

ECHOES...

Voices of Volunteers





Kotak Education Foundation was established in 2007 with a single-point focus on uplifting children and youth from underprivileged communities through education, healthcare and livelihood programs.

It takes a holistic approach to help the urban poor break free from the vicious cycle of extreme poverty and generational disadvantages.

KEF has touched over 1,65,000 lives, served over 2 million mid-day meals and moved over 7,695 families move out of poverty.

UMANG

Strengthens the understanding and speaking abilities for English language for students from vernacular medium schools.

GURU

Trains and mentors teachers from our partner schools to upgrade their existing skill sets to become change facilitators.

LEAD

Strengthens the leadership and managerial practices of school leaders and ensures that the impact cascades down, resulting in the overall improvement of the school and the student learning outcome.

EXCEL

Our scholarship program supports meritorious students from 10th till graduation level, who might face difficulties in continuing their higher studies owing to financial constraints.

UDAN

Offers 5-year hardship-scholarships to students from underprivileged communities facing various socio-economic problems and are thus, susceptible to dropping out of school. These students are supported and mentored to pursue their education.

PARVARISH

Works towards creating a better environment for children of our partner schools by sensitising their parents, since it has been observed that there is lack of awareness and conducive environment for personal and educational development of the child.

HEALTH

Poor health is one of the main reasons why children underperform or drop out of school. This intervention, through its awareness, preventive and corrective approaches, help students adopt healthy lifestyles and ensures their improved academic performance.

NURISH

Provides nutritional support to children attending schools in underprivileged communities. This encourages the students to attend school more regularly and helps them concentrate on classroom activities.

NIRMAN

Creates safe classroom and school environment in order to improve student attendance and academic performance. The intervention upgrades the infrastructure of schools and ensures necessities like electricity, water, drainage etc.

UNNATI

Unnati is a livelihood program that offers skill-based vocational training catering to the youth belonging to underprivileged families who have dropped out of formal education and place them in hospitality, retail, beauty care and BFSI domain.



I take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who have contributed in no small measure in several areas of work.

Their passion, commitment and purposeful involvement have created several successes at Kotak Education Foundation.

While expressing my gratitude, I would urge them to continue giving their best and keep KEF in motion.

Best wishes



Shivaji Dam
Managing Trustee



Our volunteers have worked hand in hand with Kotak Education Foundation. They have journeyed with KEF on a path laden with challenges to emerge victorious.

They are not only an invaluable part of KEF family but inseparable as well.

A thank you note is insufficient to express our gratitude for their immense contribution.

Each member, through their rich and varied experiences, have brought in innovative ideas and enriched our programmes.

I take this opportunity to thank all of them from the bottom of my heart.



Anuradha Dattagupta
Managing Committee Member



Kotak Education Foundation has benefitted immensely through the dedicated services of the volunteers, all of whom have passionately extended their time for various volunteering outreach programmes.

As an organisation, we are highly indebted to these volunteers whose invaluable contributions towards the organisation and the beneficiaries cannot be described in words.

We salute them!



Dr. Ganesh Raja
CEO



Hello Everyone,

There's no message more valuable than testimonials! Be it from partners or volunteers, testimonials help rationalise a prospect's decision to support Kotak Education Foundation as they lend credibility to our claims and vouch for the value of our work. These unbiased words carry more weight than anything the KEF's staff may say. Here we present a few of the testimonials received from our volunteers, all of which offers a glimpse of what they are doing to help KEF and make a difference to the causes they are most passionate about.

I cannot forget the team of dedicated and passionate volunteers— the MC members who have toiled hard to help shape KEF to what it is today—a vibrant and multiple-activity-driven organisation. Our sincere gratitude to Mr. Shivaji Dam, Ms. Anuradha Dattagupta, Dr. Bayjool Desai and Ms. Rekha Narayanan for their selfless service, dedication and enabling changes in KEF.

These testimonials not only record the volunteers' voices, experiences and the impact of their work has had on the volunteers themselves and, beneficiaries, but acts as an invitation to several like-minded professionals, scholars, housewives and students to join us in our mission to promote volunteering at KEF.

My sincere appreciation and gratitude are being extended to all our volunteers.



Thomas Adaikalam
Head, Volunteering and Engagement and Partnerships



Having seen the focused approach with which volunteers are guided, it is not surprising to see that they achieve the desired outcomes and give the volunteers a sense of accomplishment, self-actualization and a growing passion to do more for society. I believe volunteering at KEF is a continuous process of unravelling the hidden treasures of achievement and contentment where one can sense how small efforts have the potential to make a huge impact in the lives of others.

Dilip Lala
Volunteering

Dilip is a Mechanical Engineer and successful entrepreneur. He has worked with all of KEF's interventions. He is associated with Kotak Education Foundation from day one and closely sees how we have grown. He likes to guide and motivate KEF's beneficiaries.



“Satisfaction is to bring positive change in someone’s life!”



I have been volunteering for nearly twelve years. As a volunteer, I chose education and skills development and I am grateful to the Kotak Education Foundation for giving me the opportunity to focus on helping school dropouts and students from underprivileged backgrounds.

Being victims of multiple social forces these children have grown up with untended physical and emotional needs making it difficult for them to learn and adjust to classroom routines. Their socio-economic backgrounds have affected their performance and behaviour. At KEF we help such children to develop relevant skills and gain confidence that enables them to secure jobs. We also counsel their parents and family members so that they get the desired support and encouragement from all quarters.

I believe it is my duty to help those who are disadvantaged in life. I have no hesitation in saying that volunteering with KEF has given me immense satisfaction and a sense of purpose in my life.

- **Usha Shenoi**

Core Committee Member of TSEP, Unnati, Excel

Usha, a seasoned social worker, a passionate and committed volunteer, has been with Kotak Education Foundation right from its inception.



“My Volunteering Journey, adding sense to my life!”



Though I am associated with at least a dozen NGOs across Mumbai but, I have developed the deepest connection with Kotak Education Foundation. It is over nine years that I have remained associated with KEF. A few years ago, I met Mr. Uday Kotak during his visit to KEF office. I watched in amazement as he humbly interacted with the volunteers and the staff, listening intently to their suggestions and concerns. It offered an insight into the commitment and dedication of the seniormost echelons, and I realised that I was contributing through the right gateway.

The dedicated team— be it coordination amongst the students, their follow-up work, their alert presence in the class, their proactive and caring nature—has also motivated me to continue volunteering.

This story is incomplete if I fail to mention the little characters...the EXCEL kids! They have made my journey with KEF truly memorable—they are all so focussed, eager to learn and fun to be with. And recently, seven of them joined me as volunteers for a quiz program for the disabled... they won my heart and how!

Savita John

Excel

Savita is a corporate trainer. She has more than 20 years of experience as a HR trainer with various top Corporates in Mumbai. She is B.Pharm with M.B.A in HR Management. She is associated with Kotak Education Foundation for nine years. She is a highly committed volunteer.



“Volunteering...a way of life!”



For volunteering, all that is required is a positive intent to render selfless service for a cause one believes in, and the willingness to devote time for it. By volunteering at the Kotak Education Foundation, one will not only be sharing one's experience and knowledge with people eager to learn, but also learn from the various stakeholders.

I have been fortunate to see the various teams at KEF in action over a period of seven years, and the positive results that they have brought about through interventions. At times they have had to face strong resistance but that never deterred them from working on changing attitudes and being accepted. Here I would like to narrate an episode to corroborate my statement.

A few years back, in one particular vernacular school, the need for imparting structured 'spoken English' was identified, on the basis of which the Principal agreed for the training module to be imparted to the teachers. But the teachers were surprisingly not interested. The KEF team, through several interactions, realised that they were dealing with a 'mind-set' issue. It was an unusual challenge and the KEF team decided to work with the volunteers to try something not directly connected with the training module. Keeping this in mind the teachers were made to engage in a number of thought provoking sessions for a couple of months. Gradually and silently, the environment changed bringing about an air of positivity. At the end of the day it was all about excellent team work, perseverance, patience and the determination to bring about a positive difference even if it required unconventional methods!

Venkatesh Chakravarthy

Volunteering, Unnati, Excel, Health

Venkatesh Chakravarthy acts as a role model with his wisdom, knowledge and a positive attitude. He constantly provides guidance and gives constructive feedback. He values the opinions and initiatives of others. He has authored a book and has been associated with Kotak Education Foundation for the past eight years.



"The path of a volunteer!"



I would like to thank Kotak Education Foundation and its team members for providing me with opportunities to volunteer, learn and explore the different facets of the KEF. My experience at KEF has helped me in understanding myself and in assessing my capabilities.

I started volunteering under the SEP with guidance from KEF teachers. It was a challenge and I learnt a lot while communicating with the students to make myself understood. I also realised how blessed I was with parents, teachers and others offering timely and needful guidance.

Another challenging project was the inspection report I had to prepare on Kotak's Umang intervention. Recently, I got an opportunity to conduct a session with the Kotak Unnati students who are aspiring to make a mark in their professional careers.

Volunteering at KEF is like giving a bit of me with happiness. I hope I continue to get these opportunities at KEF and I shall try to keep giving my best for the best!

- Sejal M Patani

Excel, Umang

Sejal, a chartered accountant working with Citi Bank, has been associated with Kotak Education Foundation for the past eight years. She is a very sincere and a passionate worker.



“Volunteering, a gift to myself!”



Life is beautiful when we follow our passion and add value to life by giving back to the society.

I have been associated with Kotak Education Foundation as a volunteer for more than four years in the field of education. Under the LEAD initiative, I have taught English communicative language skills in Marathi medium schools under the able guidance of my mentor. Interactive sessions with primary and secondary students helped them to read, write and speak in English.

For the past two years, I have also been associated with the project—Telephonic Spoken English Programme, which is a successful model of teaching English through telephonic conversations and is accessible to everyone. I have been given the chance to give back to society and do my part as a citizen.

KEF is a wonderful organisation that helps young children become confident and articulate in English. It has been a wonderful journey so far!

Padmavathi Chandu

LEAD, Core Committee Member of TSEP

A master from the Army School, Padmavati is a passionate volunteer who has been associated with Kotak Education Foundation for the last four year as a volunteer for various programmes. She is a TSEP Core Committee Member.



“Volunteering a passion!”



I am extremely honoured and happy to be a small part of an amazing NGO— Kotak Education Foundation and its volunteering team.

Volunteering with KEF has been a great learning experience. I feel fortunate to have worked with the KISE, Udaan and Unnati teams, amazing students, staff members and co-volunteers.

I have seen a pool of untapped talented, underprivileged students, showcasing their eagerness to learn under KEF sponsorship, their willingness to contribute towards self-betterment, and their keenness to motivate and be motivated. The passion to serve the underprivileged has unified everyone in the team breaking the barriers of caste, creed and social status. At KEF I have also learnt how a small contribution of each individual can positively impact the lives of those around us. I would like to thank my mentors for giving me the amazing opportunity to be a part of the volunteering team. I wish KEF all the luck for their commendable efforts in making the world a better place.

- Priti Thakkar
Unnati, Excel

Priti, a psychologist, counsellor and freelance corporate trainer, has been associated with Kotak Education Foundation for the last three years.



“My way to show gratitude to the society and the people!”



Before I received an offer to volunteer at Kotak Education Foundation, I had no idea that KEF had been silently contributing to the betterment of the society. Setting aside my apprehensions I entered their workplace. What I saw helped me to accept the offer of volunteering with KEF's Telephonic Spoken English Programme. It was with passion and dedication that I worked supported by my mentor and the dedicated team members. KEF was different from the other NGOs for whom I had volunteered. We were given the freedom to incorporate course corrections as and when required. Each of the TSEP team worked with pure devotion to bring about positive changes in our society. The mentors and mentees are carefully chosen and equal opportunities given to all. I was given an opportunity to write some books for the TSEP on English Grammar as well as on relevant activities. Thank you KEF for giving me an opportunity to volunteer with your organisation.

Nandita Ganguly

Volunteering, Core Committee Member of TSEP

An educator by profession, and a professional language trainer, Nandita owns her own language lab and has authored a grammar book. She has contributed immensely in developing the TSEP curriculum booklet.



“Volunteering giving from one's heart!”



What a joy it has been to be associated with Kotak Education Foundation, and to volunteer for its Telephonic Spoken English Programme.

I remember visiting the beneficiaries, when the Programme was in its conceptual stage. Simple, shy, yet enthusiastic school teachers were expectantly waiting to explore an unknown arena. From the first day itself, the connection was instant which set the ball rolling. From then on, we didn't look back. Hurdles were there—mentees not receiving calls, revising syllabi as per changing needs, etc.—all of which were overcome by the core team with able guidance of the mentors.

The success of mentees offers great joy, more so, if one observes mentees successfully complete an entire programme in English. The confidence of the mentees increases considerably or substantially once they know they can converse in simple, but correct English. In this millennium it is all about packaging and presenting oneself and we, ignite that extra spark in the young mentees.

- Preeti Khandelwal

Core Committee Member of TSEP

Preeti, a committed social worker, cheerful and a polite trainer, is a core committee member of Kotak Education Foundation's Telephonic Spoken English Programme.



"Volunteerism adding spark to an individual's life!"



“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others”

— Mahatma Gandhi

I started volunteering for Kotak Education Foundation nearly eight years ago and since then, I have volunteered for interventions like Kotak Unnati and Kotak in Search of Excellence. The time spent with the students has been extremely enriching.

All the students I met have struggled through innumerable odds to obtain top scores in their schools and colleges. Today, they are extremely focussed and have set their goals, and even know the means to achieve them. There is a saying– ‘You give fish to a man, and you feed him for a day. But you teach him how to fish and you give him an occupation that will feed him for a lifetime’. KEF is doing exactly this and transforming communities for sustainable growth and development. I would like to thank all my mentors and members of KEF team for giving me the opportunity to offer my services.

– Sachin S Jog

Unnati, Excel, Volunteering

Sachin, is a dedicated volunteer ever ready to help. After a successful corporate career in retail banking he founded a staffing, selection and search company sixteen years ago, which today is known as Bluecrest HR consulting Pvt Ltd. He is associated with Kotak Education Foundation for nearly eight years.



“Volunteering and transforming communities towards sustainability!”



What Kotak Education Foundation focuses on is purely high-impact work. The experience of interacting with kids was simply wonderful! Observing the confidence and academic brilliance of these kids from underprivileged backgrounds, was enriching and worth appreciating. The most rewarding aspect of development is grooming girl students as it has many positive cascading effects on the socio-economic status of the family. I feel extremely lucky to have got this opportunity to volunteer for KEF and all thanks to my mentor and each of the team members. I look forward to contributing more in the days to come.

- Samir Limaye

Excel

Samir, the Vice President of Wimco Ltd and President of IPMMI (Association of Packaging Machinery) has been passionately volunteering for Kotak Education Foundation and making notable contributions for the past two years. He strongly believes in motivating the millennials and preparing them for the future.



“Helping people, changing lives!”



“A mind that is stretched by a new experience can never go back to its old dimension”

- Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

This quote itself speaks volumes about my experience with KEF. It has been a wonderful and an exhilarating two year journey. The initial apprehension and nervousness about my ability to tackle a class of young adults turned out to be one of my hidden strengths. Personally, it is not only the students who have been the beneficiaries of this programme but I too have benefitted...the happiness, excitement and satisfaction that I have received by interacting with the students is indescribable. To put it precisely it has been a give and take relationship. I would like to thank the entire KEF staff for all the support and help they extended. I feel blessed to be a part of this wonderful organisation. I am now looking forward to many, many more wonderful experiences.

- Bindu Swaminathan

Excel, Core Committee Member of TSEP

Bindu, a postgraduate in Public Relations, MBA in HR, has over twelve years of experience in teaching, and has been associated with KEF for the last two years. She is teaching soft skills and spoken English to KEF’s scholars from Excel intervention. She is a Core Committee member of the TSEP.



“Volunteering, discovering my hidden strengths!”



It has been nearly two years ever since I started volunteering with Kotak Education Foundation. During this journey, I have received more than what I have given. I still remember the day I started— being a total newcomer to training and teaching practices made me very nervous. I have learned so much along the way, discovered new facets of my talent, been inspired by the sky-high aspirations of these students... the list is endless, and I can go on. Today, I can say that I am confident of being able to train the students well, and in a manner that engages them. This journey has been both very enriching and fulfilling for me. I am very thankful to KEF for giving me this wonderful opportunity, and I hope to be associated with them for many more years to come.

- Jaya Narang

Excel, Volunteering, Core Committee Member of TSEP

Jaya, an MBA in marketing, works as an independent consultant, having a work experience of over fourteen years as a corporate-sales professional. She has been associated with Kotak Education Foundation for the last two years, teaching spoken English and soft skills, and is a core committee member of the TSEP.



“Volunteering, receiving more than giving!”



My experience with Kotak Education Foundation can only be described as fulfilling and heart-warming! The work being done by KEF's team and the management is indeed amazing. Volunteering with KEF was a great experience. The unique initiative of KEF to not only give scholarships to the students, but also to groom and prepare them for the professional and corporate world, by training them in life skills and more, is truly commendable.

My childhood interactions with talented and enthusiastic children in my neighbourhood, and their financial constraints limiting their participation in extracurricular activities had impacted me greatly. That is when I made up my mind to help the underprivileged. I dreamt of elevating their lives through concerted efforts and thus, I joined KEF as a volunteer.

I plan to encourage more individuals to join KEF so that a greater number of children can benefit from their programmes and help in expanding their outreach efforts.

- Harsh Lad

Excel

Harsh, a Mumbai-based entrepreneur and the founder-director of a company engaged in training and development, is a transaction trainer, educator and coach. He makes training enjoyable and strongly believes in giving back to the society.



"A fulfilling and heart-warming experience!"



Volunteering at Kotak Education Foundation has been an enriching experience for me. It is very satisfying to see young students, eager to acquire education and pursue a career, being given so much support and motivation. I find most of the students extremely motivated, driven and always eager to learn new skills or techniques. None of them have let their backgrounds limit their future aspirations. The environment, the financial assistance, the student mentors and volunteers that KEF provides are invaluable and play an irreplaceable role in the lives of these children. I wish KEF all the success in its future endeavours. I would always love to be part of this beautiful and kind-hearted journey.

- Geeta Aiyer
Excel

Geeta has over twenty years of experience working with the top advertising agencies. She is also a guest lecturer at Vivekanand College, Chembur. She runs the undiplomatic diabetic group and has been associated with Kotak Education Foundation for the last two years and trains Excel students in life skills.



“Volunteering, an enriching experience!”



I started volunteering for Kotak Education Foundation's Unnati programme, where I engaged in conducting Telephonic Spoken English Programme sessions. In the TSEP, I was involved in enhancing the speaking skills of the students, to help them gain confidence and enable them to freely express themselves. I am extremely happy with the impact that these sessions had, because my students worked ceaselessly with me, and today they have got jobs with good future prospects. I am extremely grateful to KEF for giving me this opportunity to help build a community. I look forward to working with KEF in their future projects.

Susmeeta Birla

Excel, Unnati, Core Committee Member of TSEP

Susmeeta, an effective communicator, has an excellent command over languages and exhibits strong leadership skills. She has impressive interpersonal skills. She is volunteering for Kotak Education Foundation TSEP and is a core committee member.



"A volunteer helps build a community!"



“The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention.”

— Oscar Wilde

In my training career spanning over twenty years, I have met different people. But it was only at Kotak Education Foundation that I had the opportunity to volunteer, train and interact with a bunch of committed people who enable and streamline the process of social service. My interactions though limited to a few hours, were marked with enthusiasm for seeking knowledge, eagerness and liveliness. The participants, coming from all walks of life, were in touch with ground reality and helped in collating data that often brought out disturbing cases of societal penury and destitution. Moreover, most of them had their own share of personal and professional ups and downs. Through my sessions, I was able to help them cleanse their emotional baggage, identify the causes for their stress and taught them how to deal with them. I was happy to have been able to contribute to their well-being and development. I thank KEF for giving me the opportunity to do so.

- Lata Gwalani
Volunteering

Lata Gwalani a superstar trainer has her own training institute--the Human Impact Training and Consulting Pvt Ltd. She is known for writing compendious and articulate blogs. Her training sessions are truly inspiring and motivational.



“Kotak Education Foundation, enriching me Manifold!”



My association with Kotak Education Foundation has given me the opportunity to connect with a cause and contribute meaningfully. Volunteering with Unnati intervention has been a very enriching and a learning experience. I would like to thank everyone team member at KEF and specially my mentor for her professional and caring approach.

Nisha Telang

Unnati, Volunteering

Nisha, a young and vibrant professor, always makes an extra effort for her students. She has the ability to build caring relationships with her students. She is friendly and approachable.



“Volunteer is connecting with people!”



Education is the most powerful weapon which we can use to change the world. Even small contributions make a big impact in the long run. Kotak Education Foundation 's Telephonic Spoken English Programme (TSEP) offers a very good opportunity for working professionals who want to contribute to a social cause but have limited time.

I have been associated with KEF for the last two years. It has enriched me. I received tremendous support from the core team members and they guided me to at every stage. This programme brings mentor-mentee together. The mentee gains in terms of communication skills and confidence while the mentor gains great satisfaction and grows as a human being.

When we started our TSEP sessions, we faced many challenges. But subsequently, we conquered it. Lot of dedicated practice is required to make TSEP successful.

Aarti Save
TSEP Volunteering

Aarti, an ex-employee of Kotak Mahindra Bank, is very committed towards volunteering with Kotak Education Foundation.

She is enthusiastic and loves to be a mentor for KEF's TSEP.



"Losing my self in the service of others!"



Kotak Education Foundation's initiative with respect to their career development of students is phenomenal. As India's largest career counselling company, we at Brainwonders found our vision to be aligned with that of KEF to ensure that every child—irrespective of the fact, where they were born, and what their circumstances are. Our counsellor's interaction with the children has been very rewarding for us as well. It is our pleasure to be associated with KEF!

Manish Naidu
Volunteering

Manish, CEO and Founder of Brainwonders, has been associated with Kotak Education Foundation for quite some time. He has an optimistic approach and is extremely happy with his interaction with KEF.



“ Volunteering spending time meaningfully!”



Volunteering for Kotak Education Foundation's Telephonic Spoken English Programme was a beautiful experience. During the TSEP volunteering I felt it wasn't just a fulfilling experience, but involved a few lessons for me as well. I have learned the value, words hold! It is immense!. KEF's TSEP gave me a chance to bring, and be a part of, change in another individual's life. I really appreciate the great initiative that they have adopted.

Divya Sharma

TSEP

Divya, a student volunteer from the Pillai College, dedicatedly gives time for Kotak Education Foundation's TSEP programme. She is extremely talented and showcases good speaking skills.



"Volunteers a gift to the community!"



I would like to thank Kotak Education Foundation for giving me the opportunity to enhance my experience and share my knowledge of English with my mentees. It is a delightful experience to teach and encourage today's youth who are hungry to learn and are quick to grasp all that is being imparted. I feel privileged to be a part of KEF's Telephonic Spoken English Programme.

I would also like to thank my mentors for their guidance and for extending their support whenever I needed.

I feel proud to see my mentees gain confidence, speak English and grow as individuals. I would like to continue and be a part of KEF.

Prasad Puthran
TSEP

**Prasad, is an employee of the Kotak Mahindra Bank.
He is hardworking, extremely passionate and a dedicated mentor at Kotak Education Foundation TSEP intervention.**



“Volunteering, a privilege!”



I had a great experience volunteering as a mentor for Kotak Education Foundation's Telephonic Spoken English Programme. I found the programme to be both rewarding and fulfilling. The mentee assigned to me was very well mannered, polite and was willing to learn. I look forward to continue volunteering with KEF.

Shreya Shetty

Guru

Shreya, a student volunteer from the SM Shetty College, pursuing her undergraduate studies, has contributed greatly towards Kotak Education Foundation TSEP. She has excellent communication skills and loves volunteering With KEF.



“Volunteering - spreading the light of education!”



As a part of my college's curriculum, I was required to join an NGO. Since Kotak Education Foundation was close to where I lived, I decided to volunteer with them. When I joined three years ago, I never imagined that my association with KEF would continue this long.

The people working here strive hard to create an impact on the lives of the underprivileged students—to improve their quality of education and help them become contributing members of the society.

I had been assigned to teach English grammar to the students of Class 11 and 12 and it has been a wonderful experience so far. Every batch of students I taught had something new to teach me. All of them were hardworking, ambitious and focused on bettering their lives.

One of the reasons I love volunteering at KEF is because of a wonderful mentor and ever supportive team members.

Volunteering at KEF has helped me understand how privileged I am and has taught me to value my life even more.

- Samantha Fernandes

Excel

Samantha, is a final year student of St.Xaviers College Mumbai. For the past three years she has been associated with Kotak Education Foundation. Passionate about teaching, she is committed to the Excel programme and has proven to be one of the best.



“True happiness comes from giving!”



“Mentoring is a brain to pick, an ear to listen, and a push in the right direction.”

- John C. Crosby

It was worth the time and energy to be a mentor at Kotak Education Foundation. The mentee allotted to me was a genuine person with a positive mindset and willingness to learn. It is a great initiative undertaken by the organisation focusing on the upliftment of youth in the society.

Mentoring requires a two-way effort from both sides—from the mentor and the mentees— as it focuses on practicing many work and life skills like time management, motivation and patience, apart from the study material provided.

All together it was a good experience and I hope it will benefit the students well.

Sumi Varghese

TSEP

Sumi, a student volunteer from the Pillai Institute of Management, is a motivated and a talented individual. She is fully engaged in the work that she has been assigned and loves to volunteer for Kotak Education Foundation and give back to the society.



“Volunteering a priceless experience!”



My experience with Kotak Education Foundation has been entirely uplifting. After working with them for nearly two years, I can proudly say that this is one of the finest teaching experiences one can have. Before I became a part of KEF, I had no prior teaching experience, but the students in the partnered schools made it very easy for me to adapt to teaching, understanding and educating them. They have been taught great values, which has helped cultivate in them the ability to respect. The positive changes get clearly reflected through their personalities and academic performances—and, the feeling that this gives you, is so satisfying that it is inexpressible.

- Bharath Iyer

Umang, Guru, Volunteering

Bharath, a young and dynamic student volunteer studying in the 3rd year of BMS at SIES College in Nerul, and is the President of the ISR Committee of his college. He feels Kotak Education Foundation helped him fulfil his inner calling for volunteering. He possesses strong leadership skills and has been associated with KEF for the past two years.



“Volunteering gives satisfaction and provides contentment!”



After being associated with Kotak Education Foundation, I have developed leadership qualities and learnt time management. Teaching the children has increased my level of confidence. My journey with Kotak Education Foundation has been enriching and rewarding. When I was in the first year of the NSS, I gained valuable experience, and now in the second year, I have become the leader from my College, and for this I would like to thank KEF team from the bottom of my heart.

Pawan Nishad

Health, Parvarish, Guru

Pawan, a cheerful student volunteer, studying at Dr.Ambedkar College of Commerce and Economics, and a 2nd year NSS fellow, has strong leadership skills and confidence in engaging with Kotak Education Foundation's children.



“From compassion to action!”



I have been a volunteer with Kotak Education Foundation since 2018. It has helped me evolve as a person. I have grown as an individual and learnt patience and perseverance. It has taught me to be grateful for what I have, and to cherish every moment to the fullest. Along the way, I have realised that it is important to share one's knowledge with those ones who may find it useful because— knowledge is power.

Ayush Verma

Umang

Ayush, an energetic and motivated student volunteer, is the Vice President of the ISR committee at SIES College. He is pursuing his degree education. He has contributed as a volunteer for Kotak Education Foundation, with commendable hard work and sincerity.



“Taught me to be grateful!”



I have been part of many activities under Kotak Education Foundation—class management, each one teach one, wall painting and others. All of which, helped me connect with the underprivileged children and contribute towards their betterment. It was not only beneficial for them, but also for me, as it helped me to build my confidence, develop a positive attitude, increase my patience and a deeper understanding of life. It also made me realise the importance of little things in life that we usually take for granted like food, water and electricity. It has been an amazing learning experience.

Neha Vaid

Umang, Volunteering

Neha, a student volunteer from the SIES College, Nerul, is part of the ISR/DSR Committee. She is currently pursuing an undergraduate degree. She has been dedicatedly involved in Kotak Education Foundation's Umang intervention and has often been engaged in teaching students.



“Volunteering and building my personality!”



At Kotak Education Foundation I have got an opportunity to do something different, such as teaching children, which I had never done before, and volunteering at various events. In the process I have learnt the importance of time management as well. Volunteering with KEF has taught me valuable things about life and how to respect them.

Vijaylaxmi Barai

Guru, Health

Vijaylaxmi, a student volunteer from Dr.Ambedkar College, Wadala, has contributed greatly during her volunteering with Kotak Education Foundation. For her, volunteering has been more of a learning experience.



“Help yourself, volunteer!”



I have volunteered for over twenty- five events of Kotak Education Foundation. Through my work at KEF I got to know and learn many things— how to teach and how to create awareness about personal hygiene and maintaining cleanliness. And, of course, I became confident too! I thank each and every member of KEF’s volunteering team for giving me this opportunity.

Shubham Mishra

Health, Guru

Shubham, a student volunteer from Dr.Ambedkar College and a part of the college’s NSS team, is an enthusiastic volunteer who actively takes part in Kotak Education Foundation’s events. He is very dedicated and committed to his work.



“Volunteering boosted my confidence!”



I am indeed overwhelmed with the overall experience that I had with Kotak Education Foundation. I learnt a lot during the time that I spent as a volunteer, be it time management, soft skills development, or understanding and handling small children. Teaching and spreading awareness amongst them, watching their happy and cheerful faces— all added up to ensure a memorable experience.

Prateek Parag Pande

Health

Prateek, is a student volunteer currently studying mircrobiology at Vivekanand Education Society. He has been actively involved in awareness session for Kotak Education Foundation’s partner schools. He is a very sincere and a dedicated worker.



“Volunteerism a learning experience!”



I have attended many events conducted by Kotak Education Foundation. It was a wonderful experience to work with them and be able to teach every child about the importance of maintaining cleanliness in their schools and surroundings. We also took the students for eye check-ups to a hospital and spent some valuable time with them. I really enjoyed these sessions and discovered my inner strengths and my latent desire to extend a helping hand to those in need.

Swapnil Mane

Health, Parvarish

Swapnil, a student volunteer from Vivekanand Education Society, is a NSS volunteer who is ever ready to help and is a truly devoted worker.



“Discovering my true self!”



Kotak Mahendra Bank has started a very thoughtful work to provide academic help to the one who needs it through their CSR wing, Kotak Education Foundation. I feel extremely lucky to have been able to help students with their studies. This also gave me the experience, and helped discover the pleasures of teaching.

Shivani Nimbkar

Excel

Shivani, a student volunteer from Vivekanand Education Society, possesses strong class management skills. She loves to help the students in whatever way she can.



“Joy of giving through volunteerism!”



It has been a pleasure to be a part of the health awareness campaign of Kotak Education Foundation. I was engaged in a health awareness campaign under the Additional Credit Programme through which we successfully sensitised students from various schools.

This health awareness campaign has helped me to make people aware about the elevated health risks and their prevention. We also covered many areas where there was a lack of awareness. Health awareness campaign proved to be very helpful because it boosted my confidence in presenting my views and solutions to the students.

Alfiya Khan

Health

Alfiya, a student volunteer, puts her heart into her work. A committed worker, she has been associated with Kotak Education Foundation's health program. She is efficient at class management.



"The reason I am a confident person today!"

“

My journey with Kotak Education Foundation has been more than just acquiring a volunteering experience. Volunteering at KEF has helped me develop my skills— communication, interaction and leadership skills. I extend my heartfelt thanks to the entire team members of KEF for giving me this amazing opportunity and this wonderful platform to learn.

Neha Shaikh

Guru, Health, Parvarish

Neha, a student volunteer, is pursuing her undergraduate degree in BMS from Narayan Guru College. She is a good communicator and has impressive interactive skills.



“Building minds, building futures!”



I would like to thank Kotak Education Foundation for giving me the opportunity to volunteer and teach the students.

It was a memorable experience interacting with them. At the end of the sessions I felt happy to have been able to share my knowledge with the students who really needed it.

Pradnya Pandurang Varak

Health, Parvarish

Pradnya, a dedicated and sincere student volunteer studying at Vivekanand Education Society, has been involved with Kotak Education Foundation in class management activities. She loves to interact with the students.



“Doing good, does you good!”



I worked as a Kotak Education Foundation volunteer for one of its partner schools at Mankhurd. I had a great experience volunteering with KEF and would like to thank the staff, as well as the students, for making it memorable. The students were not only adorable but honest as well. I enjoyed working with the children.

Anjali Raut

Umang

Anjali Raut, a student volunteer from Pillai College, and a member of the College NSS group, is highly committed to her work of teaching. She likes interacting with children.



“Doing the right thing, volunteering!”



Kotak Education Foundation has a wide range of opportunities for student volunteers, like volunteering for class management, eye check-up camps, health camps, etc. These activities are extremely useful for students as they help them in building and gaining confidence. The experience of being a teacher is fun-filled with a scope to learn on the job. Through my volunteering I also realised importance and the responsibilities of being a teacher. I am happy and extremely proud of my association with KEF.

Ashish Rai

Guru, Health, Parvarish

Ashish, a student volunteer from Shree Narayan Guru College, is a confident individual and engages in Kotak Education Foundation's various interventions and helps children with all his heart.



"You volunteer, you help!"



My experience with Kotak Education Foundation has been nothing short from amazing. It has opened my eyes to a whole another world that has taught me not to take my privilege for granted. The experience with Matoshri Vidyamandir, the School I've been assigned to, has been absolutely fantastic. We've managed to create special bonds with the students and have learnt so many new ways of teaching that we've never seen before. All in all, this whole program has helped me grow to be a better person mentally and spiritually.

Ashwin Raghunandan

Umang, Guru

Ashwin, a highly motivated student volunteer, from ISR Committee of SIES College. He is pursuing his degree education. He has contributed as a volunteer for Kotak Education Foundation, with commendable hard work and sincerity.



“Volunteering gave me an opportunity to grow as an individual!”

We Are, Because You Are

The heart to give
to care and to serve
is scarce.

The hand to help
to hold and to pick-up
is scarce.

The eyes to see beyond looking
to understand and to behold
is scarce.

The ears to listen without judging
to lend itself to sorrow
is scarce.

People like you
putting your lives aside
to care for others
are scarce.

Our hearts fill with gratitude
for people like you
who make our world beautiful.

A 'Thank you' barely conveys
what our hearts wish to say.

We are,
because you are.
Your service drives us
to do our best.
Thank you for being YOU!

- Lata Gwalani



We extend our heartfelt gratitude for
contributing your priceless time to
Kotak Education Foundation.

Thank you for the wonderful work that you do,
and for inspiring all of us to work even harder.

We truly appreciate your love and dedication
towards helping others!