

## IIT Gandhinagar students run Nyasa School to educate construction workers' children

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Nyasa is a student-run social initiative and community outreach programme, supported by the IIT-GN community.

Construction workers in India traditionally toil under some of the most miserable housing conditions. Many build ramshackle housing on the roadside and their children squander their days loitering at the construction site. The Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IIT GN) community resolved to take up the challenge to improve the working and living conditions of construction workers and their families. One such initiative is 'Nyasa'- an informal school for kids of construction workers at IITGN.

## Meaning of the word 'Nyasa'



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*As per Saksham Singhal, a student at IIT GN and volunteer in the Nyasa initiative, "The word Nyasa means 'trust'. We all wanted these kids to trust us that we will help them in learning something new for a better future. So, we named this initiative as Nyasa."*

## The beginning of the Nyasa School:

Nyasa is a student-run social initiative and community outreach programme, supported by the IIT-GN community.

Nyasa was started in 2011 by a student of IIT GN with community lunch.

# The number of students taught in Nyasa School, IIT GN:

As per interaction with Ms Eila, there are a total of hundred to two hundred students in the school. The students are taught various subjects like Mathematics, English, Drawing, Hindi, Sanskrit etc.

## Aim of the Nyasa initiative:



Every year, IITGN students also celebrate the birthday of Nyasa kids.

Nyasa primarily aims to support and educate the children of the migrant construction workers in and around campus.

**Prof Sriram Kanvah**, Associate Professor in Chemistry at IITGN and Faculty Coordinator for Nyasa, had provided initial impetus to the Nyasa activity at the Institute.

*Speaking on the importance of community outreach efforts he said, "Neil Armstrong had said "One small step for a man and one giant leap for the*

*mankind". Likewise, if all the institutes and individuals take small steps we can make giant strides in societal development.*

Apart from providing good quality education to the children of construction workers, the Nyasa School also provides various things like clothes, uniforms, books, stationery, bags, footwear, etc to the students from time to time.



A student volunteer teaching students at Nyasa School, IIT GN.

The school lays stress on the overall development of children and hence many activities like an introduction to the world of computer, origami session, regular sports session, cultural activities, regular medical camp etc are organised on regular basis.

Nyasa volunteers teach these children basic alphabets, script, rhymes, songs and arithmetic. They also engage them with music, fun events, periodic health camps, etc.

As construction workers' children are also aided in enrolling in regular government schools, so, the IITGN community offers financial help to students interested in pursuing formal education.

Nyasa volunteers routinely celebrate various festivals, such as Uttarayan, Diwali, and Holi with the children.

*"Our collective strength 'education' is used as a platform to bring the children from dusty environs to an open-air school, provide them Mid-Day meal, fruits for good health within our campus," said Manikanta Mandlem, a student volunteer in Nyasa initiative at IIT GN.*



Some of the IIT Gandhinagar students with Nyasa kids.

The Right to Education is one of the most important rights and everyone should have access to it. Our very small effort can do wonders if it is done in the right direction. The students at IIT GN have come up with courage and zeal to provide the right of education to the children of construction workers who are mostly deprived of the same.

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