

Alumni Special edition

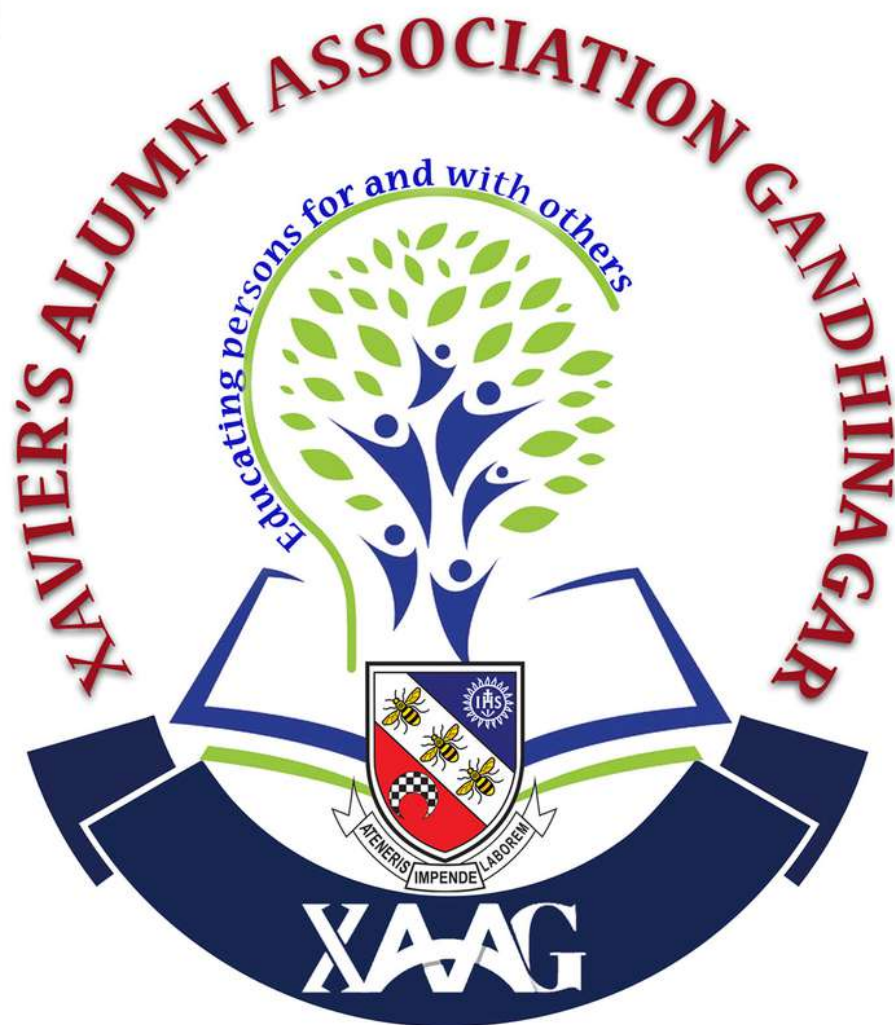


Educating persons for and with others



VOICE OF XAVIER'S

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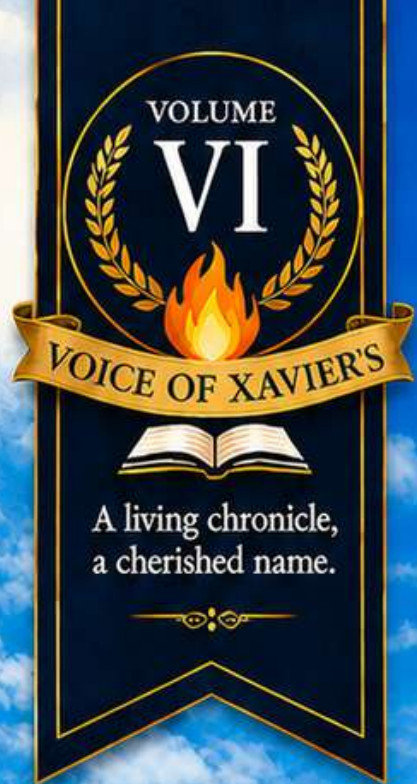
C O M M I T T E E

- Rev.Fr. Arul Rayan S.J.
- Ms. Marshal Xavier
- Ms. Shaila Joshi
- Ms. Shivani Pathak
- Ms. Preeti Gadkari
- Ms. Shweta Dodiya
- Ms. Khushbu Darji
- Ms. Alpa Joshi
- Ms. Soumya Prabhu

Chief Editor of this Issue
Ms. Shaila Joshi

PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Once a Xavierite, *always a Xavierite!*



I feel blessed to walk your journeys told,
Stories of courage, of hearts of gold.
You are the fruits of love we sowed,
In quiet care, the paths we showed.
Your echoes ring both near and far—
"Once a Xavierite, always we are."



You carry values, strong and true,
Time has only deepened them in you.
In grateful hearts, they brightly stay,
Guiding your steps along life's way.



Some recall teachers, voices clear,
Whose gentle wisdom still draws near.
In memory's light, their lessons live,
Shaping the lives you now so give.



We stand in pride, in hope, in grace,
Wishing you strength in every place.
United still, let love extend—
To serve, to lift, to heal, to mend.



For as Xavierites, this we see:
We live for others, in unity.



Rev. Fr. S. Arul Rayan S.J.



TO SERVE



TO LIFT

Let us go forth
TO SERVE, TO LIFT,
TO HEAL, TO MEND.



TO HEAL



TO MEND

ONCE A XAVIERITE,  ALWAYS A XAVIERITE.

Linesh John

(Director of Patient Safety Systems, Gilead Science - California)

From St. Xavier's, Gandhinagar, to California: A Journey Shaped by Grace and Education

When I look back at my life's journey—from a student in Gandhinagar to a professional career in California—it is impossible to separate who I am today from the formative years I spent at St. Xavier's School, Gandhinagar.

I joined St. Xavier's at a time when Gandhinagar had only two English-medium schools, and St. Xavier's stood out—not just for its academic rigor, but for its values, discipline, and sense of purpose. As a Jesuit institution, it emphasized education of the whole person, shaping not just capable students but responsible and compassionate human beings. I studied there until I completed my 12th grade, and those years remain some of the most influential of my life.

St. Xavier's was, and I am sure still is, more than a place of learning. It was a place where character mattered as much as marks, where integrity, curiosity, and service were quietly but firmly instilled. The "Fathers" who ran the school—and many who also taught us—were central to this experience. Their calm authority, moral clarity, and deep commitment to education left a lasting impression on me. Alongside them was a remarkable group of teachers—educators who went far beyond their subject matter to shape our character, values, and worldview.

I still remember Ramola teacher, who taught us English literature and poetry. Through the stories we read and the characters we studied, she helped us see the world with greater empathy and depth. Poetry, under her guidance, was not just about rhythm or rhyme, it was about understanding human emotion, struggles, and grace. She taught us, gently but powerfully, how to be better human beings.



Dharma teacher, our mathematics teacher, constantly challenged us to push beyond what we believed were our limits. She set high expectations and encouraged us to aim higher—not just in numbers and equations, but in ambition and confidence. From her, many of us learned resilience, discipline, and the value of striving for excellence.

Kalpana teacher, who taught us Biology, brought both warmth and strength into the classroom. She was deeply caring and ensured that we always behaved our best. Fiercely protective of us, she treated her students as her own children. Her presence instilled a sense of responsibility and mutual respect that extended far beyond academics.

Through her simplicity and humility, Lali teacher, our Chemistry teacher, taught us to remain grounded and respectful. Her approach reminded us that knowledge and success mean little without humility.

There were many other teachers and staff members whose names I have not mentioned here, but each one of them played an important role in shaping us. Together, they challenged us every day—not just to perform better in class, but to become better versions of ourselves. Their influence continues to live on in the lives we lead today.

Equally important were the friendships I formed. Some of my closest friends even today are people I first met in those classrooms and corridors. With many others, I am still in touch, and every conversation is filled with shared memories—morning assemblies, classrooms, exams, sports, laughter, and lessons learned the hard way. These relationships, built in those early years, have stood the test of time.

St. Xavier's did not just educate us for the next exam; it prepared us for life. It taught me how to think critically, communicate clearly, respect others, and remain grounded in values—lessons that have guided me long after graduation.

After completing high school, I went on to earn my bachelor's degree in India, continuing my academic journey. In 2002, I took a major step forward by coming to the United States to pursue my master's degree at New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT). This was my first extended experience away from home, and it came with challenges—cultural adjustments, academic rigor, and the need to become independent quickly. In many ways, the foundation laid at St. Xavier's helped me navigate those years with confidence and resilience.

California has been home ever since. Today, I work at Gilead Sciences as a Director of Patient Safety Systems, a role that allows me to contribute to healthcare, technology, and patient well-being at a global scale. In 2004, I moved to California for work

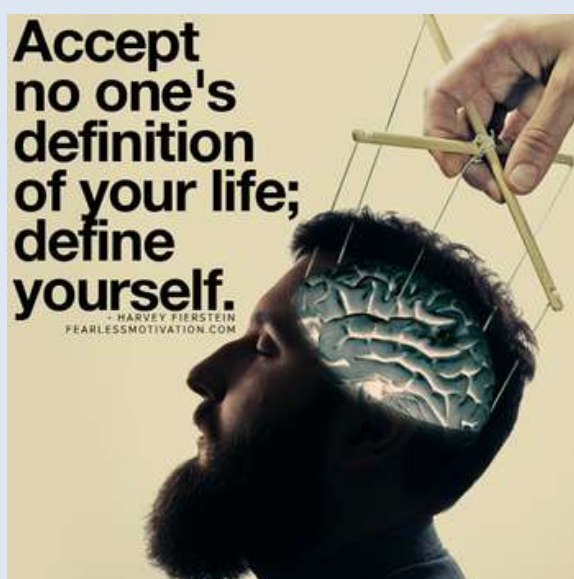
and the responsibility that comes with my work often reminds me of the importance of ethics, accountability, and service—principles that were subtly but consistently reinforced during my school years.

On the personal front, life has been equally fulfilling. I am married and blessed with two wonderful daughters, who continue to teach me new lessons every day. As a parent, I often find myself reflecting on my own schooling and realizing how deeply it shaped my worldview. The values I absorbed at St. Xavier's—discipline, empathy, faith, and perseverance—are the very values I hope to pass on to my children.

Looking back, it is clear that those early years at St. Xavier's played a defining role in shaping the man I am today. The education I received went far beyond textbooks; it built confidence, courage, and a moral compass that continues to guide my decisions—both professional and personal.

I remain deeply grateful to St. Xavier's School, to the Jesuit Fathers, to my teachers, and to my classmates. The memories I carry are cherished, and the lessons I learned remain relevant even decades later. It is an honor to reflect on this journey and to acknowledge the institution that helped set it in motion.

Once a Xavierite, always a Xavierite.



Dr. Shyama Yeshodharan, (Consulting Homeopath & Dietician, Nashik, Maharashtra.)

There is a specific spot in the primary section of St. Xavier's, Gandhinagar, where I remember standing during a recess break as a young girl. While my friends were chatting about their big dreams for the future, I looked up at the school emblem on the wall and made a silent, stubborn vow to myself: "I am always going to be a Xavierite. I will finish my entire journey here."

True to that promise, I stayed from Nursery until Class 12. Even when the crossroads of Class 10 arrived and most of my friends moved to other schools for Commerce, I chose the Science stream—not just for the career, but because I simply couldn't imagine waking up and going anywhere else.

Tiny Feet and Tall Giants: My earliest memories are filled with the kindness of the masis who looked after us and the awe of standing in the morning assembly, looking up at Father Pinto. To my tiny self, he was the tallest giant I had ever seen; I used to stare at his socked feet and wonder how anyone could be so tall!

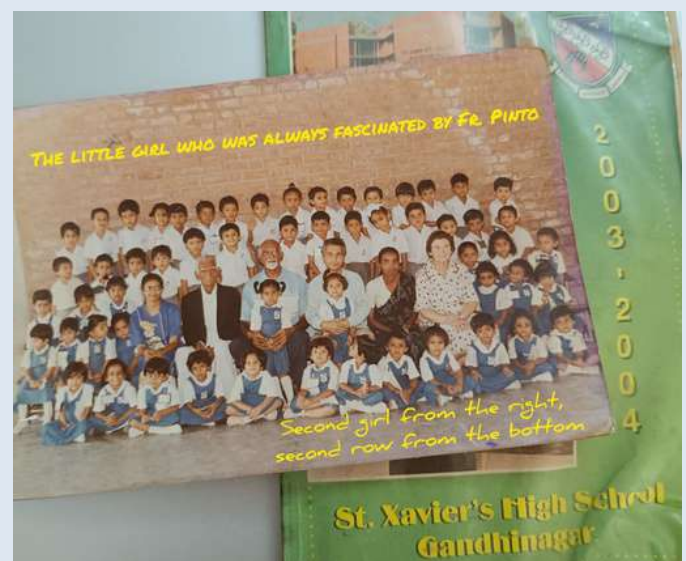
Then there were the teachers who shaped our discipline—from the kindness of our Class 2 English teacher Waghmar Teacher to the legendary strictness of Koshy Teacher in the Maths class. We weren't just learning equations; we were learning how to show up and do the work.

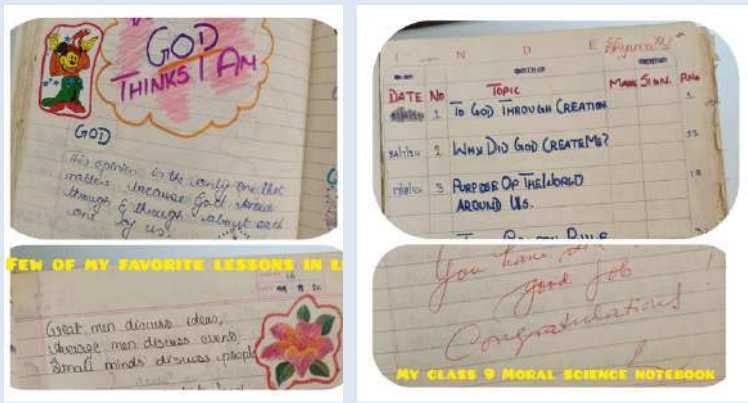
I wasn't an "extraordinary" student or the topper; I was an average one, perhaps easily forgettable in a crowded room. But while I may have been quiet, I was a sponge, soaking up every value the school offered.



The Melodies and the Speeches: To this day, I find myself searching YouTube for the exact melodies of the prayer songs we sang in the morning. But my deepest nostalgia lies in the speeches of Father Hector—The way he weaved humane values into everyday anecdotes, effortlessly switching between English and Gujarati, was magic.

Those speeches were masterclasses in being human. I remember breaking down in tears during my first Christmas after graduation, simply because I realized I would no longer be sitting in that crowd, listening to his wisdom.





From the AV Room to the Clinic: Today, I am a Consulting Homeopath practicing in Nashik. People often ask why I chose Homeopathy. I realize now that the seeds were sown in our AV Room and our Moral Science classes. The AV Room movies, the Quest fests, and the Diwali parties gave us joy, but the values and ethos given to us by these Fathers and teachers gave us a foundation. My practice as a doctor isn't just built on medical science; it is built on the integrity and empathy that was quietly instilled in me from Nursery to Class 12.

A Message to My Fellow Xavierites:

To the student who feels "average" or "forgettable": You are not. You don't have to be the loudest or the brightest in the room to be a true Xavierite. You are building a foundation that will serve you in adulthood. Don't just study for the marks; listen to the stories, sing the songs, keep your "Moral Science" in your heart,

and remember that once you are a part of this school, its spirit stays with you—wherever in the world you may go. In fact, I still have my Class 9 Moral Science notebook. It sits in my clinic today, acting as my "Bible" whenever life feels heavy or I feel down and out. I read the notes given to us by Father Mendiburu, and suddenly, the path becomes clear again.

A Legacy for the Next Generation: That notebook isn't just a relic of my past; it is a guidebook for my family's future. Today, I ask my 10-year-old son to read those same notes. The lessons I learned at St. Xavier's have shaped me not just as a doctor, but as a mother. I always tell my son: "Be whatever you want to be, but above all, be kind. Do the right thing, even if it is the hard way." My school taught me that life presents two paths—the easy way and the right way. Because of my 14 years in those corridors, I have the courage to choose the right path, even when it's the harder one to walk.

I left the building after Class 12, but as my clinic and my old notebook prove—once a Xavierite, always a Xavierite.

ગઈકાલે, આજે અને હંમેશા... ગૌરવવંતી ઝેવિયરાઈટ.

**All dreams are
within reach.
All you have to do is
keep moving
towards them.**

A Journey of Becoming: My St. Xavier's Story

-A reflection of gratitude, growth, and becoming
Dr. Shivani Trivedi Lecturer, National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU)

I still remember a scrawny little child walking into nursery, tightly holding her mother's finger... only to run straight out of the gate the moment she was left alone. Somewhere behind me, Martha Ma'am was running after me—and I can't apologise enough for all the running I made you do, Ma'am. That is where my story begins—as a crybaby who didn't want to stay. And yet, that same child slowly began to grow.



“I didn't just grow up there, I grew into myself there.”

From running away at the gate to standing on stage as Rani Lakshmbai in fancy dress competitions, St. Xavier's gently, patiently built my courage. Of course, confidence did not come all at once. There were moments when my voice trembled, when I doubted myself—but I would have never learned to stand strong if it wasn't for the tough love of Saroj Dave Ma'am.

I only wish I could tell her today how deeply she shaped the woman I have become. You will forever be missed, Ma'am. I owe you far more than I was ever able to say. To Hansika Ma'am and Suman ma'am, who gave us the warmth and care we didn't even know we needed... To Jyotsana Ma'am, without whom I cannot imagine my school life—the support you gave us was truly phenomenal. —



To Eliza ma'am, whom I owe all my English pronunciations to. Those classrooms, those corridors, those lessons both academic and of life—have left an imprint on my soul that time has not faded even a bit



“Not all classrooms have four walls—some are made of people who believe in you.”

The joy of PT classes, the creativity in drawing and craft sessions with Patil Ma'am, the grounding of moral science classes—each moment added something meaningful to who we were becoming. I still remember how eagerly we waited for computer lab sessions, and how patiently Preeti Ma'am and Marshal Ma'am guided us. The way Jyotsana Ma'am sang Gujarati poems, the way Leena Ma'am taught Hindi and Chetna ma'am told stories—these are not just memories, they are emotions I still carry.

Beyond academics, it was the co-curricular activities that truly shaped me. Writing competitions, debates, dance, sports, poem recitations, annual day celebrations—each one built confidence, expression, and joy. Primary school, in every sense, was a safe haven—a warm, protective environment that allowed us to grow without fear.

And then came high school.

The teenage years—complex, transformative, and crucial. It is during this phase that we begin to understand responsibility, seriousness, and direction. It felt like we were finally learning to fly. And yet, we were never alone in that journey.



“Time may have moved forward, but a part of me still walks those corridors.”

Every teacher became a guiding force. Vijaya Ma’am’s Gujarati, Harsha Ma’am’s Sanskrit, Nirmalkanta Ma’am’s Social Studies, and Fr. Noel’s Mathematics, Anita ma’am’s Gujarati, Rita ma’am’s English and Smita ma’am—each subject was brought to life with dedication and care. But if I speak of shaping my career, I cannot forget Shaila Ma’am and Sunil Sir.

Shaila Ma’am—you are the reason I began to love science. I owe you my curiosity, my interest, and a part of my academic journey. And Sunil Sir—I still remember discussing a single opposite word with you for half an hour, and how patiently you explained it to me.

That patience, that willingness to go deeper, stayed with me.

One of the most unforgettable moments of my school life was the 9th standard picnic to Baroda—fortunate or unfortunate, depending on how you see it. I slipped in the park and fractured my knee. What I remember most is not the pain, but the care. The panic and concern of Shaila Ma’am, the way Sunil Sir and Kiran Sir stood throughout the bus journey to ensure I was safe and comfortable—I don’t think I have ever felt more protected.

Shaila Ma’am, thank you for always taking care of me. Kiran Sir, thank you for ensuring I could travel back safely. And Sunil Sir... I wish I had thanked you once more in person. You were not just a class teacher that day—you were a guardian. I hope you rest in peace knowing how deeply you are remembered and respected.

The science fairs, the board exam pressure, the confusion of “figuring it all out”—all of it became meaningful because of the mentors who guided us through it. And above all, having a principal like Fr. Hector made the school feel like a sanctuary—disciplined, yet kind; structured, yet nurturing.

“What we become is shaped by those who chose to believe in us; long before we learn to believe in ourselves.”

Stepping out of school was not easy. The world outside is not always as kind, polite, or structured. But it is precisely because of the values instilled at St. Xavier’s that every Xavierite stands out—with discipline, resilience, and integrity.

After completing my 12th in science, I chose a challenging path—Doctor of Pharmacy. Those six years tested me, but



resilience was something my school had already taught me well. The journey eventually led me to the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission as an Associate—a dream realised through years of hard work, and the belief of my mentors and my mother. And today, life has come full circle.



“Years ago, I walked into those gates holding someone’s hand. Today, I stand in a classroom hoping to be that steady hand for someone else. And somewhere in that quiet transition, St. Xavier’s lives on.”

As I stand in a classroom today as a professor in NFSU, I often find myself reflecting on my own teachers. In the way I smile at my students, in the patience I try to show when they ask doubts, in the way I teach—I see echoes of St. Xavier’s.

So when I look back, I realise that everything I am today is shaped by my school. It gave me not just education, but values: kindness, discipline, integrity, resilience, and joy. It gave me friendships, confidence, and a sense of belonging.

“Some institutions give education. Mine gave me a lifetime of values, voices, and courage. And for that, my gratitude will always be louder than my words.”

I have received so much from this institution that I can only hope that someday, I am able to give back—even if it is just a small fraction of it—to the community and the world.

I don’t know if I have done complete justice to this opportunity, but I hope my gratitude is loud enough. Loud enough to reach every teacher, every corridor, every tree, every corner of my beloved school.

Forever a Xavierite. ❤️



Dr. Madhura P. Ghate

(M.B.B.S, M.D, D.N.B Radiodiagnosis | FRCR (UK)
Consultant Radiologist)

BATCH 2009

Roots at St. Xavier's – Where It All Began

When I think of where my journey truly began, it isn't a hospital or a lecture hall, it is a classroom filled with sunlight, the sound of morning assembly, and the quiet comfort of familiarity at St. Xavier's, Gandhinagar.

Looking back, school feels like an entire world in itself, filled with simple joys, milestones, and memories that could fill pages. Writing about school is almost like writing about a whole life lived to its fullest and in my case it was a journey from kindergarten to higher secondary, from learning how to write and make friends to preparing ourselves for the world outside and leaving school with memories and friendships for life.

As a child, I didn't have everything figured out, but I had curiosity, and Xavier's nurtured it. I was fascinated by how things worked, often asking questions that went beyond the textbook. I still remember walking up to my teachers, especially Father Hector, with endless doubts, usually at the end of class - often met with amused sighs from my classmates.

But some of my most defining moments happened beyond the classroom.

It was during the debates, dance and singing competitions, poetry recitations and dramatics that I discovered confidence and expression. Training for sports events and organizing school fairs and interschool competitions taught me teamwork, discipline, and resilience.

These experiences shaped me in ways I only truly understood much later. I owe it to my teachers who taught me how to be confident in challenges and how to approach setbacks with a winning mindset.



One memory that still feels surreal is meeting astronaut Sunita Williams through school. Listening to her speak about chasing dreams, outer space and perseverance made dreams feel tangible.

What made these years truly special were the people, teachers who saw potential before I did, friends who became family, and a school that didn't just teach, but shaped who I am.



From Curiosity to Clarity

Over time, curiosity slowly turned into direction. The years leading up to my board exams taught me discipline and consistency. Scoring 99.84 percentile and securing a state rank of 53 in GUJCET was not just an achievement, it reinforced a simple truth: consistent effort always finds its way. That journey led me to B.J. Medical College, Ahmedabad, where everything changed.



The Making of a Doctor

Medical college was not just about studying, it was about understanding life in its most real and raw form. Working in a large government hospital exposed me to countless patients and stories, teaching me empathy, responsibility, and perspective. It was during this time that I discovered radiology, a field that felt like the perfect blend of science, logic, and intuition.

I went on to pursue my M.D. and D.N.B. in Radiodiagnosis N.H.L Hospital Ahmedabad; gained work experience in few of the best medical institutions of India, including NIMHANS, Hinduja Hospital and Tata Memorial Hospital; cleared the FRCR (UK) exams and completed a fellowship in onco-imaging at Tata Memorial Hospital.

But behind every milestone were unseen hours, late nights, long duties, moments of doubt, and the quiet decision to keep going.

My journey as a doctor taught me resilience. It taught me to show up, even when tired, and to keep moving forward, one step at a time.

Where I Am Today

Today, as a Consultant Radiologist based in Mumbai, I work with imaging technologies that help guide diagnosis and treatment. But beyond the science, what stays with me is the human side of medicine. Every scan represents a person, a story, and a moment of uncertainty, and being part of that journey is both a privilege and a responsibility.

Looking Ahead

I hope to continue learning, growing, and contributing to my field, while also supporting others through mentorship, because sometimes, the right encouragement at the right time can change everything.

Closing Note

You don't need to have everything figured out. All you need is curiosity, sincerity, and the courage to keep going. One day, you will look back and realize - that the smallest steps were quietly shaping something meaningful.

“Stay curious, stay consistent, and trust that the path you are building, step-by-step will take you exactly where you are meant to be.”



Dr. Hardagna Vora

(Assistant professor, Mathematics Department,
Indus university, Ahmedabad, India)



મારો પરિચય કરવું તો અહીંયા xavirite કહું તેટલું પૂરતું છે. પ્રોફેશનલ વર્લ્ડમાં ગણિતનો રસ PhD તરફ તાણી ગયો... હાલ ઈન્ડસ યુનિવર્સિટીમાં, અમદાવાદમાં assistant professor તરીકે ફરજ બજાવી રહ્યો છું. શાળામાં બાલમંદિરથી ધોરણ ૧૦ સુધી ભણવાનો સમય રહ્યો છે.

તો પાયાની વાત કરીએ તો શાળા તેના ઘડતરમાં મહત્વની ભૂમિકા ભજવે છે. અને આપણી શાળામાં તેના માટે ઘણી છૂટ મળતી હતી, માત્ર છૂટ નહીં પરંતુ તેવા અલગ અલગ પ્રકારના કાર્યક્રમ પણ થતા હોય છે. તે તમારા ચણતરમાં ચોક્કસ પણે મજબૂતી આપશે. ઘડતર તમે કળા માં કરવા માંગો છો કે પછી ભણવામાં તે તમારે પસંદ કરવું રહ્યું. સદભાગ્યે મને બંનેની સમાન તક મળી હતી, તો PhD અને કળાનો રસ પણ જળવાય રહ્યો છે.



શાળામાં કમ્પ્યુટરની સારું પાયાનું ઘડતર થઈ શક્યું હતું. તેમાં પ્રીતિ ટીચરે પ્રેક્ટિકલ સારા શીખવાડ્યા હતા. શાળા સમયના થતા પિટિના ક્લાસમાં મેદાની રમતો રમવાની અલગ મજા માટે ક્યારેક ફૂટબોલ તો ક્યાંક બાસ્કેટબોલ મેદાનમાં પલળતા. હમાં ધોરણમાં વાર્ષિકોત્સવમાં ટાઉનહોલમાં થયેલી પ્રસ્તુતિ ઘણી યાદગાર ક્ષણ ધરાવે છે. ક્યારેક સુવિચાર બોલવાનો મોકો સવારની પ્રાર્થના પછી મળ્યો હતો, તેવી પ્રવૃત્તિથી આત્મવિશ્વાસમાં વધારો થતો હોય છે. ગણિત, ભાષા અને



સમાજ શાસ્ત્ર વગેરે વિષયો પણ નિષ્ણાંત શિક્ષકો દ્વારા પાયાનું ઘડતર થયું હતું. આવી ઘણી રીતે પાયામાં મજબૂતી આવી હતી. શાળામાં દરેક પિકનિકમાં તો જવાની તક મળતી નથી. અમુક લાંબી ટૂંકી પિકનિકમાં જવાનું થયું. તેમાં મજા પણ ઘણી માણવા મળી મિત્રો સાથે. પરંતુ આ બધામાં મારી સૌથી યાદગાર પિકનિક રાણી ની વાવ રહી હતી. પાટણ અને તેની આસપાસના સ્થળો. પટોળાની વણાટ નું કૌશલ્ય જોવાનો અણમોલ અવસર મળ્યો. આસપાસ ફરતા ફરતા સહસ્ત્રલિંગ તળાવ, રુદ્ર મહાલય, બિંદુ સરોવર, તથા ત્યાંના મંદિર વગેરે સ્થળો પર મુલાકાત થઈ.



ઇતિહાસ ની ભવ્યતા અદ્ભૂત દર્શન થઈ શક્યા. ભારતીય વિજ્ઞાન કળા અને તત્ત્વદર્શન ના સુભગ સમન્વય તમને પાછળથી ખ્યાલ આવી શકે છે. તે સમયની અદ્ભૂત શિલ્પ સ્થાપત્ય, વાસ્તુકલા મને આજે પણ અચંબામાં રાખી દે છે. તે સમયનું ગાણિતિક ચોકસાઈ અને તાદૃશ બનેલી મૂર્તિ આંખોમાં હજીસુધી જીવંત છે. તેમાં પ્રથમ વખત કેમેરા સાથે લઈ જવાની તક મળી હતી. આજના સમયની તુલનાએ આ હાસ્યાસ્પદ લાગી શકે પરંતુ ત્યારે ફોન લઈજવા શક્ય ન હતા. મિત્રો જોડે ફરતા ફરતા ક્યારે તે તસવીરોમાં ધૂળ

બાઝી ગઈ તેનો ખ્યાલ ન રહ્યો. જેનાથી ફરતા ફરતા ઘણી એકબીજાને જાણ કરવી કે અહીંયા અવનવા પક્ષીઓ મળશે અને નવા તસવીર કાયકડામાં રંગવાની શરૂઆત કરી. આ નાનકડી શરૂઆત મિત્રો કેમેરાની આંખની લેન્સથી જોડાઈ ગયા. ક્યારેક કોઈક સફરમાં ધીમે ધીમે શોખમાં પરિણામી. જોડાઈ જવું કે કોઈને સાથે લઈ જવું વહેલી સવારના ૪ વાગ્યાની આ શોખ આગળ જતા ગુજરાત યુનિવર્સિટીની ઝોનલ લેવલની ગાત્રો થીજાવતી ઠંડકમાં માત્ર કેમેરાની એક બેગ લટકાવીને. આનાથી સ્પર્ધામાં દ્વિતીય ક્રમ મેળવી શક્યો. ક્રમ નો માત્ર અહીંયા સવાલ ઘણા કલાત્મક પરિમાણો જાણી શકાય છે. શરૂઆતમાં કોઈ નિયમો કે નથી પરંતુ એક પ્રકારની ખંત મેળવીને આ કળાને આગળ ગણતરી વગર પાડવામાં આવેલા ફોટા કે પછી ધીમે ધીમે barefoot ધપાવવાની તક હંમેશા મળતી રહી છે. તેમાં ઘણાનો ફળો રહ્યો photowalkers ના ગ્રુપમાં શીખેલી અવનવી તકનીકો, જે બધાનું છે, જેમકે મિત્રો માટેની ફોટોગ્રાફીથી લઈને કોલેજ, સમાજમાં ગુણાંક આ સિદ્ધિ સુધી લાવી શકી છે. થતા અવનવા કાર્યક્રમના ફોટો લેવા, પ્રાકૃતિક પાટનગરના ખોળામાં પાંગરતા અનેક પુષ્પો, પક્ષીઓની ઝાંખી થવી, અન્ય આખરે એટલુંજ કહીશ કે, મૂળ યાદ રાખવા જોઈએ તે શાશ્વત છે. પર્યટન સ્થળે કે કોઈ અચાનક રજળપાટમાં થતી ગરમીમાં ફીઝ અને મને શાશ્વત ભાઈ(ex Xavierite, Dr. Shashvat padalia) ઇન્ડસ university યોગાનુયોગે મળી ગયાં. જેમાં મને શાળાના સંભારણા યાદ કરવાનો અવસર મળ્યો...



"Setting goals is the first step in turning the invisible into the visible."

Some chapters in life are brief, yet powerful enough to shape everything that follows. My two years at St. Xavier's were exactly that—intense, transformative, and deeply defining. What began as just another step in my academic journey soon became the foundation upon which I built my dreams, my discipline, and ultimately, my career in medicine.

St. Xavier's instilled in me a sense of purpose and structure at a time when it mattered most. It was here that I truly learned what it means to commit—to show up every day with focus, resilience, and a clear vision. My aspiration to pursue medicine, which once felt like a distant goal, began to take concrete shape within those classrooms and corridors. The environment pushed me to work harder, think sharper, and believe more firmly in my path, eventually leading me to become a gynecologist.



Yet, what made Xavier's truly exceptional was its unwavering belief in holistic growth. Academics were important, but never at the cost of individuality and expression. I immersed myself in sports and extracurricular activities, discovering early on the importance of balance—something I consciously carry into my life even today. Whether it was on the field, on stage, or during the much-awaited annual events, each experience taught me lessons in teamwork, leadership, and confidence that no textbook ever could.

The recognition of being awarded “Student of the Year” remains one of my most treasured memories—not merely for the honor itself, but for what it represented. It symbolized the culmination of countless small efforts, the encouragement of mentors, and the ethos of a school that celebrates all-round excellence.

Beyond achievements and milestones, it is the people who made this journey unforgettable. The friendships I formed during those two years have endured the passage of time, evolving into some of my most trusted and cherished relationships. These are the people who have stood by me through every phase of life, a constant reminder of where it all began.





Most importantly, the teachers at St. Xavier's were the heart of this experience. They were far more than educators—they were mentors, guides, and unwavering supporters. They believed in me, often more than I believed in myself, and celebrated my successes with a joy that felt

deeply personal. Their influence extended beyond academics, shaping my confidence, values, and outlook on life.

Looking back, I realize that St. Xavier's did not just prepare me for examinations—it prepared me for life. It taught me discipline without rigidity, ambition without losing balance, and success with humility. Being a part of the Xavier's family is not just a memory I hold dear; it is an identity I carry with pride.

Those two years may have been short, but their impact continues to echo in everything I do today.



Commissionerate of Information, Government of Gujarat, Gandhinagar.

- Ex. Radio Jockey at 93.5 Red FM, Ahmedabad.

Educational Qualification

Graduation in Bachelor's in Arts with English Literature and Masters in Mass Communication & Journalism at Maharashtra Institute of Technology, Pune.

Professionally worked with:

- Red FM, Ahmedabad.
- Worked at Durgadas Publication, New Delhi as a travel reporter for a brief period of time.
- Interned at esteemed media organizations like The Indian Express, India News and NDTV, New Delhi

It Was Our Second Home...

It was around the end of January 2010, I think, when our group went to Father Noel to ask why there wasn't a commerce or arts stream for 11th–12th in the English medium. We were not willing to change our school—that was our love for it. I don't think I ever made excuses to skip school. Classrooms liberated our personalities and thoughts.

Most importantly, the school not only focused on our education but on our overall personality development. Whether it was cultural events, sports, or educational fests, St. Xavier's was never behind. Teachers were true educators. The environment it provided helped us build confidence and nurture our individuality.

I always say that St. Xavier's made me an athlete. I had the sports genes and I was definitely disciplined (at least on the ground!) but the push the school gave me—the confidence it instilled in me to achieve medals and trophies—is immeasurable. I was quite average in academics but very good at sports. Yet, not once was I told to stop playing. Initially, it was basketball but eventually, it was athletics that brought home the trophies. We have memories everywhere—from Xavier's Plaza to Sanskruti Kunj, the canteen, the basketball court and even those mango trees near the canteen where we would “encounter” mangoes before they ripened! The shy girl who entered the school in



Standard 3 was filled with confidence by the time she reached Standard 10. Even though I failed in maths (almost every time!), I passed the most important exam of my life—with confidence. Later, I pursued English Literature, completed my Master's in Journalism, worked at different media organizations and eventually found my place in radio. I hosted a mid-morning show for a private radio station in Ahmedabad for almost four years.

I've even tried to impress my husband by giving him a tour of my school—to show him where my roots lie (and yes, I succeeded!).

St. Xavier's was our second home because we didn't just spend eight periods studying—we spent the rest of our time on the basketball court, in the canteen, or simply sitting around, never wanting to go home.

And I know that the legacy will continue because once a Xavierite, always a Xavierite!



ASHUTOSH PATEL

(Engagement Manager, Capgemini Engineering,
Wolfsburg, Germany)

“From St. Xavier’s to the German Autobahn: A Journey of Curiosity, Courage, and Continuous Learning ”

When I look back at my time at St. Xavier’s School, Gandhinagar. I don’t just remember classrooms, exams, or report cards. I remember a place that quietly shaped the way I think, learn, and approach life. Like many of you, I once sat in those same classrooms, unsure of what the future would hold, but full of curiosity and dreams.

My childhood was simple, yet full of meaningful moments. School activities, daily routines, sports, and teachers who believed in me helped shape who I am today. St. Xavier’s was more than a school - it was a place where discipline, respect, and curiosity naturally became part of life and laid the foundation for my growth.

Some of my best memories come from those school days, the excitement of annual day performances, the energy of sports days with the blue, red, green, and yellow houses competing with full spirit, and the fun-filled football matches during PT classes. The laughter during recess, time spent in the school canteen, and countless small moments with friends are memories I still cherish. Back then, they felt ordinary, but today they mean everything. These are the moments that truly define school life.

I strongly relate to Albert Einstein’s words: “Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think.” Over time, I have realized how true this is. School teaches us not just subjects, but how to think, solve problems, and face life’s challenges.



Friendship is one of the most beautiful parts of school life. The friends I made during those years are still close to me, and the bond remains strong and genuine. No matter where life takes you, these friendships stay with you and become a lasting source of strength.

After completing my schooling and mechanical engineering in India, my journey led me to Germany, where I pursued a Master’s degree in Automotive Engineering, specializing in automotive service technology and processes. Compared to many other countries, moving to Germany was especially challenging due to its very different culture and the complexity of the German language. Adapting to a new way of life, new thinking, and a new language pushed me far beyond my comfort zone but it also became one of the most valuable and defining experiences of my personal and professional growth.

I would strongly encourage every student to learn at least one foreign language in addition to English. It not only supports professional growth but also opens the mind to new cultures, perspectives, and opportunities.



This journey was not achieved overnight - it came through continuous learning, staying curious, and always trying to improve.

If I can share one message with all of you, it would be this: you don't have to be perfect, but you have to be consistent. The small efforts you make every day, the curiosity you keep alive, and the willingness to learn will shape your future. And always listen to your parents; their advice comes from experience and love, especially when life feels uncertain. Dream big, take small steps, and never be afraid to try something new. Make the most of your school years, not only in studies but also in experiences, Lifelong learning and friendships. One day, you will look back and realize that everything began here. When you succeed, remember your roots, stay true to your values, and give back to society in your own way.

– A proud alumnus of St. Xavier's, Gandhinagar. (Batch 2013)



Along with this, traveling to new places is equally important, as it broadens understanding and builds independence. In my own journey, learning a new language played a key role in helping me settle, adapt, and grow in Germany.

Today, I work as an Engagement Manager in the automotive sector, consulting with leading German manufacturers such as Audi, Volkswagen, and Porsche. My role involves managing development projects, ensuring quality and safety, and working with teams across different domains. Over time, I also developed expertise in automotive development processes and became an Assessor/Auditor. In this capacity, I evaluate engineering processes against international standards and support organizations in improving how vehicles are developed.

**"Strive not to be a success,
but rather to be of value."**



From School Grounds to the National Stage

As I sit down to write this, memories of my school days don't just come back—they come alive. The echo of whistles on the football ground, the energy of teammates, the thrill of competition, and even the quiet moments of self-doubt—all of it feels as real as yesterday. Those corridors, that ground, and those experiences didn't just pass time—they shaped my identity.

Football was never just a sport for me—it became my purpose. Every match I played, every training session I attended, and every setback I faced contributed to a journey I didn't fully understand back then, but deeply value today. Representing my school and later Team Gujarat twice was not just an achievement—it was a responsibility I carried with pride.

I was fortunate to have mentors who believed in me before I truly believed in myself. Fr. Hector Pinto, Mr. Kiran Macwan (PT), and Mr. Jatin Bhavsar (Football Coach) were more than guides—they were pillars of strength. Their constant support and faith pushed me to go beyond my comfort zone and discover my true potential. The championships we won together were special, but the lessons I learned mattered far more.



In the early stages of this journey, one of the biggest challenges I faced was convincing my parents to allow me to pursue football seriously. Like many families, they had concerns about stability and the future. However, over time, as they witnessed my dedication and progress, their perspective changed. Today, they are not only proud but also my strongest pillar of support. I can say with complete certainty that without their trust, encouragement, and sacrifices, I would not have reached where I am today.

Some of the most defining moments of my journey came during those early winter mornings. While the world slept, we trained. The cold was harsh, the routine demanding, and the motivation sometimes difficult—but showing up every day built something within me that no victory alone could. Discipline, resilience, and mental strength were forged in those moments.

Life after school took me deeper into football, but along a different path. Today, I serve as a National Referee and am part of the Elite Panel of the All India Football Federation (AIFF), officiating in the Indian Football League 2026. Being entrusted with decisions at the highest level of the game is both an honour and a responsibility I carry with pride.



I have had the privilege of officiating in the historic Durand Cup 2025—Asia’s oldest football tournament—and consecutive finals of the Santosh Trophy National Championship (2025 & 2026). Each milestone reminds me of where it all began—the same school ground where I first learned to dream.



Alongside refereeing, I chose to give back to the game that shaped me. As an AFC ‘C’ Licence certified coach, I currently run Xavier’s United Football Club at St. Xavier’s School, Gandhinagar. Guiding young players, watching them grow, and seeing their passion reminds me of my own journey. In many ways, it feels like coming full circle.

To every student walking the same ground I once did—believe in your dreams, even when the path feels uncertain. There will be challenges, setbacks, and moments of doubt. But it is in those very moments that your character is built. Stay consistent. Stay disciplined. Trust the process. Because one day, when you look back, you will realize that these very moments—this ground, these struggles, these memories—were not ordinary at all. They were the beginning of everything.

From the Class rooms of St. Xavier's to the Peaks of the Himalayas

Walking through the gates of St. Xavier's School as a young student, I could never have imagined how profoundly those formative years would shape my life. Today, as the founder of an innovative trekking company, Mountainsouls, I look back with immense gratitude at the values, inspiration, and spirit of adventure that were nurtured within me during my time at school. This is a story of how a young Xavierite's love for nature blossomed into a life dedicated to the mountains, adventure, and building a community of nature lovers.

The Birth of Mountainsouls

Mountainsouls was born from a simple yet powerful idea — to help people reconnect with themselves through nature. In today's fast-paced world, where stress and digital distractions dominate our lives, I felt a strong urge to create a space where individuals could pause, breathe, and rediscover happiness. Mountainsouls is more than just a trekking company; it is a movement that encourages people to step out of their routines and into the embrace of the great outdoors.

Nature – The Ultimate Healer

Mountains, rivers, forests, and the open skies have a unique way of healing. They offer a sanctuary where one can truly connect with oneself. I have always believed that nature is not just a destination but a companion, a teacher, and a mirror that reflects our truest selves. This belief is at the core of every trek, retreat, and expedition we organize.



Seeds Sown at St. Xavier's

The foundation of my love for nature and adventure was laid right here at St. Xavier's. Our school didn't just focus on academics; it instilled in us a deep respect for the environment, a sense of responsibility towards preserving ecosystems, and the courage to explore the unknown. I vividly remember the nature walks, the environmental awareness drives, and the stories of great explorers shared by our teachers. These experiences planted the seeds of curiosity and reverence for the natural world that continue to guide me today.

Chasing Mountains and Creating Stories

As a passionate mountaineer, I have had the privilege of exploring some of the most breathtaking landscapes in the Himalayas. From the iconic Mount Everest Base Camp to the serene Bhrigu Lake, the mystical Chopta Valley, the rugged trails of Hamta Pass, the tranquil Tirthan Valley, the snow-laden Brahmtal, and the enchanting Gulabi Kantha — each trek has been a story in itself. These journeys are not just about reaching summits; they are about discovering resilience, building bonds, and embracing the unknown.

Beyond Trekking – A Holistic Experience

Mountainsouls is committed to offering more than just treks. We curate corporate outbound training programs that foster teamwork, leadership, and innovation amidst nature. Our corporate retreats provide professionals with a much-needed break from boardrooms, replacing them with bonfires under starlit skies. For families, our weekend camping experiences offer a chance to bond, unplug, and create lasting memories. We also organize cultural explorations across Leh, Ladakh, Spiti Valley, Zaskar, and other regions, allowing participants to immerse themselves in the rich heritage and traditions of the Himalayas.

Adventures That Inspire

One of the most cherished moments in my journey was climbing to the Mount Everest Base Camp alongside my father and seven of his classmates from the 1984 batch of St. Xavier's. All of them were around 58 years old, and their determination and spirit were nothing short of inspiring. It was a full-circle moment — two generations of Xavierites, bound by shared values and a love for adventure, conquering one of the most iconic trails in the world together.

Building a Community of Nature Lovers

At Mountainsouls, we are not just building a business; we are nurturing a community. A community of nature lovers, adventurers, and seekers who believe in the power of the outdoors to transform lives. Through survival treks, bike rides, and immersive experiences, we aim to foster a deeper connection with nature and promote sustainable travel practices. Our mission is to inspire people to not only explore the world but also to protect it.



A Heartfelt Thank You

None of this would have been possible without the values and vision instilled in me by St. Xavier's School. The emphasis on character, compassion, and curiosity has been my guiding light. I am forever grateful to my teachers, mentors, and peers who played a pivotal role in shaping the person I am today.

A Message to Current Students

To all the young Xavierites reading this — dream big and chase those dreams with all your heart. Let your curiosity lead you to new horizons. Embrace nature, for it has the power to teach you lessons no classroom ever can. Be kind, be courageous, and never stop exploring. Remember, the values you are learning today will be your compass tomorrow. Whether you choose to climb mountains or conquer challenges in other walks of life, carry the Xavierite spirit with pride and purpose.

“Those were the days!!” I started my journey at Xavier’s in Nursery and continued there until tenth grade, and this journey has been nothing short of beautiful. I have been immensely fortunate and blessed to be taught, guided, and supported by the finest teachers. Xavier’s has not only played an important role in my education but has also shaped the person I am today.



Right from our early grades, we were introduced to Olympiads and various other platforms which helped build a strong academic foundation and exposed us to different ways of learning, thinking, and problem-solving within the classroom environment. We got an opportunity to present our project at the National Children Science Congress.

We worked on the Effects of the Thermal Power Plant on individuals and the environment. We conducted surveys, interacted with individuals, performed various analyses, prepared models and represented the school at the State and the National Level. Be it elocutions, patriotic song competitions, hosting events, or performances at annual functions, I was always encouraged to participate in different activities. At the time, these seemed like small moments, but looking back today, I realize how important they were in my personal growth. Being involved in these events helped me become more confident, expressive, and comfortable interacting with people. They taught me the value of teamwork, discipline, and stepping out of my comfort zone. The acknowledgements at the annual functions always encouraged me to develop both my academic as well as social skills.



And not to forget, Xavier’s has given me the most amazing group of friends, for whom I will always be grateful. The countless memories we created together, from picnics and canteen days to classroom mischiefs and the fun rivalry between section A and B during Quest, are moments I will cherish forever. There are so many such little incidents and shared experiences that simply cannot be counted on fingertips, but each of them holds a very special place in my heart.





I joined Ahmedabad University in 2019 and earned my BTech in Computer Science. Since I was fond of music, I joined the university's music club. During my first performance, I realized that confidence is not something that appears instantly, it is built gradually over the years through experience, practice, and stepping out of your comfort zone.

I then moved to the US in 2023 to pursue my Masters at Arizona State University. As someone who had never left home, moving to an entirely different country, leaving my loved ones and adapting to a whole new culture was a little difficult for me. What I realized after moving to the US is that it's not only knowledge and hard work that is enough, it takes much more. It takes patience, faith and hope to achieve what you want.



I currently work as a Systems Analyst at a startup in Arizona. Ever since school, I have always been fascinated by numbers and problem-solving, and here I am today, working with reports, trends, data, and revenue every day. Analyzing patterns, identifying anomalies, and discovering opportunities for growth are some of the most exciting parts of my work, and it feels rewarding to apply the same curiosity and analytical thinking that first began during my school days. I am grateful to have gotten the exposure and the opportunities to explore and decide what I enjoy.

If I could give a message to my younger self, it would be to enjoy every little moment and never be afraid to try new things. It is completely okay to fail, there will be many more failures in life, but the experiences often teach you the most and help you grow stronger. You might even laugh at the times you failed. The nervousness before competitions, the small classroom moments, and the friendships made along the way eventually become some of the most cherished memories of life. Most importantly, trust yourself, the confidence you build step by step will take you farther than you can imagine. Be kind and grateful.

What I cherish the most is the friendship, encouragement from teachers, and the sense of belonging the school always gave us. St. Xavier's Gandhinagar will always hold a very special place in my heart, and I will forever be grateful for the values and experiences it gave me.

Dr. Riya Dipakkumar Gandhi

(BHMS-Gold Medalist,

Diploma in Diet and Nutrition,

Pursuing PGD in counselling and psychotherapy.)

BATCH 2017

As alumni, we look back with deep gratitude for the foundation our school gave us. It was here that discipline became habit, not compulsion - shaping our character and work ethic for life. Beyond textbooks, we gained skills that carried us through college, careers and challenges; the ability to think critically, communicate clearly and preserve when things got tough. Most of all the knowledge we received wasn't just academic; it was the wisdom of teacher who saw potential in us before we saw in ourselves. Thank you for molding me not just students but responsible, capable individuals ready to contribute to the world.



My message to all the young budding YOUTH.....

Dream big and use your curiosity to a better world. Never stop learning and focus on growing your character with honesty and respect. Be a change-maker today and value your time by building a healthy, strong foundation for your future. Beyond textbooks, seek knowledge that helps you understand your place in the world and builds practical skills.



"To the teachers {specially shweta teacher, Jyotsna teacher} who saw more in us than we saw in ourselves; thank you. Looking back, we realize that lessons weren't just about text book, but about resilience, curiosity and character. You didn't just teach us subjects; you shaped our perspectives and gave us the confidence to navigate the world. We carry your mentorship with us every day and we are forever grateful for the patience and passion you poured into our growth."



"THERE ARE NO SECRETS TO SUCCESS IT IS THE RESULT OF HARD WORK AND PERSEVERANCE."

