

# FIELD NOTES

A MONTHLY UPDATE BY ANTARANG

MAY-JUNE  
2025

May and June are always busy, but this year has been especially intense with two major changes in admission processes for Grade 11 and undergraduate programs, especially in states like Maharashtra. Supporting students through it all reminded us just how critical it is to help first-generation learners navigate these pivotal moments.

**And it's not always easy.**

Take Vaishnavi—the first in her extended family of 13 siblings to complete Grade 12, and that too with a first division. But with differing opinions from relatives, mostly men who had never been to college, she missed filling out individual college application forms and lost her chance at a college of her choice.

Stories like Vaishnavi's remind us that teaching how isn't enough. Students like her - who make up over 70% of our youth population - also need guidance on what to do and why, especially when navigating social pressures and deep-rooted patriarchal norms. Helping them do that is exactly why our work in career guidance matters.

**Yes, there's more to be done - but there's also so much we're proud of, like:**

1. 

In Dungarpur, Rajasthan, a government school principal who was initially unsure about our career readiness program became one of its biggest champions. After seeing his students, especially one girl who landed a hospitality internship with her confidence and clarity, he is now bringing the program to other schools in the area.

2. Similarly, in Nagaland, our facilitator Pongentola Longchar goes an extra mile, literally! She travels over two hours each way to her school GHSS Tuli, creating a welcoming space where 30+ students feel confident to challenge their realities and plan clear career paths.

Even now, with heavy rains washing out roads across Nagaland, our team shows up - battling illness and long travel over treacherous terrain, to reach remote schools.

Their nothing-is-impossible attitude inspires us all.

3. The 80 Block Resource Persons (BRPs) we trained in Nagaland over two phases are now visiting classrooms to observe the real-time teaching environments and apply their learnings on the ground.

 **The Indian EXPRESS**

4. 

The Maharashtra State Council of Educational Research and Training (MSCERT) has introduced a Career Pathways web page as part of the FYJC 11th Admission Process for 2025–26. The web page features detailed information on 155+ career options, designed to help students explore possibilities and make informed decisions about which stream to choose. This is what it looks like when a shared vision for systems change comes to life!

5. The pride we feel to see our alumna Sonal confidently holding her own in high-level government meetings and getting key mandates passed alongside senior officials!



6. Meanwhile, Imran, our alumna from Mumbai, who had disengaged after the 12th, reconnected through our WhatsApp group, joined a placement boot camp, got a job at a retail chain - and recently volunteered at our career awareness session. Ah, the happiness of seeing things come around!



7. We value open, honest sharing, so it was great to see our Youth Advisory Board speak up about what's working - and what's not - when it comes to our culture, policies, and how we engage with Millennials and Gen Z, at our monthly All Staff Meetings.

Their insights are helping shape how we grow.



8. A shout out to our behind-the-scenes Curriculum and Training team who have creatively redesigned student workbooks and teacher guides to make them easy for any teacher or facilitator to use - at scale!



9. Last but not least, we are proud to announce that Antarang is now among Epic's 22 grantee partners globally! It is a shared mission to unlock potential through opportunity and ensure no student is left behind.

Before we end, here's a quick look at the numbers from last year.

We ensured **1,10,000 students** across **860+ schools** in **25 districts** were guided on career choice. **84%** of them now have clear career plans.



We look forward to an impactful academic year that will see us back in classrooms in a few weeks.

**And we look forward to seeing you in our classrooms!**

