





# THE TIMES OF SHAKTI

### HOLISTIC EDUCATION FOR THE MARGINALIZED GIRL CHILD

"Everyone who witnessed them was mesmerized and loved their presence. God bless these girls; they deserve everything in life."

Mihir Karmakar General Secretary Purbapalli Durgabari Samiti, Gurgaon



How we do one thing is how we do everything! An ethos that Shaktis are taught to live by and this reflects in the way they present themselves, on and off stage. Discipline in food habits will often translate into discipline in homework. Confidence while speaking in English shows up as confidence in learning a new skill. Sarvam Shaktis have had over 100 showcases in 2023 across many audiences and have only continued to enthrall them with their talent, personalities, skill sets, and compassion. As Sarvam enters the 10th year of its inception, I can, with much surety say, when we educate girls, we educate communities. But when we unleash girls, we unleash Shaktis!

Mrs. Nehha Bhatnagar Founder

This quarter has been a game-changer. Kids have grown with immense confidence and are now trying various things. Earlier, we had 20-30 girls performing; now, we have 125 girls performing. In the past, the strength was more in yoga and less in dance. Now, even those dancers who were only turning for a month and a half have started practicing more. They're getting on the stage, speaking in English, and just being themselves—shaping up their minds, bodies, and thoughts. The behavior pattern has changed. Internally, the girls have disciplined themselves more, keeping track of their time and dressing up cleanly as they are performing in many places, and have realized that their behavior matters a lot. So, there is a lot of hope for the future, all these girls are shaping up so well.

Mrs. Hemangi Bhatnagar Chief Empowerment Officer

Q

# kahaani













# Simran and Kritika

Introducing Simran and Kritika, two remarkable young talents whose journey with us has been marked by extraordinary courage and exceptional skill.

### #humansofshakti



Simran, a 12th-grade student(on the right) from Sikanderpur Ghosi, Gurugram, shines as a dedicated practitioner of yoga and dance. Recently appointed as the head girl at The Pine Crest School, Simran's leadership and commitment to excellence set an inspiring example for her peers.

Kritika, an impressive 11th-grade student (on the left) from West Bengal currently residing in Sikanderpur Ghoshi, Gurugram, has made significant improvements in spoken English and Hindi. Kritika is full of positive energy and confidence. Recently, she participated in a dance competition in Chandigarh and stood 4th at the state level. She demonstrates exceptional proficiency in Bharatnatyam and captivates the audience with her facial expressions.









# **Air India Event**

Click on the YouTube button to check out our YouTube video to see the glimpse of the event!



30 Shaktis performed at the event leaving the audience wide-eyed with awe!!









On Nov 22, 2023, our 30 Shaktis owned the stage at the 'Saarthi Day' conducted by the Paxton Foundation for Air India. No nerves, just pure confidence!

They presented an impressive classical dance, yoga, and delivered speeches in plain English. Yep, they're breaking barriers!!

CEO of Air India praised them for delivering a power-packed performance at such a young age. Other NGOs appreciated our girls too.

From mere dreams to smashing them, our Shaktis prove that dreams can come true.























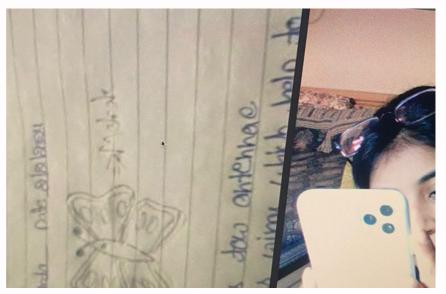




# OTHER MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

### **SHAKTI SPEAK - ENGLISH TEACHING PROGRAMME (ETP)**





The "English Teaching Programme (ETP)," offers engaging online sessions 3 days a week, to the girls, to improve their spoken English skills. This is done with the kind participation of our teacher volunteers who work with us virtually to impart education to our little ones.

Currently, with 18 dedicated teachers, under the supervision of Mr. Priyansh and the guidance of Ms. Hemangi Bhatnagar, we are creating an interactive and fun-based learning environment that enhances their linguistic abilities.

- 5 students are taught in a batch by one teacher.
- Online sessions are enriched with engaging learning exercises and interactive games.
- The program integrates social and emotional learning.





















### **SEARCH US ON GOOGLE**



The Sarvam girls presented their classical dances and Yoga pieces on the songs such as "NAMO-NAMO", "GANAYAKA", and "SWAGATAM KRISHNA"...

### INDIA HABITAT CENTRE, LODHI ROAD, DELHI

On **October 13th**, we were privileged to witness a Bharatanatyam performance by our **six senior** Shaktis: **Simran, Anjali, Shivani, Shweta, Priyanka, and Jyoti**. This event not only provided opportunities but also served as a platform to explore diversity and culture.

These performers come from humbled backgrounds, juggling rehearsals, chores, internships, college, school classes, and studies. Their dedication is pure determination and resilience.

The applause and cheers from the audience, including **Guru Raja Choudhary Ji**, reflected the excellence of the performance.

READ MORE





# MUSICAL EVENING AT CARLTON SOCIETY, GURUGRAM

Now, every girl is brave enough for the stage and can do things she was scared of before. She gets to go on stage and show what she can do, shattering the chains that held her back. They have learned to deliver confident speeches, dance, and do yoga in front of everyone. Being classical dance performers, they have also learnt folk dances well.

### A day at ISKCON TEMPLE, SOUTH DELHI



**BREAKTHROUGHS** 



**Neelam** (our senior Shakti) said on the day we visited Iskcon for Shakti performance: 'Without Sarvam, we'd miss this beauty.'

Divine vibes, dance, and **100+** yoga mats from **Inner Wheel Club** – unforgettable!

Check out the <u>blog link</u> to know more about the day!

















### **Apparel House, Gurugram**

On October 14, 2023, Shaktis were invited to perform at BJP Volunteer **Meet**, in the month of October at The Apparel House, Sec-44, Gurgaon. The girls presented their professionally choreographed pieces of dance and Yoga, on the songs, "Ganayaka" & and "Vande Mataram".

### **READ MORE**



### Kalatmak Fest at Heritage School, Delhi

December 23 2023. the prestigious Heritage School opened its doors to embrace the power of the Shaktis. Classical dance and Folk dance were performed by Sarvam girls. Introduction speeches were given by Mansi, who confidently spoke in **English**. We take pride to witness the improvement in the Spoken English skills of the Shaktis.







### **DURGA PUJA**



Our Sarvam Shakti girls lit up three awesome spots on **Durga Puja**, bringing the good vibes everywhere.

First stop - Club5, Sector-15, Gurgaon, on October 20th. The crowd The crowd cheered enthusiastically, genuinely caught up in the excitement. The applause was loud enough to wake up the whole town.

Next up - Purbapalli Durgabari Samiti, Sector-15, Gurgaon, on October 23rd. The love they got was off the charts! They kept the audience hooked with yoga and dance.

And let's not forget our Vasant Kunj Shaktis, they made everyone in the audience turn their heads, with their moms cheering them on. Fierce and powerful, just like Durga.

> Check out our blog to know more about the event













### CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION ON 14TH NOVEMBER

14th November marked by Children's Day, was a day of fun, celebration, and immense outflow of emotions. Mrs. Hemangi Bhatnagar, Vijay Bhaiya, Bina Di, Alka Mam, and others all joined in with the kids, adding joy and warmth to the occasion, making their day more special and fun.



### **Check out the CHILDREN'S DAY video**





### **NEW YEAR CELEBRATION ON THE 31ST OF DECEMBER**





This New Year's Eve, the grand celebration unfolded at Adani Samsara Vilasa, a momentous occasion eagerly anticipated each year.

Our Shaktis gathered at this esteemed venue, putting on an exceptional performance in a lively setting. They danced to different tunes, mixing it up with classical and folk moves. It was a real cultural mash-up, and the stage buzzed with energy and excitement.

They executed their diverse dance styles, making the celebration even more noteworthy. A special touch was added as they were honored and escorted by esteemed army personnel, receiving tremendous respect and making the celebration even more memorable.



















2023, December 8th, Mondelez International, Inc. brought a touch of sweetness to our **Gurgaon centre**. Their generous distribution of chocolates and biscuits brightened the day for our Shaktis, creating moments of joy and gratitude.

Amid the delicious treats, our Shaktis danced with pure enthusiasm to the tunes of different rhythms, showcasing their diverse talents. The Mondelez guests were not only treated to a visual feast but also experienced the confidence and shine on the faces of Sarvam girls.

Adding to the celebration, our **young juniors** delivered heartfelt **English** speeches, speechless. leaving the visitors The potential and spark of our Sarvam girls filled the hearts of the guests with deep emotions of appreciation and pride.

### **CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION ON 25TH DECEMBER**

The day dedicated to Lord Jesus was marked with a special celebration where love and laughter filled the air. We joyfully celebrated Christmas with our Shaktis. From lively DUMB CHARADES to preparing khichdi, joy and connection were the true highlights.























### Check out the video







In a recent workshop led by VIPS students, Shaktis explored "Menstrual Health & Hygiene," promoting holistic well-being and confident living.

They discovered the eco-friendly and cost-effective benefits of menstrual cups and washable cloth pads. The session encouraged a shift towards ecoconscious choices, advocating yoga, rest, and healthy eating for natural cramp relief.

Breaking period taboos, the workshop fostered open conversations, emphasizing self-care and the positive impact of a healthy lifestyle on menstrual health. Shaktis are now empowered, embracing the strength periods bring.













# **CORE TEAM TESTIMONIAL**





For the girls at Sarvam Shakti, sky is the limit. All they need to be shown is the right path and thereon they just stay focussed as they have the grit in them to make it happen and achieve the desired results.

The discipline in their food habits like: Avoiding junk food, knowledge about nutrition, power packed foods, healthy recipes for the family, foods that are good for their well being is immense. They are excellent learners and its always a pleasure to take nutrition sessions with them.

I wish them success in all their endeavors.

Chetna Kapur Nutritionist

















# **TEAM TESTIMONIALS**



My internship at the Sarvam Foundation has been a great experience. I'm grateful to the organization, especially Kritika Ma'am. Here, learning and growth were actively encouraged. The knowledge and experience gained will undoubtedly propel me forward in my HR journey.

Anusha Verma **Human Resource Intern** 

As a Shakti Project Manager, these past months have been a revelation. It's been a journey filled with discoveries and opportunities. The last quarter of 2023 brought a gift of learning for me. I explored the domains of social media and website management. The work culture at Sarvam feels like a garden where the flowers of cooperation, support, and love are always blooming. Working with supportive seniors and a dynamic team of interns and volunteers has been a joy. The positivity of the Shaktis and their warm smiles have been my daily inspiration.



Kritika Saraf **Project Specialist** 



I feel blessed to be a part of the Sarvam Foundation. As an Operations intern handling various departments, I've experienced incredible growth. Learning from both my colleagues and the inspiring Shaktis, the dynamic work environment has fueled my professional and personal development. Grateful for this enriching experience!

Ayra Iqbal **Operations Intern** 

Being a part of the Sarvam Foundation's ETP Program has been utterly surreal. This opportunity to contribute to the education and edification of marginalized girls, whom we call Shaktis because of the power and potential they represent, has brought me immense joy; especially, when I see the change I have brought in my students' lives.



Priyansh V. Singh **ETP Supervisor** 



I had the privilege of working as an ETP intern at Sarvam Shakti. It was more than a job; it was a soul-stirring journey. Their commitment to empowering marginalized girls fueled my passion. Thanks to Hemangi Ma'am and Neha Ma'am for creating such a nurturing haven. Sarvam isn't just an organization; it's our heartfelt home!

Noor-Un-Nisa **ETP Educator** 





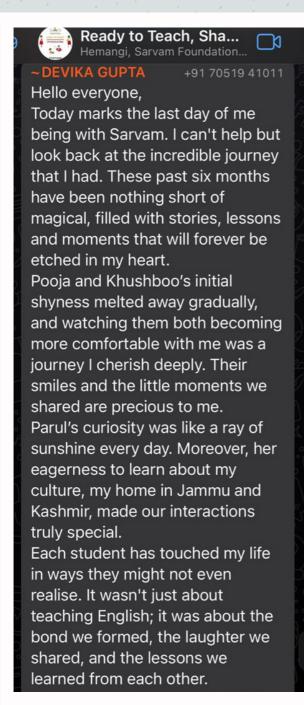








### Screenshots of the heart-warming TESTIMONIALS sent by our **ETP** interns





Working alongside the incredible team at Sarvam Shakti foundation has been an honour. Their dedication to this noble cause is truly commendable, and I feel privileged to have been a part of it. As I take my leave, I carry with me not just memories but lessonslessons in kindness, perseverance, and the profound impact education has on shaping lives. Thank you for making my time here unforgettable. Though my journey as an intern ends today, the friendships made and the experiences shared will stay with me forever.











### GRATEFUL TO OUR EVER-SUPPORTIVE SHAKTI SAATHIS

## AND A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR NEW SUPPORTERS!







In this quarter, Sarvam Foundation has been fortunate to receive remarkable donations from generous supporters.

Ms. Shahana, along with her Social Initiative Team, which included six students from Junior Shri Ram School, Aravali, visited our Gurugram Centre and supported us with a donation of around 100-200 winter clothes for our Shaktis. Two individual supporters also donated a new set of sweatshirts for all our Shaktis.

We received good-quality blankets and clothes from Carlton Society Phase 4, along with individual donations from communities like Belmonte and La Lagune.

Our heartfelt thanks go to supporters who provide our Shaktis with stages and opportunities regularly. Such platforms boost their confidence and self-esteem.

A special mention to The Heritage School, Vasant Kunj, where our senior Shaktis have been posted as Teacher interns since their recruitment in July 2023, for always providing our girls with opportunities for performances and internships among others. Also, a special thanks to Ms. Anu Jindal from Heritage City Society who has been instrumental in helping us perform at various venues, whether it's the BJP Meet in Apparel House or events in Gurugram, where our girls received numerous praises.

The Inner Wheel Club consistently supports us, offering opportunities to display their talents. In the last quarter of 2023, the Inner Wheel Club invited the Shaktis to perform at their club meet at ISKCON temple, Delhi in November. Similarly, in the preceding quarter, they offered a platform for our Shaktis to exhibit their skills, acknowledging and embracing their feminine strength.

To the prospective supporters reading this newsletter, we invite your support as we aim to spread the word about our cause.





Your small acts of kindness and support mean the world to them:)

We express heartfelt gratitude to all our supporters.















# **GRATEFUL TO OUR EVER-SUPPORTIVE SHAKTI SAATHIS** AND A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR NEW SUPPORTERS!

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to those who play pivotal roles in shaping the success and impact of the Sarvam Foundation.

Firstly, a special acknowledgment goes to Ms. Alka Sondhi, a dedicated core team member of Shakti Shiksha. Her consistent support for Shaktis in various endeavors, including voluntary contributions during food distributions, is truly appreciated. Ms. Sondhi has played a pivotal role in connecting us with various contacts such as fund donors, volunteers, teachers, and more. Moreover, as a resident of Exotica society, she has consistently facilitated opportunities for the Shaktis to perform, making her a true leader in our community.

A shoutout to Ms. Chetna Kapur, a valued supporter, for conducting workshops on nutrition for our Shaktis. We are grateful to Ms. Tripti for inviting our Sarvam girls to showcase their talents on the eve of New Year at Adani Samsara Vilasa.

Our core team members and esteemed board of directors, acting as the backbone of Sarvam, deserve sincere thanks. As we welcome new interns, whether joining us virtually or physically, their enthusiasm is already shaping positive changes.

Heartfelt thanks to Vivek, our video editor, for creating eye-catching 'Humans of Shakti' stories and so many social media videos. Ritika, another talented video editor, consistently produces captivating videos for our social media platforms. Ms. Kritika Saraf's relentless efforts in managing all departments ensure the smooth operation of our Foundation.

To our ETP interns working virtually, your exceptional talents have not gone unnoticed. Some of them have even received Letters of Recommendation for their outstanding contributions, significantly contributing to our Shaktis' improvement in English speaking skills.

Together, they form the pillars of our organization, and each one is instrumental in shaping what the Sarvam Foundation stands for today.

66 It was a delightful surprise to have witnessed the dance performance with an apt message on caring for the environment by young girls of the 'Sarvam Shakti' Organization. The care for the environment shown by these young girls on the eve of the New Year through their astonishing and wellsynchronized dance was a treat for all the residents of Adani Samsara Vilasa. Our deep gratitude to Mrs. Bhatnagar, her daughter, and Ms. Tripti for organizing and giving us the honor to witness this stupendous dance drama. One could clearly see the effort, dedication, and passion put in by them and the children for the amazing show. Thanks. We wish 'Sarvam Shakti' all the best and wish the children a bright future.

**Sudhir Jhakar Retired Major, Indian Army** Resident of Adani Samsara Vilasa

















# Testimonials like these from people encourage us to continue striving towards our mission

As an Odissi dancer and Indian dance teacher, it gives me immense pleasure to watch Sarvam Girls perform on stage, as I can feel that these young girls are working hard to preserve our Indian culture with so much passion and dedication.

They serve as one of the best examples for people who talk about 'women empowerment.' It's been almost 4-5 years since I have been watching these girls grow, not only as good dancers but also in terms of the development of their overall personalities.

Four years ago, when I became associated with Sarvam Shakti for a dance project through The Heritage School, Vasant Kuni, there were only a few students. But today, I am so glad to see around 60-65 Sarvam Shakti girls.

I wish them all the best for the future, and may they keep inspiring each one of us, especially our young generation.

With best wishes, **Pallavi Pramanik Dance Teacher at The Heritage School,** Vasant Kunj, New Delhi

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Reach out to us at culture@sarvamfoundation.org

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Registration Number: AANTS4268HF20147 (80G) & AANTS4268HE20214 (12A)

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