

# A Journey of Knowledge, Hypothesis and Observation: S.B. Patil Public School Hosts KHOJ: An Inter-school Faculty Convention on the United Nations' SDG #4

Pune, Maharashtra | 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2024



In an era of rapid technological advancement and evolving educational practices, it has become increasingly vital for educators to stay ahead of the curve. The need for continuous professional development is crucial as schools aim to provide inclusive and effective learning environments for an increasingly diverse student body. With this in mind, S.B. Patil Public School, Pune launched a significant initiative that sought to bring educators together for a dynamic exchange of ideas: KHOJ: An Inter-school Faculty Convention on the United Nations' SDG #4.

An acronym for A "Journey of Knowledge, Hypothesis and Observation", this maiden venture was designed to offer educators across Maharashtra a platform to present research and share best practices on the theme, *"Innovative and Inclusive Pedagogies for Generation Alpha"*.



The event emphasised the critical importance of inclusivity in the classroom, recognising that students come from varied cultural, social, and academic backgrounds. This approach sought to ensure that no child is left behind, fostering an environment of equitable education for all.

Educators face the challenge of navigating multi dimensional and multicultural classrooms. As artificial intelligence and technology are not just part of everyday life but also reshape education, teachers now have access to a wealth of resources to cater to the diverse needs of learners. However, as experts in the field emphasised during the convention, it is essential for educators to constantly reassess and refine their teaching methods to stay aligned with the rapidly changing educational paradigm.



KHOJ sought to address this need by providing a space for educators to engage in knowledge exchange, contribute to ongoing research, and benchmark effective teaching practices. The event underscored the importance of enjoyment, commitment, positivity, and reflection in teaching. In addition to these core principles, the convention highlighted the role of research in an educator's professional growth, encouraging teachers to stay engaged in ongoing learning and development.

One of the main goals of KHOJ was to enable educators to enhance their skills, knowledge, and understanding, particularly when introducing changes to the curriculum, pedagogy, and assessment. This focus on professional learning was intended to clarify the processes and priorities that underlie successful teaching practices, ultimately leading to more strategic, effective, and impactful instruction.





The convention provided educators with the opportunity to refine their understanding of the professional and policy contexts surrounding education, both locally and nationally. By doing so, it empowered teachers to increase their influence and voice within their educational communities, contributing to the development of more effective and responsive school environments.

The event featured several key components, including an orientation session on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2024, where participating faculty members were briefed on the expectations for their presentations. A final submission deadline of 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2024, allowed teachers ample time to prepare and refine their research papers. On 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2024, the much-anticipated event took place at the S.B. Patil Public School, with sessions running from 09:30 am to 04:00 pm.



The event day unfolded by a prayer and invocation dance. Principal, Dr. Bindu Saini then shared an introductory note speaking about the PCET, S.B. Patil Public School and KHOJ itself, setting the stage for the first round of presentations. Compeering the event were Ms. Payal Shah and Ms. Sayalee Deshmukh. Presenters from schools over Maharashtra came forth with their presentations. On completion, they were questioned by the judges to which they answered confidently.

From S.B. Patil Public School, participants, Ms. Swaleha Mujawar presented her paper, "Experiment with Inclusivity"; and Ms. Madhura Mane presented, "Engaging Approaches to Teaching Rounding Off Numbers in Grade 5: Integrating Games, Role play, Hands on activities, and Real-World Applications". Presenter, Dr. Rohit Sarkar spoke on "Towards Full Inclusivity: Essentialising the Integration of Sign Language as a Skill Subject within the CBSE School Curriculum". All presentations were well-received by all present there.



The afternoon session included additional presentations. The judges too spoke on various topics of giftedness and inclusivity. followed by an award ceremony to recognise the most outstanding papers. We are proud to announce that Ms. Madhura Mane received the Most

on the insights shared throughout the event. The event brought together a diverse group of educators, with 13 participants from over six schools across Maharashtra. The presentations covered a wide range of topics, all aligned with the theme of fostering innovative and inclusive pedagogies.



Judges and expert speakers played a pivotal role in the success of the event. Eminent judges for the event were: Dr. Devasena Desai, Director of Kaveri Counseling, Empowerment and Gifted Centre; Dr. Sandesh Digambar Kadam, Principal of Antar Bharati Balgram School, Lonavala, and Dr. Asmita Huddar, Principal of CCYM's Hashu Advani College of Special Education. Moderator for the event was: Dr. Sangeeta Gole, the school's consultant, and



an educationist with 34 years of experience in teaching and training both in the rural and urban schools.



These distinguished professionals shared valuable insights that greatly enriched the discussions. Their expertise provided a solid foundation for evaluating the presentations and helped shape the direction of the event. They were an inspiration to fellow educators, encouraging them to implement innovative strategies in their own classrooms. We are proud to announce that from our school, Ms. Madhura Mane won the Best Innovative Practices Incorporated Award.

The judges' guidance was invaluable in assessing the quality of submissions, with a focus on problem identification, critical thinking, creativity, and communication. In closing, moderator, Dr. Sangeeta Gole gave her views and opinions on all the presentations.



KHOJ not only served as a vital platform for professional growth but also reinforced the importance of inclusivity in shaping the future of education in India. By fostering an environment of knowledge-sharing and collaboration, S.B. Patil Public School succeeded in creating a space where educators could come together to improve their teaching practices and, ultimately, ensure a brighter, more inclusive future for Generation Alpha.



Through events like KHOJ, educators are empowered to reflect on their teaching practices and embrace change, ensuring that they continue to meet the evolving needs of their students while fostering a more inclusive and effective educational experience.



We thank our principal, Dr. Bindu Saini for ideating this event; and for her mentorship and guidance throughout the event. We also thank vice principal, Ms. Padmavati Banda; HM, Ms. Shubhangi Kulkarni; the section coordinators: Ms. Darshana Kamat, Ms. Nirupama Kale, Ms. Vandana Sangle. Ms. Archana Prabhune and Ms. Nayana Taru; and the administrative manager, Mr. Manish Dhekale for painstakingly working hard towards making this event a reality.



We owe our gratitude to all our judges; and our moderator. Their insightful guidance and expertise truly elevated the event. We also thank Mr. Aman Yadav and the IT team for their support.

