

Saaksharta Foundation is a Mumbai based non-profit NGO inclined towards bettering lives of the underprivileged community through meaningful literacy, care and empowerment. I approached Ms Avani Dalal and expressed my interest to volunteer at their prestigious foundation. I began my journey in November 2024 and chose to teach them science. It was a class of around 40+ grade 7 students. I tried to put in a lot of creativity and kept patience while teaching the kids so that they remain engaged by doing simple experiments to make complex concepts accessible. I consistently encouraged active learning by preparing worksheets, asking thought-provoking questions, and motivating students to think critically.

Beyond academics, I inspired the children with my passion for marine conservation. Through Time and Tide, the inter tidal walk club that I founded, I introduced them to the rich marine life found on the beaches during low tide. Unfortunately, this life often goes unnoticed and is threatened by pollution, but, via intertidal walks, I made the children recognize the urgent need to preserve coastal biodiversity. The children not only gained scientific knowledge regarding ecology and intertidal organisms but also developed a lasting appreciation for protecting marine ecosystems which was evident during our discussions in science classes during the week.

I shared my award-winning project GreytoGrow to the children, for which I received the prestigious Earth Prize Asian Scholar Award. I demonstrated and educated the Saaksharta students on how a simple yet effective biofilter could purify greywater for non-potable purposes. I distributed free kits and manuals to the children, many of whom later proudly shared pictures of their families using the system in their own households. This experience gave me deep joy and a sense of responsibility towards the society and felt empowered to improve the lives of underprivileged communities. My commitment to addressing the environmental challenges of our time, such as the conservation of water, the environment and native organisms combined with scientific innovation with community outreach, educating children and developing sustainable solutions that are both practical and impactful gave me immense satisfaction. I wish to continue to serve my community in the best possible way that brings a positive impact to their lives.