

AKSHAR TRUST

AKSHAR CENTER FOR HEARING IMPAIRED CHILDREN AND
TEACHER TRAINING

ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

Academic Achievements

Akshar began in 1988 with 5 children and has completed 26 years on 18th July, 2014. At the moment there are **155 students**.

In March 2014, **18 students cleared Std. X & XII** of the Gujarat State Education Board (GSEB) which brings to **88 the number** of students who have **completed Std. X & or XII**. In March 2015, **22 students appeared** for **Std. X & XII** GSEB exam.

Many students have graduated from **M. S. University, Gujarat University and Sardar Patel University** in areas of Commerce, Arts and Family Studies. **3 have completed M.Com.** Some students have joined **ITI courses** and many are **gainfully employed with 3 pursuing further studies along with their jobs**. **Dhara Panchamiya**, a M.Com graduate and **Shrenik Shah**, a B.Com graduate have been employed by **DCB Bank** as **Clearing Executives**. **Ruchit Shitole** is working in Paul Mason Consulting, Software Company, as a **Test Analyst** and **Pratik Shah**, latest and 4th entrant at Paul Mason Consulting, is a **Test Trainee**. **Manushi Gandhi** has worked as an **intern at architects, Karan Grover & Associates** and has completed her Diploma in Architecture Assistance from M. S. University Polytechnic with 67%.

Interesting Activities

- On 20th June 2014, 4 Teachers from Sevathirth, Tarsali, come for guidance. Ms. K. Patel, Ms. P. Shah, Ms. M. Patel and Ms. S. Masini were explained the principles of communicating with the deaf.
- On 4th and 5th July 2014, an exhibition of Ravi Varma's oleographs was held by Mr. Sachin Kaluskar at Kala Nidhi Gallery. Part of the sales proceeds were given to Akshar Trust.
- On 17th July 2014, 6 students sent their work to Delhi to participate in Very Special Arts India Competition 2014.
- Ms. N. Grover went to AYJNIHH, Mumbai for a Core Committee Meeting to review the Diploma Course for Indian Sign Language Interpretation on July 21, 2014.



- **Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC)**, Vadodara donated a **39 seater school bus** on **ONGC Day** August 14, 2014.
- Phonak Company sent an audiologist who did audiograms of all the students. Parents came for a lecture on the need and maintenance of hearing aids, September 1, 2, 3, 2014.



- Mr. Paul Mason and his board members visited, October 15, 2014. A short skit 'Pani Ki Ramayan' written by the students was presented and Dev Bhatia played a tune on the Casio. The programme ended with the National Anthem in Indian Sign Language.



- The Municipal Commissioner, Shri. Manish Bhardwaj visited, went around the classes and saw the presentations of the skit and the Casio on October 16, 2014.
- On November 24, 2014, Baroda Round Table brought 18 students and 2 teachers of Nyewode New Business School, Amsterdam, Netherlands, to visit. They gave gifts of small toys and stationery to the students.
- On November 27, 2014, Ms. N. Grover gave a 'Keynote' address on "From Rehabilitation to Inclusion, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to Ministry of Human Resource Development", at Observer Research Foundation, Mumbai managed by Mr. Sudheendra Kulkarni. The Round Table was on

School Education and Research: Transforming Inclusive Education through Innovations, Dreams, Designs and Solutions for Children with Special Needs.'



- On January 10, 2015, 5 students of Akshar went to Ahmedabad to perform a drama at 'Darpan' academy for 'Page 2 Stage', 'Muze Sachin Tendulkar Banana Hai'. The students wrote the play themselves.
- Ms. N. Grover as a member of the Governing Council of the Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Hearing Handicapped attended a meeting of the Council at New Delhi, 25th January, 2015.

Other Activities



- 138 students, Std. 1 of Sant Kabir School visited and interacted with Akshar students on August 4, 2014. They learnt finger spelling.
- 48 students and 4 faculty members of Social Work Department of Smt. Kamlaben College, Rajkot visited, August 21, 2014.
- 220 students with 16 teachers of Navrachana (Sama) School visited in two groups on September 16 & 18, 2014, as part of their course, 'Caring for Others'. All the students did painting & played Housie. Akshar students taught them finger spelling.
- Akshar helped 43 students to apply for Scholarships for the Handicapped, from Social Defence Department Gujarat State, October 10, 2014 which they received on December 8, 2014.
- 4 students from Dept. of Social Work, Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidhyanagar started their field placement at Akshar from December 16, 2014 to February 15, 2015. On January 6, 2015 they held an Art Competition for Std. 5 to 10 students. They gave colour boxes as prizes to the students.

- The Brahmakumaris invited Ms. N. Grover to participate in a Workshop on the ‘Future of Power’ at Hotel Gateway, Vadodara, January 31, 2015.
- On February 11, 2015, Ms. Rita Mehta, Elisabeth Flemet, International Ladies Club visited.
- A Farwell Party was given to 17 students of Std. 10 (Gujarati Medium) & 12 (Hindi Medium) on February 19, 2015.
- Zilla Samaj Suraksha organized a camp to distribute hearing aids to students. 15 students of Akshar Trust registered their names on March 13, 2015.
- Ms. Khushboo Thakkar, Jr. MSW, Faculty of Social Work, M.S. University, visited as part of her Master’s study.
- Ms. Andesha Mangla, Ph.D. student, Department of Linguistics, Delhi University, visited the Centre from April 6 to 10, 2015. This was to do research for her Ph.D. She observed classroom activities, talked to students, teachers, made video recordings and took photos of class room teaching for her research.

Medical

- On February 5, 2015, Dr. Ekta P. Shah (Medical Officer VMSS) and the Health Team did a medical check-up of all the students for Swine Flu at the Centre.



- Dr. Dhvani Shah, Chief Dentist and Dr. Jay Patel, Dentist from Akota Multispecialty Dental Clinic, Vadodara, did a check-up of all the students on March 30 & 31, 2015.

Activities of Teaching Staff

Date	Person	Programme	Organized by	Comments
10, 19 & 26, June 2014	Ms. G. Parmar, Ms. P. Shah	NGO meeting	Society for the Training and Vocational Rehabilitation of the Disabled,	This was joint venture of ‘PANKH and ‘Society for the Training of Disabled.

			Sevatirth, Tarsali	training.
16/02/15	Ms. V. Patel	Workshop for 'Guidance & Improvement of Std. 10 th & 12 th Board Exam'		

Annual Events Tuesday

Picnics

- On December 31, 2014, 33 students from Early Intervention to Std. 3, Hindi & Gujarati mediums, went for a Picnic to Nimeta Garden.



Sports Day

- On Thursday, December 11, 2014, Akshar celebrated its 19th Sports Day at E.M.E. School. Mr. Keyur Rokadia, Chairman, Shikshan Samiti, was the Chief Guest along with Dr. Hitendrabhai Patel, Chairman, Standing Committee, Vadodara. There was a display of various Drills, including Lazim, Dumbbells, Bamboo and Karate. Senior students performed Aerobics to music and the trainee boys performed Pyramids. Tagore House won the House Trophy. The programme ended with the National Anthem in Indian Sign Language.



Dates of Interest

Date	No. of Students	Event	Organized by	Remarks
04/08/14	33	'Prerna' The Emancipation	Faculty of Technology and Engineering, M. S. University	Various games and competitions were held for different able students. Harshal Rabari got 2 nd prize in Carom
17/09/14	130	Student Elections	Akshar Centre	Head Boy Sachin Yadav

				House Captains Vice-Captains Nehru: Harshal Rabari Sharmin Raj Tagore: Kavya Patel Keyur Nair Gandhi: Mansi Rajpurohit Heena Gidwani
14/11/24	13	Art Competition	Bal Bhavan Society	A competition for Children with Disabilities to celebrate 'Children's Day's. They were given colour boxes and boards. 1 student got a 2 nd prize and 2 students got consolation prizes.
05/12/14	8	Rangmanch	United Way of Baroda	The International Day of Persons with Disability was celebrated by United Way of Baroda. Akshar's 8 girls was performed a dance on 'Holiya Me Ude Re Gulal'. They got a shield and each participant a certificate.
14/01/15	10	Shaurya 2014-15	Friends Society	All Vadodara Special Children's Sports Meet. 3 students of Akshar got medals.
09/01/15	27	Kshitij-2015	United Way of Baroda with Youth of Vadodara	The event was for Children with Disability.
11/01/15	4	Traffic Awareness	Team Safe	Wall painting for students on the wall of Agriculture College for traffic awareness.
06/02/15	28	VNM Khel Utsav	VMN TV Channel	An Inter School Sports Competition with the Motto "Catch them Young" for Regular & Special Children.
05/03/15	50	Holi-Dhuleti Celebration	Akshar Centre	Students played with colours and enjoyed it!

Field Trips

Date	No. of Students	Location
09/07/2014	11	Shankar Mandir as part of a language lesson.
11/07/2014	11	To see insects, birds & animals
04/08/2014	10	Shops at Mangal Bazar
05/08/2014	15	To see a hut
05/08/2014	22	To a farm
05/12/2014	12	Tibetian Market for a lesson on 'Winter'
08/01/2015	48	Nalvalkhi Ground for see the Kite Festival
18/03/2015	11	Visit of market for 'Our Helpers', fruit vendors, shoes makers, etc



Donation in kind (2013-14)

Name of Donor	Item
Rishabh Software, Vadodara	3 second hand computers in working condition
Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., Vadodara	1 school bus (39 seater) (SKYLINE)
Mr. Samir Khera, Vadodara	6 second hand computer in working condition
Ms. Renee Shamsher Singh, Vadodara	1 second hand computer in working condition with speaker and webcam
Mangal Bazar's Shopkeepers, Vadodara	1 ceiling fan
Mr. Rajul M. Shah, Vadodara	5 ceiling fans and 6 tub lights with T5 (with fitting) self
Mr. Jigar Dave, Vadodara	Carom board, (coins & ponder) second hand

The following distributed stationery/toys

Mr. & Mrs. S. Patel, Mr. & Mrs. N. Patni, Ms. P. C. Shah, Mr. M. Prajapati, Ms. M. Claire, Mr. D. Bhatt, Ms. B. Pandya,

The following distributed pastries/snacks

Mr. & Mrs. K. Grover, Ms. S. Khare, Ms. S. Mahajan, Dr. R. Prajapati, Ms. U. Kaduskar, Mr. C. Thakkar, Mr. D. Ruparelia, Mr. L. Soni, Mr. G. Chokshi, Dr. B. K. Tarpara, Mr. P. Pandya, Ms. M. H. Gandhi, Shriji Nasta House, Mr. C. Kansara, Ms. G. Thakkar, Ms. H. Tilekar, Ms. K. Thakkar, Mr. J. Patel, Ms. P. Agarwal, Mangal Bazar's Shopkeepers, Mr. K. Thakkar, Mr. K. Gupte, Ms. P. Shanghavi,

Further Information

- We have received **Grant-in-aid** from **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India** for the year **2013-14** and **2014-15**.
- **United Way of Baroda** has been helping Akshar Trust for many first to fund the activities in 1989.

- **Pirojsha Godrej Foundation, Mumbai**, has generously supported the activities of the Trust for the past 7 years. This is most helpful and greatly appreciated.
- **Oil and Nature Gas Corporation (ONGC)**, Vadodara has donated a **39 seater school bus** on ONGC Day August 14, 2014.
- **Paul Mason Consulting** has been helping **Akshar** for the past 7 years in many areas and has generously donated for the new building.

Teacher Training

Faculty Activities

The Teacher Training Programme entered its **16th year** in 2015. Till date **226 teachers** have been **trained** and **40** are **completing** their course. There are 19 trainees in First Year and 8 trainees in Second Year.

- Final practical viva of D.Ed. Spl. Edu. (DHH) Second year was held on July 15 & 16, 2014.
- Mr. P. Desai, Faculty Member, went as External Examiner for final Lesson Plan and Practical Viva by AYJNIHH, Mumbai to Bhavnagar on July 17, 2014.
- New batch of D.Ed. Spl. Edu. (DHH) started from July 24, 2014.
- Ms. N. Grover, as member of Expert Committee, went to AYJNIHH, Mumbai for a Core Committee Meeting to review the Diploma Course for Indian Sign Language Interpretation on July 21, 2014.
- From August 25 to September 20, 2014 Evaluation work for the DSE (HI) exam of all the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th semester was completed. This was an honour, for the second time, for Akshar. Evaluation was done by internal and external faculties.
- Mr. P. Desai attended 5 day Workshop on ‘Research Methodology Programme’ at SNDT University, Mumbai on November 24 to 28, 2014.
- Ms. N. Grover went to assess 2 Centres, Karoli, Rajasthan and Ludhiana for recognition by RCI for D.Ed. Spl. Ed. (DHH), December 15 to 19, 2014.



- 26 trainees with faculty members went for a Picnic to Kavi Kar 26, 2014.

- Mr. R. Pandya, Faculty Member, went to Medical Care Centre, Vadodara for supervision of B.Ed SEDE Exam under Baba Saheb Ambedkar University from December 15 to 22, 2014.
- Ms. H. Kale, Coordinator of Teacher Training, went for Assessment of Training Institutes for approval for ongoing training course D.Ed. Spl. Ed. (DHH).
 - Shri Sadguru Saibaba Seva Trust's Collage of Special Education (HI), Pune Maharashtra, November 21, 2014
 - Manudevi Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Nandurbar, Maharashtra, December 23, 2014.
 - Shree Swami Samarth Special Teachers Training Institute Ansing, Washim, Maharashtra, March 2, 2015.



- On January 6 to 8, 2015, the 80th National Convention of Educators of the Deaf-India (NCED-India), was held at Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri Naveen Patnaik was the Chief Guest at the Inaugural. Chairman, Mr. Karan Grover, had helped in this regard. As President of NCED-India, Ms. N. Grover, gave a Key-Note presentation on 'We have Rights too!, A Rights Based Approach to the Education of Children with Disability in India' more than 300 participants attended.

Tata Steel supported the conference by donating Rs. 5.00 Lacs as Main Sponsor.



- On January 30 & 31, 2015, National Convention of Educators of the Deaf-Gujarat Chapter Conference (NCED-Gujarat) was held at Nadiad.

The following Akshar staff presented papers.

- Ms. N. Grover, a Key-Note Address on 'Good Practices at Akshar Centre'.
- Ms. F. Shah presented as a Resource Person on 'Decoding Speech: Understanding Speech Perception'.
- Mr. R. Pandya on 'Accountability of Special Educators'.
- Mr. P. Desai on 'Mnemonic Devices'.
- Ms. R. Haldankar on 'Teaching effective Speech by using Teac

- Ms. B. Jagtap & Ms. G. Parmar on 'Behaviour Modification in Hearing Impaired Children'.
- Ms. V. Patel on 'Development of Communication Skills in Hearing Impaired Students'.

Mr. P. Desai got the 1st Prize for his paper.

- Ms. G. Parmar gave a lecture on 'Introduction to Disability' at Block Resource Centre Bhavan, Chhani for a Three Day training programme for govt. teachers of regular school under an Inclusion Programme. 250 teachers of Vadodara District, rural govt. schools were present, February 9 to 11, 2015.
- The viva of Audiology of 1st year students was held on February 18, 2015. The external examiner was Mr. Iswar Chaudhary, an Audiologist from Surat, and internal examiner was Ms. F. Shah.
- Mr. P. Desai was appointed as External Examiner for B.Ed practical and Viva Exam by Bhavnagar University at K. L. Institute, Bhavnagar on March 13 & 14, 2014.
- Mr. P. Desai went Blind People's Association, Ahmedabad for West Zone Coordination Committee Meeting of RCI Registered Institutes in the State of Gujarat, April 24, 2015.
- Assessment of Akshar Trust Training Institute for extension of approval for ongoing training Course Diploma was held on April 24, 2015. Mr. Raju Arakh from AYJNIHH, Mumbai and Mr. Santosh Yadav from K.L.Institute, Bhavnagar were the Inspection Team. During the inspection they visited the model school as well as new school building at Sherkhi.

Faculty Activities

Core and Part Time faculty	Visiting Faculty
1. Ms. Nisha Grover	1. Dr. Bharati Modi
2. Ms. Hema Kale	2. Dr. P. N. Saini
3. Ms. Geeta Parmar	3. Ms. Rohini Haldankar
4. Mr. Rajendra Pandya	4. Ms. Kavita Thakkar
5. Mr. Premal Desai	
6. Ms. Falguni Shah	
7. Ms. Pubali Basu	

Consultants at Akshar Trust

Speech Pathologist and Audiologist	Ms. Falguni Shah
Clinical Psychologist	Ms. Pubali Basu
Karate Teacher	Mr. James George
Occupational Therapist	Ms. Unnati Patel

Voluntary Work

- Dr. Bharatiben Modi was the Head of the Linguistics Department of M. S. University for 16 years. Since 1993 she has been offering her services to Akshar Teacher Training in an honorary capacity.
- Mr. Kavirath Jain, a student at Princeton University, U.S.A. taught Math to Gujarati Std.10 from June 23rd to 26th, 2014 and July 8th to 18th, 2014 for a total of 15 days. This is his third session. The topics were Surface Areas and Volumes.
- Ms. Priti Sanghvi undertook various activities from February 18, 2015.

Among the Visitors Were

- Mr. T. Siddiqui, AXIS Bank, Vadodara, April 17, 2014
- Mr. A. Sahi, DCB Bank, Vadodara, April 23, 2014
- Mr. S. K. Rana, Second-in-Command, NDRF, Jarod, Vadodara, April 24, 2014
- Ms. Pritty Patel, United Way of Baroda, Vadodara, June 26, 2014
- Mr. & Mrs. Jitendra Jain, USA, June 26, 2014
- Mr. N. B. Bateriwala, Principal, Shri Bharti Vidhyalaya, Vadodara, July 15, 2014
- Ms. M. Agarwal and Ms. A. Awasthy, Navrachna School. Vadodara, August 19, 2014.
- Mr. Keyur Shah, Chairman, Baroda Round Table, Vadodara, August 20, 2014.
- Ms. Komal Kapasi, Faculty of Smt. K.S.N.K. Mahila College, MSW Department, Rajkot, August 21, 2014.
- Ms. Poorva Nimkar, Vadodara, August 21, 2014.
- Ms. Sharfali Krishnan, Navrachna (Sama), Vadodara, September 16, 2014.
- Nyevode New Business School, Amsterdam, November 24, 2014.
- From Paul Mason Consulting, U.K, the following have visited, Mr. P. Mason, Mr. H. Thomas, Mr. N. Gilna, Mr. I. Edwards and Mr. G. Ambidge, September 15, 2014

Ms. J. Douglas, Ms. T. Moss and Ms. E. Dartsy, December 2, 2014, Ms. Stephanie Canavan and Ms. Emma Darby, February 23, 2015, Mr. S. Smart, Mr. S. Young and Mr. N. Horner, March 13, 2015.

- Mr. Tushar Dange, Sr. Manager Operation, Akshay Patra Foundation, Vadodara, December 4, 2014.
- Mr. Prodip Ganguly, Asstt. Gen. Manager and Mr. Ajay Tibrewal, Chief Manager with other Senior Managers of various branches of Oriental Bank, Vadodara, February 19, 2015.
- Dr. A. L. Deshmukh, Shri A. C. Kulkarni, Mr. M. W. Joshi, 'Aapnas' a NGO, Pune and Ms. S. Bakshi, Bhasha Research Centre, Vadodara, February 23, 2015.
- Ms. Valeree Sion and Ms. Elizabeth Fleuret, International Ladies Club, Vadodara, March 12, 2015.
- Dr. G. M. Krishnan Rao, Vice-Principal, Santhiram Medical College, Nandyal, Andhra Pradesh, March 13, 2015.
- Ms. Parvathy Baul, Baul Singer, Trivandrum, April 8, 2015.
- Mr. Mr. Yogendra Shishode, Head CSR & Ms. Nirali Chandrani, Officer CSR from GACL, Vadodara, April 22, 2015.
- Mr. Dakshesh Gandhi, Vadodara, April 28, 2015

Our Special Gratitude to

- **Shikshan Samiti (School Board)** for **temporary accommodation** in the inner city.
- **The EME School** for the Eugene Stadium for **Sports Day** and other related support.
- **Mr. Manishi Bhatt** of Manishi Enterprise for **construction activities of new building**.
- **Jalaram Temple** for a hot lunch for the past 20 years. .
- **The staff of Karan Grover & Associates**, Mr. Mihir Ashara, Mr. Bhupendra Patel, Mr. Mukesh Patel, Mr. Jojo Jacob, Mr. Sujo Jose, Mr. Thomas and Mr. Kishor Mohite.
- **Mr. Alkesh Shah**, Chartered Accountant, for the **accounts** since 1988 in an **honorary capacity**.
- **Mr. Jatin Vakil** for legal help.
- **Mr. Harsh Purohit and his team from Cognito** for the superb work with the Annual Report for the past 2 years.

- The Chairman, **Mr. Karan Grover**, Trustees **Mr. Jal Patel**, **Mr. Hasmukhbhai Shah**, and the new trustees **Mr. Rajesh Parikh**, **Ms. Shruti Shroff** and **Ms. Ishita Verma** for their unstinting support.

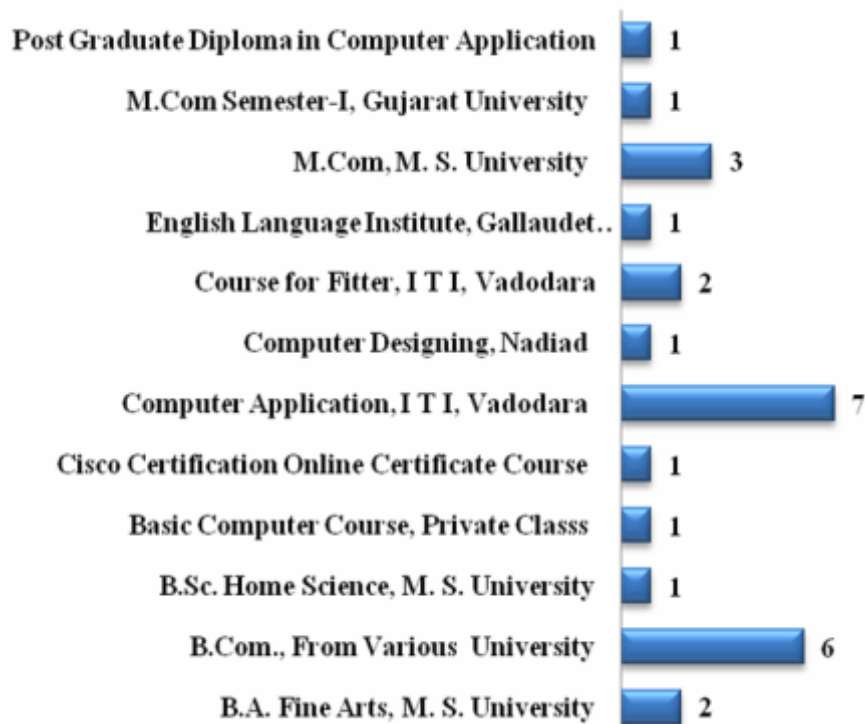
Board Exams

	10th (SSC)	12th (HSC)
2005	5 students (NIOS)	
2006	7 students (NIOS)	
2008	10 students (GSEB)	2 students (GSEB)
2009	2 students (GSEB)	
2010	11 students (GSEB)	10 students (GSEB)
2011		1 student (GSEB)
2012	10 students (GSEB)	8 students (GSEB)
2013	4 students (GSEB)	
2014	10 (GSEB)	8 (GSEB)

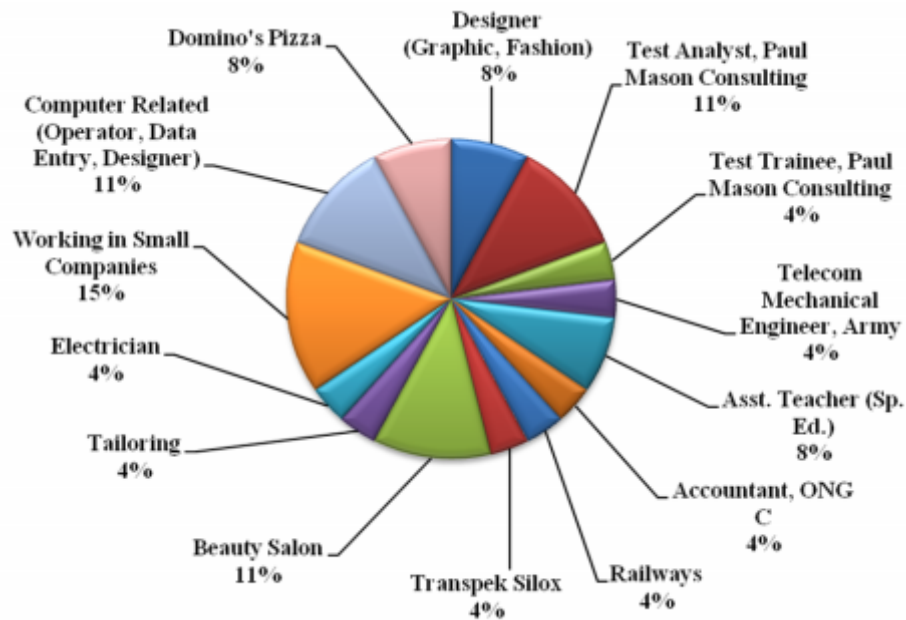
GSEB – Gujarat Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board

NIOS – National Indian Open School

Academic Background of Students



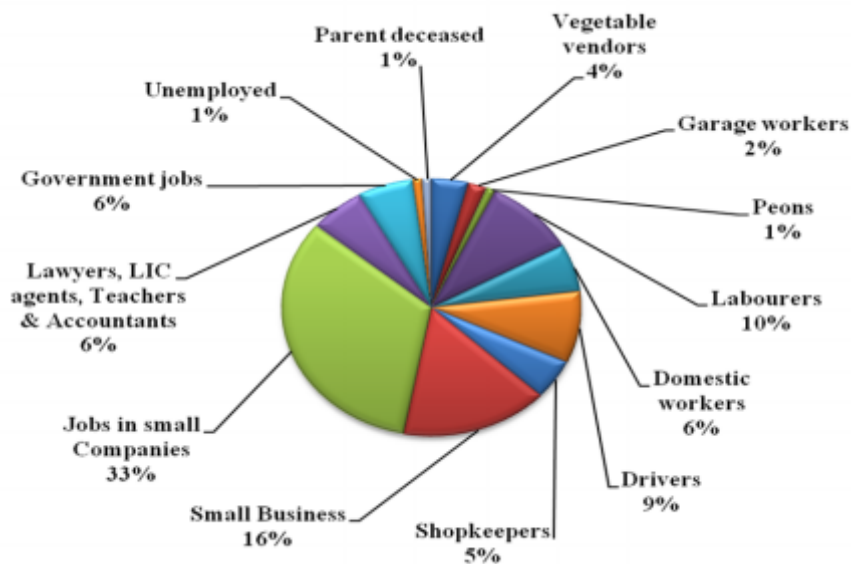
Placement / Employment



The following students from the above table are pursuing further studies along with their jobs

Fenil Parekh	B.C.A.	IGNOU, Distance Mode
Vandana Rohra	B.C.A.	IGNOU, Distance Mode
Amit Jha	B.C.A.	IGNOU, Distance Mode

Profile of the occupation of parents



- ❖ Registered under the Bombay Public Trust Act 1950, No. E/4063/Vadodra dated 29-03-1989.
- ❖ Registered under section 52 of the Persons with Disabilities Act 1995.
- ❖ All donations are 50 % exempted under section 80G (5) of the Income Tax 1961 vide order No. BRD/I.T – III/Tech/104/18/A dated 21-11-2007.
- ❖ 100% Tax Exemption U/S 35 AC of the Income Tax Act-1961 No. 35/2015 / F. No. V.270 15/3/2014-SO (NAT.COM) for Building Fund
- ❖ FCRA No. 041960087 dated 06-06-2003 (For Foreign Contribution).
- ❖ Registered Under Section 12 (A) (a) of the Income Tax act 1961, dated 13-04-1989. No. BRD/SIB/110-8-A/88-89.

Office Bearers

Chairman

Mr. Karan Grover

Trustees

Mr. Jal Patel,

Mr. Hasmukhbhai Shah, Mr. Rajesh Parikh

Ms. Ishita Verma, Ms. Shruti Shroff

Hony. Principal /

Managing Trustee

Ms. Nisha Grover

AKSHAR TRUST

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