



From pre-Sitaras to Sitaras

Seventy-three smiling children, along with their parents, gathered in the Gyan Auditorium on Sunday, March 23, 2025, to transition from 'pre-Sitara' to 'Sitara' status. Following a year of Sunday classes, academic progress assessments, family interviews, and home visits, 73 out of 92 pre-Sitaras 'graduated' to Sitara status. These Sitaras and their parents were introduced to the Abhyudaya programme and briefed on the expectations from both the family and the Sitara in this journey. The children will attend summer camp and will continue to be observed and monitored to ensure ongoing engagement with the programme.

In this newsletter...

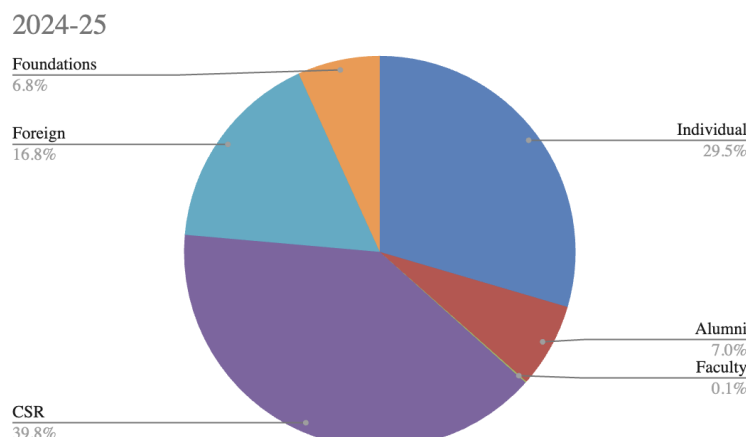
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Sashakt: Empowering the future



The first cohort of Sashakt completed their 24 sessions of classroom instruction, culminating in final presentations and the awarding of certificates on April 3, 2025. From resin artists to videographers to pathology lab franchises, seven alumni Sitaras completed this journey and are now planning their entrepreneurial journey. Special thanks to Prof. Tulsi Jayakumar for spearheading this initiative, and to all the faculty and mentors who supported these

young entrepreneurs: Prof. Ganga, Prof. Vidhula Venugopal, Prof. Upamanyu Bhattacharya, Prof. Sapna Malya, Prof. Debmallya Chatterjee, Prof. Shabbir Hussain, Prof. Ashish Desai, D.M. Damle, Mallika Ramachandran, Amit Sharma, and Rolif Cornelio. Special thanks to Binal Thakkar and Ajay Zende for their logistical support.

[Read More](#)


Donor highlights

Thank you to all our donors and well-wishers. We achieved our fundraising goals this year and built strong relationships. We look forward to another productive year to ensure impactful programming for every Sitara at Abhyudaya.

Reflections by PGDM ADMAP Committee

The Assessment and Development of Managerial and Administrative Potential (ADMAP) is a unique immersive experience pioneered by SPJIMR. It enables participants to develop their administrative capabilities and management skills through experiential learning. This two-credit course instils core principles of self-learning and self-management through the prism of doing, observing, reflecting, and recording.

Abhyudaya has 16 students dedicated to this each year. We will be highlighting their reflections each month.

A lifelong lesson in mentoring and social responsibility

Yashwant Gurjar, PGDM 2024-26

Abhyudaya was one of the reasons I chose to pursue my MBA at SPJIMR, and I am fortunate to be a part of the committee. Being involved in organising 'Hastantaran 2024' was a valuable learning experience, especially in managing both batches alongside the Sitaras on campus. From organising major events to conducting home visits and witnessing the living conditions of my Sitara and his family, this has been an eye-opening and enriching journey.

Working with the committee has made me realise the importance of mentoring and supporting others. The satisfaction derived from this work is incomparable. We also organised two campus visits, including 'Green Games', where the enthusiasm and joy shared by both Sitaras and their mentors was exactly



what we wanted to create. I have learned to manage my committee responsibilities alongside my studies and my mentoring role. I supported my Sitara with his studies, and I am confident that he will perform well in his exams.

Overall, this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and I am glad to have made the most of it.

Learning empathy and the power of collaboration

Sanjoli Agarwal, PGDM 2024-26

Being part of the Abhyudaya committee was a great learning experience for me. Over the past few months, I gained a better understanding of my strengths, such as managing time effectively and building strong relationships, while also recognising areas for improvement, like staying calm when things did not go as planned. Organising various events as part of the committee was both fun and rewarding. It taught me how to plan better, collaborate within a team, and pay attention to the small details that can make a big difference.

What stood out most was the opportunity to interact with many stakeholders. It helped me appreciate the



importance of understanding different perspectives and working together towards a common goal. Everything we did was to create a positive impact on someone's life, which made me more empathetic and thoughtful.



Swati Mahadev Pakhare

Chamakta Sitara

From Sitara to MBA graduate

"I didn't realise their true impact until I saw the difference between myself and other kids in my school. Abhyudaya gave me a head start that I didn't even know I needed."

Swati joined Abhyudaya in 2010 as an introverted child who preferred to stay on her own. Swati's mother is a homemaker and her younger brother works as a nurse at Sahyadri Hospital.

The regular classes and sessions became a safe space that helped her open up and express herself. She learnt classical music and computers—opportunities she wouldn't have had access to in a government school. Coming from a regional-medium background, the English classes were particularly valuable to Swati. Her mentors played a crucial role in helping her build self-confidence. Swati regrets not having stayed in touch with them.

"I used to ask them about their career paths and choices, secretly hoping that one day I'd follow a similar journey."

After completing her engineering degree, Swati worked at Accenture. Although she initially gave up on pursuing a master's degree due to financial constraints, she couldn't let go of her dream. In 2025, she completed her MBA at Symbiosis University.

"I feel incredibly fortunate to have been associated with Abhyudaya, an organisation that has played a significant role in shaping the person I am today. I'm especially grateful to every staff member at Abhyudaya who made us feel at home and stood by us not only as mentors but also as friends."

Swati will be joining Capgemini shortly. Alongside her professional career, she aspires to give back to society, just as she once received support when she needed it most.

Aligned with the UN SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 17 (Partnership for the Goals), SPJIMR's Abhyudaya is a community-based organisation that provides mentoring and holistic after-school education to bright, underprivileged children (Sitaras = Stars), from low-income neighbourhoods in Mumbai's K-West ward so that they become independent and the schools and community around them improve.

To donate to Abhyudaya, write to abhyudaya@spjmr.org or visit our website www.spjmr.org

