And Nutrition for Adolescents'- a project on school based health and nutrition since 2017. With the pandemic bringing physical connectivity and movement to a halt, we decided to opt for the virtual route in order to continue our efforts towards this initiative and so far we have already reached out to over 13,000-15,000 students from 220 BMC and government aided schools. We have been doing this with online sessions that are conducted regularly where our facilitators provide explanations, conduct games, activities, discussions and Q & A rounds. . The children and their parents have been contacted through sessions that were delivered through Zoom, Google, Microsoft based platforms. Our aim is to reach out to approximately 20,000 students by March 2021"*

The focus of the Salaam Bombay Preventive Health Programme continues to be on awareness of the ills of tobacco consumption especially during COVID, nutrition, hygiene and the importance of physical activity and mental well-being. An added element is the importance of school and community nutrition gardening.

Tags: COVID 19 | Dr. Krishna Methekar | FSSAI | Immunity | Mrs. Gene Gomes | National Nutrition Month | Preeti Patil | Salaam Bombay Foundation | Webinar

Publication: HealthCare Mumbai

Date: 22nd September, 2020

# Healthcare **MUMBAI**

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> SALAAM BOMBAY FOUNDATION WEBINAR EMPHASIZES THE ROLE OF IMMUNITY BOOSTING DURING COVID 19 ON THE OCCASION OF NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH



HEALTH-TECH

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**Publication: HealthCare India Today**

**Date: 22nd September, 2020**



Expert Opinion

Know everything About Mosquito-Borne Diseases

## Salaam Bombay Foundation Webinar emphasizes the role of Immunity Boosting during COVID 19 on the occasion of National Nutrition Month

Posted on September 22, 2020 by Staff Reporter



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**Publication: CSR Mandate**

**Date: 28th September, 2020**



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Commitment

## Salaam Bombay Foundation: Poverty Alleviation Through Skilling

September 28, 2020



The pandemic and a national lockdown since March have unleashed an unprecedented medical, social and economic catastrophe in India. In the backdrop of COVID-19, a World Bank report – India Development Update (IDU) – published in June 2020 has said that India is at a “risk of losing its hard-won gains against poverty”. It reported that “several households are likely to slip back into poverty due to income and job losses triggered by COVID-19”.



Aditi Parikh

*There are a few reasons why poverty in India is still not showing signs of reduction. Firstly, our poverty reduction rate is inadequate and India has 220 million poor. Secondly, as the population increases, there are more being added to the existing list of poor. Thirdly, we may be temporarily raising people above poverty levels but are not able to keep them there.*

As the pandemic raged, the entire nation was forced into a state of inactivity. A humanitarian crisis in the form of tens of millions undertaking reverse migration ensued. This crisis further exacerbated the already weak and falling economic growth over the last several quarters. Loss of income for the principal earner of the family meant that his dependents are left without financial support. It is estimated that the pandemic will push at least 71 million people globally into poverty and the number can go up to 100 million in a worst-case scenario.

There are a few reasons why poverty in India is still not showing signs of reduction. Firstly, our poverty reduction rate is inadequate and India has 220 million poor according to the last poverty count published by the World Economic Forum in a report titled – “Global Social Mobility Report 2020: Equality, Opportunity and a New Economic Imperative”. Secondly, as the population increases, there are more being added to the existing list of poor. Thirdly, we may be temporarily raising people above poverty levels but are not able to keep them there. In our country, where nearly 200 million people live below the poverty line, quality education and subsequent employment opportunities are not accessible to all. Mumbai alone is home to over 14.3 million people, 56 per cent of whom live with large families in slums and survive on an average monthly income of INR 8000.

*Vocational skill initiatives empower them with relevant vocational skills that make them more employable, leading them towards sustainable career options and breaking their cycle of poverty. This training has led to internships and part-time jobs while still in school. The income they generate finances higher education that parents cannot afford as well as contribute to family income, thus keeping youth in school and avoiding parental pressure to drop out*

At Salaam Bombay Foundation, we believe that keeping children in school is the only way to break the cycle of poverty many youths find themselves in. Research shows that out of 100 students, only 45 per cent complete Class VII; 36 per cent do not complete Class VIII and 20 per cent appear for Class X exams. Our programmes are uniquely created to address the challenging environment low-income adolescents face and intervene on all the triggers that compel neglected students to drop out of school so they are not denied the chance of a better future. So while 36.37 per cent of students drop out of school by Class VIII; 97 per cent of Salaam Bombay’s students go on to complete higher education.

We keep adolescents in school by empowering them to make the right choices about their health, education and livelihood, thereby, ensuring that they can thrive with a bright future. We offer leadership programmes that empower teenagers to engage with policymakers and bring about change. In Salaam Bombay, the Academies of Arts, Sports and Media provide students with a platform to express themselves, and through this, build confidence and self-esteem. They help hone communication skills and inspire life skills such as leadership, discipline and teamwork; necessary to lead better lives. Vocational skill initiatives empower them with relevant vocational skills that make them more employable, leading them towards sustainable career options and breaking their cycle of poverty. This training has led to internships and part-time jobs while still in school. The income they generate finances higher education that parents cannot afford as well as contribute to family income, thus keeping youth in school and avoiding parental pressure to drop out.

We have undertaken various initiatives to this end:

**Project Résumé:** It aims to supplement classroom education with vocational training to equip underprivileged adolescents to earn part-time without dropping out of secondary school. The programme also increases their choices of securing a sustainable job after graduation. It includes coaching in the field of arts, sports, media and vocational skills, some of which are:

**Salaam Bombay skills@school:**



While the government offers skill training to adults, we realised that we could motivate adolescents to continue their education and aspire for better careers by offering it while they are still in secondary school. Our courses include:

- Technology: Robotics, Computer Hardware Repair, Mobile Repair, and Home Appliances Repair
- 21st-Century Skills: Web Design, Graphic Design, Software Development
- Design: Fashion Design and Jewellery Design
- Beauty and Wellness
- Baking and Confectionery

**Salaam Bombay Sports Academy:**



The Academy uses sports as a medium for change, imparting life skills such as leadership, discipline, teamwork and goal setting. The Academy has given secondary school students access to international tournaments, higher education through sports scholarships, internships at multinational companies, and the ability to pay their way through school and college through part-time jobs as coaches, scorekeepers, umpires and more.

## The Salaam Bombay Academy of the Arts:



At Salaam Bombay, we focus on schools that lack the resources to offer extra-curricular activities to engage students. Our Arts Academy helps fill that gap. It focuses on building the confidence of adolescents, igniting their ambition, helping them develop their natural creative talents, and motivating them to stay in school. For many, we offer an opportunity to collaborate with luminaries and earn part-time through performances, or by becoming assistant trainers. Most importantly, this programme gives adolescents from the slums something they rarely have: a chance to explore the arts and express themselves – often, for the first time.

*Adolescents in slums often grow up thinking that their voice does not matter. This Academy shows them it does, by developing their communication skills and giving them platforms to express themselves*

## Salaam Bombay Media Academy:



Adolescents in slums often grow up thinking that their voice does not matter. This Academy shows them it does, by developing their communication skills and giving them platforms to express themselves. Our courses include Photography, Creative Writing, Electronic Media, Social Media, Training for Radio Jockeying and Voice Modulation, Film Editing and Videography

### In-School Preventive Health Programme:



It educates adolescents about the harmful effects of tobacco and its long-term impact on their lives. In-school councils like the *Balpanchayat* and the *Balparishad* empower them to collaborate with policymakers, media and other communities to advocate effective tobacco-control policies and bring about change. To improve the nutritional status of children from municipal schools, we have also introduced

Project 'KHANA' – Knowledge on Health and Nutrition for Adolescents. The initiative LifeFirst is a school-based tobacco cessation programme offering counselling to adolescents trying to quit tobacco and cope with peer pressure.

### DreamLab Initiative:



The initiative was started in 2018 with the intent to help underprivileged youth in the age group of 14 to 18 years find real-world internships. It empowers them to successfully transition into the labour market and make informed career decisions. DreamLab's 'Learn, Earn and Grow' model focuses on offering solutions to the issues of unemployment and the lack of skill-based learning. The programme equips students with soft skills training in several areas, including business etiquette, personal grooming, and trade-specific terminology so they are ready for their real-world internships.

## Empowering the Youth and Making Them Self-Sustaining

### Rohan Rakesh Parsad



Fifteen-year-old Rohan stays with his mother and two siblings in a rented house in Mumbai. Rohan's father was the sole breadwinner of the family working in a glass polishing factory. An accident robbed him of his job and the family of their only source of income. Rohan's mother's work as a domestic help barely made ends meet and even that has disappeared during the pandemic. Rohan had begun his mobile repair course with the Salaam Bombay skills@school programme and kept up with it online during the lockdown. A repair kit from his uncle was all the impetus he needed. An advertisement in the community led to service calls and Rohan was soon earning small amounts to support his family.

### Priyanka Kotwal

Priyanka joined the Salaam Bombay Foundation's Academy of the Arts as a shy young 7th grader and has since come out of her shell and embraced her incredible talent as a theatre performer and puppeteer. Now in her mid-20s, she works with students to teach them theatre and puppetry digitally. She has her own production house and is grateful to Salaam Bombay for helping her discover her passion and honing the skills that she never knew she had. Today, these very skills provide a steady income for her and her family. Priyanka has not let the pandemic stop her; instead, she continues to teach online and is currently participating in an international puppet festival in Peru as well as a national level festival in Kolkata. Priyanka is engaged and empowered!



### Vikas Kivadnor



Life skill training in Salaam Bombay Foundation helps our students be future-ready and prepared to face any challenge that comes their way. Vikas Kivadnor's training in the Salaam Bombay Sports Academy fanned his love for cricket and innumerable tournaments later, his fitness levels, his discipline, his focus, led to a job as a certified trainer in Golds Gym. Today, with gyms yet to re-open, Vikas has not let the pandemic stand in his way. His

training has taught him to approach every challenge positively. Till he can go back to his regular job, Vikas is a part-time delivery executive at Pizza Hut, grateful for the opportunity to continue supporting his family while continuing his online education.

## Varsha Suryavanshi

Vocational skills are taught in Salaam Bombay to enable youth to gain part-time employment, avail of internship opportunities and to expand their career horizons, all while still being in school. For 14-year-old Varsha Suryavanshi, a frail financial situation was made worse during the pandemic. Luckily, her training in Salaam Bombay's Beauty and Wellness course came to good use. She built a steady clientele for her waxing and threading services. When this did not prove to be enough, she channelled the entrepreneur in her and used her creative skills and online resources to create beautiful cloth flowers, cloth decorations, torans and other decorative items for sale. Her training helps her to continue to earn and save up for a career in medicine. She believes her struggles have taught her to become a stronger and better person.



## Tabrez Khan



While the school in the traditional sense is closed for the moment, our students continue to find ways to stay in touch with what they have learnt and continue to attend online classes to expand their knowledge and skillsets. 16-year-old Tabrez Khan was introduced to the role of nutrition in development through our KHANA programme. The programme's bearing on academic outcomes encouraged him to put into practice all he had learnt – avoid junk food, no substitute for home-cooked meals, breakfast is the most important of them all. His mother acknowledges Tabrez's inputs in the meals she cooks for her family, especially during the pandemic. *"Bahar nahi ja sakte. Badan ko Vitamin D ki zaroorat hai. Isiliye dudh, dahi, anda khana chahiye,"* says an enlightened Tabrez.



## Testimonials



*"Exposing young people to the rigour, discipline, and joy of the arts at an early age is of huge value to whatever they may choose as a career path in the future. At the very least, it equips them with tremendous self-confidence, good articulation, language skills, presence, and an ability to deal with different ways of looking at life. I am gratified that Salaam Bombay has enabled this journey and we at Tamaasha Theatre are proud to be associated with this initiative."*

*- Sunil Shanbag - Artistic Director, Tamaasha Theatre, Mumbai*

*"Thanks to our partnership with Salaam Bombay Foundation, we can offer industry-ready courses, state-of-the-art labs, and trained faculty to the students of government schools."*

*- Sameer Joshi, CEO and Director,  
Kohinoor Technical Institute Pvt. Ltd.  
Training Partner, Salaam Bombay Foundation*



At Salaam Bombay Foundation, we always stand by our core values which empower us to fulfil our vision to change the future of millions of disadvantaged young adolescents. We have expanded our horizons and started activities in cities like Pune, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Thane and Jaipur. We continue to remain committed to developing solutions to keep adolescents from dropping out of school. Poverty cannot be eradicated overnight, but by taking measures like skilling youth in the early stages of their life, while still in school, we envisage a positive change in the coming decades.

**Aditi Parikh** is Vice President, Communications, Salaam Bombay Foundation.