

Femme Forward

Edition

01

MARCH 2024

Voice Vista

Celebrating Women's Journey



Femme Forward

Celebrating Women's Journey



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND CONTINUED SUPPORT.

SINCERELY,

FEMME FORWARD EDITORIAL TEAM

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Dear Readers,

As we embark on this journey with our inaugural issue, it fills me with immense joy to introduce to you our magazine, a platform conceived with the noble intention of shining a spotlight on the extraordinary individuals who tirelessly contribute to society in various fields. Our mission is simple yet profound: to celebrate and appreciate the remarkable work being done by people from all walks of life. As March approaches, a month heralding the celebration of International Women's Day, we find ourselves in a position of privilege to showcase the talents and achievements of eleven remarkable women hailing from diverse sectors in Nashik. These women are not just emblematic of resilience and determination, but they also serve as beacons of inspiration for generations to come.



I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the entire team whose dedication and tireless efforts have brought this vision to fruition. Each member has played an integral role in shaping this platform into what it is today—a testament to our collective commitment to amplifying the voices of those who often go unheard.

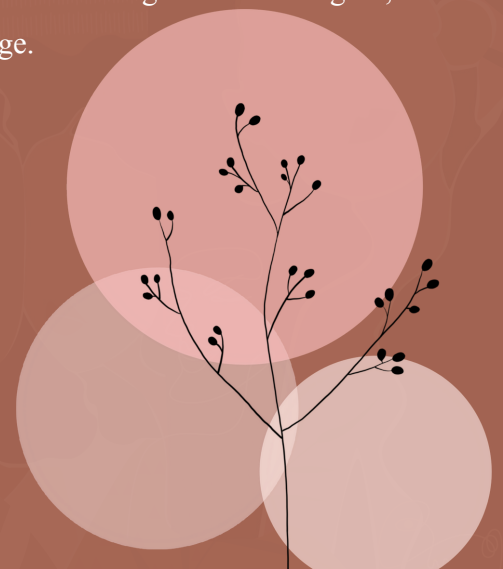
Moreover, I extend my sincerest appreciation to the interviewees who graciously shared their invaluable insights and experiences with us. Their willingness to open up and share their stories has enriched our magazine and will undoubtedly inspire countless individuals.

As we embark on this journey, let us remember that it is not merely about the stories we tell, but the lives we touch and the hearts we inspire. Together, let us continue to uplift and celebrate the unsung heroes among us, for it is through their stories that we find hope, courage, and the power to effect change.

With warm regards,

Pooja Prasad

Founder & Editor in Chief for Project
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Esteemed Readers,

As we stand on the brink of our magazine's debut edition, poised to launch on the auspicious occasion of International Women's Day, I am reminded of the immense power and potential encapsulated within each page. This edition is not just a collection of stories; it is a testament to the unyielding spirit of Nashik's women—a celebration of their triumphs, their resilience, and their unwavering commitment to shaping a better tomorrow.

Within these pages, you will find narratives that transcend the ordinary, offering glimpses into the extraordinary lives of eleven women who have left an indelible mark on our city and beyond. From breaking barriers in traditionally male-dominated fields to nurturing communities with compassion and grace, each story is a testament to the boundless possibilities that await when courage meets opportunity.

As we embark on this journey together, let us not only celebrate the achievements of these remarkable individuals but also reflect on the collective strides we have made towards a more equitable and inclusive society. May their stories inspire us to dream bigger, to reach higher, and to embrace the unique potential that lies within each of us.

With gratitude and anticipation,

Dr. Anagha Naik

Editor-in-Chief (English Edition)

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संपादकीय ..

पंचवटी पासून पॅन्टीयम पर्यंत प्रगती केलेली ही नाशिकनगरी ... मंत्रभूमीकडून तंत्रभूमीत परावर्तित झालेली नाशिकनगरी ... रुद्राक्षभूमीकडून द्राक्षभूमीकडे वाटचाल करणारी ही नाशिक नगरी... या नवशिखरांवर वसलेल्या नाशिकनगरीतील स्त्री शक्तीच्या भारावलेल्या पंखांनी साकारलेली 'अकरावी दिशा' म्हणजे 'Femme Forward' चा हा पहिला अंक चोखंदळ वाचकांच्या हाती देताना आम्हाला मनस्वी आनंद होत आहे.

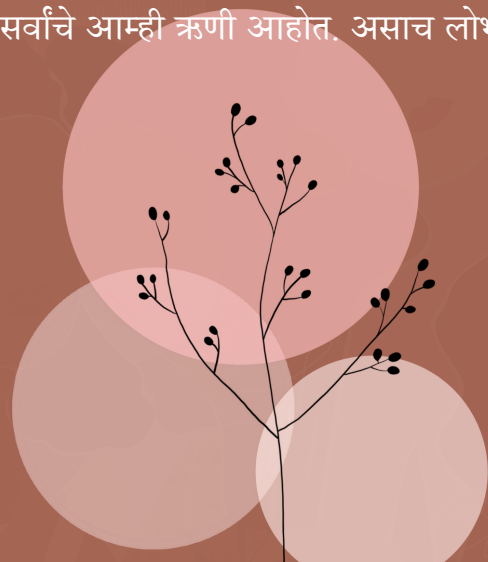
भारतीय संविधानाने बहाल केलेल्या स्वातंत्र्य - समतेचे अर्धे आकाश मिळवून स्वतःची क्षमता सिद्ध केलेल्या स्त्रीजीवनातील 'गृहिणी' पदासोबतच सखी, राज्ञी, सचिव, मार्गदर्शक अशा विविध भूमिका सक्षमपणे साकारणाऱ्या अकरा 'मातृकां' चा 'प्रज्ञाप्रवाह' च्या या अंकात आपणास परिचय होऊन प्रेरणेचा प्रकाश पसरेल अशी आम्हाला खात्री वाटते.

प्रज्ञा प्रवाहाच्या निमित्ताने दरमहा विविध संकल्पना - विषय घेऊन आम्ही नियमितपणे आपल्या भेटीस येणारच आहोत. आपले प्रेम आणि पाठबळ असू द्यावे ही नम्र विनंती. या प्रकल्पात आम्हाला मार्गदर्शन करणारे आमचे मार्गदर्शक, मदत करणारे सहकारी आणि तंत्रज्ञ या सर्वांचे आम्ही ऋणी आहोत. असाच लोभ असू द्या, धन्यवाद !

सुनिता चौहाण.

संपादक (मराठी अंक)

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VANDANA RAKIBE

"Guiding Lights: Inspiring Through Teaching"

"A teacher" is like a sculptor of future generations. Through their knowledge and positive outlook, they instill in students the art of looking beyond and understanding the world. An exceptional teacher, possessing both a proficient personality and expertise in electronics, has been molding her distinct identity for the past 34 years.

Q1: How did you find inspiration to pursue a career in the education sector and become a teacher?

Ans1: I had a background in electronics and was working as a Quality Control Incharge at Netelco, a semiconductor company. In 1990, I got married, and my in-laws were teachers. Due to their influence and encouragement, I developed a desire to work in the field of education. Although I initially aspired to pursue a career in engineering, my husband's insistence eventually led me to prepare for a teaching career.

Having the flexibility to dedicate myself to teaching, I published exceptional English and Marathi textbooks on electronics for 11th and 12th graders. These books reached students throughout Maharashtra, aiming to provide them with proper direction and guidance for their future.

Q2: Share a memorable or amusing experience from your student days that shaped your approach to teaching?

Ans2: During my student days, I found chemistry classes to be anything but enjoyable. The concepts taught by the professors were not easy to comprehend, and the subject seemed daunting.

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So, I was never inclined to learn chemistry. However, the reason for my aversion was not the subject itself but the way it was taught. On another note, I had a brilliant English teacher. Their calm demeanour, simple attire, and a resemblance to Mahatma Gandhi made them stand out. When they entered the classroom, all students, even the most notorious ones in the engineering class, would become so focused and quiet that it was almost impossible to believe. Their lectures were engaging, and they knew how to handle students with humour and discipline. They would create chaos in the class, making the students feel that learning English was an insurmountable challenge.

Once I became a teacher, I benefited greatly from these experiences. I had a strong grasp of my subject matter, which meant that I could provide clear explanations. I instilled self-confidence in my students, teaching them to present, speak confidently, maintain discipline, and apply strict rules when necessary. These qualities, along with the transformations I went through personally, helped me excel as an educator. I am proud to say that because of my teaching, students achieved higher marks in electronics, and many outperformed in the board exams. This is a source of great satisfaction for me.

Q3. What inspired you to pursue a career in education and become a teacher?

Ans3. I had a background in electronics engineering and was working as a Quality Control Manager at NATELCO, a semiconductor company. In 1990, I got married to someone whose family had a tradition of teaching. This influenced me to consider a career in education. Although I initially wanted to pursue a career in engineering, I eventually decided to work in the field of education due to family encouragement.

As a result, I transitioned into the field of education and have been teaching electronics for the past 34 years. During this journey, I published books in English and Marathi on electronics, which reached students throughout Maharashtra. My goal was to provide students

with the right direction and guidance to help them make informed choices for their futures.

Q4. Can you share a memorable or amusing anecdote from your time as a teacher that influenced your approach to teaching?

Ans4. When I was a student, I found it challenging to grasp the concepts of chemistry, and my teachers' explanations didn't make it any clearer. I couldn't understand what they were talking about, and their explanations were often confusing. However, this frustration and confusion fueled my determination to make the subject clear to my students when I became a teacher.

In another experience, I had an English teacher who was calm, humble, and always wore simple attire, resembling Mahatma Gandhi. Despite the mischievous behavior of the entire class, he remained patient, kept the class engaging, and made us laugh. His lectures were so captivating that students were more focused on having fun in class than troubling him. When I became a teacher, I realized the importance of these qualities in maintaining discipline and engaging students in the learning process. My personal experiences with these anecdotes helped me develop self-confidence and effective teaching strategies, which I later applied in my own teaching.

Q5. As a teacher, what do you find most rewarding in your role, and how do you handle unexpected challenges?



Ans5. As a teacher, the most rewarding aspect for me is providing students with a deep understanding of the subject matter and helping them excel. This sense of fulfillment comes from knowing that I have helped shape their knowledge and boosted their self-confidence. In addition, I have the opportunity to shape their personalities, making them more responsible, confident, and enthusiastic individuals.

In terms of handling unexpected challenges, maintaining a constant presence in students' lives allows me to tackle such situations. By being present and engaged, I can address their concerns or challenges and offer guidance or solutions. The key is to stay vigilant and boost students' self-esteem, as this is crucial for the overall development of the nation.

Q6. Are there any subjects or courses unrelated to your current field that you would like to teach, and why?

Ans6. I have a keen interest in psychology, nutrition science, yoga, and pranayama. These subjects have vast knowledge that can significantly contribute to leading a joyful and healthy lifestyle. Having a deep understanding of these topics is essential, as they impact mental, physical, and social well-being. I believe that knowledge in these fields can benefit individuals in achieving a balanced, mindful, and healthier life.

Q7. Can you share an unexpected challenge you faced while teaching a subject and how you managed it? This experience might provide inspiration to our readers.

Ans7. I once faced a situation where students were struggling to understand the concept of amplification using transistors. To make the subject more understandable, I decided to conduct a practical experiment. I used a loudspeaker to demonstrate the concept of amplification, showing students how a small input signal can result in a much larger output. This hands-on approach helped students grasp the idea better. I also used a multimeter to measure input and output voltages, instilling confidence in the students about

their understanding of the subject. These practical demonstrations not only clarified the concept but also increased the students' interest and engagement. This experience taught me that hands-on activities can be incredibly effective in teaching complex subjects.

Q8. Is there a subject or field unrelated to your current area of expertise that you'd like to provide guidance on, and why?

Ans8. I am passionate about psychology, nutrition science, yoga, and pranayama. These subjects can contribute significantly to one's mental, physical, and emotional well-being. Having knowledge in these areas is essential for leading a balanced and healthy life. I believe that a well-rounded understanding of these topics can help individuals achieve overall well-being and lead a fulfilling life.

Q9. How do you create a positive and motivating learning environment for your students?

Ans9. I begin by imparting thorough knowledge of yoga and pranayama to my students. I encourage them to incorporate these practices into their daily lives consistently. Alongside this, I involve students in small electronics projects to apply their learning practically. Completing these projects successfully brings joy and boosts self-confidence in students. Moreover, sharing the experiences of accomplished individuals in various fields with students helps instill a sense of determination, positive attitude, and enthusiasm in them. I also offer rewards to the top-performing students to enhance their motivation.

Q10. Is there a specific teaching method or course that has yielded excellent results with your students, which you would recommend to our readers?





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Ans10. To provide in-depth knowledge in the field of electronics, I continuously encourage hands-on learning. I demonstrate practical experiments to students and facilitate hands-on projects. Engaging in practical work is crucial for students to understand the subject thoroughly. I also stress the importance of self-study and provide additional assignments to ensure comprehensive learning. Making students solve previous years' question papers before the final exams helps in reducing their anxiety and improving their self-esteem. The process makes students more confident, and the results are evident.

Q11. As a female professor in a male-dominated field, have you faced any challenges on your journey? Could you share how you overcame any obstacles or challenges that you encountered?

Ans11. In this field, I have not faced gender bias so far. It has never crossed my mind after completing higher education. I believe that focusing on my work consistently, both in school and at work, has always kept me motivated. Women supporting and cooperating with men wholeheartedly is a key factor in breaking the gender barriers. This mutual respect and collaboration lead to increased confidence and teamwork.

Q12. To ensure the overall development of your students, how do you stay updated on the latest research and developments in your field?

Ans12. I stay updated by reading the daily news, regular paper publications, and continuously monitoring the latest developments in my field. I subscribe to electronic magazines, education forums, and technology blogs for the most up-to-date information. Accessing research papers and publications on the internet, as well as referring to the best available sources, helps me stay informed about the latest advancements. I apply the same resources to guide students to acquire the most recent research, references, and knowledge in their respective fields.



Q13: "Under your guidance or in your teaching, reading the success stories of students would surely be enjoyable for us. As a teacher, what has been the impact of their progress and success on you?"

Ans13: "Over the past 34 years, I have provided guidance to many students, and a significant number of them have achieved great success. Some have become scientists, while others have excelled as successful entrepreneurs. Some are teachers, while others hold various positions in organizations. The success and satisfaction I derive from their accomplishments are immeasurable. Many students express their happiness and gratitude to me, and even to this day, I maintain continuous contact with them through various means. Seeing their accomplishments and hearing their voices filled with happiness and contentment brings me immense joy. Indeed, the bond between students and teachers is truly invaluable."

Q14: "For those who aspire to work in the field of teaching, what advice would you give to future educators?"

Ans14: "Students should always be the focal point of a teacher's efforts. After imparting knowledge, it is essential to ensure the holistic development of students, which includes imparting good values, fostering a love for learning, and personal growth. Teachers should maintain a continuous and positive outlook and inspire students to engage in social activities. By fostering this kind of commitment and dedication in themselves, teachers can groom excellent students. Above all, teachers must regularly share the latest knowledge and findings in various subjects to enhance students' thirst for knowledge. Thus, if teachers themselves strive to become more knowledgeable and self-fulfilled, there is no doubt that they can guide the best students towards a bright future."





Q15: "If you had the opportunity to have a conversation with any historical or influential figure, who would that person be and why?"

Ans15: "If I had the opportunity to have a conversation with an influential figure, it would be Lieutenant General (Retired) Dr. Madhuri Kanitkar. She is an exceptional Indian officer who has achieved extraordinary service ranks within the Indian Army. She is the first woman in Maharashtra and the third woman in India to hold the position she has. She is a true inspiration as she dedicates 12 to 18 hours of her day to serving the nation. Her unwavering commitment, strong values, and relentless hard work are qualities that greatly resonate with me. Her achievements and her dedication to public service as a female leader are qualities that I find truly admirable."

Q16: "In your teaching responsibilities and in pursuing your own interests, how do you strike a balance, especially when it comes to conducting research?"

Ans16: "If I am passionate about something, I ensure that I give it my complete focus. While working in the college, I have obtained additional diplomas in Yoga, Naturopathy, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. This allowed me to efficiently manage my time and carry out my duties with excellence, which I always find satisfying. I always believe in continuous learning and strive to keep my curiosity alive, which naturally fuels my research."

Q17: "If you could make a significant change in the education system, what would that change be, and why?"

Ans17: "One important change I would like to make in the education system is to allow students to choose subjects freely from the 5th or 6th grade onwards. This freedom would help students choose subjects they are truly interested in and ensure that subjects like English are not mandatory for examinations until the 5th or 6th grade."



Additionally, the additional burden of carrying textbooks should be eliminated for students. Furthermore, in high school, students should have the freedom to choose subjects according to their goals and ambitions, rather than following a fixed curriculum. I believe that the current educational system, along with the student's educational progress, should adapt to the student's aspirations and academic goals, which would lead to a more balanced and satisfactory educational experience."

"In conclusion, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to you for taking the time to share your valuable insights and experiences with us. Your dedication to teaching and your passion for guiding students is truly inspiring. Your thoughts on making education more student-centric and adaptable are insightful and thought-provoking. We greatly appreciate your time and the wisdom you've shared with us today. Your words will undoubtedly serve as an inspiration for educators and students alike. Thank you once again for being part of this interview."

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Introducing "Femme Forward," a captivating magazine celebrating the extraordinary journeys of 11 remarkable women, each shining brightly in their respective fields. From the intricate strokes of a Rangoli artist to the soul-stirring verses of a poet, from the nurturing guidance of a teacher to the captivating narratives spun by a writer, our pages are adorned with the diverse hues of talent and passion.

Within these pages, you'll meet a calligraphy artist whose ink flows with elegance, a fitness coach inspiring strength and vitality, and a compassionate social worker weaving threads of change in our communities. Venture further and discover the entrepreneurial spirits behind a kitchen of culinary delights and the aromatic spices that tantalize the senses.

Delve into the insightful wisdom of a counselor, guiding hearts towards healing, and the mesmerizing performances of a mono artist, captivating audiences with each word uttered. Through their stories, we illuminate not only their individual journeys but also their profound impact on society, weaving a tapestry of empowerment and inspiration for all who dare to dream.

"Femme Forward" is more than just a magazine; it's a beacon of empowerment, a celebration of diversity, and a testament to the boundless potential of women everywhere. Join us as we embark on a journey of discovery, illumination, and empowerment, one story at a time.