

MONTHLY MUSINGS

APRIL-2025 EDITION

HELLO!

Welcome to Neev Shikshan Sanstha's Newsletter, your go-to source for our monthly activities and news. We're thrilled to have you on board! At the end of the newsletter, we have a small request from you, so please read it till the end. As always, we love hearing from you, so feel free to reach out with any questions or feedback. Enjoy the read!

WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE?

- Pre-school Graduation Day
- Teacher's Appreciation
- PSE Instructor MI Plan
- Sector Meeting
- Learning Corner Establishment
- Toy Library
- Team Capacity Building
- Unnati School Leaders Orientation
- Mentor's Visit
- Field anecdotes.

PRE-SCHOOL GRADUATION CELEBRATION

We celebrated Graduation Day across all five model Anganwadi centres by felicitating children who are graduating and moving on to formal schooling. Handmade graduation caps, sashes, and a festive backdrop were prepared in-house, and gifts were given to both graduating and other children. The event was made even more special as it coincided with **Parents' Day** and **"Bal Diwas,"** ensuring the presence of all parents. A parents' meeting was also held, and children were honoured in front of their families. Many parents brought gifts to encourage their children. At some centres, **PSEIs, CDPOs, and Supervisors attended** and motivated the children. NSS Resource Persons also addressed the parents, highlighting the progress seen in the students. The day was filled with pride and happiness for children, parents, and Anganwadi teachers alike.

Snippets from Model Center Graduation Day

This thoughtful initiative not only motivated the teachers but also strengthened the relationship between the ICDS staff and the organization. It was a meaningful step that brought encouragement, joy, and a renewed sense of purpose to everyone involved.



Neev Shikshan Sanstha is working closely with preschool education instructors (PSEI) to build their capacity so they can effectively implement best practices in early childhood education. To ensure impactful outcomes, the organization introduced **Micro Improvement (MI) Plans** focused on small but meaningful changes in daily classroom practices. Each MI Plan includes a clear start-to-end process, expected outcomes, and a detailed implementation strategy. The first MI Plan focused on setting up Learning Corners in five selected Anganwadi centres using locally available resources. This initiative was appreciated by the ICDS Department and supported as part of their ongoing efforts in capacity building of Anganwadi workers.



LEARNING CORNER ESTABLISHMENT

Neev Shikshan Sanstha (NSS) is proud to share the encouraging progress of establishing approx. **100 Learning corners** to enhance our Early Childhood Education initiative. This month it is generously supported by Mamta Shah Financial Services LLP. This project is being implemented across **15 Anganwadi centres in the East Zone of Vadodara**, with the goal of creating child-friendly, stimulating learning environments. These centres are being developed into print-rich spaces that actively promote Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN), helping young learners build essential skills at an early age. NSS remains dedicated to strengthening the foundation of early education and ensuring that every child begins their academic journey with confidence and curiosity.



Snippets of Learning Corner Establishment

TOY LIBRARY

The Toy Library is a unique and impactful concept, similar to a traditional book library—but with toys. Just as students borrow books from a library, in this model, children in the community can **issue toys, play with them, and return them after use**. This initiative **encourages screen-free play**, especially during vacation time, and gives children the opportunity to explore a variety of toys that support learning through play.

Beyond benefiting the children, the Toy Library also creates local employment opportunities, as a community woman is appointed to manage the library operations. This dual impact—enhancing children's play experiences and empowering women in the community—makes the Toy Library a valuable addition to early childhood development efforts.



Snippets of Toy Library

TEAM CAPACITY BUILDING

Capacity building is essential for any team aiming to stay relevant, adaptable, and forward-thinking. NSS organised a session focusing on **Growth Mindset vs. Fixed Mindset**, on how individuals often face internal mental barriers—self-doubt, fear of failure, or limiting beliefs—that prevent them from reaching their full potential. The trainer highlighted the importance of recognizing these “**mindset blocks**” and shared strategies to shift from a fixed mindset (where abilities are seen as static) to a growth mindset (where challenges are viewed as opportunities to learn and improve). Through such capacity-building sessions, team members are not only introduced to new concepts but are also **encouraged to reflect, reset, and grow—both professionally and personally**. This kind of mindset transformation fosters a culture of continuous learning, innovation, and mutual support within the team.



Snippet of internal L &D

SCHOOL LEADERS MEETING_UNNATI

School leaders hold a vital role in driving the success of the Unnati Program, which focuses on holistic teacher development. Recognising their importance, an orientation meeting was organised with the new batch of school leaders for 2025–27, along with school leaders, teachers from the previous cohort, and representatives from alumni schools. The session served as a comprehensive induction, where the goals of the project, roles of school leaders, and the expectations from teachers were clearly outlined. Discussions emphasised how **school leaders can actively support and mentor their teachers, ensuring sustained growth and implementation of best practices**. A segment on self-reflection encouraged leaders to identify key skills they have developed and now wish to transfer to their teams. This thoughtful interaction set a positive tone and laid a strong foundation for collaboration ahead of the new academic year.



Snippets of School Leaders Meeting

MENTOR'S MEET

Mentor's Meet plays a crucial role in shaping the direction and success of any developmental project. It provides a valuable platform for experienced mentors to come together, share their insights, and guide the team on the way forward. In the context of our project, Neev Shikshan Sanstha, the meeting allowed mentors to reflect on the progress so far, address challenges, and offer strategic suggestions for the next steps. Their expertise helped in aligning goals, refining implementation strategies, and ensuring that the team remains focused and motivated. Such gatherings not only strengthen the project's vision but also build a supportive network where knowledge-sharing and collaboration lead to more effective and sustainable outcomes.



Snippet of Mentor's Meet

FIELD ANECDOTES



Snippets of GACL Visit @
Gokulnagar 10

Neev Shikshan Sanstha (NSS) is proud to share the encouraging progress in setting up nearly 100 Learning Corners under its Early Childhood Education initiative. With valuable support from Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Limited (GACL), 50 of these corners have been established across Anganwadis in the West and South zones. These Learning Corners are designed to be child-friendly, print-rich spaces that promote Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN). They provide young children with engaging materials and activities that stimulate early learning and skill development. NSS and GACL remain committed to strengthening the foundation of early education, ensuring children begin their academic journey with confidence and curiosity.

Recently, the GACL team visited the Gokulnagar-10 Anganwadi in the West zone. During the visit, they observed how the learning corner has become an active part of daily routines, with children enthusiastically exploring books, puzzles, and other FLN materials. The team interacted with Anganwadi workers, who shared how the new resources have improved children's focus and participation. Witnessing the impact of their support firsthand made the visit both meaningful and motivating for the GACL representatives. This collaboration continues to make a real difference in creating joyful and effective early learning environments.