ANNUAL REPORT

2022-23

THE GATEWAY SCHOOL OF MUMBAI

KESHAVLAL V. BODANI EDUCATION FOUNDATION

MESSAGE FROM THE GATEWAY SCHOOL OF MUMBAI

What a year it has been! After a rollercoaster of virtual and hybrid learning the past couple of years, we finally had the chance to welcome our learners back to campus for a full academic year of face-to-face learning. And boy, did we make up for lost time! From the buzz of excited chatter in the hallways to the infectious energy at our school events, it was a joy to see our community come back to life.

With a renewed spirit, our teachers and students alike, dove right in to make this a year of immense learning and growing. In true Gateway style, our learners had the opportunity to learn not just within the classroom but also outside of it with internships and field visits that allowed them to put their skills into practice and explore their interests. Be it visiting the planetarium to unearth the secrets of the universe or going to the bank to uncover the nitty-gritties of its functioning, our learners have had the chance to broaden their horizons and apply their learning in a real-world setting. Of course, the year would have been rather monochromatic without the many colourful events we as a community enjoyed this year. Our students surprised us with the many hats they adorned through the year, from actors to athletes, and scientists to superheroes.

What made this year extra special was the collaborative work we did with other professionals in the field of inclusive education. It's been a privilege to work alongside so many passionate and dedicated individuals who share our vision of creating a more inclusive society. While this is just the beginning, it is definitely a step in the right direction.

Of course none of this would have been possible without the incredible support and commitment of our learners, parents, the entire Gateway team, our founders, and all our well-wishers.

Thank you for being a part of the Gateway community, and we cannot wait to see what the future holds for us.

Here is a glimpse of the work we have done throughout the year:

- Successfully completed the Job Readiness year of the Career Path Program that exposed our learners to a variety of internships
- Launched our very own gym to support learners with their fitness goals
- Held a panel discussion and a symposium on inclusivity in employment for people with disabilities (PwDs).
- Partnered with parents to offer authentic experiences to our learners with installations, field trips and more
- Expanded FABLe's repertoire to include assessments for regional languages

WHY ARE WE HERE?

7.8 million
children with disabilities.

Source: UNESCO Report (2019)

28% of children
with disabilities remain out of school, much higher than the national average of 2.9%

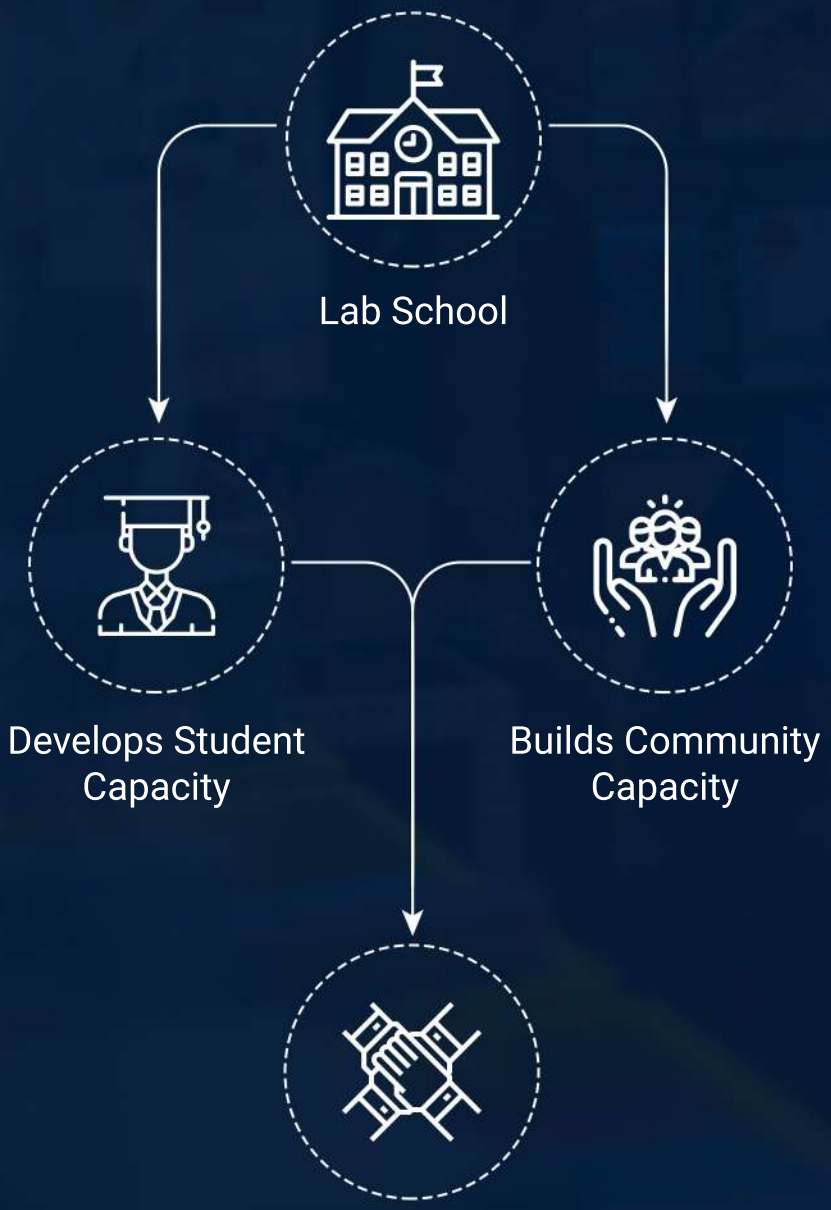
Source: Social and Rural Research Institute (2014)

70% of individuals
with intellectual disabilities are not employed

Source: Census 2011

WHO WE ARE

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



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Siddhesh Pillai has made us proud this year by demonstrating his commitment to excellence in all his endeavours. With his impressive work ethics, quality of work, and sincerity, he has successfully completed three internships, earning praise from his mentors. Here is what his mentor at Headphone Zone had to say about Siddhesh "*When it comes to work, Siddhesh is very professional, and stands out in communication skills. He puts in a lot of effort and takes full accountability of his responsibilities. His grasping skills are great and is one of the fastest workers I have worked with. Last but not the least he is an incredible person to work with. He is very professional and sincere.*"

Siddhesh's remarkable ability to learn quickly helped him secure a full-time programmer role at CAI, where he passed several rounds of interviews and underwent six hours of training before passing the test. While the job was not a suitable match for Siddhesh, it was a tremendous learning experience for him. He also demonstrated his flexibility and adaptability by emceeing and conducting the Giving Pi event on short notice, learning his script quickly and taking last-minute changes in stride. Siddhesh is now driven to find a full-time job at an organization that aligns with his ideal work conditions. His dedication and perseverance are sure to make him an asset to any organization.

WHERE ARE OUR GRADUATES?

SIDDHARTH BAKSHI

I am currently pursuing a BA in International Culinary Arts from IHM, Oshiwara. It is a 3 year program related to culinary arts and I am in the 2nd year. Recently, I concluded a 5 month long internship at Westin Hotel Powai Lake as part of the program.

Gateway is like a home for me. I got to learn a lot of different subjects and Gateway even helped me to decide a career for myself and gave me the confidence to pursue becoming a chef.

KARTHIK RAMAKRISHNAN

Currently I am doing my Bachelor in Sports Management from International Institute of Sports Management. It is a three year degree course where I am learning about managing sports events and what all goes behind conducting a sports event or a game. I am learning to manage all kinds of sports.

At Gateway everyone is kind and helpful. Gateway gave me a comfortable space. It taught me to be independent. When you move from a place like Gateway into the real world, you need to learn to be independent. Gateway helped me to be prepared for the real world. Had Gateway not been there, it would have been tough and difficult to be in situations where people are not as kind and generous and where you have to go through hardships and fight to come on top.

ABHAY LAPASIA

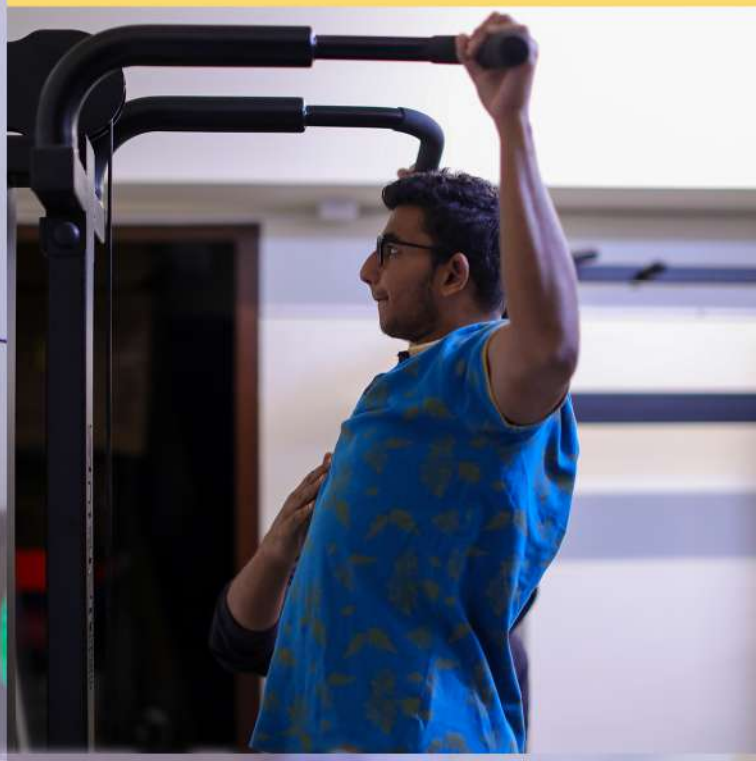
I am about to finish my 2nd year of a 4-year Bachelor Degree in Interior Designing from ITM Institute of Design and Media.

Gateway helped a lot throughout my time there. The learning experience I had was great. I faced certain issues earlier but Gateway helped me to overcome those. It gave me a lot of confidence to go ahead and that's helping me with what I am doing currently.

STUDENT IMPACT

GYM

This year we launched our very own gym in collaboration with AntiGravity Gym. The gym has been of tremendous support in helping our students build their fitness skills in authentic ways.



COLLABORATION WITH EXTERNAL PROFESSIONALS

LINDSEY BIEL
(OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY)

This year the Sensory Motor Team organised professional development sessions with Lindsey Biel, an occupational therapist based in New York, whose expertise involves working with children with sensory processing difficulty. During this one year long engagement, we had the opportunity to learn about how to support children with Visuospatial difficulties. The team incorporated the learning in their curriculum and now year on year we will be offering a Unit on Visuoperceptual skills to build this foundational area that is critical for classroom learning. We also discussed specific cases for children with sensory processing difficulty and created sensory diet to help students sustain participation in school.

COLLABORATION WITH EXTERNAL PROFESSIONALS

LANGUAGE ARTS WEEK

This year's theme was Kahani, Kirdar, aur Kalakaar (story, character, and artist). Our students were given opportunities to explore diverse means of expression through language and arts. They engaged in participatory and interactive sessions which allowed them to share opinions and make connections to their own lives. On Day 1, World Read Aloud Day (क से कहानियां), Gateway teachers as well as guests from the community came in to read stories, poems, etc. and share their experiences with our students across language as well as other classes. On Day 2, Comic Carnival Day (क से किरदार), everyone in school dressed up as a popular comic character and expressed themselves through comic-themed games and activities during the different classes throughout the day. On the final day of Language Arts Week, Little Artists Day (क से कलाकार), guests from the community conducted language or art themed workshops for our students who got the opportunity to explore their creativity and be an artist/performer. It was an exuberant week, filled with merriment and joy, which all of us thoroughly enjoyed.

COLLABORATION WITH EXTERNAL PROFESSIONALS

FIELD TRIPS IN THE COMMUNITY

With the pandemic behind us, we once again were able to take learning out into the community. All our students, from the little to the older ones, had opportunities to engage in real-world learning experiences out of Gateway.

HIGH SCHOOL SHOWCASE

A forgotten supervillain. His sinister plan to wreak havoc and become relevant again. And a team of wise leaders and superpowered heroes who intend to stop him at all costs. These were some of the major elements of our high school students' performing arts showcase called The Gateway Avengers. Sounds grave and melodramatic, doesn't it? Well, it was in fact a laugh riot! With the help of the Arts team and a resourceful and helpful support group, our high school students put on a hilarious performance, which incorporated drama, dance, and music. The wonderful production, which took place at an external venue, St. Andrews Auditorium, Mumbai, and which allowed our students to showcase their performance skills, brought our community together and made us laugh out loud. Our students excelled at comedy, which is known to be especially difficult to get right, and we cannot be any happier with their performance.

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. PTA helped us come back together as a community after a long break through the Diwali bash!

We started monthly coffee mornings this year as a space for parents and teachers to interact with each other apart from the beginning, middle and end of year scheduled PTCs. This allowed us and the parents to connect and build rapport with each other, and gave us space to have ongoing conversations about structures and make changes as and when needed. Parents and team alike shared how this space allowed for more fruitful conversations that directly impacted our learners.

This year, parents partnered with us to provide our learners with diverse opportunities aligned to content, and our vision. We had the privilege of hosting the **INS Vikrant** - this provided our learners with the opportunity to interact with **retired commander Captain Jasbir Singh**, and fuelled their curiosity about India's defence systems. It also provided us an opportunity to host students of Grade 4 from Vinay High School (Teach for India). Parents also helped provide internship opportunities to our students in their organizations, and helped us build relationships with organizations in the field of fitness, fast moving consumer goods (FMCG), pet services etc, who want to help create safe and inclusive workspaces and extend internship opportunities for our learners.

As part of their **Multidisciplinary Learning Unit class**, our HSAP Sr. students learned how to make optimal and healthy food choices through a unit on food and nutrition. The unit included, among other things, an exploration of different regional cuisines of India. Parents played an integral role in this regard by reinforcing and supplementing our children's learning. They helped us organize a few lunch visits to their homes where students learned about Parsi, Sindhi, Punjabi, Karnataka, and Rajasthani food and culture. Parents painstakingly prepared mouthwateringly scrumptious feasts (savoured by students and teachers alike) and gave students a verbal primer on the peculiarities of their culinary culture.

SUMMER PROGRAMME

Gateway's summer school offered a meticulously crafted 12-day program that kept students engaged through a diverse range of activities, all conducted by field experts. The primary objective was to help students develop skills, socialize, learn collaboratively, apply their knowledge, and, of course, have fun! Each programme complemented the other, creating a seamless flow that allowed students to recognize the purpose and value in each activity. Here is an overview of the activities that took place:

Fitness: Led by Mr. Frazer, in collaboration with Antigravity, this session focused on learning sports skills and agility-based activities. Students also had the opportunity to work with weights, engage in strengthening and conditioning exercises, and learn boxing techniques. It was a fantastic way to kickstart the day with a burst of energy!

Dance: With Ms. Shifa and Mr. Arbaaz, students danced their way through summer school. Learning various dance steps to popular songs, they even put together a special performance for their parents. Undoubtedly, this was the most beloved session of the summer school experience!

Art: Conducted by Gateway's art teacher, Ms. Urvi, these sessions introduced students to different artists and their work that inspired them to create their own masterpieces.

Music: With Mr. Joshua, students discovered the joy of drumming to new beats, rhythms, and melodies.

Movement-Based Storytelling: Led by Ms. Anusree and Ms. Namaha, this therapeutic session allowed students to express themselves through body movements. Less talk, more movement - truly a calming experience!

Fashion Workshops: Celebrity Stylist Ms. Nitasha Gaurav joined the summer school to impart fashion and styling basics to the students. They had a blast hearing about her experiences, touching and understanding different fabrics, and even styling themselves for a fabulous fashion show. To deepen their learning, they visited the India in Fashion Exhibit at the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre, where Ms. Nitasha helped them connect real-life experiences to their lessons.

Cooking: Sessions with the Culinaris Cookery Institute provided students with the opportunity to explore various textures and recipes. From chopping to kneading dough, setting up and cleaning up, students experienced the full range of culinary skills and enjoyed the fruits of their labor.

Heritage Walk: Thanks to a presentation by Mr. Harshvardhan Tanwar and Mr. Aditya Pai from No Footprints, students gained a deeper understanding of Mumbai's history. Subsequently, accompanied by Mr. Aditya, they embarked on a heritage walk from Gateway of India to Kala Ghoda, immersing themselves in the rich cultural heritage of the city.

Photography: Ms. Mariam introduced students to the art of photography, teaching them the dos and don'ts of capturing great shots. Students put their newly acquired skills to use during the heritage walk and captured incredible photographs as keepsakes.

Lunch and IPL Match: Thanks to our favorite Ms. Indira, our students got more time to bond with their summer school friends while lunching at CinCin and going to watch an IPL match - did someone say summer was boring?

These 12 days were nothing short of amazing and we cannot wait to open more avenues like these for our children! :)

CAPACITY BUILDING

IN-HOUSE CAPACITY BUILDING

Our team members continue to strive for excellence by enrolling in workshops, webinars and MOOCs. 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 45 and 50 people sign up for each book, with over 87% of sign-ups from external professionals.

INTERNS AT GATEWAY

This year we had Interns join us from many organisations such as TISS, Hashu Advani, SNDT and many other institutions both from within and outside India. We started a Youth Internship Program this year, in order to provide high school students exposure to our field and the opportunity for them to understand if it is something they would like to pursue in the future. 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 in the past and are happy to have them join our Team. The Internship Program is a wonderful learning experience for us all!

TESTIMONIALS

Dear **Juhi /Georgia**,

I just wanted to drop a personal note to thank you for the guidance and support you provided to my daughter during her internship. She had a very enriching experience and hopes to be able to come back to Gateway for further experiences as she pursues her interest in early childhood education.

Regards,
Parent of a High School Student Intern

Right from my schooling, I had a passion for teaching and found joy and satisfaction in clearing my friend's doubts before examinations. But I never had formal experience in teaching in a school space before my internship at Gateway. These six months of experience showed me what happens in a classroom from a student teacher's point of view and what kind of preparation it takes for a teacher before actually coming to a class. I got exposure to being a part of activities not just limited to what happens in a classroom but even other school related events. For instance, I got to volunteer for events like Comic Carnival, Fitness Week, being a scribe for examinations, conducting read-aloud and attending a field trip.
My teacher mentor **Ms Zeba** always gave feedback and guidance while designing lesson plans, cleared doubts and gave me opportunities to participate in classroom activities and weekly MLU planning meetings.

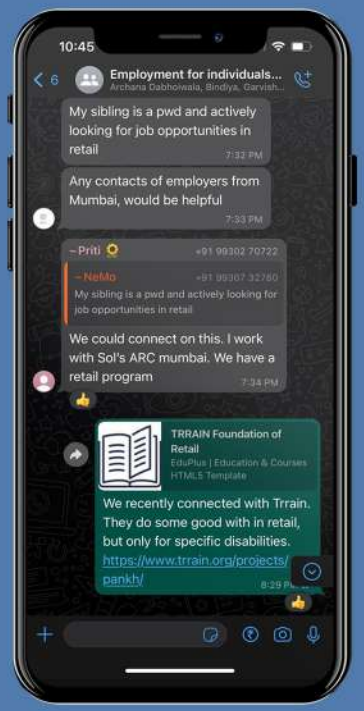
Krishnakanth V

I had an amazing experience during my internship with Gateway School. It was my first time experience of interning in a school. But I had a warm welcome and all the faculties were very kind and friendly. I would like to thank my mentor Ms. Ekta Somaiya and other teachers for providing me immense support during my internship. Also I would like to thank Ms. Daya Chetani for coordinating the internship. I have gained lot of insights about UDL methods learning disabilities and different teaching approaches. I will definitely cherish the lovely memories I had with the students as well faculties.

Aida Jose

GIVING PI AND SYMPOSIUM

This year, in collaboration with GivingPi (a network of India's most philanthropic families), we conducted a panel discussion on inclusivity in employment for people with disabilities (PwDs). The discussion was hosted by our student Siddhesh Pillai. The panel included Bobby Deol (actor and member of Gateway's Advisory Board), Kajol Devgan (actress), Mahesh Jethmalani (Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha and member of Gateway's Advisory Board), Satish Kolte (Director of HR, Taj Wellington Mews), Timothy Riesen (Director, Research and Training at IDRPP, Utah State University), and Tricia Jones-Parkin (Principal Investigator and Trainer of Customized Employment Training, Utah State University). These esteemed panellists discussed current Indian laws related to employment of PwDs, media's role in supporting such employment, and the need for competitive integrated employment opportunities for PwDs. This was the first of our two-part attempt this month to stimulate an informed and productive public conversation on the topic.



We then hosted a hybrid symposium on employment of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in collaboration with Utah State University's Institute for Disability Research, Policy, and Practice (IDRPP). The symposium aimed to start a multistakeholder community dialogue on current challenges and possible solutions related to employment of PwDs. Timothy Riesen and Tricia Jones-Parkin from Utah State University shared international perspectives on employment of PwDs. In addition, several other speakers talked about their work on building meaningful employment opportunities for PwDs in India. The speakers were insightful and informative and apprised attendees about several international and domestic initiatives to support employment of PwDs. The symposium also helped participating organisations identify areas for possible collaboration which could support and create additional employment opportunities for PwDs. Our WhatsApp group to support collaboration has been abuzz with ideas and suggestions.

GATEWAY PDP

Gateway's Professional Development Programme 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!

TESTIMONIALS

Here's what some of our participants had to say about the PDP.

Before the PDP, I had a fixed mindset. I thought that whatever I taught was only right. But after the PDP I saw that there are many things that we are not doing but we can do. So I gained a lot from this experience.

- Burhanuddin Shabbir bhai Saylawala

I learned a lot with every session. The facilitators always got something new in every session and gave a lot opportunity to develop myself. I can see improvement in me because of the different perspectives I came across.

- Arwa Jamal

It was a great learning experience. Learnt different strategies under areas and how to implement them in a whole group and small group structured and unstructured setting. Differentiating instructions, to customizing IEPs based on the individual needs of the child. Also, peer learning and observation were extremely helpful. The facilitators explained the concepts wonderfully and gave a lot of examples, showed videos of how the strategies are implemented in different classes, shared resources which were helpful.

- Abhinaya

It was a perfect blend of knowledge and practical. Presentation and evidences made it more meaningful. It helped me even more as it is my first year of teaching. Overall it was very fruitful.

- Arwa Moiz Sakerwala

It has forced me to see where I stand as a professional. it helped me realize what I need to be a teacher of 21st century. It gave me a opportunity to change myself.

- Husain Mohammad Indorewala

GATEWAY'S TEACHING CHANNEL

Gateway is committed to sharing best practices for serving students in the Indian context. In our second series of videos, we share best practices for inclusion and special education. Here is a peek at some of our videos.

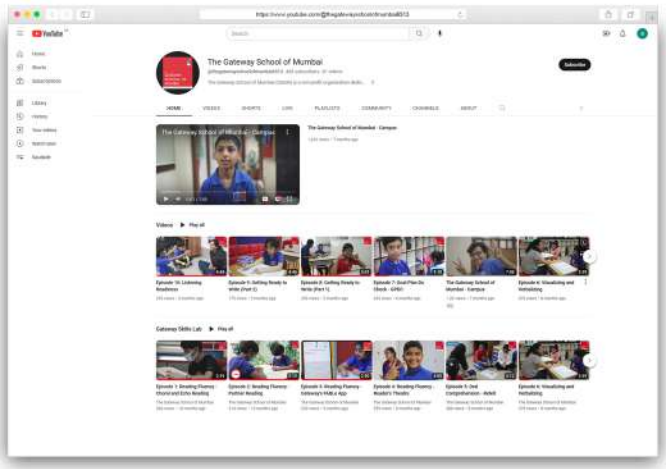
VISUALIZING AND VERBALIZING

GOAL PLAN DO CHECK - GPDC

GETTING READY TO WRITE

LISTENING READINESS

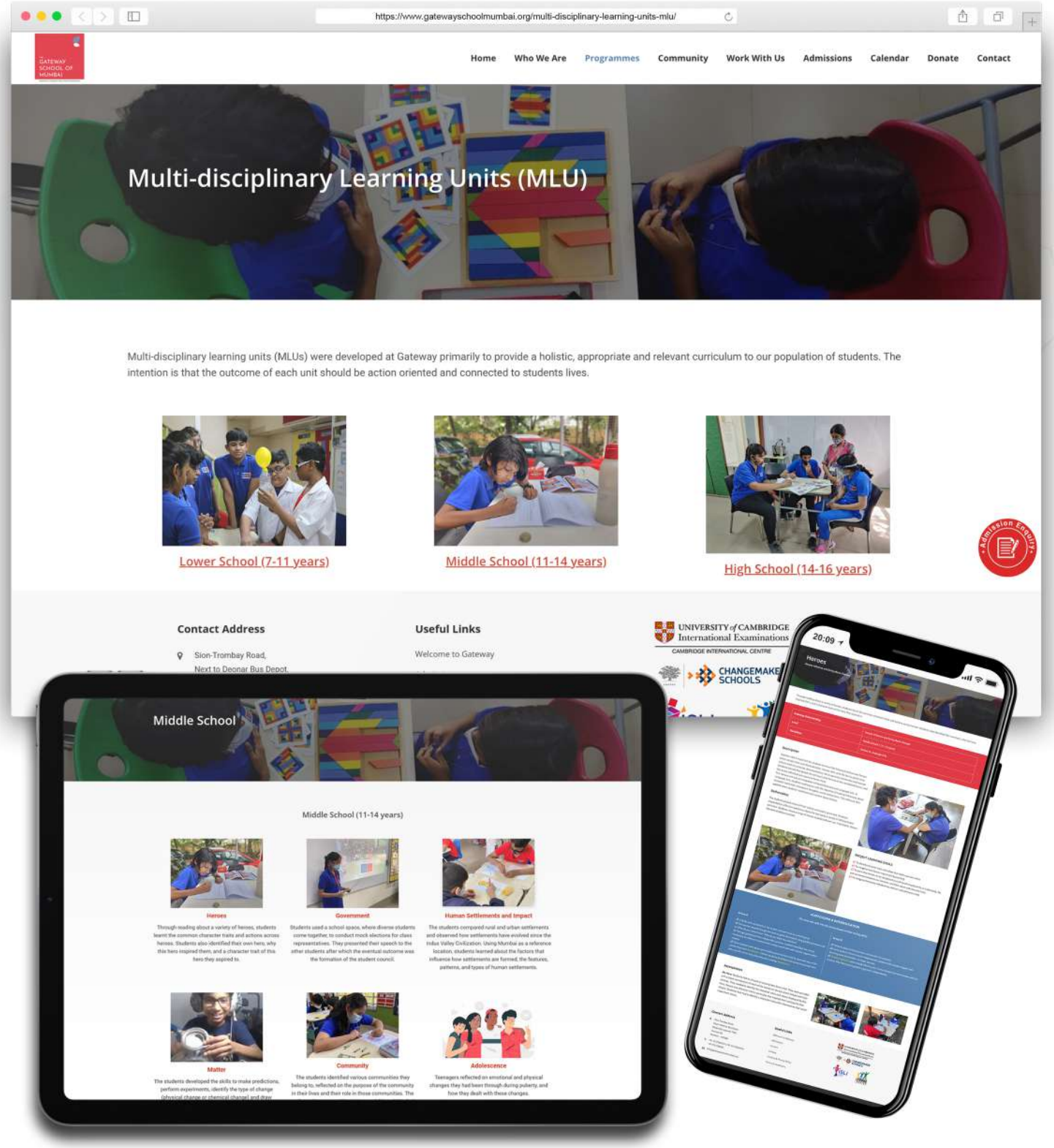
EXPLORE OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL:



GATEWAY'S CURRICULUM

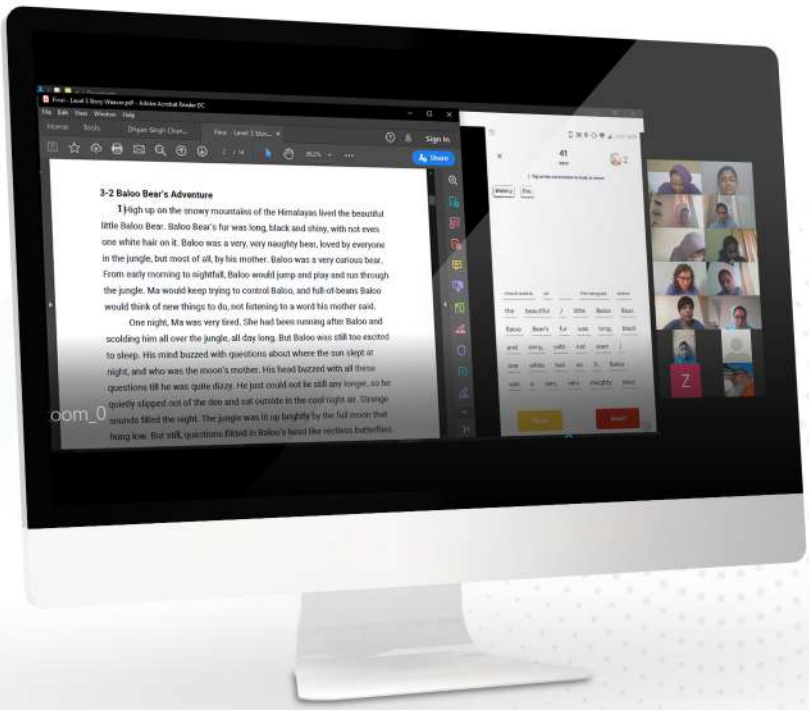
Gateway has developed integrated curriculum units specifically tailored to our students. Schools interested in building their own holistic curriculum can access our units on our website at no cost.

Multi-disciplinary learning units (MLUs) 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.

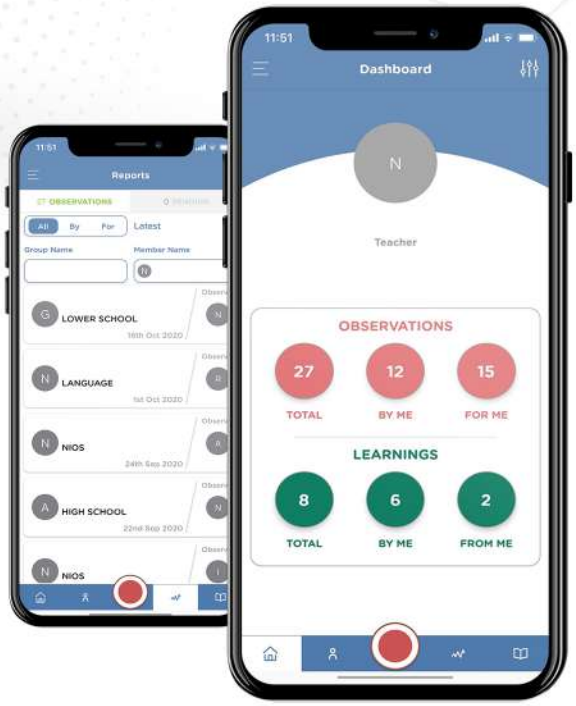


RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

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.



FABLe, our home-grown app to build foundational literacy skills, continues to grow! FABLe now includes assessments for Grades 1 to 5, and can be conducted in English, Hindi, or Marathi.



We have grown from 4 schools to over **25 schools** across India in 2022-23.

We now have over **5200 students** on the app.

Our latest article, published in the prestigious Journal of Research in Reading, established Indian benchmarks for early literacy skills in Grade 3. **Read the article here**.

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

Gateway is being recognized for the work we are doing! Check out our recent achievements below.

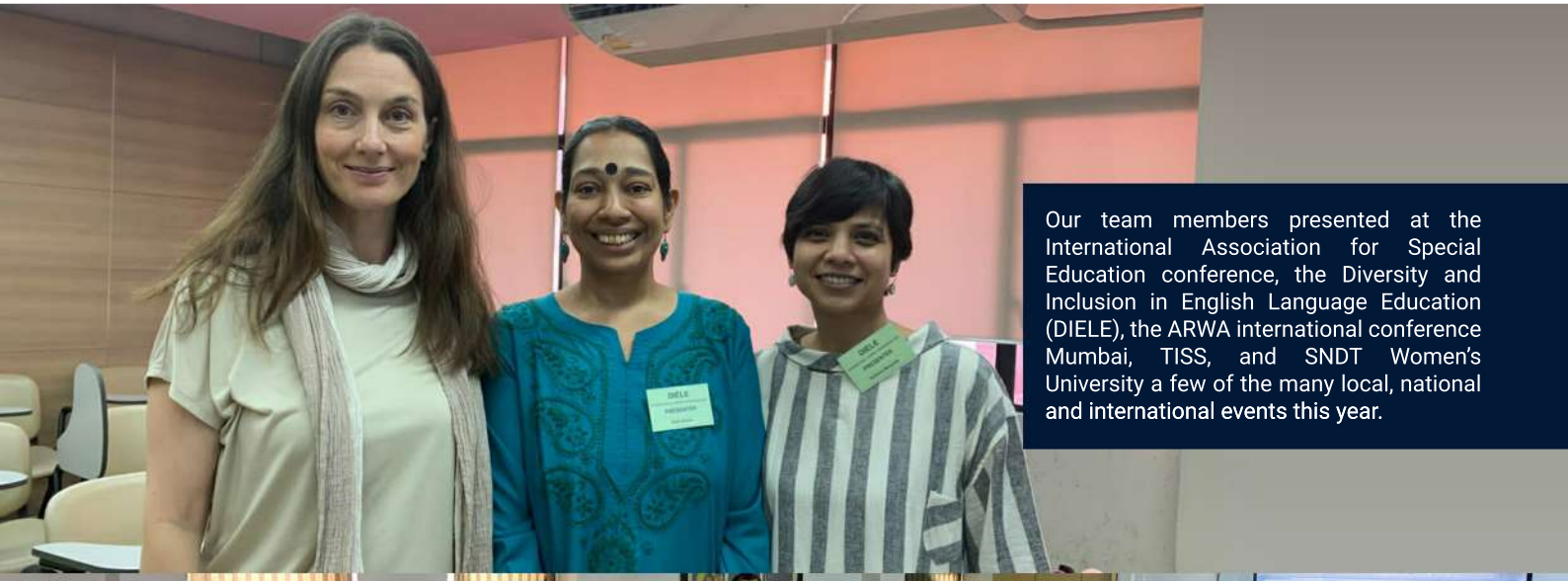
CHANGEMAKER SCHOOLS

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

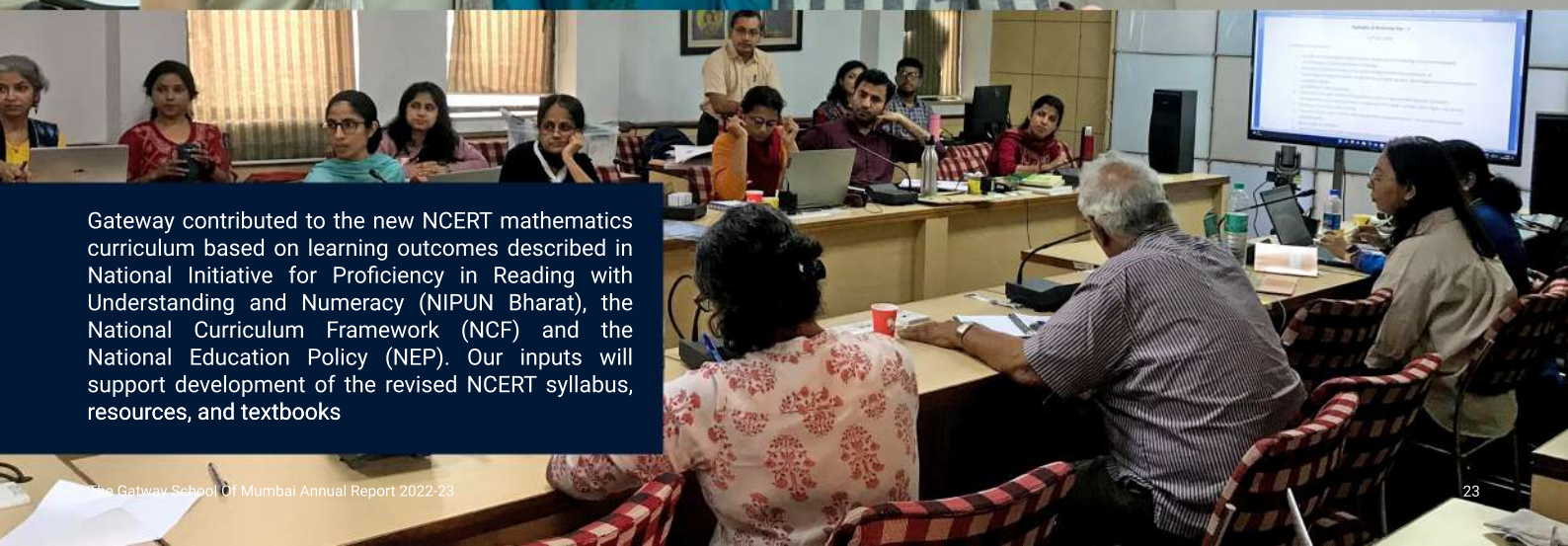
India's Best NGOs to Work For™ Great Place To Work. INDIA 2021

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 International Association for Special Education conference, the Diversity and Inclusion in English Language Education (DIELE), the ARWA international conference Mumbai, TISS, and SNDT Women's University a few of the many local, national and international events this year.



Gateway contributed to the new NCERT mathematics curriculum based on learning outcomes described in National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat), the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) and the National Education Policy (NEP). Our inputs will support development of the revised NCERT syllabus, resources, and textbooks

PARTNERING FOR CHANGE!

TISS

We continue to partner with the Centre for Excellence in Teacher Education (CETE) at TISS to teach courses on Inclusive and Special Education to pre-service B.Ed, M.Ed, and MA in Education students.

In our first international engagement, we, along with partners from Tata Institute of Social Sciences Hyderabad and Leonard Cheshire, planned and facilitated a seven-day training session for government school leaders and teachers in Nepal on Universal Design for Learning, the use of assistive technology and ICT, and school change management. Participants who attended the training will go out and work with teachers in 122 schools across the Chitwan district in Nepal, impacting 35,000 students

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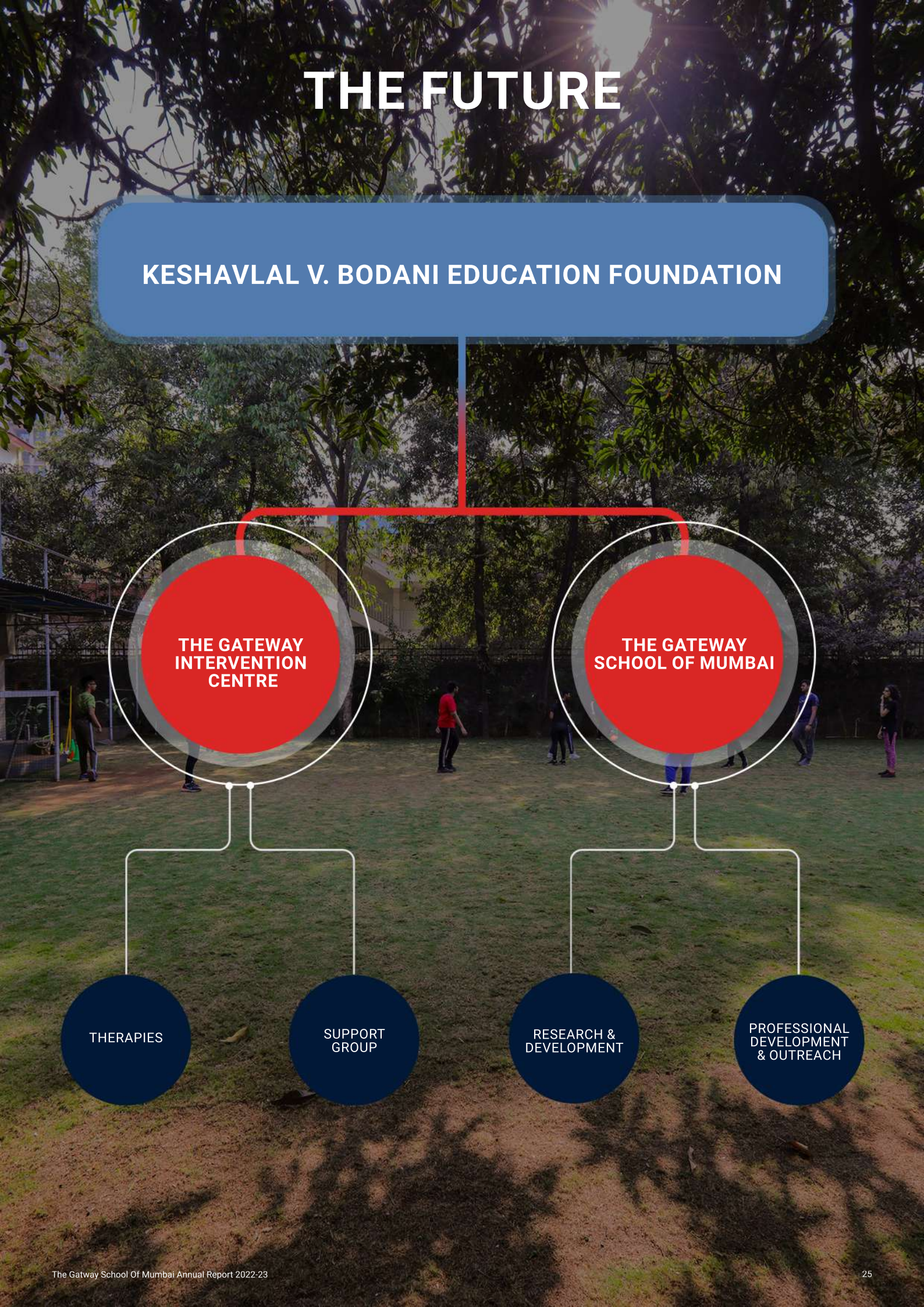
KESHAVLAL V. BODANI EDUCATION FOUNDATION

भविष्य की पुनर्कल्पना RE-IMAGINING FUTURES
TISS

THE FUTURE


KESHAVLAL V. BODANI EDUCATION FOUNDATION
THE GATEWAY INTERVENTION CENTRE
THE GATEWAY SCHOOL OF MUMBAI
THERAPIES
SUPPORT GROUP
RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & OUTREACH

THANK YOU!

Aditi Khanna
Aditya Pai
Ami Kaushik Shah
Amit Malik
Amit Suman (TAJ Lands End)
Anita Cherla Sastry
Ankush Bhan
Anshuman Ghose
Anti Gravity team
Anuradha Rohra
Apurva Padgaonkar (Pot Pourri)
Aruna Shetty
Ashiish V Patil
Azzura International Fashions Private Limited
BDH Industries Ltd
Bhavin H. Soonderji
Bina Narayanan Pillai
Bobby Deol
Deepali Joglekar
Dia Precious Jewellery Pvt Ltd
Dipti Nitin Mongia (Dipti H. Soonderji)
Dr. Tim Riesen
Education department at CSMVS
Harshvardhan Tanwar
Hitendra Merchant
Hitendra Merchant and Manisha Pritmani (YoBoHo)
Iffat and Vivia (Ed-a-mamma)
Jaya Dharamdasani
Jyotsna H. Soonderji
Kajol Devgan
Kamlesh Trivedi (TAJ President)
Karan Jaising
Kaushik K Shah (HUF)
Kaushik Karnik Shah
Kiran Bommakanti (Tuf Kote Automotive Pvt Ltd)
Lakshmi Nair (Vivek Krishan Nair)
M C Ghia Charitable Trust
M/s S D Fine-Chem Limited
Mahesh Jethmalani
Maple Digital Technology International Pvt Ltd.
Maruti Prabhakar Naik
Meena Bhatnagar, Satish Kolte and Riya Viramgama (Taj Wellington Mews)
Meher Pestonji
Minnie Kotwal
Monisha Davar
Mr Himmat
Mrunalini Shanbhag
Nabamita Banerjee (Starbucks)
Naunihal Foundation
Nina Jayantilal Soni
Nitasha Gaurav
Niti Sanjeev Patel (Penny Patel)
No Footprints Mumbai
Omkar Foundation
Oriental Aromatics Limited
Radhika Dharmarajan
Richa Bhatia & Kashmira (Vivero International Pre-school and Child care)
Santosh Saraf (SENSS)
Savio Mascarenhas
Seth Hirachand Nemchand Smarak Trust (Chirag C Doshi, Trustee)
Sheila Kanungo
Sheth Vithaldas Kanji Charitable Trust
Shruti Ugrankar
Shweta Bachchan Nanda
Sonali Bendre
Suman Mukul Agarwal
Sunil Damodaran Santha
Sunil Ramanand Shenoy
Suprieya Kutty
Taj Wellington Mews HR person
Tamara (Jehangir Nicholson Art Foundation)
Tara Capital Partners India Pvt Ltd.
TCFC Finance Ltd.
The Small Big Idea
Thomas Adaikalam and Sneha Dolas (Kotak Education Foundation)
Tricia Jones-Parkin
Universal Import Export and Hospitality Pvt. Ltd.
Varun Sharda
Vasudha Narayanan
Veena Naren
Yash Kaushik Shah
Yogendra Shetty (NASEOH)
Yudhishthir Jaising

THE
GATEWAY
SCHOOL OF
MUMBAI

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