

BEYOND THE NEWS

WELCOME TO OUR

Weekly Newsletter

NOTE FROM THE TEAM

The logo for Beyond the News, featuring the text "BEYONDTHENEWS" in white, uppercase, sans-serif font, centered within a black rounded square.

Beyond the News is a platform where diverse perspectives unite to fuel change. We, the media minds representing the youth of India, are eager for transformation in various fields. Believing in the power of typing leadership, we see Beyond the News as an ideal platform for deep dives into social issues. We strive to illuminate the unexplored topics. Our mission is to create awareness, ignite passion, and empower the younger generation. We aim to explore not just news but also entertainment, fashion, and trending topics. Our news seeks to instill empathy, a vital need for this generation.

↓ In this newsletter you will find:

Stories that needed to be uncovered. Join us and Keep Reading!

TEAM PROFILE



Hello, I'm a facilitator for the Reimagining Media Program Cohort of November for Via News Didi. I love all things blue, like blue skies reflected on the sea, and me in a blue saree by the sea. I deeply care about writing stories and listening to stories on mental wellness, beyond just illness and the need to educate our hearts just as much we educate our minds.

Namaste! I'm an Intern at Via News Didi's Re-imagining media program. I'm that average teenage girl who loves travelling, theatre, music and journalism. I enjoy learning philosophy and psychology. :)



Hey there! I'm Nandini Jaithalia—chocolate enthusiast, music lover, and a die-hard fan of Novak Djokovic. I love to swim and sing, and I'm proudly rocking the ambivert life. I love uncovering stories that really matter, stories that resonate with people. So, here's to the chill vibes, good tales, and making cool connections. Sayonara!



TEAM PROFILE



Hey there, I'm Pratiksha, a 10th-grade student journalist on a mission. I'm driven by a strong belief that the media holds the power to shape opinions and influence society. My passion for journalism isn't just about reporting news; it's about ensuring that information is a force for good. I'm determined to bring about a change in our media landscape, advocating for truthful reporting that empowers people rather than manipulates them.

Hey, I am Rahul Pokhariya. I feel that learning about media involves more than just consuming entertainment; it also involves sharpening our critical thinking abilities, gaining perspective on the world, and getting ready to take an active and educated role in society. I want to learn more about this field and I aim to do so by joining News Didi



Hey, I'm Payal Rathod, a student journalist from Pune. Driven by a fervent commitment to catalyze change in the education system, I am deeply passionate about reshaping the future of learning. Thrilled to be part of this dynamic team, I'm dedicated to bringing engaging narratives to life and contributing my enthusiasm and ideas to our collective efforts in making a positive impact on education.

EQUITY IN EDUCATION: UNMASKING THE DIVIDE BETWEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN PUNE

By Payal Rathod

In Pune's educational scene, a noticeable gap exists between public and private schools. This article explores the contrasting experiences of students in these settings, examining teaching methods, resources, and school culture.

In the vibrant educational landscape of Pune, where the promise of learning paves the way for future aspirations, a stark dichotomy exists within the walls of public and private schools. As students embark on their academic journeys, the divergence in resources, teaching approaches, and overall school culture becomes increasingly pronounced.

This article embarks on a compelling exploration into the heart of Pune's classrooms, where the experiences of students like Payal Rathod unfold as poignant examples of a broader educational disparity. Through an intricate lens of stakeholders, we navigate the nuances, challenges, and potential solutions that shape the educational destiny of Pune's youth. Join us on a journey to unravel the layers of inequality, seeking not just understanding but a blueprint for a more equitable educational future.

In Pune, the variance in teaching approaches between public and private schools creates a distinctive educational landscape. Barnali, a dedicated teacher at GG International School Pune, sheds light on the impact of resources: "Having well-equipped classrooms and access to modern teaching aids enhances the overall learning experience. We can implement innovative teaching methods, making education more engaging and effective."

On the flip side, Archana Ghantelu, a teacher at a PCMC school in Chinchwad, emphasizes the challenges faced in public schools: "Limited resources often constrain our ability to adopt new teaching methodologies. We strive to make the most of what we have, but the lack of modern tools hampers our efforts to provide a dynamic learning environment."

The statistics echo this stark reality. Private schools, with their higher tuition fees, often boast superior infrastructure. According to DISE 2019-20, 80.4% of private schools in Pune have a functional library, while the number drops to 55.4% for government schools.

Vaishnavi, an eighth-grade student at a PCMC school in Chinchwad, expresses the thirst for knowledge among public school students: "We are eager to know the world beyond textbooks, but limited resources hold us back. Access to better facilities could broaden our horizons and fuel our curiosity."

Shravani Raut, a student at Mount Carmel School in Sangavi, Pune, emphasizes the role of resources in her educational journey: "Our school library, well-equipped laboratories, and extracurricular facilities provide a holistic learning experience. These resources contribute significantly to our overall growth."

Beyond teaching methods and resources, school culture is pivotal in shaping a student's educational voyage. Private schools often boast a more vibrant and inclusive environment, fostering extracurricular activities and holistic development.


Shravani Raut highlights the importance of school culture at Mount Carmel: "Our school encourages us to explore our interests beyond academics. The emphasis on cultural activities, sports, and clubs enhances our overall personality."

In contrast, public schools, burdened by limited funds, struggle to provide a diverse cultural experience. Archana Ghantelu reflects on this challenge: "While we recognize the importance of extracurricular activities, the financial constraints often limit our ability to offer a wide array of cultural programs and events."

In a city where aspirations soar high, the question lingers – can educational disparities be minimized in Pune? The interviews with teachers and students reflect a collective desire for change.

Barnali from GG International School believes, "Investing in public education is crucial. Adequate funding, training for teachers, and upgrading infrastructure can bridge the gap." Archana Ghantelu, echoing the sentiments of many public school educators, asserts, "Equal opportunities for all students can only be achieved through increased government support. Addressing resource gaps and investing in teacher training are essential steps."

As the narratives unfold, it becomes evident that the solution lies in concerted efforts from policymakers, educators, and the community. Pune's educational future, vibrant and promising, awaits a transformation that ensures every student, regardless of their school gate, has an equal shot at success.



Delving deeper into the disparities, let's examine the data that underscores the gap between public and private education in Pune.

Student Achievement: A Study by NSSO

A study by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) found that students in private schools in Pune perform better than those in government schools concerning learning outcomes. The average test scores of students in private schools were higher than those in government schools across all levels of education.

Enrollment Rates: Insights from DISE

According to the District Information System for Education (DISE) 2019-20, the proportion of students enrolled in private schools in elementary education in Pune was 31.4%, up from 28.7% in 2014-15. The enrollment rate in private schools is higher in urban areas (43.5%) than in rural areas (25.2%).



THE ENGLISH VINGLISH PARADOX: A CONVERSATION WITH MY NON- ENGLISH NANA

By Nandini Jaithalia

In a candid interview, I sit down with my non-English-speaking Nana to discuss the nuances of language in our ever-evolving world.

This was going to be an article about my nana's struggle with not knowing English in this society. Specifically, it was going to be about highlighting how without not knowing English, Nana managed to raise a family, run a household, and contribute to her community.

But when I listened to her story, I realized that this story needed to be about more than her struggles with not knowing English. This should be about how the very perception of English has been connected to modernism in our society.

My Nana is 60 years old now living near the small town of Kanyakumari about 90 km from Madurai. Growing up, English wasn't something my nana paid much mind to. In her world, wisdom wasn't about how fluently you could string together English words. It was about actions and heart, a lesson that, as I've come to realize, holds more weight than the world gives it credit for.

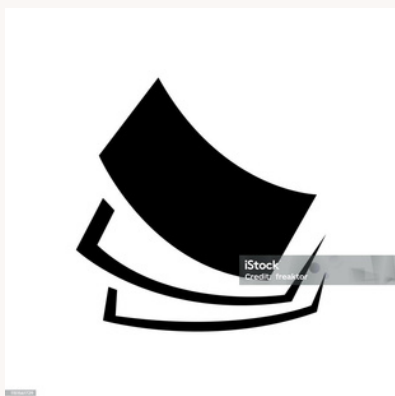


“In my time, you showed what you knew by doing, not by talking fancy,” she says with a playful glint in her eye. As she spoke, it was as if she held the secret recipe for living life, and it had nothing to do with conjugating verbs or mastering complex sentence structures. Her entire persona, a roadmap of years gone by, had stories to tell. “My work spoke louder than their words ever could,” she chuckles, as if her fingers were the pen, and she was writing her story of a life well-lived. It was her way of saying that hard work didn't need a language; it spoke for itself, a universal dialect that transcended linguistic boundaries.

"I may not speak English fluently, but I speak the language of the heart," she exclaims, her smile softening any judgment that came her way. For her, emotions didn't come with an English manual. They flowed freely, breaking through any linguistic dam in their way. It was a reminder that connections run deeper than the words we use to express them and she exclaims "

The younger generations see me as someone who could not be a part of their conversations," her eyes wandering back to times when stories weren't confined to English alone. Her stories become poignant examples, shedding light on a broader issue wherein proficiency in English unintentionally becomes a prerequisite for participation in certain spheres.

"I may not know English, but I know life," she says, telling me about instances where she got through the worst moments of life with connections that she had made.



In a world obsessed with fancy words, she stood her ground, reminding everyone that knowing how to live well has no connection to knowing English.

In my conversation and laughter shared with my nana, there's a lesson the world seems to miss. English might be the flavor of modernism, but it's not the only spice in the pot. My nana's world was colored with a palette of regional languages and dialects, each stroke adding depth to her life's canvas. In the bigger scheme of things, we forget that wisdom isn't confined to the language in which it's spoken and that my nana's voice rings clear. It's in the stories told through her actions, in the language of the heart that needs no translation, and in a life well-lived, no matter the linguistic shade it wears.

BREAKING THE SILENCE

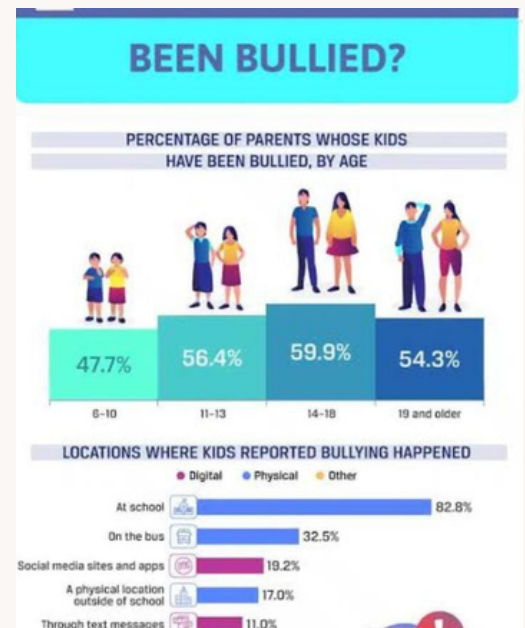
By Pratiksha Pawar

This article exposes the pervasive issue of bullying, revealing its hidden darkness. Despite its apparent normalcy, bullying's underestimated and far-reaching effects are explored, shedding light on this troubling social phenomenon.

Bullying seems normal, but it digs deep, causing serious harm. We've gotten used to it, not realizing how much damage it truly does.

Around 160,000 teens have missed school due to bullying, revealing its impactful reach. Students enduring frequent bullying not only suffer emotionally but also experience lower academic performance, scoring below their peers who encounter less or no bullying. This highlights the interconnected challenges bullying poses to both mental well-being and educational success.

Verbal harassment takes the lead as the most prevalent form of bullying at 79%, followed by social harassment at 50%, physical bullying at 29%, and cyberbullying at 25%. Alarmingly, 42% of bullied students attribute their experiences to characteristics like physical appearance (30%), race (10%), gender (8%), disability (7%), ethnicity (7%), religion (5%), and sexual orientation (4%). This underscores the diverse and harmful ways in which bullying manifests, targeting individuals based on various aspects of their identity.



“More than half of students aged 12-18, facing bullying, feel their bullies possess the power to shape their peers' opinions. School hours become breeding grounds for bullying, often centered around physical appearance. Whether executed individually or in groups, bullying exacts both short-term and enduring impacts. Lasting effects encompass depression and post-traumatic stress disorder, while immediate consequences include shattered confidence, persistent fear, and other profound emotional challenges.

The pervasive influence of bullying casts a shadow over both the present and future well-being of those affected. Studies reveal that 1 in 5 students experiences bullying, a concerning statistic. Doctors emphasize that despite its apparent normalcy, bullying yields significant and lasting effects. School counselor Manali underscores the modern trend of cyberbullying, where posting a photo on social media subjects individuals to societal beauty standards.

The younger generation, influenced by these standards, begins living by others' opinions, providing a fertile ground for the inception of bullying. While cyberbullying may be less prevalent in schools, the pervasive issues of verbal and physical bullying persist, making it crucial to address these multifaceted challenges. Bullying typically unfolds as a means to assert control over others, succinctly expressed by the equation: Purpose + Intentional Behavior = Gaining Power and Control.

According to the counselor, personality plays a pivotal role; those with aggressive tendencies and deficient social skills often engage in mutual bullying. In contrast, individuals with shyness are less likely to make derogatory comments.

Her advice resonates with wisdom as she encourages students to surround themselves with those who accept them for who they are, fostering an environment of positivity rather than one that fosters feelings of inadequacy.

The student, a victim of bullying, bravely reveals the profound impact on her well-being: "It triggered anxiety and eroded my confidence. I became more aggressive, undergoing a noticeable change in behavior. The sense of safety vanished, reaching a point where dropping out of school seemed like an option. Yet, I kept silent, fearing that others would dismiss it as commonplace, unable to comprehend the profound effects it had on me." Her words shed light on the silent struggles endured by victims, emphasizing the need for understanding and support in addressing the pervasive issue of bullying.

Bullying inflicts profound harm, underscoring the importance of fostering mindfulness and empathy. Choosing companions who value and treat you with significance is paramount. In a world where the impact of our interactions is substantial, cultivating relationships that recognize each other's worth becomes a collective responsibility, contributing to a safer and more compassionate environment for everyone.

FOSTERING GENDER SENSITIVITY IN INDIAN SCHOOLS: A CALL FOR CHANGE

By Rahul Pokhariya

Prioritizing gender sensitivity in educational institutions is vital provided India's diversified location, as it finds a balance among tradition and modernity. This article explores the common customs, using "Unknowingly School" as an example of how gender dynamics are evolving.

Gender sensitivity in educational institutions is more important than ever in India's diverse mosaic, where traditions and modernity exist together. India remains a country with significant gender inequalities. This article explores the standard practices and clarifies the particular situation in schools through the case study of "Unknowingly School," in which unsuspecting behaviors are changing the structure of gender relations.

The Current Landscape

India, a nation with a rich cultural past, has historically struggled with gender disparities. The school system, which is sometimes seen as a tiny replica of society, is crucial in influencing people's views and actions. Despite being in place, the Gender Sensitivity Standards in Indian Schools encounter difficulties in their execution. Construction of gender attitudes and perceptions of gender norms occurs during ages 10–19 years and during this time, adolescents engage with and construct their gender-based understanding of what it means to be a boy or a girl (Blum, Mmari, & Moreau, 2017)

Unraveling Unknowingly School's Reality

Unaware of Like many other institutions, schools unintentionally contribute to an environment that is less than ideal for gender relations. The administration is unaware that a troubling trend is developing within its confines. Maybe unaware of the consequences, boys make concealed comments that criticize their female peers. This accidental propagation of gender stereotypes governs the social dynamics of the school. To tackle this challenge we started a project named "Project Dot" in our school.

The project Dot

Project Dot is a school initiative aimed at fostering gender sensitivity among teenagers by creating an inclusive and informed environment. Its mission is to raise awareness about gender-related issues, promote respectful communication, and dismantle stereotypes within the school community. Through engaging workshops, interactive sessions, and awareness campaigns, Project Dot seeks to empower students with the knowledge and skills to challenge preconceptions, foster empathy, and build a culture of equality.

Method

Project Dot employs a comprehensive approach, integrating both quantitative and qualitative data. Through surveys and metrics, we gather numerical insights into attitudes and perceptions. Simultaneously, qualitative methods, such as interviews and focus groups, provide nuanced perspectives and personal narratives, enriching our understanding and enabling us to tailor interventions that resonate with the diverse experiences of our school community.

Outcomes:

The majority of the kids were not aware of the distinction between gender and sex. Following the qualitative portion, some students said, "We are in 9th grade, we have no idea about this." Others have claimed that "both are the same thing there is no difference between them." It is not their fault; there are many other factors at play. 'Promoting gender sensitivity in schools is critical to establishing a culture of equality and respect,' stated the school's principal. It gives pupils the ability to challenge preconceptions, encourages inclusivity, and lays the groundwork for good relationships. By establishing these principles at a young age, we contribute to a future in which individuals thrive in an environment devoid of gender biases'. Biology teacher Mr. Pandey explains this scene in different words about hormones.

Elements Contributing to the Issue

According to this survey and secondary resources, these are the following reasons:

Lack of Awareness: Both students' and teachers' lack of awareness is one of the leading causes of this issue's prevalence. Due to its delicate nature, the issue is often overlooked, enabling it to fester and become embedded in the school's culture.

Insufficient Sexual Education: The issue is made more severe by the absence or insufficiency of thorough sexual education. Students may be unaware of the consequences of their behavior or how crucial it is to treat one another with respect.

Social Influence: Stereotypes and wider societal norms have a big impact as well. Because schools are mirror images of society, they unintentionally reinforce these biases and encourage negative behavior.

Absence of Reporting Mechanisms: Victims are left without an appropriate way to address their concerns when there is no resilient reporting mechanism established for such incidents. This silence provides those responsible more confidence, continuing the vicious cycle.

Enhance Sex Education:

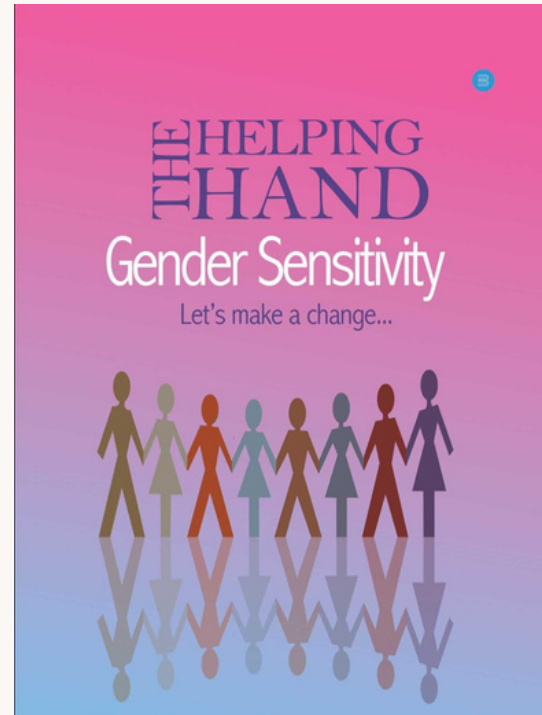
Incorporate talks about consent, courteous interaction, and healthy relationships into the present sex education curriculum. Students will gain the knowledge essential to make wise decisions as a result, and respect for one another will develop.

Establish Reporting Channels:

Provide students with a way to speak privately about issues related to their concerns. This will give victims a safe place to come forward and allow the school to quickly resolve problems.

Sensitization Workshops for

Teachers: Provide workshops to teachers to raise their awareness of gender-related issues and give them the tools they need to deal with them productively. Teachers are very important in influencing the mindsets and behaviors of their students.



Parental Involvement: Helping parents in creating a more gender-neutral atmosphere. Parents can learn about the school's efforts and be inspired to adhere to these values at home by attending workshops and seminars.

In conclusion, Unknowingly School serves as a microcosm of the deeper problems that Indian educational institutions confront. Schools can set the stage for a more welcoming and respectful society by proactively addressing gender sensitivity. The time for change has come, and it is the responsibility of every educational institution to serve as a spark for this revolutionary movement.

