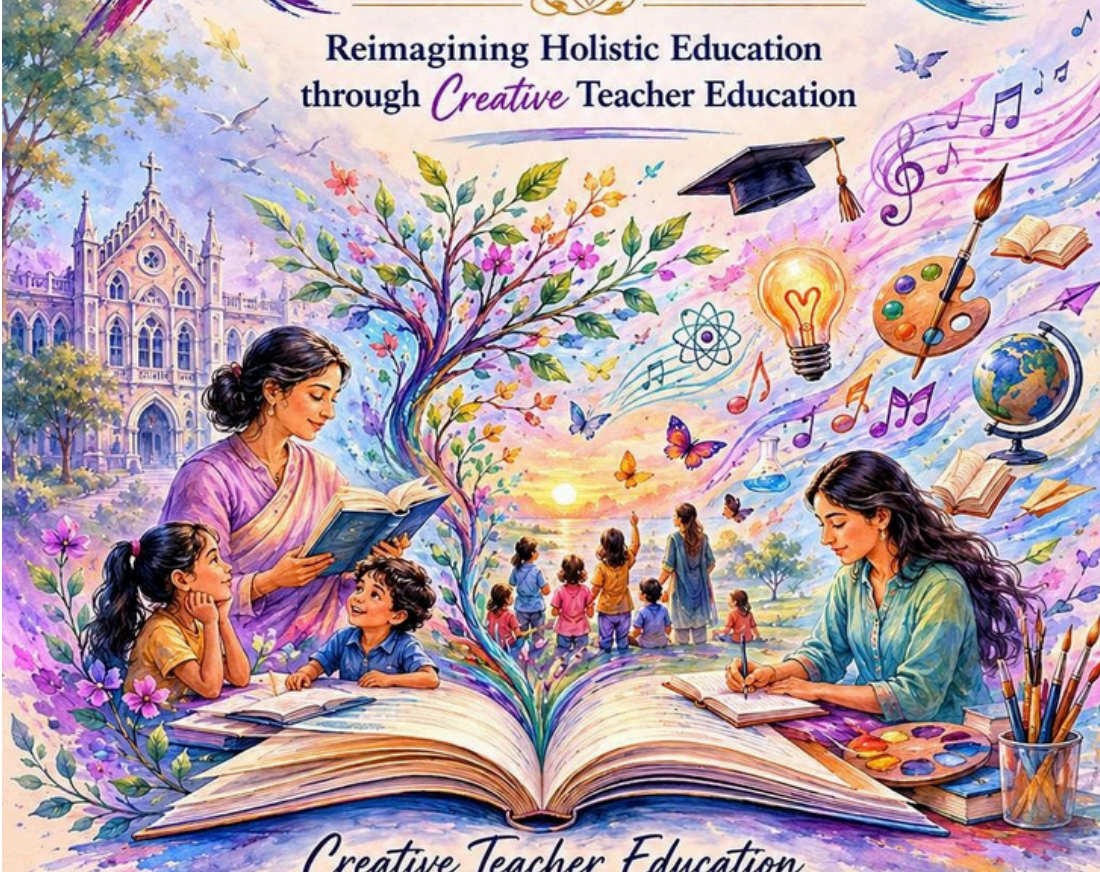
St. Xavier's
College of Education
(Autonomous)
Mumbai

75
1949–2024
CELEBRATING
75 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

2024- 2025

# X-CALIBRE

Reimagining Holistic Education
through *Creative* Teacher Education



*Creative Teacher Education*
*for a Holistic Tomorrow*

Inclusive Learning | Innovative Pedagogy | Student Voices | Creative Classrooms | Transformative Education

Art by Tasneem Khadkiwala

# X-CALIBRE




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**CHRISTINE MENDONSA**
**TASNEEM KHADKIWALA**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS


01 FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM 4

02 FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK 6

03 STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVES 8

# From the Editorial Team

"The world has enough for everyone's need,
but not enough for everyone's greed."
- Mahatma Gandhi

These profound words by the Father of the Nation resonate deeply in today's times; where we are chasing consumerism and materialism creating a lopsided society. The world can be a more peaceful and happy place with balance and inclusion rather than being driven by excess and exclusion. In a world that constantly seeks validation and demands its rights; how often have we been selfless in our approach and reflected on our responsibilities as citizens? Citizenship no longer means claiming that you rightfully belong to the land; rather it brings with itself a commitment towards sustainable use of resources and celebrating the spirit of inclusion in diversity. Sustainability is often perceived as a lofty term used on a global stage rather it is can be practised by " small actions which create big impact;" reminding us that the essence of responsible citizenship lies in conscious living. As citizens, we are not only bound towards our duties for the present but also for the future who will also inherit and call this world as their own.

Another prominent idea is Inclusion in diversity. India has always been a melting pot of cultures and we always believe in "Unity in Diversity." True citizenship lies in celebrating this diversity and uplifting each other. The beauty of inclusion lies not just in mere tolerance rather in creation of a safer, beautiful world which values diversity and ensures that every belief and every voice is heard.

# From the Editorial Team

SXIE has always been at the forefront in developing individuals who nurture these values, encourage critical thinking, and believe in responsible actions that contribute to a happier, more meaningful world. Rooted in Jesuit values, our college's initiatives, discussions, and experiences serve as constant reminders that true education goes beyond textbooks, fostering in us a sense of compassion, responsibility, and commitment towards society.

As we turn these pages, born of collective effort, we invite you not just to read but to pause and reflect on the world we are shaping together.

"We do not learn from experience... we learn from reflecting on experience." - John Dewey.

# From the Principal's Desk.....

HOLISTIC EDUCATION FOR A MEANINGFUL LIFE
Prof. Dr. Vini Sebastian



Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, was the former Superior General of the Society of Jesus. In the Ignatian tradition, he viewed education not merely as academic training, but as a moral imperative to transform society. According to him, the education system must not only engage minds but also transform hearts so that we have conscientious individuals for society with values of cura personalis and forming men and women for others which are hallmarks of Jesuit Education. Jesuit Education stands in solidarity for the disadvantaged and the excluded.

Holistic Education is reflected in every dimension of the academic environment, keeping in mind the needs of the education system as well as needs of the individual and society. For Jesuit Institutions holistic education means an education that helps individuals to touch their inner core. Ignatian principles talks about the whole self : body, mind and spirit. Students in the Institution have discovered their self during the course and discovering their strengths and polishing their talents. They have been subjected to academic rigor which becomes a ground for team building, problem solving and personal growth.

Society requires informed individuals; to prepare the students for this, the institution offered number of sessions on inclusion, gender related sessions, financial literacy, environment awareness, recycling waste. An immense stress on innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship that has made the students more responsible, making them more creative in whatever they do. Sessions on entrepreneurship gave a roadmap to self-reliance and helped students divert their energy towards developing need-based products which they can sell and earn.

## Contd.....

Holistic education in the Ignatian tradition not only realizes the presence of God, but finding God in all things. It is an education that is not self-oriented but reaches out to the community. Therefore, in SXIE(A) consciousness to the community is an important thrust. We reach out to the rural and urban Jesuit centers to provide community service that is transforming for the students. It is always told to them that it is not of giving but of receiving, this must be the spirit of community work.

Holistic education is about developing all the required skills so number of workshops and seminars were conducted to give the students a plethora of knowledge and skills. What does a teacher need in today's teaching learning situation? The schools are filled with restless children, overcrowded classrooms, overloaded curriculum, discontent teachers and poor work culture and job satisfaction. Teachers have to be more resilient, creative, emotionally mature and calm in all situations.

Holistic education is also about connecting with stakeholders. Our Parent Interact program helped us to connect with our parents and obtain feedback and suggestions from them. Our internship schools provide us the support to impart good training to our students. Most of the programs are put up on the college website and social media which helps us to portray our social responsibility. The Institution networks with alumni for special inputs for the current students for preparing them for campus placement as well as for innovative teaching learning methods.

We hope that all our effort leads to a well-rounded teacher who can deliver his/her best to the students under their care. We have imparted holistic teacher education and we hope that this will help us create a society that is more caring, concerned about the people and the environment and progressing towards forming a world that is deeply committed to justice and love.

# Inclusion in Diversity



## *Prologue*

This section invites reflection and critical thinking of the terms - 'inclusion' 'diveristy' and 'unity.' It provides creative and personal reflections on understanding the everyday implaications and depth the words carry...

## *UNITED IN BHASHA-FUL BEATS!*

In a world where everyone is different,
You and I can make a difference.
Be it Ishq, Love, Amore, Prem,
All languages spread the virtues of harmony's dream.

Some call it dosti, others say friendship,
In Mitrata and bond, we sail life's ship.
From Namaste to Bonjour, from Hola to Hi,
Each word's a star in the boundless cultural sky.

Zindagi flows in many a tone,
But hearts beat the same in flesh and bone.
Manus or Manav, we're kin by birth,
Bound by Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam ; one family, one Earth.

Wear your saree, your jeans, your Nauvari with pride,
Let your rang shine, don't ever hide.
Bhasha, language, parole ; a beautiful blend,
In diversity, we don't break ; we mend.






Let every tongue be a bridge, not a divide,
For in every voice, the world's hearts reside.
As a peaceful warrior,
Break all barriers,
Across every border, let love be the carrier.

So sing in raaga, hum a jazz line,
Dance to lavani, or tap flamenco in time.
For when we say Peace, Shanti, Paix, Paz,
We speak one truth,
The truth of humanity,
The truth that embodies the spirit of inclusion in diversity!

-Christine Mendonsa
S.Y.B.Ed

Christine Mendonsa is a quiet storm of thought and feeling, weaving meaning into the in-between moments others often overlook.She writes not to impress, but to understand, to catch fleeting emotions before they slip into silence.Through her words, she aspires to inspire, leaving behind traces of reflection, resilience, and a soft, unwavering light.



# INTERRELIGIOUS HARMONY

ONE HUMAN FAMILY. ONE SHARED FUTURE.



## *MANY PRAYERS, ONE SKY*

In the quiet corners of morning light,
A bell rings soft, a whisper takes flight,
Some bow in silence, some sing aloud,
Different paths, yet hearts unbowed.

A diya flickers, a candle glows,
A rosary turns, a prayer mat flows,
Verses rise in many tongues,
But echo the same from ancient lungs.

Between the lines of faith we read,
Not division, but a shared need:
To belong, to hope, to heal, to be,
A thread in humanity's tapestry.

I have walked where your rituals bloom,
Sat in your sacred, shared your room,
And found not "other," not strange or new,
But pieces of me reflected in you.

Your God, my God, names may differ,
Yet kindness makes every boundary thinner,
For love needs no translation at all,
It answers every sacred call.



Your God, my God, names may differ,
Yet kindness makes every boundary thinner,
For love needs no translation at all,
It answers every sacred call.

Let temples, mosques, and churches stand,
Not as borders, but hand in hand,
Where every story is heard, embraced,
And no soul is judged, denied, erased.

For under one sky, vast and wide,
We are more alike than we divide,
Many prayers, many ways to start,
But one shared world, one human heart.

— For those who believe, and those who seek

-Tasneem Khadkiwala
S.Y.B.Ed

Tasneem Khadkiwala is an English educator who doesn't just teach the language, she turns it into a voice people can own.She believes classrooms should be loud with ideas, fearless with expression, and open to every story.Through her words and work, she's here to challenge, connect, and leave an impact that lingers.





# Celebrating *the* Innate Human Nature of Inclusivity *and* Kindness!



## *POSITIVE GLIMPSES OF HUMANITY*

We always whine about how tough life is,
Always looking for an escape in an abyss.
To survive our own struggles,
We have to navigate through all the rubbles.

We are often saddened by miseries that exist,
It takes a lot to defog, of greed, the mist.
But there exist souls,
Who take on, even in extreme hardships, philanthropic roles.

Not always can we help the one in need,
Not always are we consumed by greed,
Sometimes, situations hold us captivated,
Even if, the empathy in us is, to full extent, activated.
In such moments,
When our conscience torments;
Never lose hope,
Try not to mope,
Instead, pray for others' pains to be alleviated.
May no one, in helplessness, be alienated.

It doesn't always have to be elaborative gestures,
All it takes is a kind smile for a heart to be in raptures.
Learn to lend a helping hand,
To someone that is a magic wand.



We complain of there not being enough luxury,
But, have we contemplated our futile fury?
Try to be the eraser of frowns,
Go about handing away, of happiness, crowns.

Sometimes all it takes is for someone to be heard,
Sometimes it is about standing up for something in a herd.

In stressful times, while some work selflessly,
Don't forget to show them your support tirelessly.
Learn that we're all the same,
That life is simply not a game,
It's all about sharing,
And caring,
Your power of compassion;
Will always act as cohesion.




Aparna Jayshankar,
S.Y.B.Ed

Aparna Jayshankar is a novice little someone trying to encapsulate some passing feelings and experiences in order to imprint them onto lines and pages in a feeble attempt to immortalise the depth behind them. She attempts to spritz some pauses, reflection and sunshine between words and worlds.



# Discovering Opportunity at Udyog Prerna: A Journey through the One Station One Product Scheme

**Exploring sustainability, inclusion, and entrepreneurial growth through a real-world initiative**

St. Xavier's Institute of Education (Autonomous) organized Udyog Prerna, its flagship Entrepreneurship Cell event, on 5th May 2025, aimed at fostering innovation, awareness, and real-world entrepreneurial engagement. As part of this initiative, the institute invited representatives from Indian Railways, who introduced participants to the impactful "One Station One Product" scheme.

The scheme focuses on empowering individuals from marginalized sections by providing them opportunities to set up stalls at railway stations, thereby promoting local products while ensuring sustainable livelihoods. The railways Chief inspectors offered valuable insights into how government initiatives can be effectively leveraged by entrepreneurs to scale their ventures.

A notable success story that emerged from Udyog Prerna is that of Mr. Daya Shankar, an entrepreneur who recognized the potential of this scheme as a growth opportunity. With support from the institute in navigating the necessary paperwork and procedures, he successfully secured a stall at Chinchpokli Railway Station. For the past year, he has been running his venture successfully, demonstrating how the right guidance and awareness can unlock new avenues even for established entrepreneurs.

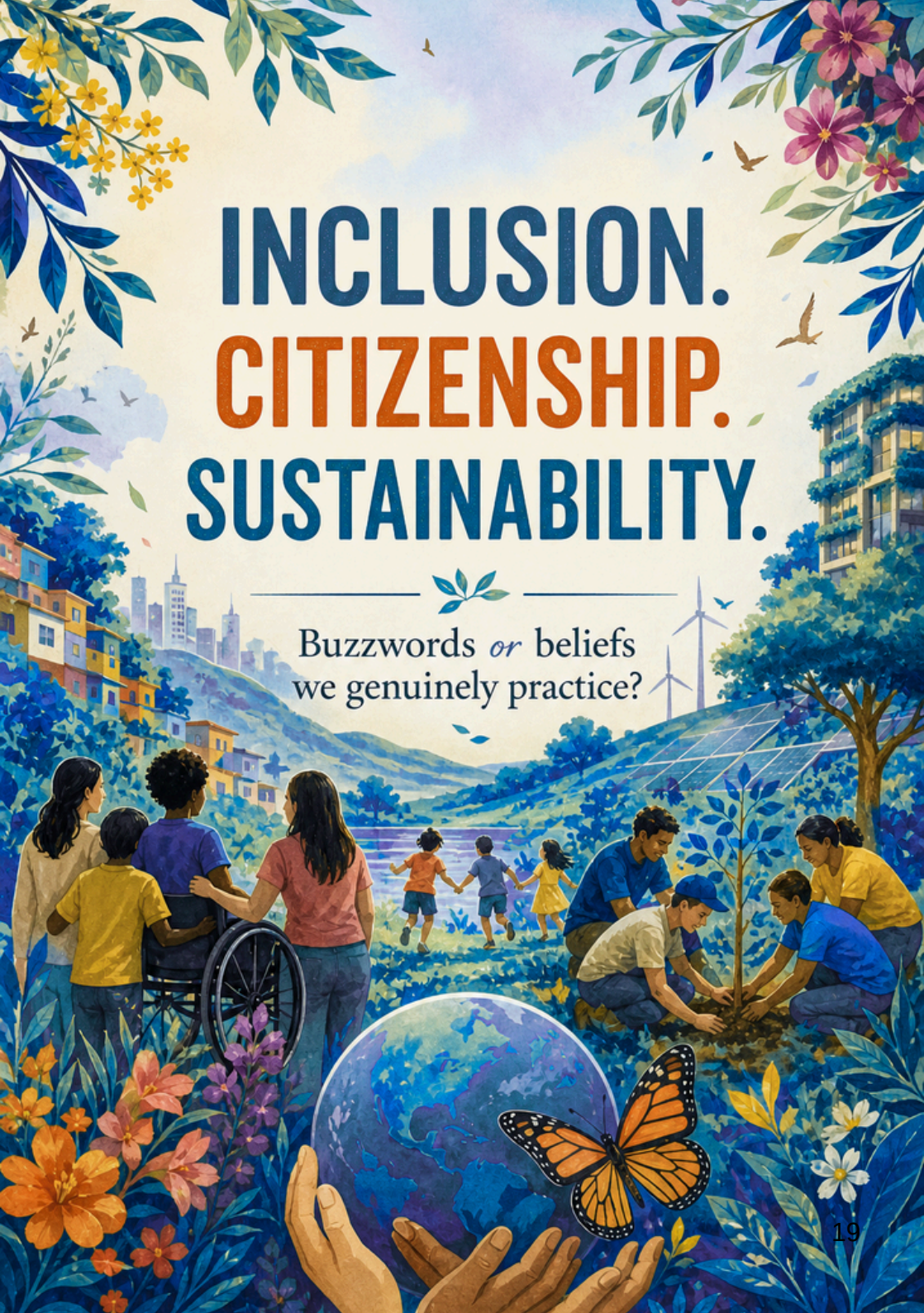
What distinguishes his work is its strong environmental consciousness. Mr. Shankar utilizes discarded cut pieces of fabric from kurta and garment industries—materials that would otherwise end up in drains or be burned, contributing to pollution. By upcycling this waste into high-quality, attractive bags and professional merchandise, he not only reduces environmental impact but also creates products that are both functional and marketable.

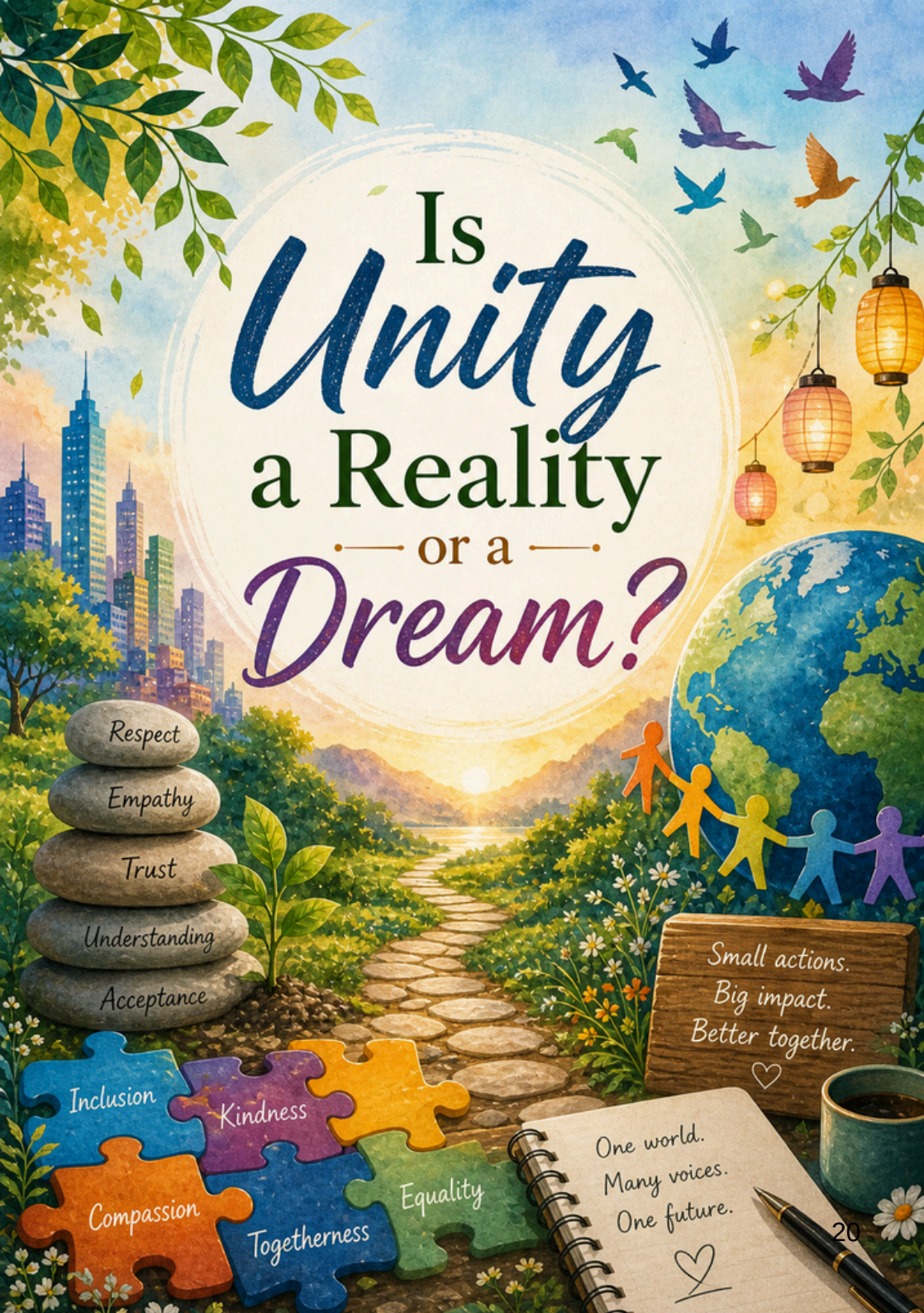
His enterprise has also generated employment opportunities for several women involved in the production process, thereby ensuring a steady and dignified source of income for many households. This initiative highlights the broader social impact of entrepreneurship that goes beyond profit to include sustainability and community upliftment.

Through Udyog Prerna, St. Xavier's Institute of Education continues to bridge the gap between policy and practice, empowering individuals to identify opportunities and translate them into meaningful, sustainable ventures. The event stands as a powerful reminder that entrepreneurship, when guided with purpose, can drive both economic growth and social change

- Roycin Miranda
S.Y.B.Ed.

Roycin Miranda is a passionate educator, creative thinker, sports enthusiast and committed to the core principles of Jesuit Education. Roycin captures his thoughts on paper, exploring social trends and patterns while also highlighting initiatives that have led to meaningful change.


INCLUSION.
CITIZENSHIP.
SUSTAINABILITY.
Buzzwords *or* beliefs
we genuinely practice?


Is Unity a Reality or a Dream?
Respect
Empathy
Trust
Understanding
Acceptance
Small actions.
Big impact.
Better together.
Inclusion
Kindness
Compassion
Togetherness
Equality
One world.
Many voices.
One future.

## *“SUSTAINABILITY: THE SXIE WAY”*

At St. Xavier's Institute of Education (A) Mumbai, sustainability is the fundamental backdrop on which the narrative of teacher education is written, not an optional chapter tucked away in a textbook. The institute fosters educators who are both socially and environmentally sensitive, with a foundation in the Xavierian vision of developing "men and women for others."

When we represented SXIE at the UNICEF-hosted Green Rising Initiative at the Cooperage Football Ground, this dedication was vividly demonstrated. Our scale model of a sustainable SXIE campus served as a declaration more than just a showpiece. It mirrored our daily routines, such as the use of renewable energy, waste segregation systems, and a mindful lifestyle.

On November 27th, 2025, we had the privilege of interacting with Mr. David Beckham and Ms. Cynthia McCaffrey, the Head of UNICEF India, which was one of the most motivating experiences. They reaffirmed a potent notion: “Youth and Education are not merely participants in climate action, but its architects.”

Sustainability at SXIE is based on 3 straightforward but revolutionary pillars: ACTION, AWARENESS, and ADVOCACY. These are experienced realities, not catchphrases. Action research carried out by B.Ed. student-teachers is one of the best ways that this idea is expressed. Their initiatives directly support global objectives like SDG 6 (Clean Water), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption), and SDG 13 (Climate Action) by addressing urgent issues including water conservation, plastic reduction, food waste management, and environmental attitudes.

However, the way sustainability permeates everyday campus life is what really makes SXIE unique.

The college is transformed into a living laboratory of environmental responsibility through the Green Campus and Eco-Club programs. While a three-bin waste segregation system makes sure that every bit of waste finds its proper route, solar panels silently transform sunlight into energy. Through khamba composting, organic waste is converted into manure, giving leftovers new life.

Students actively participate in community outreach initiatives, plantation efforts like "Ek Ped Maa ke Naam," and seedballing to promote biodiversity and group responsibility. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle becomes a habit as a result of the Safai Bank campaign, which includes a special plastic collecting drive from February 23–28, 2026.

Additionally, sustainability extends beyond school limits. Student-teachers create interdisciplinary courses and lead environmental assemblies during school internships with the subject "Citizenship for Sustainability," making sure that awareness spreads throughout classrooms.

At SXIE, a significant change toward digital sustainability occurred in 2026. Paper use is greatly decreased by switching to digital course submissions, assignments, and question papers. Rechargeable batteries reduce electrical waste, and the launch of a school textbook digital library on March 9, 2026, improves accessibility without harming the environment.

Together, these programs support SDGs 4 (Quality Education), 7 (Clean Energy), 12 (Responsible Consumption), and 13 (Climate Action), reflecting UNICEF's overarching goal of enabling young people to effect environmental change.

Sustainability is practiced, questioned, studied, and lived at SXIE rather than being taught. Because this is the silent revolution that we support:

Every classroom becomes a climate solution when educators learn to take care of the environment.

-Christine Mendonsa
S.Y.BEd Eco-Club Representative

Christine Mendonsa is an English educator who believes in the power of words to inspire change. Her interests lie in weaving sustainability with education.She is driven to create a more mindful future.



## *FROM GREEN PRACTICES TO GLOBAL IMPACT: ECO CLUB STUDENTS AT UNICEF*

***-Under the guidance of***
***Dr. Elvina Pereira***

The Eco Club of our college actively promotes sustainable practices and environmental awareness among students. Through various green initiatives on campus, the club encourages students to adopt eco-friendly habits and understand the importance of protecting the environment.

In recognition of these efforts, a group of seven Eco-Club students of SXIE received the opportunity to engage with UNICEF India on 27th November, 2025 at Cooperage Grounds, Mumbai, in order to present the sustainable practices adopted by our college. This interaction allowed us to showcase how educational institutions can contribute to building a greener and more responsible future.








Under the guidance of Dr. Elvina Pereira, we prepared a model highlighting the green practices implemented within our college campus. The model demonstrated initiatives such as responsible waste management, sustainable use of resources, and awareness activities that encourage students to care for the environment. What made this project even more meaningful was the support we received from our classmates who contributed through their ideas and helped in building the model, showing that sustainability becomes stronger when an entire community works together.During the session, we had the opportunity to present our model and explain these initiatives to global representatives associated with UNICEF, including Mr.David Beckham and Ms. Cynthia McCaffrey, the Head of UNICEF India. Sharing our work with such distinguished personalities was both exciting and inspiring.







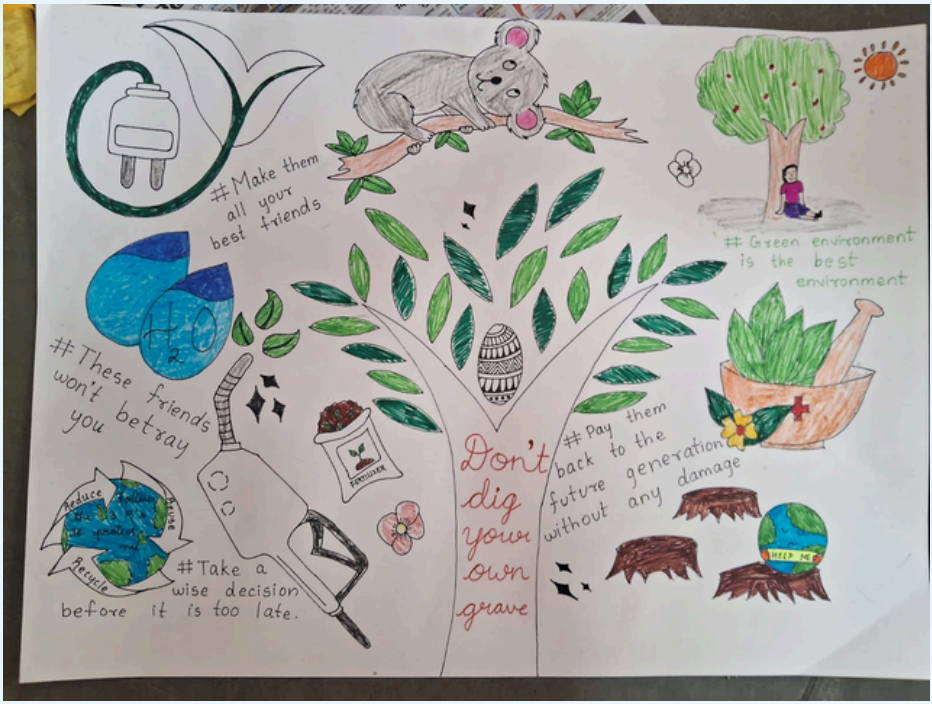

The interaction reminded us that meaningful change often begins with simple actions taken within our own communities. The green practices followed in our college demonstrate how student teachers can play an important role in promoting environmental awareness and sustainable living. This experience was not only a moment of pride for our Eco-Club but also a reminder that collective efforts no matter how small can contribute to a larger global impact.

"Young people have the power to shape a better future when they act with awareness and responsibility."

-Elvina Mascarenhas
S.Y.B.Ed Eco Club Representative

Elvina Mascarenhas , a B.Ed. student and an active member of the Eco-Club. She is passionate about sustainability and spreading environmental awareness among students. She wrote this article to share how our college's green practices led to a meaningful interaction with UNICEF. It reflects her belief that small actions can create a larger impact. This experience inspired her to continue contributing towards a more sustainable future.






ARTWORK BY NIMOSHA STANISALUS AND MALVINA NADAR, SYBEd

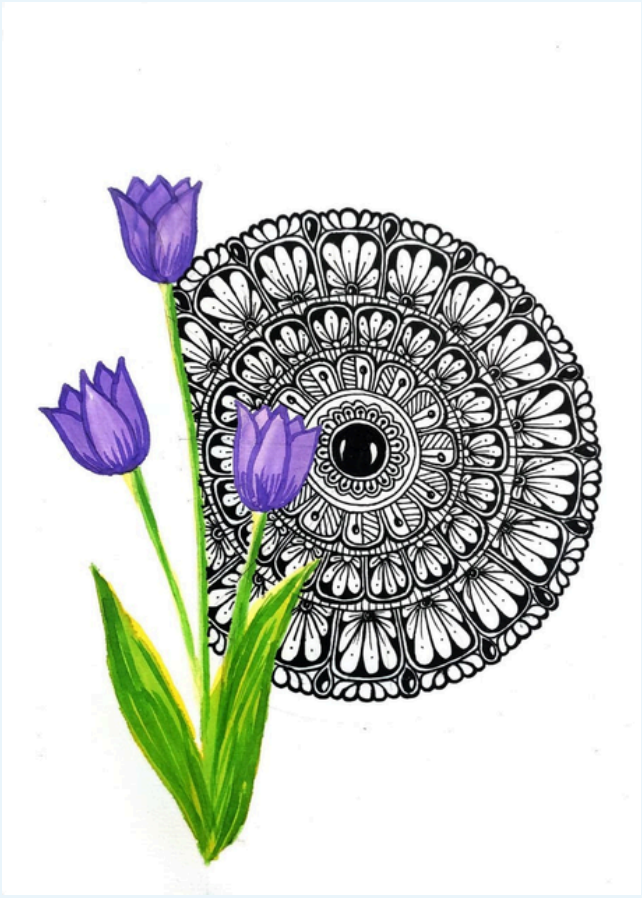
NOTE:

Nimosha and Malvina won a prize at पेड Promotion ( Chart - making) competition at the All Mumbai inter -school / inter-collegiate Competition ' Green Olympics ' Planet E at St. Teresa's College of Education held on November 30, 2025 for this poster.

This poster beautifully represents the theme “Citizenship for Sustainability” by showing how every responsible citizen can contribute to protecting the environment for present and future generations. It highlights important sustainable practices such as reducing pollution, saving electricity, planting trees, protecting wildlife, and making wise environmental decisions before it is too late.

The artwork emphasizes the message of the 3Rs – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, encouraging people to minimize waste and care for natural resources. The tree at the center symbolizes growth, life, and the shared responsibility of citizens to nurture the Earth. Images of animals, plants, and green surroundings remind us that sustainability also means preserving biodiversity and maintaining ecological balance.

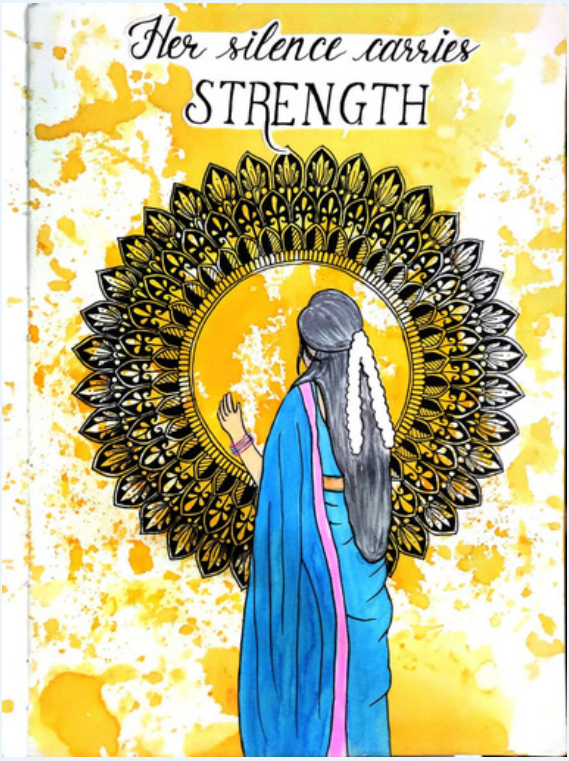
Through creative slogans and meaningful visuals, the poster inspires individuals to act responsibly, adopt eco-friendly habits, and work together for a cleaner, greener, and healthier planet. It strongly conveys that true citizenship involves protecting nature and ensuring a sustainable future for all.



This mandala art creatively represents the theme of Citizenship for Sustainability by combining the beauty of nature with meaningful patterns of unity and balance.

The intricate mandala design symbolizes harmony, collective responsibility, and the connection between individuals and society, while the vibrant purple flowers reflect growth, renewal, and environmental awareness. The artwork conveys the message that responsible citizens contribute to a sustainable future through conscious actions, care for nature, and positive social involvement. It emphasizes that sustainability begins with each individual's efforts to protect the environment, promote harmony, and work together for the well-being of future generations. Through its elegant design, the poster inspires awareness, responsibility, and the importance of building a greener and more sustainable world.

ARTWORK BY NIMOSHA STANISLAUS, SYBEd




This mandala art beautifully reflects the theme of inclusion in diversity by portraying the quiet strength, dignity, and resilience of women within society. The central figure, dressed in traditional attire, symbolizes cultural identity, grace, and the powerful role individuals play in creating an inclusive and sustainable world.

The vibrant yellow background represents hope, positivity, and empowerment, while the intricate mandala design surrounding her signifies unity, harmony, and the interconnectedness of diverse communities. The quote, “Her silence carries strength,” highlights inner courage and reminds us that every individual, regardless of voice or background, contributes meaningfully to society. Overall, this artwork promotes the values of respect, equality, and inclusion, encouraging citizens to embrace diversity as a foundation for a stronger and more sustainable future.



ARTWORK BY NIMOSHA STANISLAUS, SYBEd

This mandala artwork beautifully reflects the theme of inclusion in diversity through its vibrant arrangement of flowers in different colors and patterns. Each flower is unique in its shade, shape, and detailing, yet all of them come together harmoniously to create a balanced and unified design. The use of bold outlines and varied color tones symbolizes how individuals, despite their differences in background, culture, or identity, can coexist peacefully and contribute to a larger, meaningful whole. The circular flow of the mandala suggests equality and continuity, emphasizing that every element has its own importance and place. Overall, the artwork highlights the idea that diversity is not a barrier but a strength, and true beauty lies in accepting, respecting, and celebrating these differences as part of an inclusive society.



ARTWORK BY VIOLET D’SOUZA, SYBEd

## Colours of Culture: Celebrating Diversity through Sustainable Art

"In nature, nothing exists alone." ~ Rachel Carson

India is a country with incredible cultural diversity, with distinctive customs, artistic expressions, and lifestyles from each region. These distinctions are not obstacles but rather the strands that unite the country's dynamic identity. The concept of citizenship for sustainability and inclusion in diversity serves as a reminder that being responsible citizens entails both conserving the environment and honouring cultural heritage. Using a variety of traditional Indian art, this collage attempts to visually depict this concept.

The collage brings together various artistic styles such as Mandala art, Madhubani, Warli and Gond-inspired motifs, Lippan-style textures, mirror work, craft work and elements of rock painting. A prominent feature of my artwork is the repeated use of mandala patterns, which symbolize balance, unity, and harmony. Alongside these, I have included peacock figures, trees, and nature-based designs that reflect the influence of folk and tribal art traditions. Each section of the collage represents a different cultural expression, yet all are connected within a single frame, symbolizing unity in diversity.

These artistic expressions come from many Indian communities and areas. For instance, Gond art illustrates the close bond between tribal groups and their natural environment, whereas Madhubani art from Bihar is renowned for its elaborate patterns and portrayal of nature. Maharashtra's tribal populations create Warli art, which emphasises harmony between humans and their surroundings by depicting everyday life, nature, and human interaction through basic geometric patterns. Gujarati Lippan art creates textured designs using mirrors and clay. I have added handcrafted ornamental pieces made from cardboard and other readily accessible materials in addition to these conventional forms. Through resource reuse, these works demonstrate how art can be both creative and sustainable. By combining these diverse styles and techniques, the collage highlights how different cultures coexist and contribute to a shared national identity.

The theme of inclusion is reflected in the way all these art forms are given equal space and importance in the composition. No single style dominates; instead, each contributes to the overall harmony of the artwork. This reflects the idea that every culture, whether urban or tribal, modern or traditional, deserves equal respect and recognition. As citizens, appreciating and preserving these art forms is a way of promoting cultural inclusion.

Another significant element represented in this piece of art is sustainability. Because they employ natural materials like clay, plant-based colours, soil, and handmade processes, many traditional Indian art forms are by nature environmentally friendly. This strong bond with natural resources is reflected in the surfaces and textures in my collage. In addition to these conventional methods, waste and readily accessible materials like cardboard and discarded things are used to create a number of pieces in my artwork, including the rock painting, decorative baubles, Christmas ornaments, and wall hangings. This emphasises the concept of recycling and upcycling, which is the process of turning waste materials into beautiful and useful products. These age-old techniques, together with sustainable craft methods, serve as a reminder in a time when modern practices frequently damage the environment. In a time when modern practices often harm the environment, these traditional methods along with sustainable craft practices remind us that creativity can exist in harmony with nature while reducing waste.

Through this collage, I aim to show that diversity and sustainability are interconnected. Every artistic medium reflects a distinct viewpoint, yet they are all based on a profound reverence for the natural world and society. A meaningful display of responsible citizenship is produced when these components are combined.

It becomes crucial for people, especially young learners, to comprehend and practise various art forms in today's fast-paced, highly industrialised society, when traditional knowledge is frequently disregarded and environmental concerns are growing. By fostering respect for various cultures and their lifestyles, learning such customs not only aids in the preservation of cultural history but also fosters solidarity. Simultaneously, these methods show how creativity can be produced with natural and recycled resources, highlighting the necessity of sustainable living. Therefore, engaging with these art forms is not just about artistic expression, but also about building awareness, responsibility, and a more inclusive and environmentally conscious society.

In conclusion, citizenship today goes beyond rights and duties; it includes awareness, respect, and responsibility. By celebrating cultural diversity and adopting sustainable practices, we contribute to a more inclusive and balanced society. My artwork stands as a small representation of this idea, showing that when different traditions come together, they create something unified, meaningful, and sustainable.

WRTITTEN BY VIOLET D'SOUZA, SYBEd

**नानी का घर** 🌸

**-Arwa Gheewala (S.Y.B.Ed)**

जब मैं इस दुनिया में पहली बार आई,
नानी की गोदी ने सबसे पहले लोरी सुनाई।
छोटे छोटे हाथों को थाम के चलना सिखाया,
हर गिरने पे हँसकर फिर से उठना सिखाया।

From the very start, she watched over me with care,
Love in her eyes and warmth beyond compare.
Her gentle smile could brighten every day,
And with every little fear, she'd chase the dark away.

सुबह की खुशबू थी उनके हाथों का खाना,
गरम फुल्के, खिचड़ी, और मीठा सा दाना।
"थोड़ा aur kha le beta..." हर रोज़ वो कहती,
प्यार की मिठास हर निवाले में रहती।

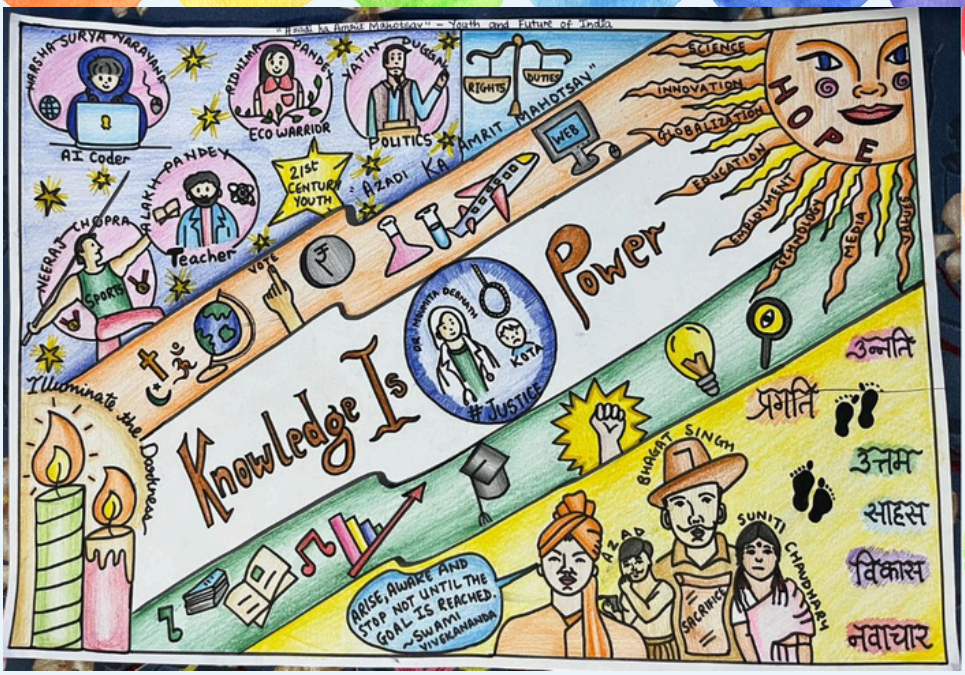
She taught me kindness, respect, and grace,
To always choose truth in every place.
The values she planted deep in my heart,
Are treasures from Nani that will never depart.

उनके आँगन में बचपन खिलखिलाता था,
हर कोना जैसे मुझसे बातें करता था।
दोपहर की नींद, वो पंखे की हवा,
और रातों में कहानियों का सिलसिला।

Her loving nicknames still echo in my ears,
Wrapped in affection, laughter, and tears.
No one will ever call me quite the same,
With that special warmth hidden in my name.

घर तो अब भी वहीं है, दीवारें भी खड़ी हैं,
वो रसोई, वो आँगन, वो खिड़कियाँ भी पड़ी हैं।
पर सच ये है दिल अब मानता नहीं,
क्योंकि नानी के बिना... वो "नानी का घर" रहा ही नहीं।

The house still stands, just like before,
The same old windows, the same front door.
But tell me now... how do I go there once more?
When Nani is gone, it's not "Nani ka ghar" anymore. 🌷




**-By Jaclyn Rocha (Batch 2023-25), currently teaching at Bombay Scottish School, Mahim**

# The Other is Us

**-By Jaclyn Rocha (Batch 2023-25),**

Discrimination, exclusion, and prejudice have long shaped the experiences of marginalized communities in India. The Other is Us explores the quiet suffering of a young girl who navigates a world that repeatedly reminds her of her "place", whether through caste, religion, gender, or social norms. Through her eyes, we witness moments of rejection, injustice, and deep-seated biases that divide society. Yet, the poem does not dwell in despair; instead, it highlights the power of

knowledge, courage and resistance.

As the girl finds strength in history, literature, education and her own voice, she challenges the barriers imposed upon her. Her journey from silence to defiance becomes a testament to the idea that change begins with a single step, a single question, and a single act of defiance. The poem urges the reader to reflect - who do we see as "the other," and why? In the end, it reminds us that the "other" is not separate from us. The "other" is us.

She sat by the doorway, silent and small,
Watching the world, yet not part of it all.
"Stay away, " they whispered,
"know where you stand,"
She traced her dreams in lines of sand.

A boy in her school once pulled back his plate,
"Aapka haath laga? Phir kaise khaate?"
She stared at the floor, ashamed and confused,
Was she unclean, or just misused?

At the temple steps, her mother would pause,
Not one foot beyond—an unwritten law.
"But why?" she asked, her young voice bold,
"Are gods not for all, like the sun and gold?"

A teacher once spoke of books and their might,
Of Buddha and Ambedkar, their quest for the light.
She read of Manusmriti's cruel decree,
And wondered why chains still clung to the free.

She walked past a mosque, heard the call,
A voice that soared, welcoming all.
Yet, on the street, a boy her age,
Was told,
"Go home! This land is ours!" in rage.
She saw a girl whose dupatta was torn,
Eyes filled with fear, in silence she mourned.
A crowd had laughed,
"This is her fate,"

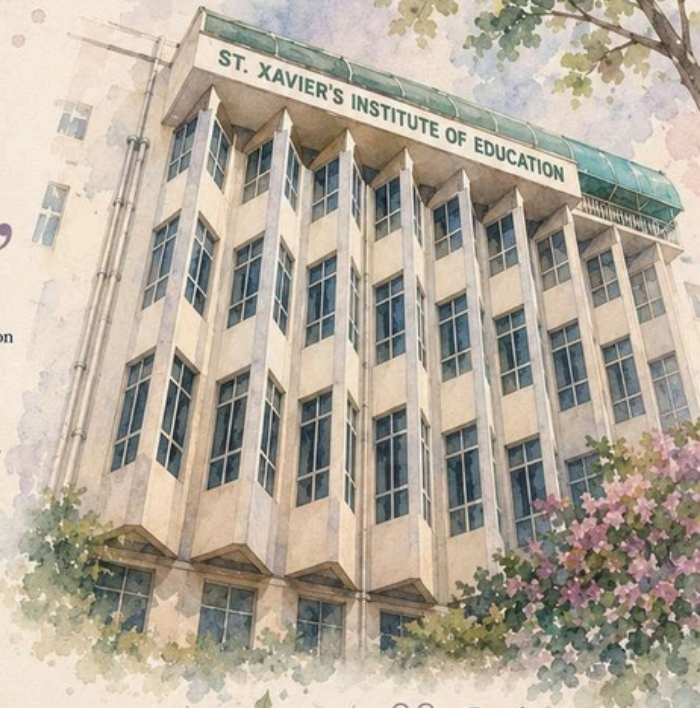
But who wrote the rules that let in such hate?
And you—yes, you—have you ever asked why?
Why some must whisper, while others fly?
Why temples, schools, and homes still divide,
When the river of life flows side by side?
She turned to her books, to voices once hushed,
She read and she spoke, her spirit untouched.
For knowledge is fire, it burns away lies,
It lifts up the silenced, it opens closed eyes.

She stood one day at the temple gate,
Stepped right in—defied her fate.
A child behind her, wide-eyed, afraid,
Followed her footsteps—history swayed.
She wrote new stories, bold and free,
Of a land where "we" meant you and me.
No "other,

" no shadow, no marked-out space,
Just hands entwined in a shared embrace.
And you—yes, you—will you stand tall?
Will you break the silence, will you heed the call?
For the "other" is not distant, not stranger, not few—
The "other" is me. The "other" is you.



Art by Tasneem Khadkiwala




*Education is*
*not the learning of facts,*
*but the training of the mind*
*to think, the heart to feel,*
*and the hands to create.*

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**St. Xavier's Institute of Education**
(Autonomous), Mumbai

40 A, Vitthaladas Thackersey Marg,
opposite State Bank of India,
Marine Lines, Mumbai – 400 020.

022 2201 4666

office@sxie.edu.in

www.sxie.edu.in

*Let's connect*

@sxie_autonomous
@sxie.autonomous
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St. Xavier's Institute of Education (Autonomous)