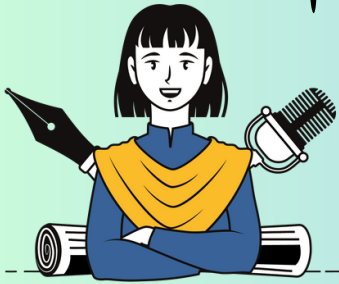


Behena Newsletter

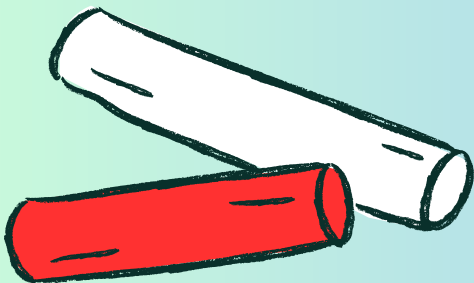
Aage Badte Raho Behena!



★ Via News Didi ★

Inspiring Women

Brooke Shields won the women of the year award in 2023. She is an author and an actor who has done significant work in the field of women empowerment and self love.



Upcoming Articles

- Hemanth's Resilient Journey- Team
- Need for skill based education - Tejal
- A tale of priority: Education or devotion- Harshita
- Cheating in exams is illegal?- Radhika
- Bihari girl gets mercilessly bullied and catcalled in college, files a petition in court against marginalization- Naisha

Women in:

- 18-year-old Kerala's 1st DGCA-licensed woman drone pilot
- Waheeda Rehman, Dadasaheb Phalke lifetime award

MEET OUR TEAM!

Team Behena Includes-



Afsaar Maniyar
Facilitator

I'm a third-year undergrad at Ashoka University, diving into Political Science, International Relations, and Media Studies. Beyond the books, you'll find me on the field—football, cricket, squash, badminton, you name it.

I am Radhika, a 8th grader of Delhi. I am passionate about learning different skills and diving into the world of mysteries. I am a couch potato and hates working.



Radhika
Student journalist



Tejal
Student journalist

Tejal is a 9 grader, who is strongly passionate to build variety of skills and believes in fighting for student voices. Who is fascinated to use the power of journalists to make a change in this community. She is a critical thinker and likes to be part of group discussions.



Harshita
Student journalist

Meet Harshita. Currently studying in 12th and pursuing PCB, she believes that every experience holds value, whether it be a challenge or a lesson learned. Hailing from rural India, she is committed to making a positive impact in her community.

Hey there! I'm just a kid trying to find her way in the world. I'm passionate about physics and mathematics academically; domestic violence, gender inequality, sustainability and climate change socially. I believe and advocate strongly for these issues, via the medium of my blog and other literary pieces. I hope to nurture, expand and evolve my talent, in order to be better prepared for the future, and live an invigorating present!



Naisha
Student journalist

I am an avid reader with an appetite to ask weird questions, and a fierce basketball player !



Hemanth
Intern

Purpose: To create a sisterhood of talented women who reflect a collective effort of voices actively rewriting narratives that challenge gender stereotypes and promote gender equality.

Mission: Our aim is to break the barriers of gender inequality, where by women actively participate in shaping the world and making strides globally. Word by word, article by article and challenge by challenge.



HEMANTH'S RESILIENT JOURNEY!!

People who do not give up even after facing difficult times are truly remarkable. Hemanth is one of the shining examples. Transforming weakness into strength is a commendable feat, he is one of the few who have such a spirit

A 17-year-old boy, Palle Hemanth Sai Reddy loves having meaningful conversations at such a young age. He is a great public speaker as he tricked 200 people for the very first time. During His journey as a great public speaker, he also gave a teacher's day speech on shenanigans by students. He even knew a bit of cooking as when he was alone he tried making chicken nuggets in a sandwich maker. This shows that he always tried to do some crazy and new things which makes him special.

Stereotypes in Sports

Something that Hemanth discovered in his childhood was that the way he got to basketball was very stereotypical while he witnessed things like "Oh he is tall so he can play basketball." Hemanth is a very perceptive sports person which made him good at basketball. In basketball slang, scoring a basket is called a 'bucket'. That's why they call it 'Jimmy Bucket' instead of 'Jimmy Butler'.

He doesn't win many matches but still, he is important because he became homeless at the age of 13 and had to handle his academics. Also, he didn't want to play basketball but he played because he thought it was a career path," said Hemanth. He emphasizes the background and the hard work over achievements.

The Unsettling Reality

"I was doing a mid-range shot, like Dirk Nowitzki or Kobe Bryant. However, I landed awkwardly on my right foot. By which I had torn my ACL, MCL ligaments along with meniscus tissue (cartilage) and suffered bone confusions in my right knee." said Hemant. Hemant has an immense interest in football. Football is not just a game it is an emotion for him. Yet, fate dealt a harsh blow, and he found himself uttering those heart-wrenching words to his mother, "Amma, I can't walk." The game paused, and a wheelchair became his reluctant chariot, ferrying him away from the field of dreams. Amidst the brutal echoes of ligaments tearing, a quieter agony emerged – the realisation that he cannot play basketball anymore hurts more. No more jumps runs, or the simple joy of jogging; these things are more painful than any physical ache. It has affected his self-esteem as what used to take second before now those things also take their full time.

For him, basketball is also a way to feel connected with people. Hemanth kept changing his houses so the only medium he had conversations was by observing the players' moves in the basketball court and talking to the spectators. This statement reflects the resilience and determination of an individual facing physical limitations.

It Feels so surreal, unreal. It has been 3 months since that injury, and he is still processing that he cannot play basketball. He is getting surgery after final exams. Then two months of bed rest, He can walk slowly. By 2025, he will be able to fully exert my body to play basketball.

Amidst the challenges, Hemanth acknowledges his progress. Battling self-pity, he reflects on his weight loss journey – from 85 kgs to dunk on a 10-foot rim to his current 100 kgs. While he immerses himself in school assignments and studying, he dedicates time on weekends to self-help and children's books, a testament to his holistic approach towards personal development.

In this unfolding narrative of resilience, Hemanth Sai Reddy emerges not just as a survivor but as an individual who thrives in the face of adversity. His story is a reminder that setbacks can be springboards for growth, and the journey to recovery is a testament to the strength of the human spirit. As he treads the path towards healing, Hemanth's story resonates as an inspiration, encapsulating the essence of courage, determination, and the unwavering pursuit of one's dreams.

Team Feature article by Team Behena

Aage Badte Raho
Behena!
Aage Padhte Raho
Behena!

NEED FOR SKILL-BASED EDUCATION

Students passing 10th-grade face issues with career decisions due to a lack of interest and knowledge about the chosen career.

There are many cases witnessed when students are not able to turn their interests or dreams into their real-life careers. One of the reasons which lead to this is when students are uncertain about their careers. To resolve this we should teach students skills to get interested and then find the right career.

Students studying in preschool and middle school are the right age students to learn a variety of skills like communication skills, critical thinking, instrumental music, sports, outdoor games, indoor games, taekwondo, swimming, skating, coding etc.

There is a strong necessity for Career Counselors to make students believe in their choices and assure them about their interests.

As Career Counselor Gauri says, "Before knowing what and why you need to be passionate about your profession you need to try operating, examine closely, and then be decisive about your career!"

Dr. Abdul Kalam believes that our education system requires certain reforms, both in terms of spirit and practicality of the knowledge imparted. In his speech at the Delhi Secretariat, he emphasised on the inclusion of skill-based education at the school level. At the event in Delhi Dr. Kalam said, "When the students pass out of senior secondary schools, they should have two certificates- of passing 10+2 examination and a specific skill acquired by him during schooling." According to him, besides the normal curriculum, the children should receive special training towards one skill set which will offer an extra certification which will not only help them get a job after school but also make them aware of how real-world industries function. To Deal with the infrastructural costs he elucidated a mobile setup consisting of engineering labs on wheels which can cover multiple schools in a day.



Tejal
Student journalist

Tejal is a 9 grader, who is strongly passionate to build variety of skills and believes in fighting for student voices. Who is fascinated to use the power of journalists to make a change in this community. She is a critical thinker and likes to be part of group discussions.

A TALE OF PRIORITY: EDUCATION OR DEVOTION!!

In a picturesque village of rural Uttarakhand individuals like Tushar Majumdar, Kavita Roy and Ajeet Malik passionately preserve the culture and traditions and at the same time their passion by making statues of God and goddesses. Through their dedication, they ensure that the vibrant colour of tradition can make their livelihood a little bit easier.

The sun is about to do its job and the moon is getting ready to shine. And I embarked on a journey to the rustic lands of rural Uttarakhand, to see how the people are passionate, dedicated and hard-working to preserve their culture.

Nanakmatta: A Tapestry of Diversity and Tradition

Nanakmatta stands as a diverse tapestry, rich in tradition, culture, and biodiversity. The community comprises Sikhs, Hindus, Muslims, and Bengalis, each group brings its tradition, making our city a colourful and diverse place to call 'home'. While Sikhs, Hindus and Muslims have roots here, the Bengali community migrated from Bangladesh. This migration brings a unique blend of tradition and custom. Their journey weaves through the challenges of limited resources and a lack of awareness about government schemes. Nanakmatta stands not only as a geographical location but also as a symbolic space where the intertwining threads of culture, challenges, and aspirations weave a compelling narrative of human perseverance and the pursuit of knowledge.

At the heart of the Bengali colony lies the annual Durga Puja. It is a ten-day-long festival celebrated because of the victory of Goddess Durga over the demon Mahishasura. This festival is a testament to the resilience of the community and their commitment to preserving their cultural heritage. In the last Durga Puja, they collectively made the new temple with the support of their people and government. They made a big investment in this new temple.

The Dilemma of Resources Allocation

"It's like the noise of prayers is so loud that we forgot about the important conversation we should be having about education," said Shubham. Shubham remarks, highlighting the urgent need to address the educational gap in the community. "I think, they are more focused on their cultural aspirations rather than investment in their children's education." Shubham shared with a hesitating voice.

Shubham, a teacher in the government school in the Bengali colony, expresses deep concern about the education of the children. As we walked home from school, he shared the challenges: a lack of teachers in the government school and the financial burden preventing parents from affording private school fees.

As I ventured deeper into Nanakmatta, I arrived at a place where some other beautiful statues were kept. The vibrant hues and intricate patterns of these statues have become a visual narrative of the culture. To delve further into the art, I had the pleasure of meeting Tushar, Kavita and Ajeet, talented artists. Their ancestral lineage has been devoted to the craft for generations, passing down the techniques and stories behind each stroke of the mud.

Different people have different views, different perspectives and different priorities. As same on the other hand, individuals like Tushar, Kavita and Ajeet got some work by this temple making, showcasing their marvellous dedication." This is the only way we can support our family. Without enough to eat, education seems secondary." Said by Tushar. This line is heart-touching. This sentiment is poignant and reflects the challenges faced by rural India. These are the 'those people who have talent but not the opportunity to showcase their talent'. Kavita shared "Many people like us here got work for a few days because of this temple" emphasizing the economic significance of cultural preservation.

In the dilemma of resource allocation, where the noise of prayers competes with the urgency for education, there lies a delicate balance. The importance of preserving cultural heritage is undeniable, but it coexists with the crucial need for education and awareness. The Bengali community's investment in the new temple is commendable, yet Shubham's concerns highlight the necessity of a parallel focus on education.

In Nanakmatta, where diversity thrives, and traditions are cherished, the challenge lies in finding harmony between the echoes of tradition and the whispers of education, creating a future where both can flourish side by side.



Harshita
Student journalist

Meet Harshita. Currently studying in 12th and pursuing PCB, she believes that every experience holds value, whether it be a challenge or a lesson learned. Hailing from rural India, she is committed to making a positive impact in her community.

CHEATING IN EXAMS IS ILLEGAL?

When students cheat in exams, is it just about doing something wrong or does it go beyond that? Let's dig into the reasons why students cheat and see how are culture might be making it more common:

Each and every students have cheated in the exams at least once. Have you ever wondered why cheating in exams is a very common issue? There are various reasons and points of views of students and teachers about the terrible cheating culture in exams.

I had a school exam few days ago, and I saw lots of my fellow classmates cheating. I wandered what is the main reason of these students cheating in the exam even if the paper was easy. I asked two of my friends and this is what they said : "students do not study because they thinks their friends will help them." "They have a fear of failing." Cheating is an easy and effective way of getting higher marks. That's why most students cheat. "Even if they know the answers, they cheat to confirm it." "It is their habit to cheat." This is what my friends said. I see all these statements going right.

I feel an urge to cheat whenever I see someone else cheating. The urge of getting higher marks were always with us, from the starting. I wanted to have the POV of teachers so I interviewed a teacher in my school. She said, "the competition is too high to make them feel like cheating." "Some students even enjoy taking the risk so they cheat." I think, our culture too is promoting all these. The parents pressurise their children to study and get 98%. It is too difficult. Due to the increasing population, the competition is also getting higher. They get stressed, have lots of mental illness and cheat, just to get higher scores. Sometimes, the students who got high marks due to cheating gets appreciated and the student who studied all night get a tag of loser. Even the parents starts to compare them. The pressure of getting higher marks is one of the main reasons why students cheat.

Is it really illegal? The question arises. The answer is YES. Cheating is a CRIME under the IPC section 420. It's punishment vary according to the place and the situation. For example, in school or college exams, student might get suspended, getting expelled, and more if they get caught. In higher exams, students even go to jail for up to three years and minimum fine of rs 1 lakh if they get caught cheating. Exam boards are highly against it and has different punishments for cheating.

In conclusion, we understood the reasons why students cheat in exam. They cheat for various reasons such as fear of low marks, pressure from parents and families, competition, and more. We saw if cheating in exam is illegal and learnt about the punishments for cheating. For instance, you might even go to jail if you cheat in higher exams.

Cheating in exams is a bad thing, not just because you got higher marks without any hardwork but also because you are stealing someone hardwork and getting higher marks and appreciation. Let's create honest exam halls, free of cheating and be more confident of our answers.



Radhika

Student journalist

I am Radhika, a 8th grader of Delhi. I am passionate about learning different skills and diving into the world of mysteries. I am a couch potato and hates working.

BIHARI GIRL GETS MERCILESSLY BULLIED AND CATCALLED IN COLLEGE, FILES A PETITION IN COURT AGAINST MARGINALIZATION

In Delhi, a determined young woman who managed to get into one of the most prestigious colleges in the country has taken an active step in curbing discrimination in India. This valiant young woman's background is not without trials and tribulation either. Read on to find out more.

Born to relatively liberal and unorthodox parents against the patriarchal and starkly dichotomous orthodox background of Bihar was a little girl of humble, yet conservative origins. Albeit her parents cherished her as their pride and joy, the young soul was nonetheless a disappointment to those that would prefer a firstborn son to carry the mantle of the family legacy; to the barbaric extent that her grandmother was the one to not so subtly hint at female infanticide to the young child's mother, at a rather paradoxically casual dinnertable conversation.

“My daughter is the light of my life, the person I love the most; I was deeply enraged and rather appalled at how my mother in law could ever fathom the vicious thought of claiming an innocent soul, let alone her own flesh and blood,” said Meena, the mother of the little girl that would go on to become the woman that would pave a way for all Indian women aspiring to be engineers or STEM majors, the woman that would fight misogyny and sexism in education in all her feminine glory, the woman that the world would come to know as Mohini Kumari.

Discovering her passion:

Raised by two ferociously strong and confident individuals, Mohini grew up to be an empowered young woman. Aged 14, she had an epiphanous moment while reading her science textbook. After being thoroughly galvanized by the miraculous discoveries of Sir. Albert Einstein Mohini decided to pursue a career in engineering. At 16, still motivated by

her deep passion for the non medical sciences, and encouraged by her parents, (who were rather condemned by their neighbors for heeding such 'atrocious' thoughts from a naive female) Mohini decided to attempt the incredibly trying JEE Advanced examination, for admission into the most prestigious engineering colleges in India.

Two years of excruciating hard work, sleepless nights, early mornings, tenacity, perseverance and determination bore fruit as Mohini got into the finest engineering college in Delhi- DDU; furthermore the young aspirant proved her mettle by attaining the most sought after course-Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence. "It was the happiest moment of my life; two years of bleeding blood, sweat and tears had finally become worth it!" exclaimed Mohini, describing her victorious feeling of triumph. However, the victory would soon prove to be short lived.

Facing harsh realities of modern India:

Filled with bubbling anticipation as she was just about to explore the plethora of magic in the world beyond the bubble that she had until then been confined to, Mohini walked into the four walls of her classroom, a place that had promised to be a fountain of knowledge, but proved to be a rather ruthless place. One of only three women in her class, Mohini was the only one to come from a marginalized background; a fact that her classmates leveraged against her mercilessly. She was catcalled and bullied, diabolically pushed by her so-called 'peers' to feel uncivilized and primitive because of the clothes she put on her back, her mannerisms of consuming food and the way she worshiped her books.

"They were remorseless, made of me what the devil would make of goodness. Reliving the pain is agony for me," said Mohini as she wiped a tear from her cheek and another from her glassy eye.

Broken emotionally, Mohini found herself at a great dilemma: she no longer had the mental resources that could condone being back in that classroom, and neither could she bear to see the look on her parents' face were she to drop out.

The final battle:

Shattered, albeit she might have been, she was the daughter to what she believed to be 'the greatest pairing in this world to exist'; gathering her strength from her bloodline thus, she decided to embody the woman her parents raised her to be and mustered up the courage to put up her greatest fight. She filed a petition in court against those that wronged her. While the petition is under review, and she may never be able to present her case to court, her wrongdoers have nonetheless been defamed; she has gone out in public and spoken vehemently against oppression of any academy, via the medium of a successful youtube channel.

Currently, Mohini is in her third year of engineering and will soon become an exemplary software developer, along with a myriad of feathers that bedeck her cap.



Naisha

Student journalist

Hey there! I'm just a kid trying to find her way in the world. I'm passionate about physics and mathematics academically; domestic violence, gender inequality, sustainability and climate change socially. I believe and advocate strongly for these issues, via the medium of my blog and other literary pieces. I hope to nurture, expand and evolve my talent, in order to be better prepared for the future, and live an invigorating present!