

QUARTERLY musing



APRIL-JUNE 2026 EDITION

Neev Spotlight

Welcome to Neev Shikshan Sanstha's Newsletter, your go-to source for our quarterly activities and news. We're thrilled to have you on board! As always, we love hearing from you, so feel free to reach out with any questions or feedback. Enjoy the read.

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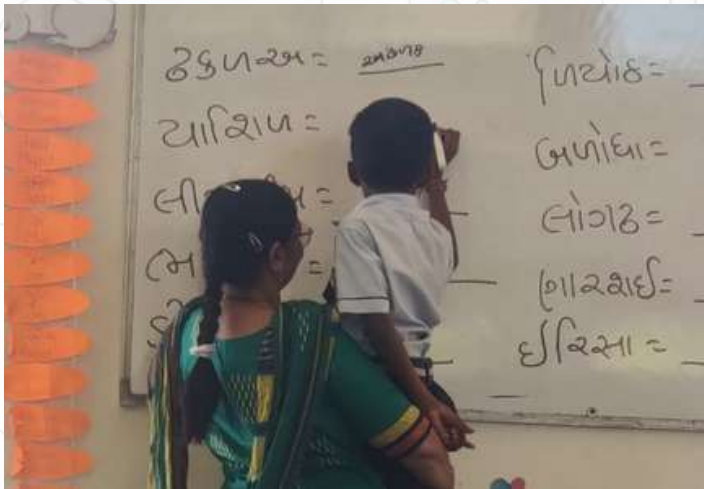
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QUARTER AT A GLANCE

A Quarter of Learning, Collaboration and Growth

The second quarter of 2026 reflected NSS's continued commitment to strengthening early childhood education through partnerships, capacity building and evidence-informed practices. Across schools, Anganwadi centres and communities, we worked alongside educators, government stakeholders and school leaders to create enriching learning experiences that support every child's holistic development.

This quarter focused on strengthening classroom practices, building leadership capacities, promoting play-based learning and understanding children's readiness for school. Every initiative was driven by the belief that sustainable change happens when educators are supported, systems are strengthened and children remain at the centre of every decision.



Did You Know?

Research consistently shows that children's social-emotional development is as important as early literacy and numeracy in preparing them for school. Creating safe, playful and engaging learning environments helps children build confidence, curiosity and a lifelong love for learning.

Voices from the Field

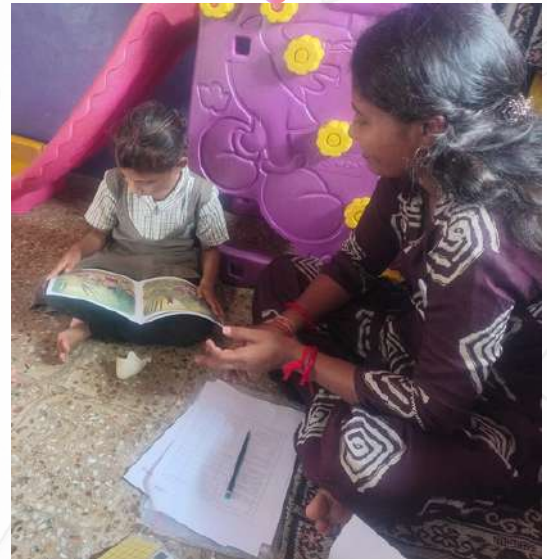
"During the past year, I learned that meaningful teaching begins with understanding children. Through practical demonstrations, storytelling and interactive activities, I became more confident in engaging children and asking thoughtful questions that support their learning."

Ms. Hina Desai, Teacher
(Zenith High School)



Every Child's Journey Begins Here

"Every child's learning journey begins with feeling welcomed, understood and supported."



Neev Shikshan Sanstha focused on creating a strong foundation for children as they began their early learning journey. Through School Readiness Assessments conducted across urban and rural Vadodara, we gained valuable insights into children's developmental strengths and areas requiring additional support. These findings will continue to guide mentoring efforts and strengthen classroom practices, ensuring children receive the support they need during their early years.



A Joyful Welcome to Young Learners

NSS participated in Praveshotsav, celebrating the arrival of children beginning their journey at the Anganwadi. The celebrations created a warm and welcoming environment through songs, activities and joyful interactions, helping children and their families feel excited and comfortable as they took their first steps into early learning.

PRAVESHOTSAV





"Every meaningful learning experience begins with a confident educator. Investing in teachers and Anganwadi workers creates lasting impact for children."



NSS partnered with educators across Vadodara and Anand to strengthen classroom practices through practical, hands-on learning experiences. From workshops on effective board work to capacity-building sessions for Anganwadi workers, PSEIs, MS Supervisors and CDPOs, the focus remained on making learning more engaging, child-centred and developmentally appropriate.

The sessions explored topics such as early brain development, the five developmental domains, classroom organisation and effective teaching strategies. Through demonstrations, discussions and collaborative activities, participants reflected on their own practices and gained practical tools that could be immediately implemented in their classrooms and centres.

More than training programmes, these sessions created opportunities for educators to learn from one another, reflect on their experiences and strengthen their confidence in supporting every child's learning journey





"Strong schools are built by strong leaders. When school leaders are equipped to guide, mentor and reflect, quality learning reaches every classroom."

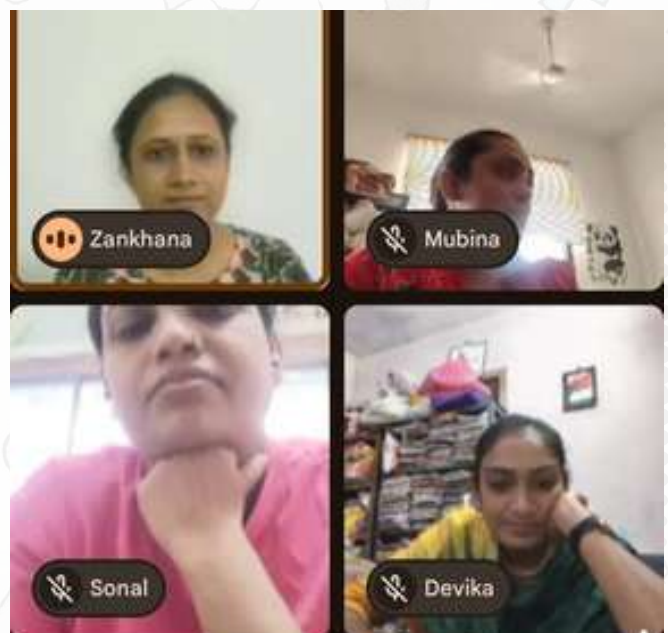
NSS worked closely with principals, PSEIs and Education leaders to strengthen academic leadership across partner schools and Anganwadi centres. Through leadership meetings, review sessions and mentoring discussions, participants reflected on student learning, identified key priorities and developed practical action plans to improve teaching and learning.

The discussions encouraged leaders to move beyond administration and embrace their role as instructional leaders- supporting teachers through classroom observations, constructive feedback and continuous professional development. The quarter also reinforced the importance of using assessment data to make informed decisions that strengthen children's learning experiences.

By creating opportunities for collaboration and reflection, NSS continues to support leaders in building schools and Anganwadi centres where quality education is sustained through strong systems and shared responsibility.

Why This Matters?

When school leaders are supported to guide teaching and learning, the impact extends far beyond a single classroom. Strong leadership creates a culture where educators continue to learn, children receive better learning experiences and improvements become sustainable over time.



Learning Through Play

"Play is not a pause from learning—it is the way young children make sense of the world around them."



NSS continued to strengthen play-based learning by expanding Toy Libraries and supporting the effective implementation of Learning Corners across Anganwadi centres. These initiatives encourage children to explore, imagine, create and collaborate through meaningful play experiences that nurture holistic development.

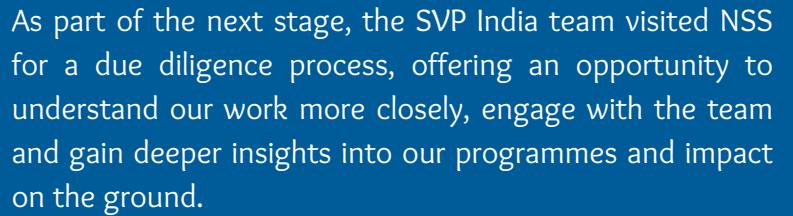
The Toy Libraries have become vibrant community spaces where children and families can borrow toys and learning materials, extending joyful learning beyond the classroom. At the same time, focused mentoring enabled teachers to thoughtfully organise Reading, Dramatic Play, Creative Art and Puzzle & Block corners, creating environments where children learn through choice, exploration and interaction every day.

These initiatives reaffirm NSS's belief that when children are given opportunities to play with purpose, they become more confident, curious, independent and eager to learn.

Play in Action

- Toy Libraries continued to grow as community learning spaces.
- Learning Corners encouraged exploration and independent learning.
- Children engaged in creative, language-rich and problem-solving experiences.
- Play nurtured confidence, curiosity and social-emotional development.





This visit marks more than a review it is a step towards building trust, exploring possibilities and strengthening a shared commitment to creating meaningful learning experiences for every child.

Celebrating Those Who Make Learning Possible! Vriddhi Puruskaar

Recognising educators is more than appreciation—it is an investment in quality education and stronger learning outcomes.

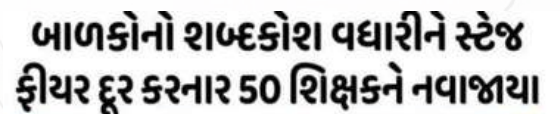
Through Vriddhi Puruskaar, NSS celebrated 50 inspiring teachers and 4 PSEIs whose dedication, innovation and commitment are transforming everyday learning experiences for children.

From creating joyful classrooms to introducing innovative approaches and nurturing every child's potential, these educators are proving that meaningful change begins with those who teach, guide and inspire.

50 Teachers and 4 PSEIs One shared commitment helping every child learn, grow and thrive.

Vridhhi Puruskaar is not just about celebrating achievements; it is about building a culture where continuous learning, innovation and excellence are recognised, encouraged and carried forward.

Here's to the educators who turn every classroom and Anganwadi centre into a space of possibility, curiosity and growth.



કલાસરૂમમાં ઈનોવેશન લાવી શિક્ષણને રસપ્રદ બનાવનારા શિક્ષકો

વડોદરા નીચે શિક્ષણ સંસ્થા દ્વારા શહેરની ૩૦ સ્કૂલમાં તૈયાર કરવામાં આવેલી ખાસ પ્રવૃત્તિઓમાં શિક્ષકો દ્વારા ક્ષાત્રીયતામાં સંયોજિત અમાલીકરણ કરવામાં આવ્યું હતું. આ ઈનોવેટિવ એફિરિટીસ પાઠ્યક્રમ અંતર્ગત ૫૦ સ્કૂલની વધુ વિદ્યાર્થીઓને પરિવર્તન પોષક મળ્યું છે. બાળકોનો અભિવિકાસ, ઓળખવડાવવા શાવર અને આંદોલનગતવધુ ઉત્સાહો વધે છે, એટલું જ નહીં, વર્ગખંડમાં શાંત રહેતા અભ્યર્થક સારામજા બનાવે છે પણ 'નિયમિતતા' જેવી પ્રવૃત્તિના પરિણામ પરંતુ વડોદરા સરકારે આંદોલન ચલાવે છે. આ સમયે પ્રશ્ન એક દરેકનું શિક્ષણમાં નવીનીકરણ આવવા અને એફિરિટી

શિક્ષકોએ નવમથ, લક્ષ્મી ટાઉન, આઈ એન્ડ એક્સપ્રેશન, રીડ વાઈડ અને સ્ટેડી રીડ વગેરે શૈક્ષણિક એપ્લિકેશન ટેબલ્ટ ડ્રાઇવ કોમ્પ્યુટરોને રજૂ કરી બનાવ્યું હતું. બાળકોના શબ્દ બોલે એ બધાને સરખાવે 'પ્રાચીનો સંસ્કૃત' નામની એપ્લિકેશન ડાઉનલોડ કરી હતી. જેમાં વિદ્યાર્થીઓને ટાઉન-ડોમ બેસાડેની કોઈ પોલ્કસ વિષય પર મુક્ત માર્યું કરવાની તક આપવામાં આવતી હતી. આ રીતથી બાળકોનો સ્વેચ્છાશીલ પણ વધુ થયાં અને બાળકો સાથે પોતાની વાત કહે શરૂ કરવામાં આવ્યું. વિદ્યાર્થી વધ્યો હતા. આ એને સંસ્કૃતના કોઈ-રૂઢ કવિના સાથે જોડાવ્યું હતું. શિક્ષકના વ્યવસ્થાને

શિક્ષકોમાં સોફ્ટ સ્કીલ્સ હશે તો
કલાસરૂમ ભયમુક્ત બનશે

આ વખે મુખ્ય વિષય 'શિક્ષણનાં તોફાં સીલનું' વહવાય રહ્યું હતું. આ વિષય પર શિક્ષણ ખજાના અઢારણીએ વાચી પેનાર કીડકરનાં પુસ્તક 'તુલ્ય કથનાં' એ વાત પર ભાર મુક્યો અને આવાં કે અજાન કિડિંગ હાથનાં શિક્ષકો માટે માત્ર વિધાનમંડળનાં કાનૂની પૂરું નહીં પણ તેનાં પાસે કોઈ કિડિંગ કોમ્યુનિકેશન સહાયકમુદિ પેનાર અને પ્રોવિડર સોલિયમ જેવી તોફાં સીલેલ કોઈ અભિયોગે કે જો શિક્ષક તોફાં સીલવાનાં મહિર હોય, તો તે જ વિદ્યાર્થીઓનાં માનસને આગ્રહનું સાથે સાથેનાં કાનૂનકે રીતે જોડાયેલો અને કોઈક સમુદાયનાં વાતચતોનાં વ્યવસ્થા અને કોણું બનાવ્યાં રહેલો સ્થિતિ કેવાળો બરાલ પેકેલો સિનેકે-ડોલરબેન્ક-પર

Stories from the Field

Small Changes, Lasting Impact

Behind every workshop, mentoring visit and classroom observation is a story of change. This quarter, we witnessed inspiring examples of educators and children embracing new ways of learning—small moments that reflect the larger impact of sustained support and collaboration.



Building Confidence Through Gupshup

Hema Gajar, a Balvatika teacher at Zenith School, learned to facilitate the Gupshup activity during an NSS workshop on Oral Language Development — after initially finding it hard to get shy students to participate. With NSS support, she began conducting it regularly; students who once stayed silent now speak confidently in front of peers and communication skills and classroom participation have grown significantly.



Young Explorers Taking the Lead

During a field observation by interns from Azim Premji University, children at Anganwadi centres were seen actively engaging in games, songs and group interactions — confidently singing Bal Geet and stepping beyond their comfort zones. One child's remark, "My teacher also plays this game," reflected how well children connect current activities to prior learning.



Bringing Learning Corners to Life

A renewed focus on play-based learning is transforming Anganwadi centres across the North Zone. With guidance from Pre-School Education Instructor Hetal Ben and support from Neev Shikshan Sanstha, teachers brought the Four Corners approach to life across all 102 centres.

Today, children eagerly explore the Reading, Dramatic Play, Creative Art and Puzzle & Blocks corners every day. These spaces have become more than classroom corners- they are joyful learning environments where children play, explore and grow with confidence.



Reflections from the Quarter

Children learn best when learning is joyful

Whether through Toy Libraries, Learning Corners, or classroom conversations, children showed greater confidence and participation when learning was rooted in play and exploration.



Supporting educators creates lasting impact

When teachers and Anganwadi workers receive continuous mentoring and practical guidance, they become more confident in creating engaging and developmentally appropriate learning experiences.

Leadership drives sustainable change

Empowered school leaders and PSEIs strengthen systems that support teachers, improve classroom practices and create better learning environments for children.



Reflections from the Quarter

Partnerships make transformation possible

The progress of this quarter reflects the collective efforts of educators, government stakeholders, school leaders, communities and families working towards a shared vision for every child.

"Every interaction with a child is an opportunity to nurture curiosity, confidence and a lifelong love for learning."



Forward

What's Next?

The journey doesn't stop here. The next quarter brings new questions, new possibilities and new milestones to look forward to.

Can classrooms become even more joyful? Can play become an even stronger part of everyday learning? Can we continue to equip educators and leaders with the tools, confidence and support they need to create meaningful experiences for every child?

At NSS, we're stepping into the next quarter with these questions in mind — deepening classroom practices, expanding play-based learning spaces and strengthening the people who make change happen every day.

And we know this journey is stronger because we don't walk it alone. Our schools, Anganwadi centres, educators, leaders and partners continue to shape what's possible.

So, what will the next few months bring?

More learning. More stories. More small wins that lead to bigger change.

Stay with us as we continue the journey — there's more to come.

Thank you for being a part of the Neev Shikshan Sanstha journey. We'd love to hear your thoughts, ideas and stories along the way.