



Dr Manibhai Desai School  
CHONDHA



## Vision

We enable opportunities for a good life for children from underprivileged rural communities through best-in-class education.

## Mission

We aspire to be an exemplary rural high school serving children from the Adivasi areas of South Gujarat by

- Nurturing the capability and confidence of our students and helping them become responsible citizens.
- Developing teachers and staff that are competent, caring, and motivated.
- Serving as a resource centre for neighbouring schools.

## Values

- We strive for academic and operational excellence
- We care for the well-being of our students, teachers, and staff.
- We promote humanist and constitutional values.
- We are accountable and transparent in our actions.

## Our Purpose

The south-eastern region of Gujarat is predominantly inhabited by Adivasi (Tribal) communities and has some of the poorest educational indicators. Access to secondary and higher secondary school education is a challenge for many children in the area. This severely limits their access to opportunities for higher education and livelihoods and also limits their participation as citizens.

In 2001, Phulsingbhai and Sitarambhai reached out to BAIF ([baif.org.in](http://baif.org.in)) to help them start a high school in Chondha so that children, especially girls, from their village would not drop out after primary school. The nearest high schools in Pipalkhed and Khanpur were more than 10 kilometres away. BAIF was already supporting the community development efforts in Chondha through a community run trust, Navchetan Manav Vikas Mandir. With joint efforts of BAIF and the community, the school affiliated to the Gujarat Secondary Education Board was started in Phulsingbhai's home with 32 students while a school building was being constructed. Dr Abdul Kalam visited the school in 2003. In the same year, a hostel for 25 girls was started to ensure girls from remote villages were also able to access the school. The higher secondary grades offering Arts stream were added in 2011 and the Science stream in 2017. A state of the art science building with digital classrooms and well-equipped science labs, computer centre and library was also built. This was followed by a construction of 120 capacity girl's hostel in 2021 with the support of Larsen & Tubro Public Charitable Trust. Today the school has an enrollment of 270 students of which 164 stay in hostels. Navchetan Manav Vikas Mandir now exclusively focuses on managing the school and hostels.

We are supported by many organisations / individuals with skills and resources in achieving our vision. BAIF extends operational support and provides ethical / financial oversight to the trust.



Naitik plans to pursue the science stream. He loves math, science and spoken English classes. His father is a farmer and his mother an Aganwadi worker.



Darshita joined us in 11 Science with a dream of becoming a doctor. She stays in the hostel as her home is a 30-minute commute from our school.



Shreya stays in the hostel as her family stays about 70 Km from the school. Her father is a farmer and her mother an ASHA worker. She enjoys the hands of science sessions and sports in school.



Kavita studies in 11 Arts and stays in the hostel. She is the only one from her family of six who studied in a higher secondary school. She likes to draw and enjoys the computer classes.



Ankur hopes that education will help him support his family. As a member of a single parent household, he splits his time between studying late in the evenings and helping his mother with chores.



Nirali walks 2 Km along with her brother everyday to attend school. She likes her teachers as they teach well and are also very friendly.



**Ashoksinh Thakor**

B.Sc. B.Ed. Principal  
We are trying to bridge the gap between the quality of schooling in urban and rural areas.



**Rikita Padhyar**

M.Sc. B.Ed. Biology  
Many of our students have the potential to take up professional courses if we help them.

**Vinod Chaudhary**

M.A., B.P.Ed Physical Education  
Adding sports to our timetable has increased the students' interest in academics as well.

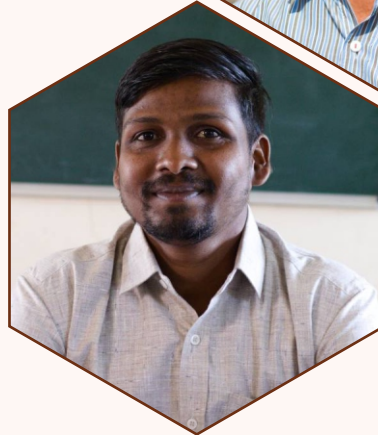


**Meghna Patel**

M.A. M.Ed English  
Our communicative English programme helps our students to be proficient in the language.

**Mukesh Pawar**

M.A. B.Ed Psychology  
I like to engage every student so that they are active in my class.



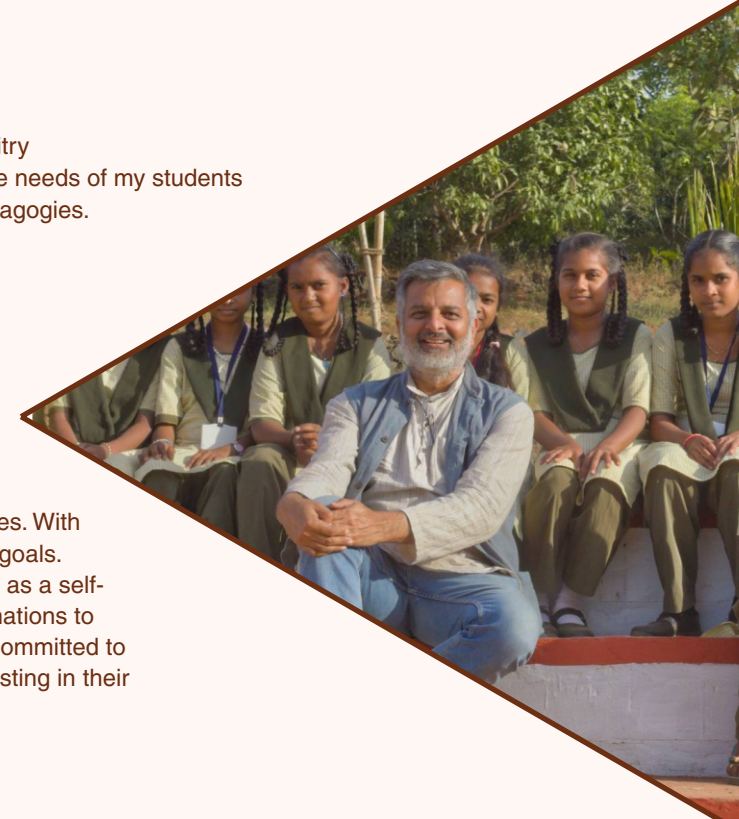
**Piyush Ganvit**

M.Sc. M.Ed. Chemistry  
I address the diverse needs of my students through tailored pedagogies.

**Vikas Maniar**

Academic Director, PhD (Education), TISS Mumbai; MBA, IIM Ahmedabad.

As a rural school serving underprivileged students, we have a unique set of opportunities and challenges. With adequate guidance and support, our students have the capacity and motivation to achieve challenging goals. Unfortunately, as first-generation learners, many of them do not have these support structures. Further, as a self-financed school serving students from some of the poorest families, we are primarily dependent on donations to cover our operational expenses year on year. This often leaves us operating on tight budgets. We are committed to effectively deploying the available resources in the best interest of our students. We believe that by investing in their future, we are also creating a better society for all of us to live in.



## Academics & Co-Curriculars

All of our students are from Adivasi communities and come from within a hundred kilometres radius from the scheduled blocks in Valsad, Navsari and the Dangs. As first-generation learners from rural areas, many of our students have had poor learning experiences in their primary grades. Further, they lack role models and guidance to create their life plans. As a result, they need constant encouragement and support to decide on and prepare for the careers and lifestyles they want to pursue. Our academic and co-curricular programmes are designed to help them achieve this goal.

We have a robust preparatory programme for incoming students that develops their foundational skills in math and communicative English. Hands-on science activities are introduced to build a scientific temper.

### Goals

- Our students pass the board exams.
- Our students opt for science stream after 10<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Our students pursue professional and academic higher education after 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Our students join vocational courses after 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Our students acquire life skills and values to lead a good life.

### Strategies

- Attract talented students & build a robust preparatory programme for incoming students.
- Hire competent teachers & continuously build teacher capacities.
- Introduce effective pedagogies for school subjects.
- Focus on extra-curricular & co-curricular activities.
- Coach to secure admissions in reputed institutions / courses.
- Build a network of individual and organizational partnerships.

We hire teachers that are qualified to teach in the respective subjects and train them to adopt innovative pedagogies. As a rural school, we face challenges in hiring competent teachers and access learning resources to help our students. To address this, we deploy a blended learning pedagogy that allows our students access digital learning resources online in addition to regular classroom learning. Our co-curricular program is aimed at developing the life skills and values in our students. They learn the 4Cs (Critical Thinking, Communication, Collaboration and Creativity) and SEEL (Social, Emotional and Ethical Learning) skills through sports, arts and through various project-based activities. They gain an exposure to the world outside their communities through excursions and online interactions.

Finally, we help our students formulate their life and career plans through continuous mentoring to prepare them to pursue these goals. Coaching is provided to help them secure admissions in reputed courses and institutions based on their interest. We are creating a culture focused on learning and well-being of our students.



## Facilities

Our school is located in lush green campus in midst of hills and forests. We have good infrastructure for a rural school thanks to the generous contributions by individual and institutional donors. The science building houses smart classrooms, well equipped science labs, a computer centre (which also serves as an AV room) and a library. Internet connectivity and 'smart' classrooms enable our students to access online digital learning to complement classroom teaching. A large playground provides adequate space for sports. All our students are served mid-day meals and undergo annual health check-ups. We have well furnished hostels to house 120 girls and 60 boys. In sum, we do have adequate facilities to enable effective learning and well-being of our students as of today. As we grow, we look forward to add more classrooms and a boy's hostel in near future.



## Get Involved

If our cause appeals to you, we encourage you to support us.

### Volunteer

We are constantly in need of volunteers for our academic and co-curricular programs and to mentor our students and teachers. We offer full time internships for interested candidates ranging from six months to two years. For part-time and online volunteers, we expect an engagement of a few hours every week for a minimum of six months. Please write to us at [chondhaschool@gmail.com](mailto:chondhaschool@gmail.com) if you are interested in volunteering with us.

### Donate

We are dependent on institutional and individual donors to fund the education of our students. Inability to fund education and hostel expenses limit our ability to educate more children despite having an adequate infrastructure. We welcome you to sponsor a child's education and/or hostel expenses to help them complete their high school education with us. To sponsor a child's education or hostel expenses please visit [www.chondhaschool.in/donate](http://www.chondhaschool.in/donate).





Dr Manibhai Desai School  
C H O N D H A

  
**Dr Manibhai Desai Navchetan Madhyamik Shala**  
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