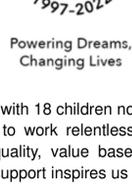


## Celebrating the Humans of Aseema

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. As Aseema celebrates 25 years, we celebrate a journey that has been incredible, every little step of the way. A journey peppered with exhilaration and apprehensions, highs and lows, victories and setbacks and so much more. As we look back at the years gone by, we celebrate the many people who came together to make Aseema what it is today.



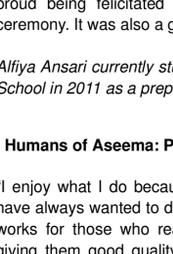
Powering Dreams,  
Changing Lives

Thank you – you make us what we are.

You make it possible for us to ensure that a journey that started with 18 children now touches the life of 6,800 children. You give us the strength to work relentlessly towards empowering each child under our care with high quality, value based, holistic education. Your conviction, your commitment and your support inspires us to deliver our best every day.

Join us as we celebrate you, the **Humans of Aseema**, all year long on our social media pages.

### Humans of Aseema: Alfiya Ansari

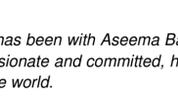


"I think I am the luckiest person in the world to have been a student of Aseema. I have met the best teachers here. My school makes all the necessary efforts to provide us the best education and bring a smile to our faces. Being with Aseema helped me overcome my fear and increased my courage and confidence. I have so many fond memories here. When I got a Grade A for my Elementary drawing examination, it was really a joyful and heart touching moment for me. I was selected as class captain for 3 consecutive years in Standards IV, V and VI. I felt so proud being felicitated by my teachers and taking a pledge during the Oath ceremony. It was also a great experience performing my duties as a leader."

*Alfiya Ansari currently studying in Standard X, joined Aseema's Kherwadi Municipal School in 2011 as a preprimary student.*

### Humans of Aseema: Punit Chandak

"I enjoy what I do because we are working for others. I have always wanted to do something for society. Aseema works for those who really need help and support. By giving them good quality education and the opportunity for all round development in an environment that is safe, healthy and happy I feel I am making a difference. It is so satisfying to see our children achieve so much – all they need is a little support. My proudest moment was when we completed and inaugurated the Igatpuri school building. It was very challenging and there were many difficulties along the way. But by working together see what we have managed to accomplish. I am really happy to see this vision become a reality."



*Punit Chandak, Head - Administration and Infrastructure has been with Aseema Bal Shaikshani Kendra, Igatpuri for 14 years. Extremely passionate and committed, he lives by the adage, be the difference you want to see in the world.*

### Humans of Aseema: Ashish Gaikwad

"Aseema is like a miracle in my life. It has been like a parent to me. It has been a father figure, when I needed my father to hold my hand. Any student who studies in Aseema is blessed. The best thing I like about Aseema is that it is not all about studies. It has so much to offer other than studies and the exposure to various opportunities is the key to a student's life. Aseema will always provide these opportunities to children.

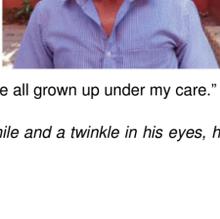


I believe that I am in an endless relationship with Aseema, one that cannot be broken. It is a home for me that I can always come back to."

*Ashish Gaikwad is from Aseema's first batch. He has been associated with Aseema since its inception in 1997. He was then just 4 years old and had just lost his father. His mother admitted him to Aseema's student group when Aseema had just begun. Today, Ashish has a Bachelor's degree in Film Editing and is now a writer, director and a producer. He will soon be releasing his own Marathi feature film.*

### Humans of Aseema: Kolai Ram Jaiswar

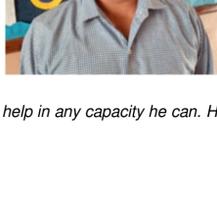
"I love trees and growing plants. I love my job at Aseema and I have just completed my 15th year here. Now I'm trying to grow grass in a patch. I will have to watch it carefully. I know the children get very excited when they are playing and in their excitement they don't realise they are going into the patch. There are not too many open spaces for play in this city and children should play, so I let them play. Did you know I have never brought any grown plants for Aseema? I have always grown them from seeds or stem cuttings or buds. They have all grown up under my care."



*Kolai Ram Jaiswar is Aseema's gardener. With a smile and a twinkle in his eyes, he is always happy to talk about plants and trees.*

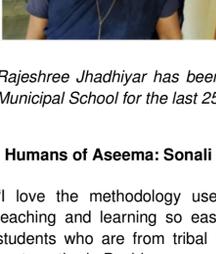
### Humans of Aseema: Dinesh Balmik

"Aseema gave me a job when I was new to Mumbai. When I found rental accommodation they helped me out with the deposit. I have three children and they got a good education at Aseema. Now they know English and they are faring really well. Aseema has also taught them to be good human beings and I am such a happy and proud father. I will always do any job for Aseema and the children here. They have given my family and me a new life."



*Dinesh Balmik has been employed by Aseema as a handyman for the last 14 years and is ever willing to help in any capacity he can. He is also a member of our parent community.*

### Humans of Aseema: Rajeshree Jhadhiyar

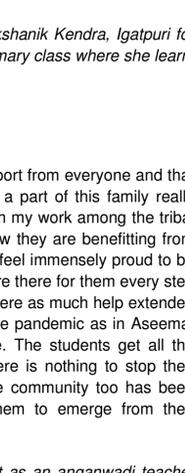


"I was in a bad situation years ago. My husband wasn't there to help, I had three little children and no job. It is then that I joined Aseema as a didi and my children would also attend school at Aseema. I love my job! I get to care for the children, I am responsible for keeping the school clean and spotless. I also help in other areas whenever I can. I had nothing at one time and now I have everything that I need to be happy. I am very thankful for what I have."

*Rajeshree Jhadhiyar has been part of the support staff team at the Pali Chimbai Municipal School for the last 25 years.*

### Humans of Aseema: Sonali Awhad

"I love the methodology used in Aseema. It makes teaching and learning so easy and interesting for our students who are from tribal areas. For them it is the best method. Besides, we continue with ABL or the Activity Based Learning method in the higher classes too. We also provide our students with the mid-day meal, which is very good, as most of them have very little to eat at home. When the new school building was constructed we were overjoyed. It was a dream come true for all of us. Who would have thought that Awlkhad would have such a lovely school? I am so proud of all my students. When the batch I taught in preprimary appeared for and passed the SSC exam, I felt overjoyed. My children proved that they can overcome anything."



*Sonali Awhad has been a teacher in Aseema Bal Shaikshani Kendra, Igatpuri for 13 years. She rose her career at Aseema in the preprimary class where she learnt the Montessori method.*

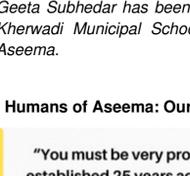
### Humans of Aseema: Baban Kadam



"In Aseema there is a lot of support from everyone and that makes the experience of being a part of this family really enjoyable. I am really happy with my work among the tribal population here. When I see how they are benefitting from all that Aseema does for them I feel immensely proud to be a part of this organisation. We are there for them every step of the way. Nowhere else was there as much help extended to the tribal population during the pandemic as in Aseema. To me this is a matter of pride. The students get all the support they may need and there is nothing to stop their progress and development. The community too has been taken care of and helped in every way to enable them to emerge from their circumstances and move towards a better future."

*Baban Kadam has been with Aseema for 14 years first as an anganwadi teacher and then as a social worker. He enjoys working in tandem with the other staff who support him a lot.*

### Humans of Aseema: Geeta Subhedar



"For over a decade I have been calling Aseema my home, my life. I consider myself one of the lucky ones to find something that showed me my true calling and brought me closer to myself. My journey with Aseema began as a teacher. Every morning I'd start my day greeted by big smiles and young energetic faces filled with mischief. I am proud of the team I am surrounded with, staff members that go beyond duty to do what matters. I am proud of my courageous students who stand by each other in tough times and pull each other up from a sad helpless situation. This is their safe haven. The children taught me the greatest lesson of life: They taught me that they may be little in size, but they have a limitless capacity to love, to continue learning and helping and caring. I learned that they were sometimes better than us adults at taking decisions! Even under difficult circumstances, these children aspire to work harder and don't give up. They inspire me every day."

*Geeta Subhedar has been with Aseema for 13 years and is currently heading the Kherwadi Municipal School. She loves her job, loves teaching and she loves Aseema.*

### Humans of Aseema: Our Donors and Well-wishers

"You must be very proud of what you established 25 years ago and what you have achieved since. It is a truly remarkable achievement that has transformed so many lives. It deserves the support it gets and more. I can only wish you and Aseema the very best and hope that it will continue to grow in stature and strength."

"I pray that you may be blessed abundantly and touch the lives of many children."

"So nice to know about the achievements of Aseema! Best wishes to all of you"

"Wishing Aseema kids great success and healthy careers ahead."

"I'm really very proud of all that you have achieved so far, and continuing to achieve. I wish you and everyone at Aseema all the very best. God bless you all, and may Aseema rise to greater and greater heights."

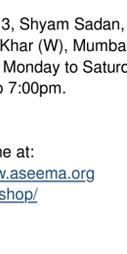
"Wish you continued success in educating needy children and making them productive members of the society."

"Aseema is a shining example of fortitude and vision. May you grow from strength to strength!"

"The little boy with large beguiling eyes holding up a flag for sale, looking at me from my well-wathered pencil holder has been a treasured companion for years. An early product that tells the story of what Aseema is all about. We met Dilbur when she was launching her project. The idea was appealing and her fervour and enthusiasm immediately drew a contribution from us. Over the years Aseema has grown into an institution, expanding well beyond Bandra and Bombay, reaching out to children to dream and learn and work. Dilbur dreamt the impossible dream"

### Humans of Aseema: The Grand Reunion

What better way to kick start our 25 Year Celebrations than to go back in time to where it all started! We had students from our very first batch come over to celebrate with us. A day filled with laughter, nostalgia and tons of conversations prefixed with "remember when", it was truly a heartwarming reunion. We are so proud of all that our students have achieved over the years.



The boys and girls of 1997 are the ladies and gentlemen of 2022. Our Founders – Our Guiding Force

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### Our sincere thanks to all our supporters and well-wishers

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#### Donations in Kind

Abhilasha Jain, Darryl Loyola, Mandira Nevatia, Nazish Shah, Podar Jumbo Kids, Rohini Chhajed, Shelly Saini, Veena Mankar.

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