

The Beginning of New Era



New journey starts with strong desire & confident step.

We feel proud to be a part of a wonderful change today. Two girl students show their willingness to learn carpentry at Hunnar Gurukul, soon we will see them transformed into carpentry artisans. They will lead as an example for many girl students in future and make way for accomplishments for all.

Empowering women with knowledge and learning, helping them become self-reliant is a must in today's world. While those in the urban areas do receive fair chances, in rural areas, there is still a resistance for girl education and working in various fields. The society as a whole is prone towards betterment with the women being independent and progressive. We urge everyone to support this change and communicate this message to masses. Hunnar Gurukul is a platform for many girls to make their and their loved ones lives brighter.

New member of the Hunnar Gurukul Family is the car - Isuzu Dmax



Its a wonderful gift from Suraj Foundation, to the Hunnar Gurukul on the occasion of Shri Pravinsheth Lunkad sir's birthday. Shri Pravin sir always express his views that Hunnar Gurukul will need such type of vehicle in near future for transportation of material & travelling of students. Suraj Foundation is always helping Cause To Connect foundation to grow further in many ways.

His thought about the dignified life of artisans helps to move forward with added energy & courage. He express his thoughts that every student must try to be a great artisan with entrepreneur skills. He believes that essence of new techniques with traditional workmanship makes ideal artisans.

Cause To Connect Foundation are thankful to Suraj Foundation for their support, mentorship in the journey.



Project Hunnar Gurukul

A New Dawn of Learning

Students started enrolling in Hunnar Gurukul for the year 2021-22 this month. Students came from different districts of to enroll and hone their skills in Hunnar Gurukul. Currently, there is a transport problem in the state due to 'State Transport' strike in Maharashtra in December, but these students managed to overcome this challenge and travelled as far as 200+ kilometers by available vehicle to reach to Gurukul. This shows their desire and passion to learn to earn skills.



New 'Connect' with Door Step School, Pune



Door Step School, Pune is an educational institute which has been working tirelessly for many years to ensure that no child is deprived of education. This organization is also working towards helping Hunnar Gurukul to connect with the youngsters who are school dropouts. For this purpose, they connected us with children and parents from hamlets of Hadapsar, Vadarwadi, Dattawadi and Bhosari in Pune. Shri. Sachin Wagalgave and soVanitatai Gore from the organisation also visited the campus and learnt about project Hunnar Gurukul and interacted with the children of the Gurukul this month.

Building 'Green' Skills for the Planet



Brick construction demonstration workshop started this month. The masonry course instructor of Hunnar Gurukul informed all newly admitted students about the construction technology with the help of available materials as well as the opportunities in this field.

In this session, they were taught to take measurements and plan for the construction using soil and bricks. In this demonstration, the instructor explained how to use a masonry tools to have a parallel build for the wall. Students constructed bricks in 'L', square, 'T' and circular dome shapes. They are trying to acquire the skills to build a sustainable yet strong construction using natural resources. This is a green skill building which will create sustainable employment for the planet.





Project Hunnar Gurukul

Wooden Nest of Girl students

This month, two girls from carpentry section of Hunnar Gurukul built a beautiful wooden nest for the sparrows this month.



But who are these two girls? Where did they come from?

The chairperson of the Child Welfare Committee (Akola, Maharashtra) Pallavitai Kulkarni took efforts to enroll these two girls in Hunnar Gurukul. Today girls are changing their perspective towards education to become self-reliant by learning such skills. Nowadays, both are learning to work on wood in the workshop with great enthusiasm and joy. Recognizing the need of the hour for the blend Modern art with Carpentry work, now girls are coming forward to become master of the same. This is a matter of pride for Hunnar Gurukul team as well. We are very much sure that these girls, who started with learning basic carpentry work will change the face of masculine furniture industry in future.



'The Furniture Master' : Mr. Ekbote

The success comes with not only with hard work, perseverance and entrepreneurship mindset, but with a good mentorship. This month, Shri. Mr. Sandeep Ekbote (owner and proprietor of Ekbote Furniture, Pune) visited Hunnar Gurukul. He also examined the Gurukul building site and gave valuable advise about the wood used in it.



During the visit, his experienced eyes noticed that the windows and corners on the site were bended. He observed and explained the reason behind such bend on the spot to our students. "When we bring the timber from the mill for use, it should be dried completely before using it in construction", he explained. He also informed the children about different types of timber and shared various career opportunities from this field. Mr. Ekbote invited the students to visit his furniture workshop and showroom in Pune.

He said that the visit will definitely help the children to learn new things. Ekbote sir shared his experience with the students and encouraged the entrepreneurship mindset of students as well. We thank Ekbote sir from bottom of our heart and wish best luck for his professional journey ahead,

Joy with Kites



We used to play a lot of games in our childhood and that was a source of joy for us. One of our favorite games was kite flying in those days.

This month, students of Hunnar Gurukul had fun with kite flying as a little break between trainings at workshop. The occasion of Sankranti festival made it more memorable for us. It was a joy ride for the students enjoying Kite flying who played Kite fights in sky for the very first time in their lives.



Project Skills On Wheels

"Hum Kisise Kam Nahin !"

The knowledge gained by the students through all sessions is expected to be utilized in their daily life. Girl students from Takli Bolwad High School repaired the broken pillar of volleyball ground from the school premises. Parents and teachers were very happy to see these students using the knowledge they have acquired through the sessions.



Parents @ Skills on Wheels Bus



The presence of mother parents in the food festival was noticeable. They were happy seeing their children selling food at the festival. They tried making lentil chutney or peanut chikki that are taught under project at home. Mother parents were recounting joyfully their children's kitchen skill tales when mothers herself were sick during lockdown.

During this food festival, mother parents also inspected the skills on wheels bus. All understood the subjects taught during the course. "The essentials of life which are taught to the children here are really needed it today," most of the parents exclaimed during the conversation.

Student Ms. Yogita Patil from the high school put up a apple juice stall in the festival. She has been trained under all course for last two years. She explained the nature of multi skill foundation course to all the parents. The parents were very happy after learning about the course from Yogita. R.P. Patil Sir from staff inspected the skills on wheels bus and appreciated the efforts taken by the project team and the hard work put by children in making festival successful.

Observation Home Field filled with Veggies

Skills on Wheels Bus regularly goes to Late Dadukaka Bhide Child Observation Home since 2019 and instructors take practical sessions under multi skill foundation course. A total of 3000 sq. Ft. farmland has been prepared to perform practical sessions of agriculture and horticulture subject. Cilantro, fenugreek, onion etc. vegetables are being grown for every term by resident children. Now, all children cultivated the farmland like a professional farm using various cultivation techniques like mulching that they learnt in sessions.



'Budding' is Beautiful : Experiment at Home



Ms. Shravani Gunadhar Patil, a student from Takli Bolwad High School, has been transplanted rose bud and jasmine flowers at home while learning about the budding method in agriculture and horticulture session.



Project Skills On Wheels

The curious Minds and Supali

This month, team Skills on Wheels visited Vidyamandir Prashala, Miraj to spread the word of skill education. Here, the teaching staff, students learnt in detail the about the subjects to be taught under the project, its components and witnessed the demonstration.



While demonstrating the engineering subject, all students were healthily competitive in experiencing the process of creating traditional trash holding tray (Supali in Marathi), eagerly sharing what they see at home. The tray made out of metal was a new concept for all of them.

During demonstration, group showered curious question trail like 'How thick is the metal sheet for the tray you select?' 'How do you measure it?' 'What do you use for cutting the metal sheet?' 'What do you call that instrument?...' A contrary to what classroom scenario where teachers ask questions and students answers, here instructor was answering every question patiently when his hands were engaged in making the tray. Students learnt the process afterwards and their curious minds found many answers in process. They will use the newly made trays in schools for collecting the trash around the campus.

The New Experiment of 'Skill Lab'



This month, a Skill Lab workshop inaugurated on 3rd January 2022 at Nav Krishna Valley School at Uttur. District Vocational Education Training Officer, Principal in additional charge Mr. Yuvraj Patil were present as the chief guest on this occasion. Uttur Village president Vijay Savekar, Social activists Mr. Sanjay Dhure, Principal Mrs. Sangeeta Pagnis, Founder of Cause to Connect Foundation Mr. Aniruddha Bansod, Principal of Nav Krishna Valley School (Uttur) Mr. Killedar Sir and many parents were present on this occasion of inauguration.



Uttur village is located in hilly terrain. Here, the Prominent occupation is agriculture. Despite this, all people from village are always keen to avail quality education for their children. Most of the students come from a low middle class income families.

Only few can afford to continue the education but if they acquire skills that are intermingled with their local context then they can compete with the constantly upgrading world. Some participant beneficiary of this skill lab can develop business in future, we believe. These were the large scale motives behind setting Skill Lab in Uttur (Kolhapur).





Project Ugam

" We make our School Campus Beautiful "

We always feel excited when the knowledge gained through multi skills foundation course is used by students in their daily life. Not only is it expected to put the acquired knowledge in writing but it is also expected to be used for their vicinity.

Students from Brilliant School, Shirol painted trees from school campus with attractive colors. Parents, teachers were praising them for their idea and imparting the knowledge they have acquired in their school premises. The headmaster, Mr. Kakade Sir specially mentioned all students while congratulating them.



Similar type of work was done by students of Vishrambaug high school. A Water tank cover has been built at Vishrambag Secondary School under ferro cement production. Students used their engineering session knowledge in completing this activity. Mrs. Sangeeta Lad madam, president of the institute appreciated this work a lot. We are happy to see such practical application of the knowledge of students that was passed on through practical sessions under Project Ugam.



Organic Food Movement is on . . .

In the year 2017, the multi skill foundation course was started in Sangli area for the very first time. Agriculture and Horticulture was the first subject that started in Nav Krishna Valley school, Kupwad under this project. Agriculture land was available and fertile soil was brought from outside for farming lessons.

In agriculture land, vegetables like fenugreek, brinjal, which are useful in daily life, are being planted using parallel sowing method. We can see more and more engagement of students in farming. This time, radish was planted in land with usage of natural fertilizers and it resulted in high quality product that can be sold in market considering organic vegetable demand. Students from the school are now rooted in agriculture that can open new ways of earning for them in future.



'Learning by Doing' sessions in Schools





Project Ugam

Towards Erasing Gender disparity

Recently, a blood pressure testing session was conducted under the Ugam project for the 9th standard at Nav Krishna Valley School. The instructor, witnessed a very engaging experience during the session. Unknowingly, girls and boys students were doing this activity together that erased the gender differences for a while. They were checking blood pressure of each other and were happy with this newly acquired skill.



Knowledge Bridge built at Cowshed

During the demonstration of age and weight determination of animals, student Yash Shinde recalled how he personally cares for animals at home. "Now, I will go to our farm soon to find the age and weight of my cow." We could see that students are able to bridge their knowledge pieces with their personal day to day life experiences.



"I know how to do welding, sir!"



Sanchita Bhadarge, a student of 8th standard from Nav Krishna Valley English Medium School, Uttur showed her courageous side during a session of engineering subject. When instructor was asking everyone 'what do we use to attach iron rods?', she came forward and told, "Sir, I will answer. I usually see this in welding shops nearby."

Not only she answered with confidence, but while demonstrating the welding process, she voluntarily came forward and did welding with ease. It was special, as when many students in this group were scared of doing it, she encouraged them and boosted their confidence. She stood with every student until the end of the demonstration. Our efforts shine when we witness such path breaking example of students during Project Ugam sessions.

Learning starts with 'Doing'

During Energy and environment session, instructor asked questions like 'whether you all have seen earthing?', 'what do we use for earthing?' 'Earthing plate, Coal, Salt...' answers were coming based on what students see around in.



Students learnt the process in session and performed it in their homes. It is a notable point to share that, they came up with curious queries such as, 'whether 200 watt or 100 watt bulb should be used to check the earthing' and many others which were resolved in next session. We recognize their efforts as outcome of Ugam sessions.



'Star' Connect - Sunil Sutar

Instructor, Hunnar Gurukul Project

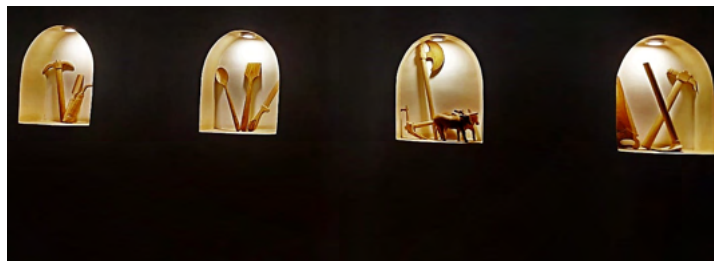
Every personality is unique, like the thumbprint on tip of our hand! That unique personality only becomes his/her identity for life. Sometimes, art blossoms from within a person that spreads its fragrance to miles. Mr. Sunil Sakhram Sutar, the carpentry instructor of Hunnar Gurukul, is an apt anecdote for such artist personality.

He belongs to Karmbali, a small village from hilly terrain of Kolhapur district. He received rich experience in the field of ceramic painting and pattern workshop in Mumbai after attending painting foundation course years ago. Before moving to Mumbai, he worked as a teacher of drawing subject in a secondary school at Karambali (Kolhapur). Since last two years, he became an integral part of Hunnar Gurukul (a Project of Cause to Connect Foundation) as the carpentry instructor. We often witness his discipline while working on a craft and honest behavior towards the task assigned to him. These aspects of his personality reflects from his paintings too.

He started working as carpentry course instructor in project Hunnar Gurukul at Uttur (Kolhapur). He possessed a proud hereditary experience in carpentry work but he was teaching carpentry skills for the first time in Gurukul.

Teaching carpentry work is mostly practical in nature, so he got used with teaching as he had enough hands on experience in timber work. But coping up with students was real challenge. The children of Hunnar Gurukul comes from very diverse socio-economic background. The grasping capacity of each one varies. After learning this, he deliberately made necessary changes in delivering carpentry skills during sessions. For eg. If a student finds difficulty in taking the wood measurement, and other in sharpening the wood for the product, then he teach him in simple way so that he understand and execute the task easily. Sometimes, he does find hidden talent among the group and take efforts to boost it, invest more time in them. We are so lucky to have such personality in Hunnar Gurukul. He gives his best and teach every minute detail of carpentry so that best results can be seen in future.

In the span of last two years, he shaped many crafts using his creative imagination. It includes various types of wooden toys (Ships, birds, huts built from bamboo, showpieces, mobile stands, rockets, Map of India etc.) and imparted these skills to the batch students as well.





'Star' Connect - Sunil Sutar

Instructor, Hunnar Gurukul Project

Besides this, he carved out a variety of large wooden items like various types of sitting chairs, tables, doors, stools, etc. An important aspect of him is his ability to create different replicas from the leftover wooden pieces. Now, even students are stepping on his feet and creating something new from trash. And now this habit, in a way, helping to nourish the imagination of young adults.

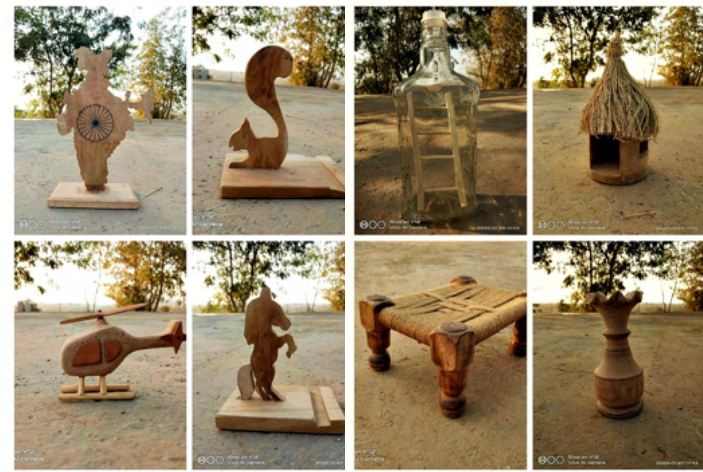
Sutar sir has instilled a unique confidence in all batches. It is visible when students from previous batch take on new challenges in work without any external expertise or support. It is our biggest achievement when students started taking independent contract work. Sutar sir always strives to instill self-reliance in students through his teaching sessions. Even after finishing the course, students are emotionally bonded with him as he is in constantly be in touch with the alums and take regular follow ups. Students recalls the fun moments, memories from the workshop, even today.

Hunnar Gurukul is now expanding his wings because of such humble and skillful personalities like Sutar sir. He always emphasizes that every student who attends this course should acquire this ability to face any challenge and circumstances without fear. When we hear his thought, we often remember following lines from a famous Marathi poem 'Sir':

“ ओळखलत का सर मला ? पावसात आला कोणी
पाठीवरती हात ठेवून तुम्ही फक्त लढ म्हणा “

(Translation in nutshell:

“..... Sir, you always should be by my side and say
'Fight with odds!' ”)



**"Shri Sunil Sutar sir is
exceptionally a wonderful artist &
a good human being. He always
kept his inner artist alive"**

Aniruddha Bansod
Founder - Cause To Connect Foundation