

From the Director's Desk

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all individuals irrespective of gender. It is meant to be a stronghold of compassion, equality, and trust, where every individual receives the best possible care regardless of their gender. However, research and reports have highlighted persistent gender biases in medical settings, leading to inequities in diagnosis, treatment, and overall patient experience. It is incumbent upon us, as healthcare provider NGOs, to acknowledge and actively combat these biases to ensure every woman's trust in their healthcare journey.

It is time to diagnose the problem!

Gender bias in healthcare can manifest in several ways. Women often face dismissive attitudes or are not taken seriously when describing

their symptoms, leading to delayed or misdiagnosed conditions. Additionally, certain medical conditions predominantly affecting women, such as cervical and breast cancer, have historically been under-researched and underfunded, causing further challenges in diagnosis and recovery treatment. Moreover, societal norms and stereotypes can influence treatment decisions, leading to overprescribing or underprescribing certain medications, as well as limiting women's access to certain medical interventions. All these factors combine to create a healthcare environment where women's trust in medical professionals is eroded, and their agency over their own bodies is diminished.

I hope this newsletter finds you all in good health and spirits. As a leader in the field of healthcare, it is my duty and honor to address a critical issue that affects the well-being of millions of women worldwide – gender bias in healthcare.

Healthcare is the basic requirement of

As healthcare providers in rural areas, how can we take a stand?

At GeBBS Foundation we are committed to upholding the highest standards of care, and that includes addressing gender bias in healthcare head-on. We believe that fostering trust and agency among women in their healthcare is not only a moral imperative but also essential for delivering the best possible outcomes for women in rural areas.

So, to combat gender bias, we are taking the following initiatives:

- **Cultural Sensitivity Training:** We will provide ongoing training to all our volunteers, and ASHA workers to raise awareness about gender bias and its impact on patient care. By fostering cultural sensitivity, we aim to create an inclusive environment where every patient feels respected and heard.
- **Empowering Patient Education:** Knowledge is power, and we will empower women with comprehensive information about their health conditions and treatment options. Informed patients are more likely to actively participate in their healthcare decisions, ensuring their trust on us remains intact.
- **Diverse Representation:** We have more women representations when it comes to interacting with women in rural areas and imparting knowledge about cervical and breast cancer. By promoting diversity at the top, we can better understand and address the unique healthcare needs and experiences of women.
- **Research and Advocacy:** We continuously invest in research that specifically focuses on women's health concerns. By advocating for gender-specific studies, we aim to bridge the knowledge gaps and improve healthcare outcomes for women.

As a veteran leader, I take this opportunity to reaffirm our GeBBS Foundation's commitment to combatting gender bias in healthcare in rural India, especially in Aurangabad and Jalna. We strive to be at the forefront of change and innovation in the medical field, ensuring that every woman who seeks our care receives the respect, dignity, and personalized attention they deserve.

In conclusion, advancing women's trust and agency in healthcare is not just a lofty goal – it is an essential aspect of providing quality healthcare for all. Together, we can create an equitable and compassionate healthcare system that empowers women and ensures their health needs are met with the utmost professionalism and care.

Thank you for your continued trust in GeBBS Foundation. If you have any suggestions or feedback, please feel free to reach out to us. Together, let us lead the way in championing gender equality in healthcare.

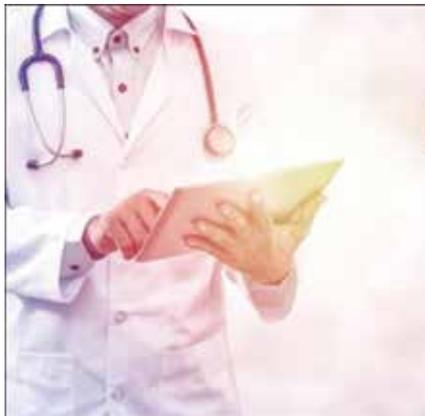
Regards,

Anju Godbole (Director - GeBBS Foundation)

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Cancer Prevention and Early Detection



From early detection to advance diagnosis, we GeBBS Foundation in partnership with Zilla Parishad and MGM Hospital is continuously providing support to the women in the rural areas. This collaboration effectively helps us to reach every corner and provide support to the needy in the rural areas of Aurangabad and Jalna.

To continue this partnership, we recently signed an MOU with the Health Department of Zilla Parishad, Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, to organize breast and cervical cancer detection programs. We also renewed our partnership with Mahatma Gandhi Mission's Medical College & Hospital, Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, for medical assistance in rural areas of the district.

Wearing masks and social distancing help reduce exposure to the virus or spreading it to others, but these measures are not enough. Vaccines will work with your immune system so it will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed. Hence it is crucial for every citizen to take part in the vaccination drive organized by their local government bodies and other bodies offering the vaccine officially. COVID-19 vaccines are effective in reducing the probability of contracting COVID-19. There are various benefits of COVID-19 vaccination.

- **Early Detection:** One of the most crucial benefits of these camps is early detection. Regular screening allows for the identification of cancer at an early stage, increasing the chances of successful treatment and better outcomes for patients.
- **Increases Awareness:** Educating people about the risk factors, symptoms, and the importance of regular screenings can empower them to take proactive steps for their health.
- **Access to Healthcare:** With our regular camps we can bridge the healthcare access gap by bringing medical services closer to communities. With our partners, we provide an opportunity for people who might not have access to regular medical check-ups to get screened for cervical and breast cancer and receive appropriate referrals if necessary.
- **Cost Effectiveness:** We at GeBBS Foundation provide a cost-effective approach to screen a large number of individuals at once with our partners. Together we help optimize the utilization of medical resources and can reach a broader section of the population compared to traditional medical facilities.
- **Psychological Support:** Our camps not only provide medical services but also offer emotional and psychological support to patients and their families. Our MGM doctors, volunteers, and nurses often provide counseling services to help individuals cope with the diagnosis and treatment journey.

As a consistent responsibility, we GeBBS Foundation is committed to spreading awareness about health issues and providing access to healthcare services. Together we make a significant impact with early detection and treatment of cancer, which will improve the chances of recovery. Our journey towards a better society continues.

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Empowering Health Camps Illuminate Women's Month

GeBBS Foundation, in conjunction with esteemed partners, organized two impactful events in the first quarter of the year to raise awareness about breast and cervical cancer detection and prevention.

Both the events took place at the Superintendent of Police office in Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, where various delegates such as Mrs. Aparna Geete Madam (Dy. Commissioner of Police), Dr. Sanjay Rathod (Dean of Government Medical College and Cancer Hospital), Mr. Manish Kalwaniya (Superintendent of Police, Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar Rural), Mrs. Mahak Swami, IPS were present. Other specialized doctors such as Dr. Arvind Gaikwad, and Dr. Archana Rathod also attended the event and delivered informative lectures on identifying cancer symptoms and emphasizing the criticality of early detection.

The event witnessed over 200 policewomen, where our GeBBS volunteers along with MGM doctors with nurses did cervical and breast cancer screening. It was an event that was appreciated by all.

Through these events, GeBBS Foundation successfully created a powerful platform to foster awareness and empower women to take charge of their health. By combining forces with empanelled partners, we GeBBS Foundation are committed to making a meaningful difference in the lives of more than 200 women, leaving a lasting impact on the community.

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Improving Education Standards of Rural Clusters

Education in rural areas is the need for the hour. Giving the children the opportunity to learn is one of our primary focus areas. We GeBBS Foundation always work towards improving education standards in rural areas.

GeBBS Foundation has been actively engaged in the Bhokardan block since June 2022, focusing on two clusters: Nalani and Bhokardan. Our primary goal is to create a stimulating and meaningful learning experience for every child in these clusters, while fostering a culture of excellence and empowerment among both teachers and students.

Through cooperation and contribution, we are shaping the future of the youth. Our key activities include fostering stronger parent involvement in their children's education, enhancing the effectiveness of School Management Committees (SMCs) by defining their roles and responsibilities, and providing valuable assistance to teachers in refining classroom processes.

The results have been remarkable, as we witness the positive transformation in the teaching-learning environment and the school community. GeBBS Foundation remains committed to its mission of making education enjoyable, meaningful, and empowering for every child and educator in these clusters. Various activities have been conducted such as:

Headmasters Meeting: On June 26, 2023, the CPS Baranjala Sable cluster headmasters met under Mr. Bhujang Sir's guidance to review the previous academic year and plan for the next one. New staff members were welcomed, achievements and challenges were discussed, and the baseline test by GeBBS Foundation will be repeated this year to measure children's progress and provide appropriate interventions. Collaboration with GeBBS Foundation was appreciated, and principals were encouraged to implement their activities regularly. The meeting concluded with Mr. Bhujang Sir's recommendations and resolutions based on relevant orders and letters from higher authorities.

Conducting Summer Camps in School: In April and May 2023, Gebbs Foundation organized an outstanding summer camp for 300 school students in Samarth Nagar, Brnjala Lokhnde, Garkheda, Lingewadi, Nalni Old & Tadegaon wadi, Bhokardan, district Jalna. The camp aimed to provide a fun and educational experience, featuring activities such as expert-led sessions in education, agriculture, art & craft, and physical exercises. Students also learned about environmental awareness and even created fruits from soil. Our goal was to inspire these young minds to continue learning and growing beyond their school break. We are grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this remarkable camp and are excited to see how these students will utilize their newfound knowledge and skills in the future!



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School Readiness Program: The school readiness program was held in both cluster schools following government guidelines. The first program was in April 2023, and the second one was in June 2023. During these programs, the children's academic progress was evaluated through fun activities and basic learning tests. They also had physical check-ups to ensure their well-being. The teachers and students were warmly welcomed to the program. Parents were actively involved, and the children were given their textbooks. The GeBBS foundation representatives were there to help the teachers and work together with the parents to make the program a success. It was a collaborative effort to ensure the children are ready for school and equipped with the necessary skills.



Interactive Programs: The GeBBS Foundation representative visited the school and interacted with the new teachers and students. He explained the foundation's work and goals to them. He also conducted some activities with the students, using the school materials and focusing on the learning outcomes of their grade. He met with the school management

committee, the sarpanch and the parents and discussed various issues related to the children's education, such as study groups, parent meetings and committee meetings.

Anti-De Addiction Program: On June 26, an awareness program against addiction took place in all schools of both clusters. Students held a rally from the village, displaying anti-drug posters and slogans. They took a collective oath to stay away from addictive substances. GeBBS Foundation representatives supported the event at Zilla Parishad School Baranjala Lokhande. Students also made announcements urging parents and community members to avoid addictive habits, and everyone pledged to steer clear of drugs and alcohol.



International Yoga Day: GeBBS Foundation celebrate International Yoga Day in thirty-one schools in the Bhokardan block, Jalna. Our foundation strongly believes in the transformative power of yoga, and we provided well-trained yoga teachers in these schools to help students learn and practice yoga. We hope this initiative will encourage young minds to embrace yoga and its numerous benefits. Let's continue to spread the message of health and wellness through the practice of yoga!

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Uniting for a Cleaner & Greener Planet



At GeBBS Foundation, we firmly believe in the power of collective action to bring about positive change and create a cleaner and healthier future for our community. In partnership with GeBBS Healthcare Solutions Pvt Ltd, we recently celebrated "World Environment Day" at Chikalthana MIDC Road, Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, with great enthusiasm.

The event witnessed the planting of an impressive assortment of over 200 native and rare tree saplings, featuring species such as Behada, Mahuva, Fahnsi, Jambhul, Paras Pimpal, Kanchan, Waval, Hirda, Pride of India/Tamhan, Shitaphal, and Ajab. Close to 40 volunteers from GeBBS Healthcare participated in this tree plantation drive. The active engagement of the volunteers added an extra layer of enthusiasm and vigor to the entire process.

Environment is another crucial area for us, and we are committed to environmental preservation and sustainability and cleanliness. As an NGO, we have conducted successful cleanliness drive that underscored our dedication to protecting our planet.

This drive was organized to address the environmental challenges in our community. The impact of this drive was remarkable, as we witnessed the enthusiastic participation of 30 dedicated volunteers. Together, we collected and destroyed waste encompassing plastics, papers, and other non-biodegradable materials.

These initiatives are a testament to GeBBS Foundation's dedication to creating a positive impact on the environment. We firmly believe that by taking proactive steps, we can contribute to a cleaner and greener planet. Let us unite and take action to protect our environment, ensuring a brighter and more sustainable future for generations to come.

As we reflect on the success of these events, we recognize that it serves as a powerful reminder of the positive change we can affect through collective action. At our core, we remain steadfast in our pursuit of safeguarding our planet and continue to encourage others to join us on this journey toward a sustainable and ecologically balanced world.

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Sports Fest for Students and Teachers: Khel Mohotsav by GeBBS Foundation



In the first quarter, GeBBS Foundation and Block Resource Group Bhokardan collaborated to organize the Khel Mohotsav, a sports festival aimed at promoting team building and physical fitness among students and teachers from Nalani and Branjala Sable clusters.

The event saw active participation from 31 schools, with a total of 450 students and 50 teachers taking part in various individual and team games. The games included

High jump, long jump, 100-meter running, 200-meter running, shot put, discus throw, as well as team games like Kho-Kho, Kabaddi, rope pulling, 100-meter relay race, cricket, and volleyball. The Khel Mohotsav witnessed the presence of several esteemed government officials, including representatives from the Resource Group of Nalani and Branjala Sabale clusters, teacher representatives, and headmasters.

To ensure the smooth execution of the event, a dedicated Sports Committee was formed within the Resource Group. The committee meticulously planned and coordinated the games and assigned two teams for direction and two teams for implementation. During the Prize distribution ceremony, GeBBS Healthcare representatives and government officials were present to felicitate the winners. A total of 76 trophies were awarded to deserving students for their exceptional performances.

The Khel Mohotsav was a huge success, fostering a sense of camaraderie among participants and emphasizing the importance of physical fitness and teamwork. Overall, the Khel Mohotsav exemplified the power of sports in fostering teamwork, physical well-being, and a sense of community among the students and teachers of the Nalani and Branjala Sable clusters. It served as a testament to the positive impact of such initiatives in the realm of education.

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Testimonials



~ Hirabai Ashok Gaikwad

“ I am Hirabai Ashok Gaikwad, a rural farmer. Months of unbearable stomachaches without proper treatment due to financial constraints took a toll on me. Thankfully, I learned about a free women's health camp by GeBBS Foundation from Asha workers. They found abdominal issues and referred me to MGM Hospital. The GeBBS Foundation volunteers arranged and supported my successful surgery. I am immensely grateful for their life-saving help and hope they continue their noble cause. ”



~ Maina Bapusaheb Sohle

“ I am Maina Bapusaheb Sohle, a 65-year-old housewife in Aurangabad. For months, I had a concerning lump on my uterus, but fear of my age kept me from seeking medical help. Unfortunately, my health started declining rapidly. We reached out to GeBBS Foundation, who promptly referred me to MGM Hospital. I went there right away and underwent the necessary tests. I am deeply grateful to GeBBS Foundation and MGM Hospital for their invaluable help and support. ”



~ Jyoti Ravindra Jadhav

“ I am Jyoti Ravindra Jadhav, a full-time homemaker. Neglecting my health due to my responsibilities, I recently felt unwell and couldn't work. I reached out to Asha workers, who told me about Sanjeevani's cancer screening camp. I attended and received a free checkup and was assisted by a GeBBS Foundation employee for hospital procedures. Following the doctor's advice, I received free treatment at MGM Hospital. I am deeply grateful to GeBBS Foundation for their unwavering support and to MGM Hospital for their caring treatment. ”

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Fact Sheet



670

Cervical and Breast cancer camps conducted.



14300

Women attended the camps.



671

Doctors participated in the health checkup camps.



673

Nurses participated in the health checkup camps.



1435

Patients were referred to the MGM hospital.



120

Patients got free treatment at MGM hospital.



1108

ASHA workers spread awareness in the rural villages.

The above activities are ongoing projects through which our volunteers and partners are continuously helping people in the rural areas, fight the Cervical & Breast cancer.

A special thanks to our partners - Mahatma Gandhi Mission (MGM) Hospital, Hedgewar Hospital and communities, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad.