

## Testimonials/ case studies from SVM, MAHARASHTRA SCHOOL MANKHURD AND CHEMBUR

### 1. AARTI MANOJ RAVADAKA

A girl from Sahakari Vidyamandir Tardeo studying in class 9th is an inspiration to all youngsters. She is talkative yet intelligent and hardworking girl. Staying in Tulsiwadi, this is one of the slums of South Mumbai. She has opted Semi English as a medium of her study, as she likes to become teacher and would like to go for commerce stream. She is a sports enthusiast, has won certificates and award in carrom, long jump also she won second prize in inter school competition in science exhibition.

There is a specialized teacher who teaches science in her class that helps her to improve her grades, Science is the toughest subject according to her and she is thanking DBM to offer teacher who teaches so well with personal attention that it becomes easy to understand the subject well.

She has total 3 siblings (2 sisters/ 1 Brother), grandmother and a mother. Her father passed away few years back. Her mother is the only one who earn for the family. She is a domestic helper to couple of families; earn somewhere around 6000/ month.

She likes to eat DBM Mid day meal especially Ragada and rice. DBM meal help her to stay sustain in the class as she doesn't eat at home early in the morning.



## **2. NITIN MUKESH KHARVA**

This guy strength is so high that he came to school from Goregaon to Tardeo to study in Sahakari Vidyamandir. He came with his sister, they both studying in the same class. There are total 5 members in his family. There are 2 sisters, himself, mother and a father. Father is jobless since many years. Mother is the only source of income in his family.

His mother sells old clothes in the market near around Tardeo area for bread and butter. Nitin always go with her mother selling clothes in the market, this is why he is studying in Tardeo area so that he can help his mother in selling clothes. They earn not more than 5000rs/ month. He is an average student in the studies.

He likes to eat Thepala and Dal Chawal through our Mid day meal. His favourite subject is science though he found it difficult to certain extent but he is happy and careless when DBM volunteers come to his school and teaches him and solved his doubts personally. He also said that “for us private tuitions are not affordable so these volunteers came to rescue us from our difficulties, without these volunteers we couldn’t finish our syllabus easily.

Volunteers from Hinduja College used to come thrice in a week and teach us English and Math was the best thing that ever happened to us as my math is very weak and I have learned it from DBM volunteers. Earlier I used to scare of Math but now a day I like Math as they vanished my fear for this subject. He pleases Miss Asmita and Harsh Sir amongst those volunteers.



### **3. VARSHA PRAVIN BARIA:**

Varsha's who's in 10<sup>th</sup> standard in the SVM School Tardeo; her parent works as a domestic servant in several residences around the city. They are total 4 siblings, mother father and a grandmother in her family. Her parents earn somewhere around 12k all together.

She has opted semi English as a medium to study in the school as this school belongs to Gujrati medium, learning science, Maths in English is an interesting task. She took it positively and learned it hard to understand the subject and has achieved 36 out of 40 in the Maths. She proudly said "Math is my favourite subject".

She wants to become a charter accountant in the future, and she knows what stream need to apply after 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, what all need to prepare to become charter accountant.

DBM's mid day meal is one of the best meals of her daily routine as she said "it has lots of nutritious values attached, yet is tasty". This is the very first meal of the day to most of us so it is obviously precious to us. She and her siblings consume only 3 meals a day that includes our DBM's mid day meal, lunch and dinner.

Most of the time one meal is prepared by mother in the evening for dinner that they used for a whole day including next day afternoon. This is why there is an imbalance in their health. Our school is fortunate to have DBM's Mid-day meal at the school premises.

She has won "C" GRADE in an intermediate drawing exam. According to her because of volunteers from DBM it helps her to escalate her mathematical skills. She has 87% in 9<sup>th</sup> standard and challenged herself to break the previous record of 89% in the school in the Secondary state exam.



#### **4 PANKAJ PRABHUBHAU VASAVA:**

This student is school dropout in his primary education itself. He studied till 4<sup>th</sup> standard and called his studies off due to some unavoidable circumstances. This 17 years boy got an opportunity to study again in 10<sup>th</sup> standard in SVM School and likes to speak in English which is very fascinating.

His family stays in Surat in a small village called Mandvi where his parent and siblings all in there are 8 members who stay in.

He used to walk 10km to reach the school daily, it was difficult in rainy season where they used to stay back somewhere in the middle to avoid rain. It was unbearable to him to go the school in such situation. So he left the school and started helping his father in his business.

A guy from his village used to work in Mumbai for his bread and butter who suggested Pankaj's father to take him to Mumbai for work. So he came here to work but fortunately his owner recommended him to study first and then work here in the house. Basically Pankaj does all the household chores at residence where an old grandmother stay. According to her "study is more important than what you are doing now for bread and butter, this would not lead you anywhere but study would definitely". So Mrs. Hemsmitaben Thakur helped him to get the admission in the school to brighten his future.

He started studying from 8<sup>th</sup> standard from this school; but it took 7-8 months to recover earlier portion of 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> standard. That adjustment was difficult yet challenging but he succeeded in the same. He wakes up early in the morning by 6 finishes his household work by 6:45, go to school for extra tuitions. Again he go to his house to finish his pending work and come to school by 10. Usual school timing is 8:30 but school principal granted him these 2 hours to work outside.

He has a unique dream to pursue; he wanted to become an Army man. To follow this he wants to finish his higher secondary education. Many people are against his decision including his brother that military is difficult, you would not survive, instead of military go to police force. But his decision is last that he wants to become a Military/army man.

DBM volunteers' unique techniques of teaching helped him to understand the subject well. Volunteers' used to form a group to solve different queries, which was the best thing Pankaj liked about them. English is his favourite subject and he try to communicate in English with each one of us that is the special quality I have found in Pankaj personality which is exceptional among others



## 5. VINAYAK AVINASH SARATE:

Is an average student in studies; studying in class 10 in the Maharashtra school Mankhurd. He stays with his father in the Maharashtra Nagar Mankhurd area in a small home. He does have one brother and a mother whose stays in the village. His father works as a laborer in a garment factory and mother works as Balwadi teacher in his hometown Satara. She doesn't like Mumbai's atmosphere, hence she doesn't want to stay with them. His father earns more money than staying in the village is the real reason they are here said Vinayak.

He loves his father and can't live without him this is the reason he is here in the Mumbai. His father sent most of his earning to his hometown, where most of the family members live. He left a private school which was much better than the current school wherein he is studying.

He wants to become an animator in the future and has knowledge of how to pursue his dream. Being good at drawing is making him easy to reach his goal, he said. His favourite subject is history and likes to read historical books whenever he gets time. Lack of books in the bookshelf sometime makes him sad as he likes to read a lot.

He likes to eat Mid Day meal, especially Dal-Rice because it is always warm and delicious. As his mother is away from home and father is working outside throughout cooking in the morning is difficult. He waits for recess to eat and get revitalized. He even said if someday food remains he takes that to home for lunch or dinner.

He won third prize in the drawing competition at Taluka level. His studies in this school since 9th standard.



## **6. ROHAN SUDHAKAR JADHAV:**

He stays with his 3 siblings along with his mother. His father died long back. His mother used to do the housekeeping work as a domestic servant now she has stopped working as domestic servants as her older kids engaged with work. One is working in garment factories and the other one is working as a domestic servant. This feeling is killing Rohan as his brothers are working as a laborer. Though they are earning for good, but he wants them to work productively and educate themselves as education is the key to success according to him. They both earn somewhere around 12000 together; that's not enough.

Rohan is good at studies. He has got 63% in 9th standard and dreaming of getting 70% in the SSC exam. He wanted to join private coaching classes, but due to poor financial condition he unable to join the same. He found English grammar is most difficult and was getting lesser marks due to that.

He said one day Aditi Mhatre from Dharma Bharathi mission came to our school to teach us English grammar and felt like all my problems with indirect/ direct speech, tenses got solved smoothly and simultaneously. Rohan is thankful to the Dharma Bharathi Mission for sending an angel to us to solve our queries.

He likes to become a software engineer in the future, but don't have stronger support to reach his goal. He wants to make his family proud to become a successful person in any selective stream. He wants to do productive work in the future and doesn't want to become a labourer or domestic servant.

He is cricket enthusiast and has won many prizes and certificates in handwriting competition so far.

## 7. SAYLI MAHENDRA MUTAL

Girl from class 7th of Maharashtra school Mankhurd likes to play Kabaddi a lot and wants to take that passion in a positive way. They are total 4 siblings, father and a mother. Her mother is a housewife and father is a contract labourer who load/ unload the luggage from the truck vehicle. This is not a permanent job, but he goes regularly to his work to earn.

He roams around Mumbai for this work and hardly visible to the family as his timing isn't fixed. She said my father gave full time attention to us when there is a holiday or Sunday. We all feel special on such occasions; she blushes. Her father's earning is also not fixed; in an average he earns 15 to 20k per month. He has to send some portion to hometown as her grandparents stay there.

She also said during Diwali my father does extra work to earn more to get us gifts and toys to celebrate Diwali. Sayli personally didn't like this as we all grown up now and understood the value of hard earn money.

She is one of the class toppers and got 85% in class 6th. Her favourite subject is Marathi language. She is reading habit of Marathi literature and has joined the small library where she gets lots of Marathi literature books.

She wants to become a Police inspector and she is ready to study hard and besides, she is taking care of her health as health is a major factor to become a Police force.





### **8. Reshmi and Yash Sandeep Kamble:**

These two siblings studying in Maharashtra School Mankhurd; their family includes elder brother, father and mother. Mother is a housewife and father works in Press Company at Vashi, Navi Mumbai and earns 15k for a month.

Reshmi studying in class 9th and Yash is in class 5th. Both these kids are topper in their class and enthusiast in every activity said Principal Mrs. Shirke. She likes to read a lot and she keeps an eye on current affairs. Marathi is her favourite language as a subject and she proves that in her examination. Her habit of reading newspaper and watching news channel leads her to become a journalist she said.

Reshmi said, "My father works as a clerk in the press and he wants his kids to follow journalism as a career as he sees how tough and interesting life of a journalist. He is seeking all those qualities in me and I am also getting attracted to it day by day. I have started reading English newspapers to improve my vocabulary. My father had brought dictionary to me from his office, which was not in use in his office. That dictionary helps me to learn new words since I started reading English newspaper."

Reshmi praises Dharma Bharthi mission's volunteer Aditi Mhatre who teaches her class grammar every Saturday; without her grammar teaching techniques my success wouldn't be complete. She is like an inspiration for me said Reshmi.

As of now she is unaware of how to chase her career, but she does have an idea that her father would definitely support her chase his own dream. She has won a 3rd prize certificate in science exhibition in interschool competition- her group project called rainwater harvesting management was talking.

### 9. Amit Kumar Jaiswal:

His father is a carpenter and mother is a domestic servant. There are total 5 members in his family, parents and 2 other siblings. He wants to become a doctor and has a special interest in science subjects. He gets out of marks in science and math. He is one of the brightest students from our school and we all have high hopes for him to do well in the studies and in his future prospects said the Mr. Pandey school teacher.

The only thing is going against him is his financial condition. In their community women shouldn't work outside, it is against their community, but due to their extreme financial condition she breaks that rule and started working for her family which is admirable.

There is no fix income in his family. His father is a pure labourer, though he has carpenter qualities, but that doesn't sustain to get productive work daily. His family earns not more than 8000/month.

He likes to eat the midday meal from Dharma Bharathi Mission as he doesn't eat anything before coming to school. According to him this meal means a lot to him as it not only fulfil his stomach, but also keeps him alive, healthy and sustainable in the class. Poha and Sheera are his favourite dish.



#### **10. RUKSAR BANO:**

This class 5th student from Maharashtra Shiksha Niketan Chembur is very talkative and interactive. There are total 6 members, including her 4 siblings and parents.

Her mother is specialised tailor- she makes comfoter by old clothes and father is a labourer. Earlier her father used to repair stove, but these days nobody uses stove and that business has stopped miserably in the middle of nothing. Her family shaken up when they have stopped receiving, repairing orders of the stove; it is majorly because of rising prices of kerosene and black market of PDS system.

Her father used to roam around the neighbourhood to get the work done and used to earn 300rs/ day and now earning is difficult; though her father tried his best to get whatever possible to their family said by Ruksar.

Her favourite subject is English and she gets out of marks in the same. Her grades are best amongst others. She likes to be clean and hygienic that makes her active and sparkling. Eventually, it helps her increase grades. This has happened because of Health and hygiene classed held by DBM volunteers in the month Of November. It was really impactful according to her. Her classroom tries to maintain health and hygiene in the class. She is thankful to Dharma Bharathi Mission's volunteers for this.

She doesn't eat anything except tea in the morning before coming to the school. Dharma Bharathi Mission's Mid Day Meal make her complete. She likes to eat Dal-Khichdi. She is grateful for the Dharma Bharathi mission for this.

