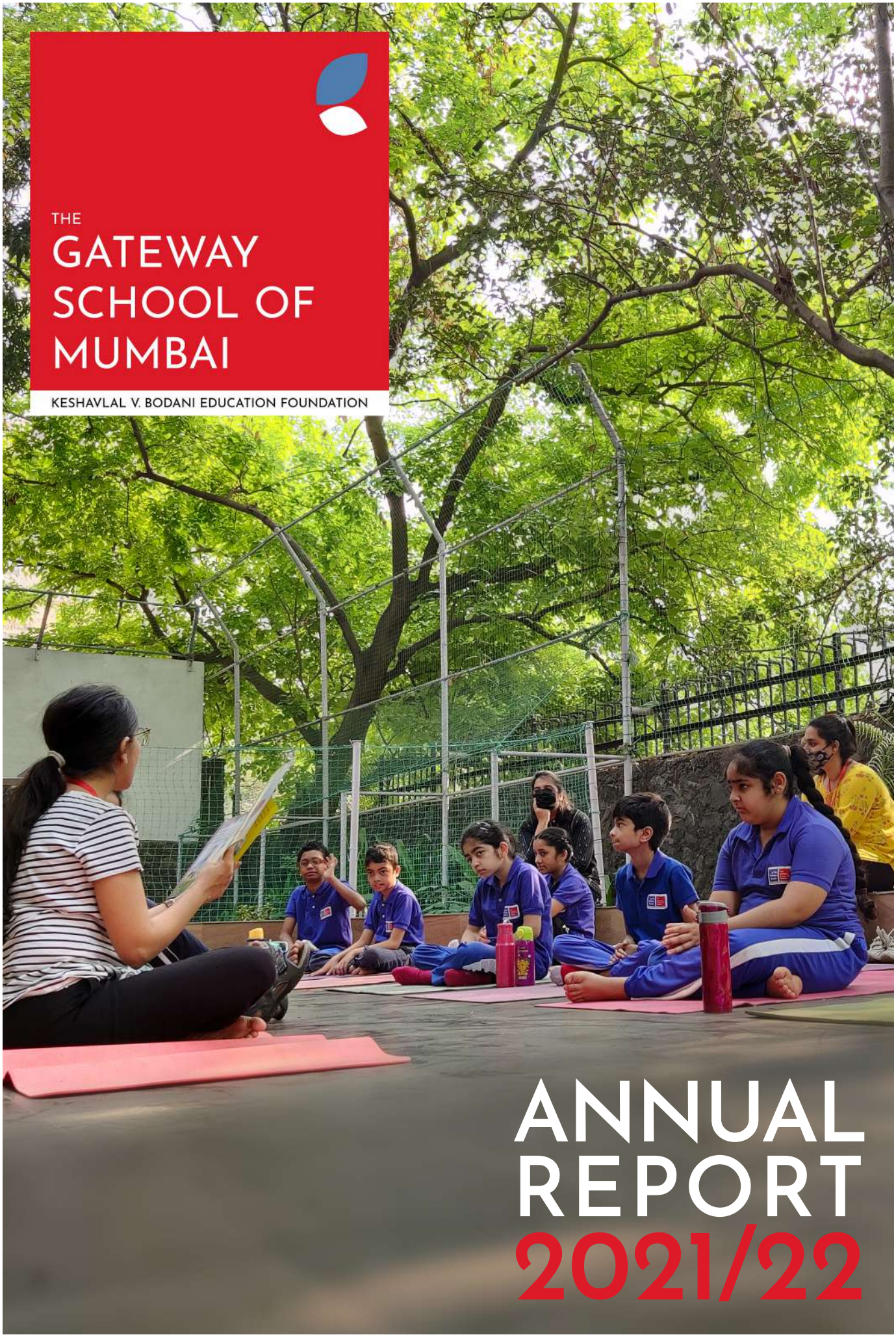
THE

GATEWAY SCHOOL OF MUMBAI

KESHAVLAL V. BODANI EDUCATION FOUNDATION



ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

MESSAGE FROM THE GATEWAY SCHOOL OF MUMBAI

Have you ever been in constant problem-solving mode, where you try to anticipate what the next 'googly ball' thrown your way will be?

At Gateway this year, this has been our reality! We switched from 'laptop school' (in the words of one of our students) to physical school in 2021 and snapped right back to starting that cycle all over again at the beginning of 2022.
The taste of coming back to Gateway's physical space to teach, learn and be around 'our' people grew on each one of us, and this kept us going through challenging times.

Our team, founders, the parents, and our extended community have pushed every boundary to ensure that learning at Gateway goes on. Our children have grown into passionate humans who have built on their strengths that Gateway as a school built an environment for through this year—we have budding chefs, avid readers, artists, musicians, animal lovers, and so many more!

We truly are grateful to each one of our well-wishers, including our students, for believing in our endeavours, and our ability to collaborate and innovate powerful learning experiences through our journey this year.

We are confident that 2021-22 has made us believe that nothing is impossible and has helped us raise the bar in the field of education for ourselves.

Here is a snapshot of our work through this year:

- A sneak peek into Gateway's Career Path Programme, a 3-year programme to support our young adults to transition into the community through exposure and rigorous practice in life skills, functional skills, and job skills.

- Launched our culinary programme in our very own kitchen at Gateway. We hope to grow this into our own cafe.

- Partnered with professionals in the US to build our in-house speech and language programme. We piloted the oro-motor and therapeutic listening programme this year and will continue to grow them in the coming years.

- Collaborated with our partner schools and external professionals to conduct groundbreaking research on FABLe, our in-house reading fluency mobile application.

- Partnered with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences on a project supported by the Cognizant Foundation to build awareness and resources for inclusive education.

WHY ARE WE HERE?

7.8 million
children with disabilities.

40% of children
with disabilities have no access to education.

92% of children
experienced some learning loss during the pandemic

WHO WE ARE

The Gateway School of Mumbai is a not-for-profit organisation, dedicated to empowering children with learning difficulties.

Lab School

Develops Student Capacity

Builds Community Capacity

Children with learning difficulties lead productive lives and are contributing members of society

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT - SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAMME

The Service Learning Program (SLP), part of our ongoing endeavour to help develop our students as contributing members to society, has been an integral part of the high school experiences each year. The SLP provides a wonderful platform for students to engage with the community and to collaborate and develop necessary life skills through project work.

Aarya Saha

Aarya Saha aimed to share her love and affinity for animals through her SLP project. She not only worked closely with her teachers but also encouraged her friends in her residential complex to care for the stray dogs in her neighbourhood by feeding and grooming them. Additionally, after having them vaccinated, she engaged with her community on social media to help stray puppies get adopted. From the beginning, Aarya attempted to understand the 'Why' behind the SLP and was fully committed to and enthusiastic about her project, which is very close to her heart.

Ritoban Chatterjee

Ritoban Chatterjee's love for helping the community motivated him to distribute food to the homeless, covid warriors, and stray dogs over the weekends. From the get-go, Ritoban was extremely committed and enthusiastic about his SLP project. While learning to make tea and store the same in the flask he also made a conscious effort to wake up earlier to ensure he could reach more workers in the early hours of the morning. His compassion, empathy, and the commitment to the process were commendable. He truly contributed to making a difference by actively contributing to the needs of society.

WHERE ARE OUR GRADUATES?

ZAINIKA JAGASIA

I have been assisting my sister in baking in a part of my house in a 'Bakery Room' where we sell bagels, gluten free, refined sugar free cakes, brownies, cookies and granola. Additionally, I started my modeling career 6 months ago, because someone suggested I will be good on camera, I tried it out and I really enjoyed being in front of the camera and meeting new people as well dressing up in different outfits. Recently I shot with Cottonwood and I loved the outdoor shoot. It was also fun when The Quint and Times now did a documentary on my life.

In The Gateway School of Mumbai I have learnt team work and group work in terms of taking turns and being flexible. I also learned how to give other people a chance to talk.

NAMAH MISTRY

I'm doing a course called BAFTNMP from Usha Pravin Gandhi College of Arts, Science and Commerce; in simple words it's a course for films and film making. I'm also pursuing interior designing side by side from a institute known as IITC.

I've learned tons of things from Gateway! To be caring about others putting yourself in others shoes, Empathy, Life skills, how to prepare and problem solve in different situations, etc.
A lot of things that the outside world wouldn't have taught me otherwise. How to help others with different difficulties, and to communicate and become more confident. The list goes on !!

SANYAT SHIRKE

Right now I'm waiting for my unconditional letter from ARU, it's a university in Cambridge.

Gateway has helped me build confidence which has helped me a lot during my A levels and also making the decision of going about and studying by myself. It has helped me to take responsibility and own up to a task which has led me to take leadership roles which I couldn't do before. The teachers taught us learning hacks which I still use. Basically they are very easy to remember, and I used them during my A levels because it was very tough.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2021-22

CULINARY PROGRAMME

This year we launched the culinary programme in our very own kitchen. ADL (Activities for Daily Living) skills + fun and tasty stuff!

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PROGRAMME

The Speech and Language team initiated the oromotor and myofascial therapy programme in school. This programme is focused on developing successful eaters and communicators in the classroom by working on feeding, chewing, oromotor skills and speech clarity. We are in collaboration with Jenifer Midili who has worked in the field of speech and language pathology for 25 years practicing in Virginia USA. We have seen a lot of success with the programme.

Our speech and language therapists along with the sensory motor team have also piloted the Therapeutic Listening Program in school. Therapeutic Listening is an evidence based auditory intervention program intended to support individuals who experience challenges with sensory processing dysfunction, listening, attention and communication. We are beginning to see positive changes and have also received positive feedback from parents regarding the program.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2021-22

LOWER AND MIDDLE SCHOOL SHOWCASE

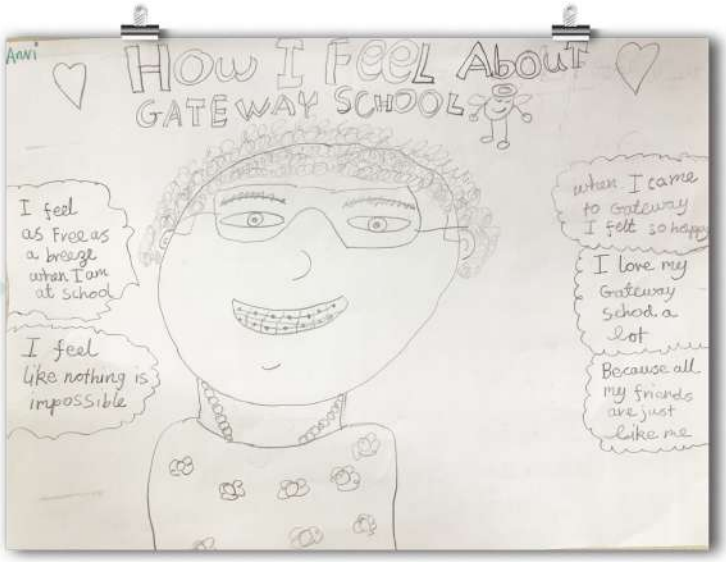
Our lower and middle school annual showcase, 'My Voice, My Choice', was a collaboration between the students, speech therapists, and arts team. It was an opportunity for our students to display the speaking and listening skills that they learned in their therapy classes which in turn were generalized into a real-life setting. The showcase brought together stories of four prominent personalities - Lewis Carroll, King George VI, Marilyn Monroe, and Stephen Hawking - who struggled with speech difficulties throughout their lives but were able to persevere and overcome their challenges to find an effective way to communicate with the world.

STUDENT AGENCY > CREATING OUR OWN STUDENT COUNCIL

Multi-disciplinary learning units were developed at Gateway primarily to provide a holistic, appropriate and relevant curriculum to our population of students. The intention is that the outcome of each unit should be action oriented and connected to students lives. This past year, while learning about the principles of democratic governance in general, and specifically about the constitution of India, the students decided to appeal to the leadership at Gateway School about creating a student council. This was the result of an analysis about diverse representation, including the voices of not only leadership and teachers but also students. Students prepared speeches, listened to their peers, and voted for class representatives. Next year, the student council will be initiated and active.

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

ANVI KHANDEKAR, AGED 12



KRISH ROHIRA, AGED 17

VISHWAS MASIH, AGED 16

"My heartfelt congratulations to the Gateway School of Mumbai for completing ten glorious years in the educational field! I feel proud to be a part of this school which has contributed a lot to helping me become what I am today.

I was diagnosed with ADHD, Speech Delay and Language Disorder at the age of 4 and my parents were on the lookout for a school that could provide both therapies and academic support. The search ended when I got admission at GSOM. It was July 2014 when I started my academic year at the school.

Throughout my journey, my speaking and writing skills were developed which made a lot of difference in my personality. In this journey, the school has made such a difference in me that I have confidently learned how to speak and write clearly, narrate, and take part in various activities like sports, field trips, dramas, art shows, and internships.

I also made good friends and learned to work as a team. The best part about the school was that they strategised academics and therapies according to my needs and they looked upon what action must be taken to enhance my potential skills and academic knowledge.

After spending eight wonderful years in this amazing school, I want to express my special gratitude to the founder, teachers, therapists, friends and the support staff who have made me a confident person.
Love you all :) and Cheers for a fabulous decade!"

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Gateway's vision of an inclusive society, where each person has what they need in order to be successful, is only possible in partnership with the larger community. Gateway partners with parents, families, professionals and organisations to further our vision.

PARENT PARTNERSHIP

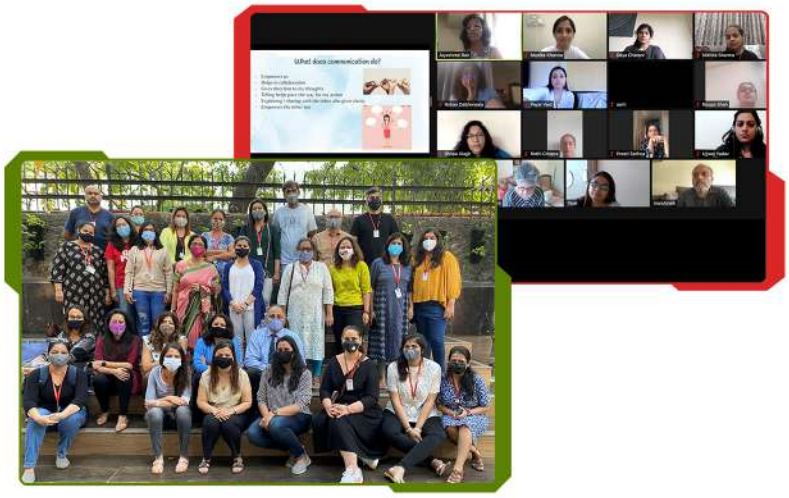
At Gateway, parents and families work together with our team towards the common goal of serving our students. This year aside from the specific partnerships below, our Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) has been tremendously helpful in supporting with a smooth transition back to face-to-face school - we know we couldn't have done this without the support of our PTA and every single parent at Gateway!

WORLD READ ALOUD DAY

Language Art week was celebrated with hybrid events with guests joining us online and some of our students back in school, the first week of February. Some of our parents (Maruti, Purnima, Archana, Nidhi) conducted some fascinating storytelling sessions for our children on World Read Aloud Day. It was most interesting to hear our students connect and interact in their own unique ways. Aruna Shetty also conducted a lively Musical session for our Lower school. We look forward to welcoming our parents to participate in person (face to face) the following year!

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

PSG has been a space for parents to come together and build a community of support by bonding socially and emotionally. This year the PSG space had the opportunity to hear from our alumni parents. We had our alumni parents Jayshree, Tejal, Archana conduct sessions on topics like self-care and communication. While the virtual PSG sessions only allowed us to have an alternate way to connect, the transition back to face to face PSG in the month of February was greeted warmly.



ORO-MOTOR

The oro-motor and feeding program initiated by the ST team was piloted during the pandemic when learning at Gateway was virtual and later when students would wear masks to school. Hence this program required a complete partnership between the therapist and the Parent where the therapist and the parents would co-conduct sessions. The therapist would train the parents to deliver the program within the home setting and regularly follow up with the therapist on progress that the child made and also how to modify the program as per the child's needs. This allowed the parents to not only see growth and changes due to the program but also helped them get a better understanding of their child's struggle and how to support him/her better.

Here is a glimpse of parents working on their home-program.

CAPACITY BUILDING

IN-HOUSE CAPACITY BUILDING

Our team members continue to strive for excellence by enrolling in virtual workshops, webinars and MOOCs. 40% of our team members participated in school Outreach and R&D activities including mentoring and coaching external professionals; conducting workshops; and driving innovation as part of in-house task forces and the R&D team.

BOOK CLUB

Our book club community continues to grow. This year we completed 3 books. We had between 30 and 70 people sign up for each book, with over 67% of sign-ups from external professionals.

INTERNS AT GATEWAY

This year we had 22 interns join us from many organisations such as TISS, Hashu Advani, SNDT, University of the Arts London and many other institutions both from within and outside India. We started with an online model but successfully transitioned to a face to face model. Having Interns work with us is a wonderful learning opportunity for us as they bring fresh perspectives and new ideas. It has been an enriching experience for both our Interns as well as our Team. We have successfully hired some of our Interns and are happy to have them join our Team. The Internship Program is a wonderful learning experience for us all!

TESTIMONIALS

Palak Thakker

Working at Gateway has been an absolute pleasure! The staff, both teaching and support, is incredibly helpful, kind, and enthusiastic to teach you. It's a brilliant experience for anyone hoping to pursue a career in counselling, teaching or special education. Could not have asked for more from this experience :)

Annapurna Venkatesh

Pursuing an internship at the Gateway School of Mumbai, has been incredibly rewarding.
As a professional just beginning my career in the inclusive education space in India, I had the opportuity to engage with the teaching and learning processes from beginning to the end. My mentors gave me ample time to clarify my questions and supported me during my interactions with the wonderful Gateway students! As I transition to different roles, I often come back to my time at Gateway to help me inform my practices. Thank you Gateway!

Abhinaya Chandrashekhar

My internship experience at Gateway has been enriching in terms of learning and exposure in a school setting. I had the wonderful opportunity of working with Team Fantastic Force of the HSAP Program that I now am officially a part of. The valuable guidance and support that I continue to receive from the team help me advance my skill set as a professional. I admire the team spirit and enthusiasm at Gateway and look forward to this amazing journey and creating some beautiful memories along the way.

CAPACITY BUILDING

GATEWAY PDP

Gateway's PDP continues to grow. The professional development programme (PDP) is our initiative to build a community of educators who share our vision of an inclusive society that ensures programmes for students with special needs meet both standards of excellence and standards of equity.
We had 88 professionals from 25 different organizations and schools across Mumbai and India, participating in this endeavour; all of which were conducted and facilitated by members of the Gateway team!
Here's what some of our participants had to say about the PDP.

Thank You Team PDP, for your excellent coaching and showing us unique ways of teaching. It was indeed a very exciting feeling, acquiring from you different skills of Universal Design for learning.

- Yusuf Rangwalla

It helped me understand how to teach students in a way that is most appealing to them. I learnt about how to use new technology to teach them. I really benefitted from the growth mindset session. I was also able to share it with parents too. Thank you so much, PDP helps me in many aspects of teaching, I was not a creative teacher before I joined PDP, but I am now doing it in my classes, so thanks to you all great ladies.

- Mustafa Ambawala

I enjoyed alot. It was online but very comfortable. Style of async and sync, techniques + knowledge. It was my first time teaching and learning online. It helped me in my curriculum as well as teaching my student. UDL strategies were a highlight and I implemented them. I made several tutorials. They were all happy and I continue to use the strategies. I can reuse my files and we usually use that to progress monitor. Enjoyable and deep learning. I worked in the high school set up and then switched to school set up. The course helped me changed my mindset for special education. I've implemented learning from behavior, explicit instructions, active listening, energizers, classroom management etc.

- Abdeali A. Taherali

Eye opener - it forced me to think about inclusion. I've started remedials for two students who were struggling with the Islamic subject.

- Shabbir Bohari

Resources very well researched & organized. Async assignments worked well, it helped understand the Sync sessions better. I had heard of many strategies before but I learnt at PDP how to implement those. It's great that we have access to Sync and Async materials. it helps us go back and refresh our memory!

- Sofia Roshan

Love how the sessions were so well organized. You'll guided us throughout the journey, the orientation every week was super helpful. All the sessions were hands on.
Overall It was an amazing experience.

- Sakina Sakarwala

PDP HIGHLIGHTS (2021-22)

CAPACITY BUILDING

Gateway's YouTube channel is an instructional channel aimed at creating a library of content, featuring Gateway's best practices. Covering a range of topics from our curriculum (language, math, therapies, arts), the channel is meant to provide a free online resource for educators, teacher trainees, parents, and educational institutions, under Gateway's Outreach and Research & Development programmes.

PARTNER READING

CHORAL READING

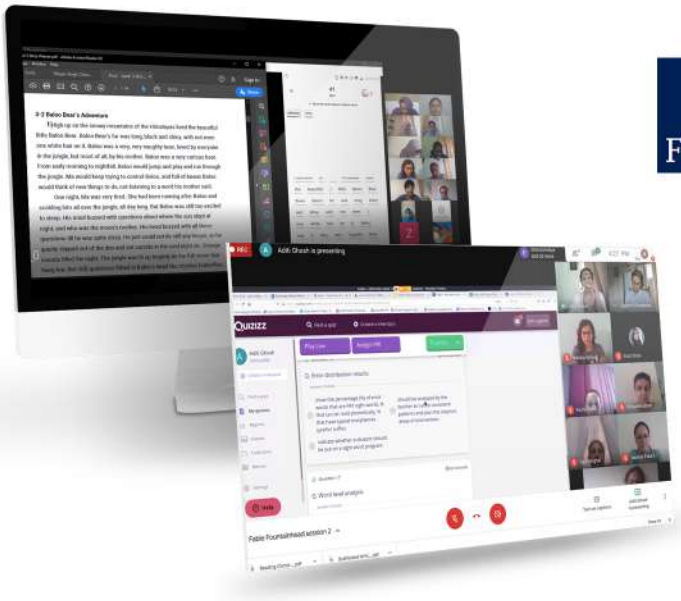
FABLe

READER'S THEATRE

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Gateway invests in research and development to support our students and the community at large. Our team of passionate individuals constantly collaborates with educators from around the world to share all that we know and learn with our extended community of educators, parents, and everyone who is a part of our ever-evolving, and breathtaking journey.

Gateway is committed to building an inclusive future for our children. This article, which is published in the International Journal of Inclusive Education, is our attempt to contribute to the bank of inclusive education practices for the Indian context.



FABLe continues to grow! Read our latest article published in Asia Pacific Education Review which examines the technical adequacy of the tool and shares some preliminary benchmarks in foundational reading for India.

We are also excited to share an article published in the international journal, Intervention in School and Clinic, and written in collaboration with Dr. Apoorva Panshikar from SNDT University, Mumbai. In this article, we explore the current status of identification of learning disabilities in India. We highlight trends and challenges in the field and make suggestions for the way forward.

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

Gateway is being recognized for the work we're doing!

We continue to be recognised as an **Ashoka Changemaker** school since 2016.

CHANGEMAKER SCHOOLS

ASHOKA

India's Best NGOs to Work For™

Great Place To Work.

INDIA 2021

Great Place To Work.

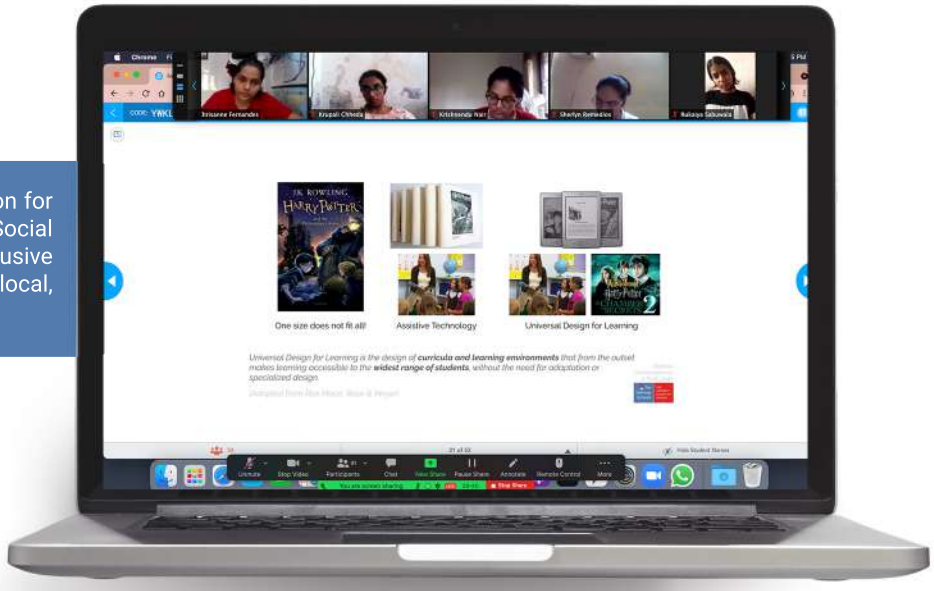
Certified

FEB 2021–JAN 2022

INDIA

October 2021 saw us being among the 10 best NGOs to work for by GPTW for the second time in a row. Thank you to our community for making this a joyous place to come to, every day.

Our team members presented at the Association for Reading and Writing in Asia, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, CENTA, The Consortium for Inclusive Education, and Ummeed, a few of the many local, national and international events this year.



PARTNERING FOR CHANGE!

Inclusive Education Project

This year we partnered with TISS on a project supported by Cognizant Foundation to build awareness and resources towards inclusive education. As part of the project we developed an online Inclusive Education Resource Centre that has open-source resources available to the community at large.

Check out the online Inclusive Education Resource Centre

We also co-developed curriculum for two Masters level courses on Inclusive and special education that will be offered at TISS and other Universities.

Finally, we adapted an observation scale that can be used as a tool for teachers to reflect on their inclusive teaching practices. Link here.

THE GATEWAY SCHOOL OF MUMBAI
KESHAVLAL V. BODANI EDUCATION FOUNDATION

भविष्य की पुनर्कल्पना RE-IMAGINING FUTURES
TISS

Cognizant Foundation

THANK YOU!

Ami Kaushik Shah
Anant Jayantilal Dhami
Anita Cherla Sastry
Anita Vaccharajani
Aparna Vyavaharkar
Arjun Rengan
Aruna Shetty (Arjun's mother)
Ashiish V Patil
BDH Industries Ltd
Beverly Jatwani
Bob Cunningham
Bobby Deol
B.N Makhija
Carrie Strauch
Chirag Doshi
Darshan Bharat Shah
Devaunshi Mehta
Dr Merin Mary Ann
Dr. Amit Prabhakar Maydeo
Dr. Ankit Bhupatkar
Dr. Vikram Hingorani
Ekta Raheja
Elina Meswani
Engichem Specialities Private Limited
Engineering and Chemical (India) Private Ltd
Executors and Trustee, The Estate of Late Smt.Leela Hari Apte
Fran Reinstein
Gladson Peter
Harsh Piramal
Haseena Jethmalani
Hitendra Merchant
Jeemit Virendra Zaveri
John Gloster
Jossie O'Neill
Kalpesh Anant Dhami
Karan Johar
Karan Misquitta
Karishma Boolani
Karthik Chandrasekar
Kaushik Karnik Shah
Kelly Dorfman
Khurana Education Trust (Pooja Khurana)
"Kings Impex Pvt. Ltd. (Uttam H Tulsiani, Managing Director)"
Lakshmi Nair
Lindsey Biel
M/S N M International Mumbai (Farhan Mohamed Yusuf Millwala)
M/S Netplace Technologies Pvt. Ltd. (Milan Doshi)
M/s Nirvan Global (Ketki Nagar)
M/s TCFC Finance Ltd. (Ms. Tania Deol)
Mahesh Jethmalani
Manasi Etta
Maruti Naik (Avanti's dad)
Meera Trivedi
Meghna Chhabria
Milin Mehta
Mrs. Archana Dabhoiwala (Rohan's mom)
Nandini Singh
Neera Nundy
Nidhi Chopra (Naaz's mum)
Nina Kilachand
Nitesh Ranglani & Parzaan Dastur - Ten Colour Productions
Niti Sanjeev Patel (Penny Patel)
Oriental Aromatics Ltd
Orrin Devinsky
Pinky Shah
Purnima Hingorani (Ananya's mom)
Rajkumar Phagun Hinduja
Ramakrishnan Seshan
Reshma Piramal
Ritu Hinduja
Rushabh Shah
Sanjay Kanungo (KK Charitable Trust)
Santosh Saraf
Sapna Tulsiani
Seth Hirachand Nemchand Smarak Trust (Chirag C Doshi, Trustee)
Sharon Herzfeld
Sheila kanungo
Shereena
Sheth Vithaldas Kanji Charitable Trust
Smita Jatia
Sonali Bendre
Sunakshi Darshan Shah
Sunil Damodaran Santha
Sunil Lalabhai Patel
Suprieya Kutty
Tonya Pulanco
Varun Sharda
Yash Kaushik Shah

THE
GATEWAY
SCHOOL OF
MUMBAI

KESHAVLAL V. BODANI EDUCATION FOUNDATION

www.gatewayschoolmumbai.org

+91-22-25563613, +91-22-25563614, +919137458892

info@gatewayschoolmumbai.org

Sion-Trombay Road,
Next to Deonar Bus Depot,
Diagonally opposite TISS,
Govandi (E), Mumbai – 400088

Copyright © 2022 The Gateway School Of Mumbai