



SCHOLARSHIP & MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

FOR WOMEN IN CHEMISTRY & ALLIED AREAS

Implemented By



Sponsored By

 **BASF**
We create chemistry

COMPENDIUM 2024-26

To know more about the program



Scan QR code or visit: <https://www.pkc.org.in/explore-projects/capacity-building/stem-education/wenyan>



SCHOLARSHIP & MENTORSHIP PROGRAM
FOR WOMEN IN CHEMISTRY & ALLIED AREAS

COMPENDIUM 2024 - 26

Implemented By



Supported By







CONTENT

- 01** PKC Perspective
- 03** BASF Perspective
- 05** About WEnyan
- 08** Program Management Unit
- 09** WEnyan Grantees - Year 3
- 50** WEnyan Grantees - Year 4
- 92** Engagement Activities - Industry Visits
- 94** Women Role Model Talk Series
- 95** Skill Building Workshops
- 96** Selection Committee & Program Mentors
- 98** Testimonials From Mentors
- 104** Impact
- 106** Looking Forward



PKC PERSPECTIVE

The WEnyan Scholarship and Mentorship Program is now in its fourth year of implementation and has become a meaningful force for change. What began as a focused effort to support young women in STEM has evolved into a broader movement. It has inspired a rising number of donors and educational institutions to develop context-specific initiatives that encourage women's participation in STEM fields. Staying true to its founders' vision, the program is steadily shaping a more inclusive and enabling landscape across the country.

Over the years, the PKC team has worked to strengthen and re-energize a diverse ecosystem by bringing together donors, academicians, students, early-career researchers, and women entrepreneurs. This effort has been deeply

collaborative. It is driven by a growing recognition among stakeholders across academia and industry of the systemic barriers women face and the interventions needed to support their success.

One of the most significant outcomes of this collective effort has been the transformation in participants' confidence and aspirations. They emerge with enhanced academic and professional opportunities, alongside a stronger sense of self-belief, purpose, and ownership of their future. PKC's role has been to act as a catalyst, creating the environment conducive to this transformation. Through the program's implementation, we have learned that meaningful change requires more than access alone. By fostering agency alongside opportunity, such programs empower young women to boldly pursue their ambitions. They equip women to overcome social barriers and gender biases and enter spaces defined by intellectual freedom, responsibility, and self-determination.

Programs like WEnyan demonstrate that when the right support structures are in place, individual potential can translate into broader societal change.





BASF PERSPECTIVE

WEnyan is a scholarship program funded by BASF Chemicals India Private Limited, providing research grants to women from marginalized communities in Maharashtra. At BASF, we believe that enabling access to science and education is fundamental to building a more sustainable and inclusive future.

WEnyan reflects this belief by supporting women who demonstrate both potential and perseverance, creating pathways for them to participate meaningfully in scientific research and innovation. Our interactions with the WEnyan scholars have been deeply inspiring. Beyond their

academic promise, we have seen resilience, determination, and a strong sense of purpose. Their journeys underscore an important reality: talent is widespread, yet access to opportunity remains uneven. Through WEnyan, we aim to help bridge this gap by reducing barriers, strengthening confidence, and fostering aspiration. We are encouraged to see how this support enables scholars to pursue their ambitions, contribute to society, and shape the future of science. BASF is proud to partner in this journey, reinforcing our commitment to empowering women in STEM and advancing equitable access to opportunity.





ABOUT Weज्ञान

The WEnyan Scholarship & Mentorship Program aims to increase women's participation in chemistry by providing them access to research and opportunities in scientific careers. The program is distinctive in combining research with an entrepreneurial outlook at a pivotal stage of education, when young women are making important decisions about their professional aspirations and career trajectories.

In India, women face disproportionately high attrition from STEM careers after graduation. The challenge is especially pronounced among those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, who often lack sustained academic, financial, and professional support. Many women, including those returning to science after a maternity break, are also underprepared for a rapidly evolving job market that increasingly values innovation, entrepreneurship, and

adaptability. To address this 'leaky pipeline', the program focuses on women (in Maharashtra), with particular emphasis on those from low-income and marginalised backgrounds, as well as students in their career-defining stages: undergraduate, postgraduate, and early-stage PhD levels.

WEnyan goes beyond conventional scholarships by intervening at key transition points in the academic journey with customised support. It integrates financial assistance, more nuanced mentorship, and research exposure to help participants build informed, sustainable career pathways. The curriculum, with a futuristic perspective, actively encourages innovation and entrepreneurship to train women to navigate and lead confidently in the dynamic employment market.

The monetary support includes monthly scholarships that promote financial independence, along with prototyping grants of up to 2 lakh specifically for early-stage PhD students working on commercially viable research. Academic and research engagement is facilitated through lab-based projects (3–6 months) conducted at the student's home institution under the supervision of project PIs and mentors. This is complemented by a robust mentorship ecosystem that connects participants with scientists, researchers, and industry professionals across India. The program also provides access to an academic network, along with exposure to research institutions and industries to pursue opportunities in real-world, application-oriented research problems.

The program focuses on basic and applied chemistry areas, including fuel cells and batteries, fundamental chemistry, environment and sustainability, pharmacology and drug discovery, materials science, herbal formulations, nutraceuticals, and agrochemistry.

WEnyan fosters a rigorous scientific temperament rooted in intellectual depth, discipline, and commitment to research, while nurturing confidence, independence, and a strong sense of purpose

Basic eligibility criteria for the application include:

- **Gender:** Female
- **Income Group:** Low-income group (from households with annual income less than or equal to INR 8 lakhs)
- **Academic Qualification:**
 - Students in 3rd Year BS graduation programs in universities
 - Students in 4th Year B.Tech/B.E graduation programs in universities
 - Students in 2nd Year M.Sc/M.Tech/M.E. programs in universities
 - Students who have completed B.Sc / B.Tech / M.Sc / M.Tech / M.E degrees within one year of completion or are in their early PhD phase (up to the third year)

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Academic Qualification	Type of Scholarship/Grant	Duration	Funding
Students in 3 rd Year B.Sc. or 4 th Year B.Tech / B.E. programs	Bachelor's Research Scholarship	3 months	Scholarship of INR 10,000 / month
Students in 2nd Year M.Sc. / M.Tech / M.E. program	Master's Research Scholarship	6 months	Scholarship of INR 15,000 / month
Students with valid B.Sc / M.Sc / M.Tech / M.E degrees (within 1 year of completion or early PhD phase)	Entrepreneurship Grant	6 months	Scholarship of INR 15,000 / month & Prototyping Grant up to INR 2 Lakhs

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT UNIT



Dr. Ritika Ganguly

Project Manager, Capacity Building & STEM Education,
Pune Knowledge Cluster



Dr. Rupali Shivapurkar

Project Manager, Health, Pune Knowledge Cluster



Ms. Niharika Gogate

Project Associate, Pune Knowledge Cluster



Ms. Gayatri Kshirsagar

Senior Program Manager, Capacity Building & STEM Education



Ms. Shital Nagpure

Project Associate, Pune Knowledge Cluster

Past team member



Dr. Shilpa Jain

Former General Manager, Pune Knowledge Cluster



WEnyan GRANTEES - YEAR 3 (2024 - 25)

In the third year, 37 women were selected for the Scholarship Program, out of which 12 were awarded Bachelor's Research Scholarships, 20 were awarded the Master's Research Scholarship, and 5 were awarded Entrepreneurial Grants.



Bachelor's
Research
Scholarship
Awardees

AAKANKSHA CHANDRAKANT GODSE

SAKSHI ABASAHEB PAWAR

JANAVI SUNIL BAGALE

SANIKA NILESH KINEKAR

NEHA CHANDRAKANT CHAVAN

ISHWARI MAHESH WALUNJ

POOJA TANAJI MASAYE

SNEHA SOPANRAO PAWAR

SRUSHTI VINAYAK GADEKAR

SANSKRUTI JAGADESH

KASHISH SINGH

KANCHAN KALIDAS KALE



Aakanksha Chandrakant Godse

Pursuing B.Pharm in Pharmaceutical Sciences
Jaywantrao Sawant College of Pharmacy and
Research, Hadapsar, Pune
Hometown : Satara

Principal Investigator :

Mr. Nitin Londhe

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Chemistry

“The WEnyan Scholarship has supported my project by providing essential funding, allowing me to focus more on innovation and less on financial constraints, thereby enhancing its impact and quality. It is also a strong vote of confidence in my abilities and future success.”

Hailing from Satara, Aakanksha belongs to a 4-member family with her father, a vegetable seller, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she pursued a project on "**Green route synthesis and molecular docking, ADMET study of Novel Oxadiazole derivative.**"

She is currently training to work as a medical coder in Pune.

Sakshi Abasaheb Pawar

Pursuing B.Pharm in Pharmaceutical Sciences
Sanjivani College of Pharmaceutical Education and
Research, Kopargaon
Hometown : Ahilyanagar

Principal Investigator :
Dr. Prerana Badrinath Jadhav
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Chemistry

Hailing from Ahilyanagar, Sakshi belongs to a 10-member family with her parents, farmers, being the only earning members.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she pursued a project on **"Synthesis and Antimicrobial Evaluation of some Heterocyclic Compounds."**

She is currently pursuing her Master's in Pharmacology from Nitte Gulabi Shetty Memorial Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Mangalore.



“Thanks to the WEnyan Scholarship, I have access to essential funding and valuable learning opportunities through workshops, seminars, and industry interactions. This support makes my project feasible at the B. Pharm level and boosts my confidence, allowing me to focus on innovation and enhance both its impact and quality.”



Janavi Sunil Bagale

Pursuing B.Pharm

Yashwantrao Bhonsale College of Pharmacy,
Sawantwadi

Hometown : Sindhudurg

Principal Investigator :

Dr. Gaurav Gopal Naik

Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Chemistry

“ I'm grateful for WEnyan's financial support, which has made our B. Pharm project a reality. Their workshops and seminars have also provided valuable opportunities to network with industry experts, gain insights from their experiences, and learn from their journeys. ”

Hailing from Sindhudurg, Janavi belongs to a 4-member family with her father, a farmer, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she pursued a project on "**Salixcare: Military-Grade Self-Healing Biodegradable Wound Patch.**"

She is currently pursuing her Master's of Science degree in Pharmacology and Biotechnology from Sheffield Hallam University, England.

Sanika Nilesh Kinekar

Pursuing B.Sc in Biotechnology (Hons.)
S K Somaiya College, Somaiya Vidyavihar University,
Mumbai
Hometown : Mumbai

Principal Investigator :
Dr. Seema Sambrani
Associate Professor, Head of Department,
Dept. of Life Sciences



Hailing from Amravati, Sanika belongs to a 5-member family with her mother being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she pursued a project on "**Bacterial Degradation of Benzyl Chloride.**"

She is currently pursuing her Master's in Hospital Administration from MGM College.

“WEnyan's support made my B.Sc. Biotechnology project possible. Their insightful workshops have helped me connect with industry experts, offering valuable lessons from their experiences and inspiring journeys.”



Neha Chandrakant Chavan

Pursuing B.Pharm

Yashwantrao Bhonsale college of Pharmacy,
Sawantwadi

Hometown : Sindhudurg

Principal Investigator :

Mr. Mayuresh Redkar

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutics

“WEnyan has supported me with funding, giving me the flexibility to manage my project effectively. They also ensure my progress by connecting me with experts who help resolve my doubts.”

Hailing from Sindhudurg, Neha belongs to a 4-member family with her father, a teacher, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she pursued a project on "**Development of green extraction method for isolation of phytochemicals from *Ixora javanica* plant.**"

She is currently pursuing an MBA in Pharmaceutical Management from D Y Patil University.

Ishwari Mahesh Walunj

Pursuing B.Sc in Biotechnology

MES Abasaheb Garware College, Pune

Hometown : Pune

Principal Investigator :

Dr. Ayesha A. Khan

Associate Professor, Dept. of Chemistry

Hailing from Pune, Ishwari belongs to a 5-member family with working parents.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she pursued a project on "**Extraction and Isolation of Lutein for Sustainable Development of Green Pesticide from *Tagetes erecta* (marigold).**"

She is currently preparing for a Master's course.



“ With WEnyan's generous funding and comprehensive support, my project has become more achievable. Skill-development workshops and inspiring talks with women leaders in STEM have further enriched my learning experience. ”



Pooja Tanaji Masaye

Pursuing B.Pharm in Regulatory Science
Govindrao Nikam College of Pharmacy, Sawarde,
Ratnagiri

Hometown : Ratnagiri

Principal Investigator :
Prof. Sukanya Jitendra Patil
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutics

“WEnyan has supported me in conducting my research project, including data collection and analysis. It has helped me develop into a competitive candidate for graduate school and job opportunities, making a positive impact on my life.”

Hailing from Ratnagiri, Pooja belongs to a 4-member family with her father, a teacher, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she pursued a project titled **"From Waste to Wear: Cauliflower Waste as a sustainable alternative to synthetic fibers."**

She is currently pursuing a PG Diploma in Management (Healthcare) from Welingkar Institute, Mumbai.

Sneha Sopanrao Pawar

Pursuing B.Pharm

School Of Pharmacy SRTMU, Nanded

Hometown : Nanded

Principal Investigator :

Ms. Aarti More

Assistant Professor



Hailing from Nanded, Sneha belongs to a 4-member family with her father, a farmer, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she pursued a project on "**Development of topical herbal formulation of *rumex abyssinicus*.**"

She is currently working as a medical coder in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar.

“ The WEnyan Scholarship was instrumental in supporting my personal and academic growth, allowing me to focus more on my work and studies and less on financial concerns. It enabled me to pursue my goals and work toward making a meaningful impact in my chosen field. ”



Srushti Vinayak Gadekar

Pursuing B.Sc in Biotechnology

New Arts Commerce And Science College,
Ahilyanagar

Hometown : Ahilyanagar

Principal Investigator :

Mr. Sanjay Tukaram Moharekar

Assistant Professor

“WEnyan provided funding that made my project feasible at the undergraduate biotechnology level. Their workshops and seminars have also helped me connect with industry professionals and learn from their experiences.”

Hailing from Ahilyanagar, Srushti belongs to a 6-member family with her father, a workshop engineer, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she pursued a project on **"Isolation, Identification, Characterization of Keratin Degrading Microorganisms and their Enzyme Activity from Poultry Soil."**

She is currently undergoing training for NGS/CADD (Next-Generation Sequencing /Combined Annotation Dependent Depletion) at an institute that offers such courses.

Sanskruti Jagadesh

Pursuing B.Sc in Biotechnology

S K Somaiya College, Somaiya Vidyavihar University,
Mumbai

Hometown : Mumbai

Principal Investigator :

Dr. Seema Sambrani

Associate Professor, Head of Department,
Dept. of Life Sciences



Hailing from Mumbai, Sanskruti belongs to a 4-member family with her father being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she pursued a project on **"Effect of Magnetic Field on the Growth of Spirulina."**

She is currently interning at IIT Bombay and will be pursuing her Master's at Johns Hopkins University from August 2026.

“WEnyan has supported me with funding and connected me with scientific advisors and industry experts. The team has inspired me to grow as a researcher and contribute meaningfully through my project.”



Kashish Singh

Pursuing B.Pharm in Fundamental Chemistry

Principal K M Kundnani College Of Pharmacy, Mumbai

Hometown : Mumbai

Principal Investigator :

Mr. Vinayak Dasharath Gaikwad

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmacology

“WEnyan has provided funding and valuable webinars and seminars, connecting me with industry professionals and supporting my personal and professional growth.”

Hailing from Mumbai, Kashish belongs to a 4-member family with her father, a businessman, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she pursued a project on "**Formulation and Development of Phytochemical-Based Anti-inflammatory Tablets: A Synergistic Approach to Multi-Component Therapy.**"

She is currently pursuing a Postgraduate degree in PharmD from Poona College of Pharmacy, Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed University, Pune.

Kanchan Kalidas Kale

Pursuing B.Sc in Forensic Science
Government Institute of Forensic Science,
Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar
Hometown : Dharashiv

Principal Investigator :
Dr. Ravikumar Marotrao Borade
Assistant Professor



Hailing from Dharashiv, Kanchan belongs to a 5-member family with her father, a farmer, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she pursued a project on **"Fabrication of surface modified magnetic nanoparticles for Developing Latent Fingerprints (LFP) in Crime Scenes."**

She is currently pursuing her Master's in Forensic Science (Forensic Chemistry and Toxicology) from the Government Institute of Forensic Science, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar.

“WEnyan has provided funding to support my development. Their workshops and seminars will help me connect with experts and broaden my horizons.”

Master's
Research
Scholarship
Awardees

JANHAVI HEMANT RANE
VAISHNAVI VITTHALRAO PAWAR
PRERANA PRAVIN BARGE
UJMA IMTIYAZ PATHAN
TAIBA AKIL DESHMUKH
MINAL SANJAY PATIL
GAYATRI MANOHAR PATIL
KOMAL ASHOK BHOI
SANDHYA ANIL GHADAGE
RUTUJA SHASHIKANT ABHANG
VARSHA RAMNATH KALE
RUPALI BHUJANGRAO KENDE
AMITA SUHAS BHALEKAR
PRATIKSHA GAJANAN HARALE
VRUSHALI SURESH SAWANT
DOLLY SACHIN JUNGHARE
SAMRUDDHI UDAY PADHYE
VAIBHAVI NITIN KAMBALE
MOHINI NANDRAM ZADE
SAHERISH ANSAR SHAIKH

Janhavi Hemant Rane

Pursuing M.Sc in Agrochemicals & Pest Management
Shivaji University, Kolhapur
Hometown : Kolhapur

Principal Investigator :

Dr. Yojana Y. Patil

Assistant Professor, School of Nanoscience and
Biotechnology



Hailing from Kolhapur, Janhavi belongs to a 4-member family.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she pursued a project on "**Study of the efficacy of biochar from water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) and investigating its compatibility impact on soil health.**"

She is currently working as a Bioefficacy Trainee at an Agrochemicals Regulatory Affairs Consultancy.

“ WEnyan has been a key supporter, offering funding and guidance to help us navigate challenges and refine our approach. Their workshops also connect us with industry experts, enriching our learning. ”



Vaishnavi Vitthalrao Pawar

Pursuing M.Pharm in Pharmaceutical Chemistry
R. C. Patel Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and
Research, Shirpur
Hometown : Parbhani

Principal Investigator :
Dr. Harun M. Patel
Professor and Dean, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Chemistry

“ WEnyan's financial support and practical exposure are enhancing my understanding and strengthening my passion for the subject. ”

Hailing from Parbhani, Vaishnavi belongs to a 5-member family with her father, a farmer, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she pursued a project on "***Design and Synthesis of Linezolid Analogues to Overcome the Serotonergic Toxicity Associated with Linezolid in the Treatment of the Multi-Drug Resistance Tuberculosis (MDR-TB).***"

She is currently working as an Assistant Professor at a college of pharmacy in Buldhana.

Prerana Pravin Barge

Pursuing M.Sc in Fundamental Chemistry
Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mumbai
Hometown : Satara

Principal Investigator :
Dr. Debabrata Maiti
Institute Chair Professor, Dept. of Chemistry



Hailing from Satara, Prerana belongs to a 5-member family with her father, a farmer, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she pursued a project on **"Asymmetric Skeletal Editing of Cyclopropane Carboxylic Acid to access 3-oxabicyclo [3.1.0] hexan-2-one."**

She is currently pursuing a Ph.D in Chemical Sciences from IISc, Bangalore.

“ WEnyan is supporting my MS thesis with funding and opportunities to connect with the scientific community while gaining valuable career guidance. ”



Ujma Imtiyaz Pathan

Pursuing M.Sc in Organic Chemistry
Abeda Inamdar Senior College, Pune
Hometown : Sangli

Principal Investigator :
Dr. Khursheed Ahmed
Professor, Dept. of Chemistry

“WEnyan has helped me reach my full potential, and I am grateful for the opportunities it has provided. The scholarship supports my academics and is shaping my future career by enabling me to gain experience, engage with industry leaders, and build a professional network.”

Hailing from Sangli, Ujma belongs to a 4-member family with her father, an auto driver, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she pursued a project on **"Molecular engineering of Safranal-Hydrazide conjugates for precision targeting of EGFR and HER2 pathways in Breast cancer."**

She is currently working as a Research and Development Trainee at an Advanced Materials manufacturing company in Gujarat.

Taiba Akil Deshmukh

Pursuing M.Pharm in Pharmaceutical Chemistry

Y. B. Chavan College of Pharmacy,

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar

Hometown : Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar

Principal Investigator :

Dr. Mirza Shahed Baig

Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Chemistry



Hailing from Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Taiba belongs to a 4-member family with her father, a teacher, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she pursued a project on **"Synthesis of Bioactive Quinoxaline Benzothiazole derivatives for Anti-microbial activity."**

She is currently working as a Clinical Research Coordinator at Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar.

“WEnyan has supported my academic and personal development by providing financial security, allowing me to pursue innovative research without distraction. It enables me to deepen my work, expand research opportunities, access mentorship, build networks, and focus on contributing to drug discovery and antimicrobial therapy.”



Minal Sanjay Patil

Pursuing M.Pharm in Pharmaceutics

R. C. Patel Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Shirpur

Hometown : Dhule

Principal Investigator :

Dr. Hitendra S. Mahajan

Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutics

“The WEnyan Scholarship offers a range of benefits that support both personal and professional growth, providing a strong platform for academic excellence, industry engagement, and career advancement. It empowers me to achieve my goals with confidence.”

Hailing from Dhule, Minal belongs to a 4-member family with her father, a farmer, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she pursued a project on **"Engineered Design of a Mesoporous Silica Nanoparticle-Based Nanocarrier for Efficient Drug Delivery."**

She is currently working as an Apprentice in Regulatory Affairs at a Pharmaceutical Manufacturing company in Mumbai.

Gayatri Manohar Patil

Pursuing M.Sc in Organic Chemistry

SSPM's Vasantao Naik Arts, Science and Commerce
College, Shahada, Nandurbar

Hometown : Nandurbar

Principal Investigator :

Dr. Subhash Dharmraj Khairnar

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Chemistry



Hailing from Nandurbar, Gayatri belongs to a 4-member family with her father, a farmer, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she pursued a project on "**Synthesis and characterization of nanocrystalline $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{g-C}_3\text{N}_4$ for photocatalytic degradation of dye.**"

She is currently preparing for competitive exams.

“ WEnyan is helping bridge barriers for rural talent by providing opportunities to expand our knowledge through various activities and mentorship support. ”



Komal Ashok Bhoi

Pursuing M.Pharm

R. C. Patel Institute of Pharmaceutical Education
and Research, Shirpur

Hometown : Dhule

Principal Investigator :

Dr. Snehal K. Bhavsar

Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmacognosy

“Wenyan has helped me by providing financial support for my research and inspiring me to strive for excellence. It has enabled me to focus deeply on my work, leading to personal and professional growth, while motivating me to explore new ideas and make a meaningful impact in my field.”

Hailing from Dhule, Komal belongs to an 8-member family with her father, a greengrocer, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she pursued a project on "**Formulation and evaluation of nano gel incorporated with essential oil for *Candida albicans*.**"

She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. at Kavayitri Bahinabai Chaudhari North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon.

Sandhya Anil Ghadage

Pursuing M.Sc in Nanoscience and Biotechnology
School of Nanoscience and Biotechnology,
Shivaji University, Kolhapur
Hometown : Satara

Principal Investigator :
Dr. Suryabala Anand Sawant
Assistant Professor, School of Nanoscience and
Biotechnology



Hailing from Satara, Sandhya belongs to a 5-member family with her father, a businessman, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she pursued a project on "**Synthesis of Magnetic Iron oxide nanoparticles from scrap iron waste for Reduction of Aromatic Nitro compounds.**"

She is currently working as an Assistant Professor.

“The WEnyan Scholarship provides essential financial support and expert guidance, enabling me to focus on my academic and research goals. Their tailored mentorship and valuable insights enhance my growth as a researcher and prepares me for a successful career.”



Rutuja Shashikant Abhang

Pursuing M.Pharm in Pharmaceutics

AISSMS College of Pharmacy, Pune

Hometown : Pune

Principal Investigator :

Dr. Monica Rao

Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutics

“ WEnyan is instrumental in transforming my research vision into reality by providing financial support, access to advanced technologies, and expert guidance. ”

Hailing from Pune, belongs to a 6-member family with her father, a farmer, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she pursued a project on "**Formulation and Evaluation of a Dual-Targeted Nanogel System for Quercetin and Curcumin in Alzheimer's Disease Therapy via Nasal Route and Diabetic Wound Healing.**"

She is currently working as an Intern in the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Department at a Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Company.

Varsha Ramnath Kale

Pursuing M.Pharm in Pharmaceutics
Pravara Rural College of Pharmacy, Loni
Hometown : Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar

Principal Investigator :
Dr. Siddheshwar Suhas
Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutics



Hailing from Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Varsha belongs to a 5-member family with her father, a farmer, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she pursued a project on **"Enhanced Targeted Delivery of Gefitinib Using HA-g-FA Polymer Conjugate Decorated Niosomes for Breast Cancer Management."**

She is currently preparing for competitive exams.

“WEnyan provides critical resources such as financial support, mentorship, and networking opportunities, which are essential for my professional growth.”



Rupali Bhujangrao Kende

Pursuing M.Tech in Food Engineering and Technology
Institute of Chemical Technology
Mumbai-Marathwada Campus, Jalna
Hometown : Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar

Principal Investigator :

Dr. Yogesh Gut (Guide), Assistant Professor,
Dept. of Food Engineering and Technology

Dr. Sandhya Shewale (Mentor), Assistant Professor

“WEnyan has played a crucial role in making this project feasible at the M.Tech level by providing essential funding. Their workshops and seminars also offer valuable opportunities to connect with industry experts, helping me gain insights and learn from their experiences.”

Hailing from Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Rupali belongs to a 4-member family with her father, a farmer, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she pursued a project on **"Extraction, Modification and Application of Cellulose from Citrus limetta."**

She is currently working as a Research and Development Executive at a Food Processing Company.

Amita Suhas Bhalekar

Pursuing M.Pharm in Pharmaceutics
Yashwantrao Bhonsale College of Pharmacy,
Sawantwadi
Hometown : Sindhudurg

Principal Investigator :
Dr. Rohan Barse
Head of Department, Dept. of Pharmaceutics



Hailing from Sindhudurg, Amita belongs to a 4-member family with her father, a stockbroker, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she pursued a project on **"Waste To Wealth: Investigation and significance of the Valorization of novel herbal bioactive loaded transdermal films from Jackfruit waste for various skin diseases."**

She is currently an Intern at a Research Organisation in Pune while seeking a full-time job.

“The WEnyan Scholarship is a life-changing opportunity that will help me achieve my academic and career goals.”



Pratiksha Gajanan Harale
Pursuing M.Pharm in Pharmacology
Y. B. Chavan College of Pharmacy,
Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar
Hometown : Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar

Principal Investigator :
Dr. Khan Dureshahwar
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmacology

“ WEnyan is helping me
build strong connections
with experts in my field,
which encourages me to
contribute to society
through my subject
expertise. ”

Hailing from Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Pratiksha belongs to a 4-member family with her father, an engineer, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she pursued a project on **"Integrated Bioinformatics, Network Pharmacology, and Molecular Docking Analysis to Explore the Effect of a Novel Herbal Transdermal Patch in Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML)."**

She is currently a Technical Analyst at a Data Analytics company.

Vrushali Suresh Sawant

Pursuing M.Sc in Microbiology
Vivekanand Education Society's College of Arts,
Science and Commerce, Chembur, Mumbai
Hometown : Mumbai Suburban

Principal Investigator :
Dr. Pradnya Gogte, Assistant Professor,
Dept. of Microbiology (Xavier's College)
Dr. Mughda Apte, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Microbiology
(Vivekanand Education Society's College of Arts, Science
and Commerce)



Hailing from Mumbai, Vrushali belongs to a 4-member family with her elder sister being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she pursued a project on "**Evaluation of antimicrobial activity of bacterial endophytes.**"

She is currently working as a Content Analyst at a healthcare Revenue Cycle Management company in Mumbai.

“WEnyan has been crucial to my research project, providing financial support for resources and equipment. The guidance and workshops offered through the program enhance my skills and understanding in the field.”



Dolly Sachin Junghare

Pursuing M.Pharm in Pharmaceutics

Dadasaheb Balpande College of Pharmacy, Nagpur

Hometown : Nagpur

Principal Investigator :

Dr. Nilesh Mahajan

Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutics

“WEnyan has provided financial support that has made this project achievable. Their workshops and seminars also give me the opportunity to network with professionals whose knowledge and perspectives are highly valuable.”

Hailing from Nagpur, Dolly belongs to a 4-member family with her father being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she pursued a project on "**Nanofibers Mediated Eradication of Bacterial Biofilm to Reduce the Multi-Drug Resistance.**"

She is currently working as a teacher while looking for a job.

Samruddhi Uday Padhye

Pursuing M.Pharm in Pharmaceutics

Govindrao Nikam College of Pharmacy, Sawarde,
Ratnagiri

Hometown : Ratnagiri

Principal Investigator :

Ms. Apeksha Rahate

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutics



Hailing from Ratnagiri, Samruddhi belongs to a 5-member family with working parents.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she pursued a project on "**Development of Pulsincap Drug Delivery System Using *Ficus religiosa* for the Treatment of Asthma.**"

She is currently working as a Bioanalyst at a Clinical Research Organization in Ahmedabad.

“WEnyan has validated my potential and boosted my confidence. It equips me with technical expertise, industry insights, and a clear professional path, enabling impactful contributions to the pharmaceutical field.”



Vaibhavi Nitin Kambale

Pursuing M.Sc in Forensic Science
Government Institute of Forensic Science,
Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar
Hometown : Satara

Principal Investigator :
Dr. Devidas S Bhagat
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Forensic Chemistry

“With WEnyan's support,
I secured the funding
needed to complete my
project. The program also
offers opportunities to gain
deeper insights into areas
that contribute to my
professional growth.”

Hailing from Satara, Vaibhavi belongs to a 5-member family with her father, a farmer, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she pursued a project on **"To develop nanomaterial-based chemo-sensor for detection of pesticide residues in forensic exhibits."**

She is currently working as an Assistant Chemical Analyst at the Regional Forensic Science Laboratory in Kolhapur.

Mohini Nandram Zade

Pursuing M.Sc in Organic Chemistry

Sir Parshurambhau College, Pune

Hometown : Parbhani

Principal Investigator :

Dr. Pravin Mhaske

Professor, Dept. of Chemistry



Hailing from Parbhani, Mohini belongs to a 4-member family with her father, a farmer, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she pursued a project on "**Synthesis antimicrobial and antitubercular activity of new 1,2,3-triazole-quinolinyI-propan-2-ol derivatives.**"

She is currently working as a research associate at a research-based bio-pharmaceutical company in Pune.

“ WEnyan has helped me with funding, making this project feasible at the M.Sc level. Their workshops and seminars have also built my confidence and helped me connect with industry experts. ”



Saherish Ansar Shaikh

Pursuing M.Pharm in Pharmaceutics
Pravara Rural College of Pharmacy, Loni
Hometown : Ahilyanagar

Principal Investigator :
Dr. Siddheshwar Suhas S.
Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutics

“WEnyan's generous funding and expert mentorship help me gain the technical expertise crucial for my research project. Their commitment to empowering women in science fuels my determination to make a meaningful impact.”

Hailing from Ahilyanagar, Saherish belongs to a 4-member family.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she pursued a project on "**Formulation and Evaluation of nutraceutical jellies of Brahma Kamal for women's health, including menstrual pain and maintenance of reproductive health of women.**"

She is currently working as a Safety Science Analyst.

Entrepreneurship Grant Awardees

RAJESHWARI SATISH PATIL

SHRUTI GOPINATH SHINDE

VARUNA SANDEEP WATWE

SUSHMA BALASAHEB LEMBHE

POOJA SANTOSH MURKUTE



Rajeshwari Satish Patil

Pursuing Ph.D in Pharmacognosy

R. C. Patel Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Shirpur, Dhule

Hometown : Dhule

Principal Investigator :

Dr. Mohan G. Kalaskar

Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmacognosy

“The financial support from the WEnyan program helps me access instruments and facilities. Its engagement activities also build the skills and qualities needed to become a successful researcher and entrepreneur.”

Hailing from Dhule, Rajeshwari belongs to a 4-member family with her father, a farmer, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she pursued a project on **"Isolation, Characterization, and preparation of antimicrobial film from fruit pulp of *Diospyros melanoxylon* Roxb. mucilage as a novel excipient."**

She is currently in the 3rd year of her Ph.D.

Shruti Gopinath Shinde

Pursuing Ph.D in Life Sciences

Ramnarain Ruia Autonomous College, Mumbai

Hometown : Palghar

Principal Investigator :

Dr. Kanchan Chitnis

Professor, Dept. of Life Sciences



Shruti hails from Palghar and belongs to a three-member family that includes her brother and father.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she pursued a project on "**Development of nano-formulated topical lotion and checking its anti-inflammatory activity in arthritic conditions.**"

She is currently in the 4th year of her Ph.D.

“WEnyan scholarship funding is essential for my project, as it enables me to access the necessary techniques and chemicals. This support helps me achieve my objectives and strengthens my confidence in managing financial resources effectively.”



Varuna Sandeep Watwe

Pursuing Ph.D in Chemistry

MES Abasaheb Garware College, Pune

Hometown : Pune

Principal Investigator :

Dr. Preeti Sunil Kulkarni

Associate Professor, Dept. of Chemistry

“WEnyan has helped me with funding, making this project feasible in our laboratory at the Ph.D. level. It has also enabled valuable industry connections that support taking the project forward. The seminars, industry visits, and role model talks have helped shape me as an entrepreneur.”

Hailing from Pune, Varuna belongs to a 4-member family.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she pursued a project on "**Economical Production of Conductive Glass using a Low-cost Indigenous- Designed Ultrasonication Spray Pyrolysis Instrument.**"

She is currently in the 6th year of her Ph.D.

Sushma Balasaheb Lembhe

Pursuing Ph.D in Chemistry

Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune

Hometown : Pune

Principal Investigator :

Prof. Pragati Thakur

Professor, Dept. of Chemistry



Hailing from Pune, Sushma belongs to a 6-member family.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she pursued a project on **"Synthesis of Novel Fluorescent Carbon Quantum Dots Decorated Semiconductor Nano-materials for Photocatalytic Hydrogen Production and Pollutant Degradation."**

She is currently in the 4th year of her Ph.D.

“ The WEnyan Scholarship supports my education and research, allowing me to focus on my thesis without financial concerns. It also connects me with professors, industry leaders, and mentors, offering guidance and collaboration opportunities, while helping me work toward sustainable energy and environmental solutions. ”



Pooja Santosh Murkute

Pursuing Ph.D in Pharmaceuticals and Fine Chemicals

Y. B. Chavan College of Pharmacy,

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar

Hometown : Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar

Principal Investigator :

Dr. Mohammed Ismail Mouzam

Associate Professor

“ The WEnyan
Scholarship has
supported me in my
entrepreneurship program.
Its sessions and mentoring
workshops are highly
valuable and contribute
significantly to my overall
development.

”

Hailing from Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Pooja belongs to a 4-member family with her father, a shopkeeper, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she pursued a project on "**Screening & Evaluation of Silver Nanoparticles for Treatment of Breast Cancer by Using Triterpenoid Glycosidal Compounds.**"

She is currently in the 4th year of her Ph.D.



WEnyan GRANTEES - YEAR 4 (2025 - 26)

In the fourth year, 38 women were selected for the Scholarship Program, out of which 14 were awarded Bachelor's Research Scholarships, 20 were awarded the Master's Research Scholarship, and 4 were awarded Entrepreneurial Grants.



Bachelor's
Research
Scholarship
Awardees

ANUJA VAIBHAV PAWAR

PAYAL ANAR JADHAV

POURNIMA ANIL MAHALE

ASHWINI ANNASAHEB RASHINKAR

ANJALI CHANDRASHEKHAR MAURYA

JINAL SURESH KUMBHAR

SRUSHTI SANTOSH SHINDE

SALONI PANKAJ KHARE

RIYA JONTU DE

BHUMIKA RAMESH GADGE

PRITI KODULAL DEWADHARI

SAMRUDDHI VISHNU SURYAVANSHI

VEDIKA SANDIP MOHOD

NIRASHA YUWRAJ PARDHI

Anuja Vaibhav Pawar

Pursuing B.Pharm in Pharmaceutical Chemistry
Sanjivani College Of Pharmaceutical Education &
Research, Kopargaon
Hometown : Ahilyanagar

Principal Investigator :
Dr. Prerana Badrinath Jadhav
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Chemistry



Hailing from Ahilyanagar, Anuja belongs to a 5-member family. Her parents are farmers.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she is working on the project **"Synthesis and Antimicrobial Evaluation of Some Heterocyclic Compounds,"** driven by the urgent global threat of antimicrobial resistance and motivated to apply her synthetic organic chemistry skills to design novel heterocyclic molecules with the potential to inhibit drug-resistant microbes and contribute to next-generation antibiotic development.

She wants to pursue a Master's degree in Pharmaceutics and continue researching in synthetic chemistry, particularly in areas that contribute to innovative drug development.

“WEnyan has supported me by providing the funding needed for my project, along with mentorship and guidance on various research aspects. This has helped me successfully move my project forward.”



Payal Anar Jadhav

Pursuing B.Pharm

H.R Patel Institute Of Pharmaceutical Education And
Research, Shirpur

Hometown : Dhule

Principal Investigator :

Dr. Zamir G Khan

Assistant Professor

“WEnyan has supported this project by providing essential funding and offering workshops that connect me with industry experts. Their guidance and shared experiences have given me valuable insights for my work.”

Hailing from Dhule, Payal belongs to a 5-member family with her father, a farmer, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she is working on the project "**Extraction and Evaluation of Anthocyanin-Rich Red Hibiscus (*Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*) Extracts for Antisickling and Antioxidant Therapy in the Rural Population of North Maharashtra.**"

She wishes to pursue a Master's in Pharmaceutical Chemistry.

Pournima Anil Mahale

Pursuing B.Pharm

Yashwantrao Bhonsale College Of Pharmacy,
Sawantwadi

Hometown : Sindhudurg

Principal Investigator :

Dr. Rohan Barse

Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutics



Hailing from Sindhudurg, Pournima belongs to a 5-member family with her father, a farmer, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she is working on the project "**Development of a Bioadhesive Herbal Ear Strip for Passive Ear Wax Removal**". As a B.Pharm student, she is particularly interested in how chemistry underpins formulation development, analytical testing, and pharmacological activity. This project enables her to apply her chemistry knowledge to real pharmaceutical challenges, contributing to solutions that improve drug safety, efficacy, and patient care while building relevant practical experience.

Her ambition is to pursue a Master's in Pharmaceutics and go on to become a successful entrepreneur, building a business that addresses real-world problems while creating value for society.

“ WEnyan helps me understand complex chemistry concepts, analyze research data, and improve my project's accuracy through reliable academic support. ”



Ashwini Annasaheb Rashinkar

Pursuing B.Pharm in Chemistry

SRES Sanjivani College Of Pharmaceutical Education
And Research (Autonomous), Kopargaon

Hometown : Ahilyanagar

Principal Investigator :

Prof. Musmade Deepak Sitaram

Dean of Academics, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Chemistry

“WEnyan is supporting me by providing funding for my project, along with seminars, workshops, and continuous inspiration to grow as a young researcher.”

Hailing from Ahilyanagar, Ashwini belongs to a 5-member family with her father, a clerk, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she is working on the project **“In-Silico Designing, Synthesis and Biological Evaluation of 1,3,4-Oxadiazoles for Their Anticancer Activity,”** motivated by her curiosity to understand how molecular-level changes influence real-world therapeutic outcomes and by the opportunity to develop advanced concepts, practical laboratory skills, and contribute meaningfully to anticancer drug research.

Her ambition is to build a research-oriented career in the pharmaceutical field and contribute to scientific advancement.

Anjali Chandrashekhar Maurya

Pursuing B.Pharm

AET's St. John Institute Of Pharmacy And Research
(Autonomous), Palghar (East)

Hometown : Palghar

Principal Investigator :

Dr. Sagar Ramlal Pardeshi

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutics



Hailing from Palghar, Anjali belongs to a 5-member family with her father, a businessman, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she is working on the project **“Sonocrystallization-Based Valorization of Dairy Waste: A Comparative Study of Bath and Probe Sonication for Lactose Recovery,”** motivated by her interest in chemical research as the foundation of drug design, formulation, and stability, and by the opportunity to apply chemical principles to innovative, sustainable processes that support pharmaceutical development.

Her career ambition is to become a skilled pharmaceutical research professional.

“ WEnyan has not only funded my B.Pharm project but also opened doors to industry insights, inspiring my growth, confidence, and future aspirations. ”



Jinal Suresh Kumbhar

Pursuing B.Pharm

AET's St. John Institute Of Pharmacy And Research
(Autonomous), Palghar (East)

Hometown : Palghar

Principal Investigator :

Dr. Sagar Ramlal Pardeshi

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutics

“WEnyan supports me by providing the funding and resources needed to carry out my project effectively. This assistance helps me secure materials, manage expenses, and progress through each phase smoothly, allowing me to stay focused on achieving my project goals.”

Hailing from Palghar, Jinal belongs to a 4-member family with her father, a businessman, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she is working on the project **“Nano-in-Micro Spray-Dried Rifampicin and Isoniazid Dry Powder Inhaler Using Thiolated Guar Gum for Targeted Pulmonary Tuberculosis Therapy.”**

She is interested in this project because it focuses on developing a more effective pulmonary drug delivery system for TB, offering better lung retention, sustained release, and improved treatment outcomes, with the potential to enhance patient care and overcome current therapy limitations.

She wants to build a career in pharmaceutical research and formulation development, creating innovative drug delivery systems that improve patient care.

Srushti Santosh Shinde

Pursuing B.Pharm

Sanjivani College Of Pharmaceutical Education & Research, Kopargaon

Hometown : Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar

Principal Investigator :

Prof. Musmade Deepak Sitaram

Dean of Academics, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Chemistry



Hailing from Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Srushti belongs to a 4-member family with her father, a teacher, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she is working on the project “**Design, Synthesis and Biological Evaluation of Pyrimidine Derivatives for Their Anti-Hypertensive Potential.**” She is interested in this project as it allows her to explore chemical interactions at the molecular level and apply theoretical knowledge to meaningful research. The work helps her build analytical, technical, and problem-solving skills while strengthening her foundation for a future career in scientific research.

Her ambition is to build a research-oriented career in pharmaceutical chemistry and contribute to scientific advancement in the pharmaceutical field.

“ WEnyan is helping me by providing guidance, resources, and expert feedback that strengthen my research skills and keep me motivated, disciplined, and focused on my goals. ”



Saloni Pankaj Khare

Pursuing B.Sc in Forensic Science
Government Institute Of Forensic Science,
Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar
Hometown : Nashik

Principal Investigator :
Dr. Devidas S. Bhagat
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Forensic Chemistry

“WEnyan supports this project by providing the funding needed to achieve its goals. Their technical support has been crucial in designing and developing the prototype, and their guidance has helped me overcome challenges and improve my work throughout the project.”

Hailing from Nashik, Saloni belongs to a 3-member family with no earning members.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she is working on the project **“Design and Synthesis of Metal-Organic Frameworks (MOFs) for the Detection of Heavy Metal Ions.”** She is motivated by the need to address environmental and health risks caused by heavy metal contamination in water, and aims to develop a sensitive MOF-based detection system for safer monitoring. The project allows her to contribute to improving water quality and advancing environmental sustainability.

Her ambition is to pursue a Master's in Chemistry and continue working in the field of synthetic chemistry.

Riya Jontu De

Pursuing B.Pharm

AET's St. John Institute Of Pharmacy And Research
(Autonomous), Palghar (East)

Hometown : Palghar

Principal Investigator :

Dr. Norma Rebello

Vice Principal, Associate Professor,
Dept. of Pharmaceutics



Hailing from Palghar, Riya belongs to a 4-member family with her father, a jewellery designer, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she is working on the project **“Targeted Delivery of Herbal Extract Loaded Microspheres to Treat Inflammatory Bowel Disease in Colon.”** She is interested in chemistry as it enables the translation of real-world problems into effective solutions, and this project allows her to apply techniques like HPTLC and SEM to standardize herbal extracts and validate active compounds such as berberine and phytosterols. This work helps ensure the consistency, stability, and therapeutic effectiveness of microsphere-based formulations, motivating her to pursue this research.

She wishes to pursue a career in R&D.

“ WEnyan has provided useful resources and guidance for my project, helping make it successful at the B.Pharm level. ”



Bhumika Ramesh Gadge

Pursuing B.Pharm

KVPS's Institute Of Pharmaceutical Education, Boradi,
Dhule

Hometown : Thane

Principal Investigator :

Dr. Kalpeshkumar S. Wagh

Associate Professor, Head of Department,
Dept. of Pharmaceutics

“WEnyan is supporting me with substantial funding at the undergraduate level, making my research feasible. Beyond financial support, its mentorship and guidance have strengthened my work and accelerated my learning. Coming from a marginalized area with limited research facilities, this support enables me to achieve my project goals and pursue my passion for research.”

Hailing from Thane, Bhumika belongs to a 5-member family with her father being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she is working on the project “**Formulation, Development and Evaluation of Mesalamine Co-Crystal-Based Alginate–Pectin Microspheres for Colonic Delivery.**” motivated by her interest in integrating novel drug delivery science with chemistry to overcome limitations of conventional systems such as poor solubility, first-pass metabolism, and frequent dosing, and to design more effective and targeted therapeutic solutions.

She wants to pursue a Master's degree in Pharmaceutics/Pharmaceutical Technology, and aims to continue research in the field of novel drug delivery systems, contributing to advancements in pharmaceutical science and therapy development.

Priti Kodulal Dewadhari

Pursuing B.Pharm in Basic Pharmacy and Fundamental Chemistry

Anurag College Of Pharmacy, Warthi Bhandara

Hometown : Gondia

Principal Investigator :

Dr. Minakshi Namdeorao Rajgire

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Chemistry



Hailing from Gondia, Priti belongs to a 5-member family with her father, a farmer, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she is working on the project ***“Development of Novel Herbal Transdermal Patches Incorporating Hydro-Alcoholic Extract of *Kalanchoe pinnata* for Medicinal Activity.”*** She is driven by the need for safer, plant-based alternatives to conventional medicines and is interested in improving drug delivery while reducing reliance on synthetic chemicals. The project aligns with her interests in medicinal chemistry, herbal research, and formulation development, motivating her to pursue this work.

Her ambition is to pursue a Master's in Analytical Chemistry and do research in herbal formulations, analytical method development, and natural product chemistry.

“ WEnyan has provided essential funding that has made my project feasible at the B.Pharm level. Its workshops and seminars have helped me connect with industry experts and understand current research trends. The guidance from these sessions has improved my technical skills and strengthened my research abilities and confidence. ”



Samruddhi Vishnu Suryavanshi

Pursuing B.E in Chemical Engineering

AISSMS College of Engineering, Pune

Hometown : Pune

Principal Investigator :

Prof. Dr. Ashish V Mohod

Associate Professor, Head of Department,

Dept. of Chemical Engineering

“WEnyan has supported my research and is helping me stay motivated as I progress confidently in my project.”

Hailing from Pune, Samruddhi belongs to a 4-member family with her father being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she is working on the project “**Development and Characterization of Bioplastic from BSF Protein and Biopolymer for Sustainable Applications.**” She is interested in this project because plastic pollution poses a serious threat to the environment and human health, and she aims to develop a sustainable, eco-friendly alternative to conventional plastics. The work enables her to contribute to a cleaner environment and support green innovation, which strongly motivates her to pursue this project.

Her ambition is to work in sustainable development as a skilled chemical engineer, creating environmentally responsible and sustainable industrial solutions.

Vedika Sandip Mohod

Pursuing B.Sc in Chemistry

Sir Parashurambhau College, Pune

Hometown : Yavatmal

Principal Investigator :

Dr. Vandana A. Arbale

Associate Professor, Head of Department,

Dept. of Chemistry



Hailing from Yavatmal, Vedika belongs to a 5-member family with her father, a labourer, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she is working on the project ***“Phytochemical Screening and Anti-Diabetic Potential of Selected Indigenous Medicinal Plants,”*** motivated by the opportunity to address diabetes using safer, affordable indigenous medicinal plants while gaining hands-on experience in phytochemical analysis and bioassays relevant to natural product research and drug development.

She hopes to pursue a career in research in Chemistry.

“ I am grateful to WEnyan for believing in my potential and supporting my research. Their scholarship has eased my financial burden, allowing me to focus fully on my project, and I will work hard to justify their trust. ”



Nirasha Yuwraj Pardhi

Pursuing B.Pharm in Basic Pharmacy and
Fundamental Chemistry

Anurag College Of Pharmacy, Warthi, Bhandara

Hometown : Bhandara

Principal Investigator :

Mrs. Kumidini Nilkanthrao Dhurvey

Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutics

“WEnyan has helped make this project possible at the B.Pharm level by providing access to the resources I needed. Its guest lectures and seminars are equally valuable, offering direct interaction with industry leaders. Hearing their journeys has provided meaningful insights, building my confidence and clarity about future career paths while enriching my learning with practical guidance.”

Hailing from Bhandara, Nirasha belongs to a 6-member family with her father, a farmer, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she is working on the project “**Formulation and Characterization of Herbal Gel Containing Ethanolic Extract of *Tridax procumbens*.**” She is interested in this project because of the growing importance of herbal formulations in the pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries, and the opportunity to understand how natural ingredients can be developed into effective therapeutic products. This work allows her to gain hands-on experience in developing stable topical formulations while strengthening her skills in herbal drug formulation and characterization, contributing to research with real-world relevance.

Her ambition is to continue her studies in herbal formulation, pharmacology, and analytical chemistry, building expertise in these areas to advance research and development in the field.

Master's Research Scholarship Awardees

JIDNYA DNYANESHWAR PATIL
BHAKTI GANESH PALEKAR
NIKITA SHRIDHAR ANDHALE
SAYALI ASHOK BHAVAR
MAYURI MAHENDRA BAGMARE
KRUTIKA SHARAD BHOIR
VAISHNAVI BHASKAR PAWAR
DIVYA BHIMRAJ WANJARI
PAYAL SUBHASH JADHAV
SANIKA MAHESH GANGAN
MUKTA MANOJ WAGH
VAISHNAVI SAKHARAM GHAVLE
MUNAZZA FATEMA SAYYED NAFIS AHEMAD
ALFISHA AMIN MANIYAR
SAYALI MOTIRAM PATIL
PRATIKSHA SANTOSH NIGADE
SHRADDHA SURESH KATURE
KIMAYA NARENDRA NAWKHARE
POONAM SITARAM CHOKHANDE
DNYANESHWARI RAJKUMAR SATPUTE



Jidnya Dnyaneshwar Patil

Pursuing M.Pharm in Pharmaceutical Quality Assurance
AET's St. John Institute Of Pharmacy And Research
(Autonomous), Palghar (East)
Hometown : Palghar

Principal Investigator :
Dr. Abhijeet Vishnu Puri
Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmacognosy

“WEnyan has supported me through financial assistance, research exposure, and a motivating platform that encourages me to pursue my project and academic goals with confidence and focus. It is also shaping my future by strengthening my research skills, enhancing my professional profile, and preparing me for a career in pharmaceutical research.”

Hailing from Palghar, Jidnya belongs to a 4-member family with her father, a farmer, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she is working on the project **“Formulation and Evaluation of a Puerarin-loaded Niosomes for transdermal drug delivery.”** She is interested in this chemistry-based research because it allows her to explore formulation science at a molecular level and apply chemical principles to develop effective and innovative drug delivery systems, strengthening her understanding of pharmaceutical sciences and improving health outcomes.

Her ambition is to become a formulation and quality specialist dedicated to developing safe, effective, and innovative drug delivery systems that improve patient outcomes. She also intends to pursue a PhD in pharmaceutical sciences.

Bhakti Ganesh Palekar

Pursuing M.Pharm in Pharmaceutics

Yashwantrao Bhonsale College Of Pharmacy,
Sawantwadi

Hometown : Sindhudurg

Principal Investigator :

Dr. Rohan K Barse

Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutics



Hailing from Sindhudurg, Bhakti belongs to a 6-member family with her father, a farmer, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she is working on the project ***“From Plant to Patch: Innovative Herbal Liposome-Based Film Forming Gel of Radermachera xylocarpa for Enhanced Transdermal Delivery,”*** motivated by her strong interest in phytochemistry and advanced transdermal drug delivery systems, and by the opportunity to develop an innovative liposomal formulation that can improve therapeutic effectiveness and patient outcomes.

Her career ambition is to become a skilled pharmaceutical scientist.

“WEnyan is helping me feel supported, encouraged, and inspired to push my boundaries while enabling me to turn my passion for research into meaningful scientific progress.”



Nikita Shridhar Andhale

Pursuing M.Pharm in Pharmaceutics

Pravara Rural College Of Pharmacy, Loni

Hometown : Ahilyanagar

Principal Investigator :

Dr. Someshwar Mankar

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutics

“WEnyan has supported me by providing the funds and guidance needed to carry out my research smoothly. Their mentorship helps me overcome challenges and stay focused on achieving my project goals.”

Hailing from Ahilyanagar, Nikita belongs to a 4-member family with her father, a farmer, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she is working on the project "**Formulation and Evaluation of Esculetin-Loaded Lipid Polymer Hybrid Nanoparticles for Active Targeting of Cervical Cancer via Folate Receptor Mediation.**" Her interest in this project stems from the need to develop safer and more effective approaches for cancer treatment, particularly for cervical cancer, where targeted drug delivery systems can significantly improve outcomes and reduce side effects. The work allows her to explore innovative nanotechnology-based solutions while contributing meaningfully to pharmaceutical research, motivating her to pursue this project.

Her ambition is to become a skilled pharmaceutical researcher, with a focus on formulation-based research, and to contribute to the development of innovative drug delivery systems.

Sayali Ashok Bhavar

Pursuing M.Sc in Analytical Chemistry

Shivaji University, Kolhapur

Hometown : Solapur

Principal Investigator :

Dr. Prof. Anil V. Ghule

Senior Professor, Dept. of Chemistry



Hailing from Solapur, Sayali belongs to a 6-member family with her father, a farmer, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she is working on the project **"NiB-rGO Nanocomposite as an Efficient Electrocatalyst for Green Hydrogen Production."** She is interested in this project because it explores sustainable alternatives to conventional fuels, with NiB-rGO nanocomposites offering potential for efficient hydrogen production without relying on precious metals. The work aligns with her academic interests and allows her to contribute to cleaner energy solutions that support future energy security and environmental sustainability.

Her ambition is to pursue a PhD in chemistry from a leading international university or an IIT, with the goal of developing into an independent researcher and contributing to meaningful scientific progress.

“WEnyan has been instrumental in guiding me through each stage of my project. It provides technical support to refine my ideas and develop a functional prototype, while mentorship helps me overcome challenges with confidence. This support enables me to work more efficiently and achieve better outcomes.”



Mayuri Mahendra Bagmare

Pursuing M.Pharm in Quality Assurance
Rajarshi Shahu College Of Pharmacy, Buldhana
Hometown : Nagpur

Principal Investigator :
Dr. Deepak Lokwani
Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Chemistry

“WEnyan has supported me with a scholarship that serves as a stepping stone toward achieving my goals and contributing to society through impactful research.”

Hailing from Nagpur, Mayuri belongs to a 4-member family with her father and brother being the only earning members.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she is working on the project "**Formulation and Evaluation of Triple-Layered Nanoparticles for Colon-Targeted Drug Delivery of Mesalamine and Resveratrol in IBD.**" She is interested in this project because it aligns with her passion for drug discovery and development, allowing her to apply chemical knowledge to design and optimize formulations while strengthening her skills and understanding of formulation development in a practical and meaningful way.

Mayuri is motivated to work in both formulation and Quality Assurance. She hopes to contribute to research aligned with pharmacy and formulation.

Krutika Sharad Bhoir

Pursuing M.Pharm in Pharmaceutical Quality Assurance

AET's St. John Institute Of Pharmacy And Research
(Autonomous), Palghar (East)
Hometown : Palghar

Principal Investigator :

Dr. Abhijeet V. Puri

Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmacognosy



Hailing from Palghar, Krutika belongs to a 5-member family with her siblings being earning members. Her father is a retired teacher.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she is working on the project **"Isolation, Modification and Biomedical Translation of *Cajanus cajan* Seed Starch into Functional Antibacterial Hydrogel Films."** She is interested in this research because it aligns with her work on modifying *Cajanus cajan* starch for pharmaceutical use, allowing her to deepen her understanding of polymer chemistry and apply it to developing sustainable, plant-based excipients and drug-delivery innovations while strengthening her long-term research goals.

She wished to become a skilled pharmaceutical researcher contributing to the development of innovative, sustainable, and patient-friendly drug-delivery systems.

“ WEnyan has supported my academic growth, boosted my confidence, and allowed me to focus on my studies without financial stress. It motivates me to aim higher and stay dedicated to my goals while shaping my future by sharpening my research skills, enhancing my professional profile, and preparing me for a career in pharmaceutical research. ”



Vaishnavi Bhaskar Pawar

Pursuing M.Pharm in Pharmaceutics
Pravara Rural College Of Pharmacy, Loni
Hometown : Nashik

Principal Investigator :
Dr. S. D. Mankar
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutics

“WEnyan is helping me by providing the necessary funding to achieve my goals, offering technical expertise for prototype design and development, and guiding me through challenges, enabling continuous improvement.”

Hailing from Nashik, Vaishnavi belongs to a 4-member family with her father, a farmer, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she is working on the project “**Formulation and Evaluation of Polydopamine (PDA) Functionalized Nanoparticles of Neratinib maleate for Targeted Delivery in Breast Cancer,**” motivated by the need to overcome limitations of conventional therapies such as poor bioavailability, high toxicity, and lack of targeted delivery, with the goal of improving treatment effectiveness and patient outcomes.

She aims to pursue a Ph.D and build a career in research and development, with a focus on advanced drug delivery systems and formulation development.

Divya Bhimraj Wanjari

Pursuing M.Sc in Organic Chemistry
Shivprasad Sadanand Jaiswal College,
Arjuni/Morgaon
Hometown : Bhandara

Principal Investigator :
Dr. Nitin Devidas Vilayatkar
Associate Professor



Hailing from Bhandara, Divya belongs to a 4-member family with her mother and 2 younger siblings, who contribute to the family farming.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she is working on the project **“Conjugated polymeric nanomaterial for photocatalytic hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) generation.”** She aims to address the limitations of current industrial H_2O_2 production, such as high cost, energy demand, and environmental impact, by developing a sustainable, metal-free photocatalytic approach that uses sunlight to efficiently generate it, contributing to cleaner energy and green chemical processes.

She wishes to pursue a Ph.D. in Polymer Science.

“ WEnyan is helping me better understand scientific concepts and develop a scientific temperament through lectures and industry visits, while also enabling me to complete my research project. ”



Payal Subhash Jadhav

Pursuing M.Pharm in Pharmaceutics
Pravara Rural College Of Pharmacy, Loni
Hometown : Nashik

Principal Investigator :
Dr. S.D. Mankar
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutics

“WEnyan helps by providing clear, accurate, and well-structured scientific explanations, strengthening the quality and professionalism of my project responses.”

Hailing from Nashik, Payal belongs to a 4-member family with her father, a farmer, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she is working on the project "**Formulation and evaluation of a boswellic acid-based nutraceutical for cardiovascular support in postmenopausal women by preparing soft gelatin capsules,**" motivated by the need for safe, natural therapeutic options to address increased cardiovascular risks in postmenopausal women and the opportunity to develop a scientifically sound formulation that supports cardiovascular health and overall well-being.

Her ambitions are to pursue a career in pharmaceutics, focusing on the development and evaluation of effective dosage forms, and to become a pharmaceutical researcher who contributes to innovative and impactful healthcare solutions.

Sanika Mahesh Gangan

Pursuing M.Pharm in Pharmaceutics

Govindrao Nikam College Of Pharmacy, Sawarde

Hometown : Ratnagiri

Principal Investigator :

Ms. Sukanya Jitendra Patil

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutics



Hailing from Ratnagiri, Sanika belongs to a 6-member family with her father, a shopkeeper, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she is working on the project **"Amphotericin B Niosome-Based Topical Chitosan Film: A Strategy to Enhance Efficacy and Reduce Systemic Toxicity."** She is motivated by the challenge of improving antifungal therapy by retaining the drug's effectiveness while reducing its severe toxicity. By exploring niosome-based delivery and chitosan films for localized, sustained release, the project allows her to apply advanced drug delivery concepts to develop safer, patient-focused treatment solutions.

Her ambition is to pursue a Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences and lead research focused on developing innovative, cost-effective therapies that bridge the gap between laboratory research and patient care.

“WEnyan provided funding that made my research project very feasible. Their support allowed me to focus on enhancing efficacy and reducing systemic toxicity without being limited by resource constraints.”



Mukta Manoj Wagh

Pursuing M.Pharm in Pharmaceutics

Y.B Chavan College Of Pharmacy, Aurangabad

Hometown : Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar

Principal Investigator :

Dr. Maria Saifee

Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutics

“WEnyan is helping me by providing essential financial support and a structured framework for my research. This allows me to plan and execute each phase of the project efficiently, ensuring steady and well-directed progress.”

Hailing from Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Mukta belongs to a 4-member family with her mother and sister being the only earning members.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she is working on the project "**Formulation and Evaluation of Some Flavonoids (Propolis + Rutin) in Ethosomes for the Treatment of Psoriasis.**" She is interested in this research due to her fascination with smart drug delivery systems and their impact on patient outcomes, especially for conditions like psoriasis, and is motivated by the potential of nanotechnology to enhance the penetration, stability, and efficacy of natural therapeutic agents.

Her ambition is to build a career in interdisciplinary science, focusing on translating research into practical healthcare solutions and contributing to impactful innovations that benefit society.

Vaishnavi Sakharam Ghavle

Pursuing M.Pharm in Pharmaceutics

RC Patel Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research

Hometown : Parbhani

Principal Investigator :

Dr. Raju O. Sonavane

Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutics



Hailing from Parbhani, Vaishnavi belongs to a 4-member family with her father, a teacher, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she is working on the project "**Development and evaluation of mesoporous silica-kollidon hybrid dispersion for solubility enhancement and immediate-release pellets,**" motivated by the need to overcome poor solubility of migraine medicines and enable faster drug action. Improving solubility can reduce delayed therapeutic response and enhance patient care, thereby benefiting human health and quality of life.

She aspires to pursue a career as a research scientist in drug formulation and drug delivery to enhance therapies and improve human health.

“ WEnyan has helped me turn complexity into clarity by shaping my research plans, refining my experiments, and improving my scientific communication. Its financial support made my project feasible, while mentorship strengthened my confidence to explore new ideas. ”



Munazza Fatema Sayyed Nafis Ahemad

Pursuing M.Pharm in Pharmacology

Y.B.Chavan College Of Pharmacy, Aurangabad

Hometown : Jalgaon

Principal Investigator :

Dr. Syed Ayaz Ali

Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmacology

“WEnyan's financial assistance has played a vital role in advancing my M.Pharm research. Through seminars and mentorship opportunities, I have gained exposure to current scientific practices and industry insights, greatly enhancing the rigor and direction of my project.”

Hailing from Jalgaon, Munazza belongs to a 7-member family with her father, a retired teacher, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she is working on the project **"Neuropharmacological Activity Of Trifolium pratense Flower Ethanolic Extract In Mice."** She is interested in this research because it addresses neurological and psychological conditions like epilepsy, depression, anxiety, and insomnia, and allows her to explore the potential of plant-based therapies, contributing to the development of safer and more effective natural treatments for improved healthcare outcomes.

Her ambition is to pursue a PhD in Pharmacology and build a career in the pharmaceutical industry's research and development sector, with a focus on addressing neurological disorders.

Alfisha Amin Maniyar

Pursuing M.Pharm in Pharmaceutical Chemistry
Y.B Chavan College Of Pharmacy, Aurangabad
Hometown : Jalna

Principal Investigator :

Dr. Kamalkishor G. Baheti

Associate Professor, Head of Department,
Dept. of Pharmaceutical Chemistry



Hailing from Jalna, Alfisha belongs to a 6-member family with her father, a businessman, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she is working on the project "**Design, Synthesis and Biological Evaluation of 2-substituted-1H-pyrazolo[3,4-d]pyrimidine-4-one derivatives as anticancer agents**," driven by her strong academic background in pharmaceutical chemistry, consistent performance in medicinal and organic chemistry, and prior research experience in HPLC method development, which together motivated her to pursue anticancer drug design and synthesis.

She hopes to contribute to advanced research and work in areas related to drug development and synthesis.

“ WEnyan has supported my education by reducing my financial burden, allowing me to focus on my studies, improve my skills, and work confidently toward my future goals. It has also motivated me to stay dedicated and work harder. ”



Sayali Motiram Patil

Pursuing M.Pharm in Pharmaceutical Quality Assurance
AET's St. John Institute Of Pharmacy And Research
(Autonomous), Palghar (East)
Hometown : Palghar

Principal Investigator :
Dr. Abhijeet Puri
Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmacognosy

“ WEnyan has helped me by providing essential funding and technical expertise for my project. Their guidance helps me overcome challenges and improve my prototype throughout development, empowering me with the resources and knowledge to achieve my project goals successfully.

”

Hailing from Palghar, Sayali belongs to a 6-member family with her father, a farmer, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she is working on the project "**Preparation and Evaluation of a Syzygium cumini Leaf Extract Mediated Self-Emulsifying Drug Delivery System for Topical Application.**" She is interested in this project because chemistry forms the foundation of pharmaceutical sciences, enabling the design of effective drug formulations that improve patient health. The work combines her passion for science and problem-solving in healthcare, motivating her to pursue this research.

Her ambition is to become a skilled pharmaceutical formulation scientist, focusing on innovative drug delivery systems within pharmaceutical research and development.

Pratiksha Santosh Nigade

Pursuing M.Sc in Chemistry

Shivaji University, Kolhapur

Hometown : Satara

Principal Investigator :

Prof. Dr. K. K. Sharma

Director and Professor, School of Nanoscience and
Biotechnology



Hailing from Satara, Pratiksha belongs to a 6-member family with her father, a farmer, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she is working on the project **"MnO₂-Decorated Polyaniline-Graphene Oxide Nanocomposite for Electrochemical Sensing and Water Treatment Applications."** She is motivated to work in materials chemistry, particularly in the development of nanomaterials and polymer-based composites for applications in electrochemical sensing, energy devices, and environmental purification. The project aligns with her interest in combining innovation and sustainability to address real-world challenges, while also supporting her goal of pursuing a PhD in chemistry.

Her ambition is to become a research scientist in advanced materials and environmental technology, focusing on developing innovative nanomaterials for water purification, sensing, and other sustainable applications, with the goal of creating practical solutions that benefit society and the environment.

“WEnyan has provided funding that has made this project feasible at the master's level. Their workshops and seminars also help me connect with industry experts, and learning from their experiences has given me valuable insights.”



Shraddha Suresh Kature

Pursuing M.Sc in Forensic Science

Government Institute Of Forensic Science, Nagpur

Hometown : Nagpur

Principal Investigator :

Mr. Arun Ghuge

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Forensic Biology

“ WEnyan has supported me with both financial and technical assistance for my project. Their resources made it easier to conduct experiments, and their feedback helped me correct mistakes early, allowing me to work with greater focus and confidence. ”

Hailing from Nagpur, Shraddha belongs to a 4-member family with her father, a laborer, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she is working on the project **"Development of a Silver Nanoparticles-Based Rapid On-site Semen Detection with Concurrent DNA Preservation."** She is interested in this topic because rapid and reliable semen detection is critical in sexual assault cases, where delays in forensic analysis can affect outcomes. By exploring silver nanoparticle-based on-site detection, she aims to support faster evidence screening and improved forensic processes, which strongly motivates her to pursue this project.

Her ambition is to build a career in forensic science, applying a multidisciplinary approach that combines chemistry and biology to develop innovative methods for biological evidence analysis and contribute to research in the field.

Kimaya Narendra Nawkhare

Pursuing M.Pharm in Quality Assurance

AET's St. John Institute Of Pharmacy And Research
(Autonomous), Palghar (East)

Hometown : Thane

Principal Investigator :

Dr. Norma Leonard Rebello

Vice Principal, Associate Professor,
Dept. of Pharmaceutics

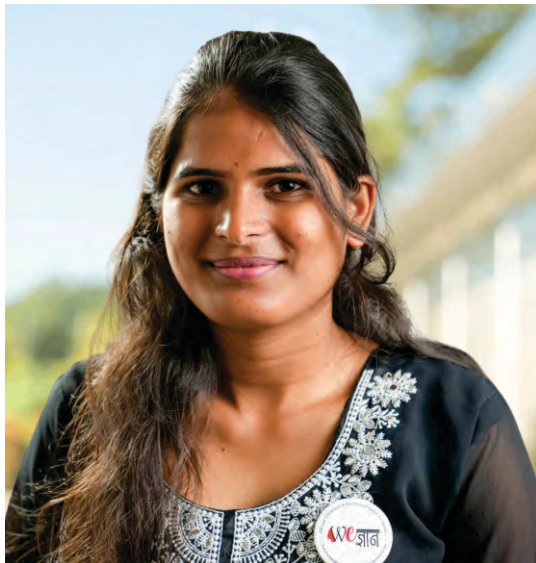


Hailing from Thane, Kimaya belongs to a 4-member family with her father and mother working as a machine operator and anganwadi worker, respectively.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she is working on the project "**Design and Optimization of Multiparticulate System for Oral Drug Delivery**," motivated by the opportunity to develop a rumen-bypass micro-encapsulated herbal formulation that overcomes rumen degradation and enables effective uterotonic delivery, thereby reducing postpartum reproductive disorders in dairy cows and advancing safe, innovative veterinary drug delivery systems.

Her ambitions are to build a career in pharmaceutical research and development, with a strong focus on formulation development and quality assurance, particularly in polymer-based delivery systems, microencapsulation, and the standardization of herbal formulations.

“ WEnyan has supported me through scholarship funding, expert interactions, and continuous guidance, helping me refine my research skills and confidently work on an innovative formulation-based project. ”



Poonam Sitaram Chokhande

Pursuing M.Pharm in Pharmaceutics
Amritvahini College Of Pharmacy, Sangamner,
Ahilyanagar
Hometown : Ahilyanagar

Principal Investigator :
Dr. V. K.Nikam
Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutics

“ WEnyan has given
me confidence
and motivation to grow
in my academic and
professional journey. ”

Hailing from Ahilyanagar, Poonam belongs to a 7-member family with her father, a farmer, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she is working on the project **"Development and Evaluation of Herbal Bioenhancer-Loaded Nanoparticles for Improved Anti-Tubercular Drug Delivery"**. Her interest in this work stems from its focus on formulation science and nano-technology—areas she intends to pursue further—while helping her build practical lab skills, scientific reasoning, and industry-relevant experience. The project closely supports her long-term goal of working in pharmaceutical formulation and drug delivery.

Her ambition is to build a career in the pharmaceutical industry, focusing on R&D, formulation and development, and regulatory affairs, while contributing to innovative drug delivery systems in a reputed pharma company.

Dnyaneshwari Rajkumar Satpute

Pursuing M.Pharm in Pharmaceutics

Pravara Rural College Of Pharmacy, Loni

Hometown : Ahilyanagar

Principal Investigator :

Dr. S. S. Siddheshwar

Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutics



Hailing from Ahilyanagar, Dnyaneshwari belongs to a 4-member family with her father, a shopkeeper, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she is working on the project **"Development and Evaluation of Carboplatin-Loaded Solid Lipid Nanoparticle Aerosols for Targeted Nasal Delivery in Lung Adenocarcinoma."** She is interested in this research because it allows her to deepen her knowledge in pharmaceutics, gain hands-on experience for a career in pharmaceutical R&D, and contribute to advanced drug delivery systems that improve therapeutic outcomes and patient health.

Her ambition is to build a career in pharmaceutical research and development, focusing on creating innovative and more effective drug delivery systems to improve patient care.

“ WEnyan is helping me grow as a researcher by boosting my motivation and confidence, recognizing my hard work and potential, and strengthening my passion to innovate and develop scientific solutions. ”

Entrepreneurship Grant Awardees

VAISHNAVI DINESH GIDMARE

NIKITA JAYANT VYAWAHARE

RUPALI BHALCHANDRA SHIMPI

PALLAVI DNYANESHWAR JAWARKAR

Vaishnavi Dinesh Gidmare

Pursuing Ph.D in Chemistry

Bajaj College of Science, Wardha

Hometown : Wardha

Principal Investigator :

Prof. Pradip V. Tekade

Professor, Dept. of Chemistry



Hailing from Wardha, Vaishnavi belongs to a 4-member family with her father and brother being earning members.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she is working on the project **"Eco-friendly flame retardants: synergistic effect of biomass-derived polymer composites,"** motivated by her interest in materials chemistry and her aim to develop sustainable, high-performance flame-retardant materials. This research aligns with her goal of advancing environmentally responsible solutions without compromising material performance.

She hopes to become a successful materials chemist.

“ WEnyan has helped reduce my financial burden, allowing me to focus fully on my academic growth, research goals, and long-term career development. ”



Nikita Jayant Vyawahare

Pursuing Ph.D in Chemistry

Department of Chemistry, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune

Hometown : Nagpur

Principal Investigator :

Prof. Divya Praveen Ottoor

Professor, Dept. of Chemistry

“ WEnyan is empowering me to focus fully on my research by reducing financial constraints and boosting my confidence as a young scientist. The support and recognition motivate me to aim higher, explore innovative sensing technologies, and build a strong foundation for my chemistry career. It has also opened new learning opportunities and a network that inspires me to grow and contribute meaningfully to society.

”

Hailing from Nagpur, Nikita belongs to a 4-member family with her father and sister being earning members.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she is working on the project "**Carbon dots infused molecularly imprinted polymer for optical and electrochemical sensing of sarcosine biomarker for prostate cancer**". She is interested in this project because it allows her to design functional nanomaterials for practical healthcare and environmental applications, particularly by developing simple, cost-effective detection methods that can replace complex instrumentation. The interdisciplinary nature of the work strengthens her skills in materials chemistry and biosensing while enabling her to contribute to technologies that address real-world challenges.

Her career ambition is to become a leading researcher in nanomaterial-based chemical sensing, focused on developing innovative sensing technologies for healthcare and environmental safety.

Rupali Bhalchandra Shimpi

Pursuing Ph.D in Pharmacognosy

R. C. Patel Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Shirpur

Hometown : Dhule

Principal Investigator :

Dr. S. J. Surana

Principal (Professor), Dept. of Pharmacognosy



Hailing from Dhule, Rupali belongs to a 6-member family with her husband being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she is working on the project **"Development of Eco-Friendly Biopolymer from Banana Pseudo-Stem Mucilage for Industrial Applications."** She is driven by an interest in sustainable innovation and natural product research, particularly in creating eco-friendly materials from agricultural waste. The project allows her to apply her skills in natural polymers while contributing to green chemistry and real-world environmental solutions.

Her ambition is to contribute to patents and technology transfer by building on her WEnyan-supported work on eco-friendly biopolymers to develop protectable, real-world innovations.

“ WEnyan provides valuable support by offering access to collaborative research platforms, technical resources, and networking opportunities essential for advancing work in sustainable chemistry. ”



Pallavi Dnyaneshwar Jawarkar

Pursuing Ph.D in Pharmaceutical Technology
Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai
Hometown : Amravati

Principal Investigator :

Dr. Hemchandra Keshav Chaudhari

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences
and Technology

“ The WEnyan
Scholarship helps
build the foundation for
achieving my goals. ”

Hailing from Amravati, Pallavi belongs to a 4-member family with her father, a farmer, being the only earning member.

Through the WEnyan scholarship, she is working on the project "**Preparation and Characterisation of Modified Oligosaccharides as Green and Sustainable Catalysts in Pharmaceuticals, Fine Chemicals, and Others.**" Her interest in this work comes from the potential of modified oligosaccharides as natural, biodegradable alternatives to conventional catalysts that operate under mild conditions and minimize harmful waste. She is particularly drawn to understanding how subtle structural changes can improve catalytic performance, enabling more efficient and sustainable chemical processes.

Her ambition is to pursue work in the synthesis and application of catalysts and novel molecules, with the long-term goal of turning her research into an entrepreneurial venture.

ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

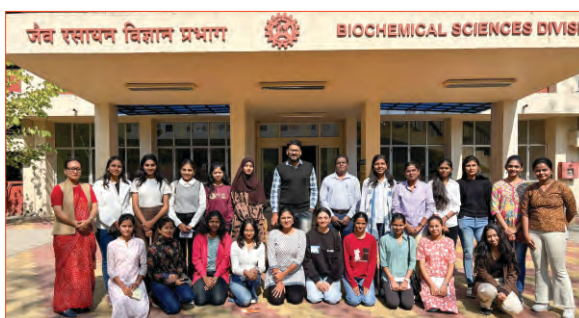
Industry visits



National Defence Academy (NDA)



Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT)



CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory(NCL)

This program supports women through hands-on learning alongside lab-based research. WENyan grantees gained exposure to the workflows and basic proficiencies used in academic institutions and industrial R&D settings. Over the past two years, PKC has organized visits to 10 organizations and 2 science museums.



Praj Industries Limited (PRAJ)



India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA)-Customized Energy Solutions (CES)



HiMedia Laboratories Pvt. Ltd.



Entrepreneurship Development Center (Venture Center- NCL)



Gennova Biopharmaceuticals Limited



PCMC Science Park



Innovassynth Technologies (India) Limited



NCL Science Museum

WOMEN ROLE MODEL TALK SERIES-

Conversations with
Women Role Models in
STEM

In this series, women leaders shared their personal and professional journeys and how they pursued their goals and interests while overcoming challenges. Their inspiring stories and strong personalities motivated our young women and encouraged them to follow their own ambitions.



Ujjwala Karle (12 July 2024)

Deputy Director &
Head- Technology Group & Digital Twin Lab
Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), Pune



Seema Sambrani (4 Oct 2024)

Associate Professor
Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Mumbai



Dr. Fatima Jalid (20 Dec 2024)

Assistant Professor
National Institute of Technology, Srinagar



Prof. Gomathi Nageswaran (12 March 2025)

Professor and Head, Department of Chemistry
Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology,
Department of Space, Government of India,
Thiruvananthapuram



Rajeshwari Sinha (6 June 2025)

Senior Programme Manager, Sustainable Food
Systems Unit
Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi



Dr. Apoorva Deshmukh-Kambale (11 July 2025)

Technology support officer
Praj Industries, Pune



Dr. Sweta Raghavan (31 Oct 2025)

Head of Innovation, Strategy & Govt. Affairs - India &
South Asia to Royal Society of Chemistry; and Advisor,
Govt. of Karnataka | Royal Society of Chemistry and
Govt. of Karnataka, Bengaluru



Dr. Anita Nagarajan (26 Feb 2026)

Chair, EASE India (Regional Chapter of EASE),
European Association of Science Editors (EASE) and
ACES: The Society for Editing, Pune

SKILL BUILDING WORKSHOPS

The program organized skill-building workshops on science communication, entrepreneurship, and higher education applications. Mentorship sessions also helped women broaden their perspective on science careers and strengthen career resilience.



Dr. Priya Nagaraj

Head, Green Economy & Innovation
Council on Energy, Environment and Water
(CEEW), New Delhi



Dr. Mugdha Lele

Head-Preincubation and Learning
Venture Center-NCL, Pune



Dr. Savita Ayyar

Founder
Jaquaranda Tree, Bangaluru



Dr. Anita Nagarajan (26 Feb 2026)

Chair, EASE India (Regional Chapter of EASE),
European Association of Science Editors (EASE)
and ACES: The Society for Editing



Dr. Dinesh Sawant

Scientist- Organic Chemistry
CSIR National Chemical Laboratory Pune
(CSIR NCL Pune)



Madhura Panse

Former Project Manager, Pune Knowledge Cluster



Priyanki Shah

Former Project Manager, Pune Knowledge Cluster



Ms. Komal Malik

Manager, Branding and Communication,
Pune Knowledge Cluster

SELECTION COMMITTEE & PROGRAM MENTORS



Prof. Gomathi N

Professor - Department of Chemistry,
Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology,
Thiruvananthapuram



Dr. Shobha Waghmode

Professor & Head Department of Chemistry,
MES Abasaheb Garware College, Pune



Dr. Seema Sambrani

Head, Department of Life Sciences,
Convener IPR Cell,
Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Mumbai



Dr. Fatima Jalid

Assistant Professor, Department of Chemical
Engineering, National Institute of Technology (NIT),
Srinagar



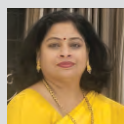
Dr. Ayesha Khan

Assistant Professor,
Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune



Dr. Avinash Kumbhar

Professor - Chemistry Department,
Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune



Dr. Prof Pragati Thakur

Professor of Physical Chemistry, Department of
Chemistry, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune



Dr. Anuya Nisal

Founder and CEO,
Serigen Mediproducs Pvt. Ltd., Pune



Dr. Menaga Magendran

Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Bioneemtec India Pvt. Ltd., & Negha Green Lab LLP., Women's Biotech Park, Chennai



Dr. Rohini Gupta

Scouting & Academic Collaborations, NAO-Network for Asian Open Research, BASF, Mumbai



Dr. Utkarsha Lekhkar

Assistant Professor-Biochemistry, The Institute of Science, Dr. Homi Bhabha State University, Mumbai



Dr. Suvarna Datar

Professor and Head of Department of Applied Physics, Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT), Pune



Dr. Rajesh G. Gonnade

Chief Scientist and Professor, AcSIR, Physical & Materials Chemistry Division & Head, The Central Analytical Facility, CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory, Pune



Kamakshi Gupta

Scientist F, High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL), Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), Pune



Dr. Thube Dilip Raosaheb

Professor, Department of Chemistry and Research Center, New Arts Commerce and Science College, Parner, Ahilyanagar



Dr. Sujata Deo

Rtd Professor, Institute of Science, Nagpur



Dr. Manisha Khaladkar

Govt. College of Engineering and Research, Avasari

TESTIMONIALS FROM MENTORS

Dr. Priya Nagaraj

Dr. Avinash Kumbhar

Dr. Rajesh Gonnade

Dr. Ayesha Khan

Dr. Utkarsha Lekhak



Dr. Priya Nagaraj

Head, Green Economy & Innovation

Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)

(Former CEO, Pune Knowledge Cluster)

As a mentor and a co-creator of the Wenyan initiative, I have had the privilege of working closely with grantees who carry remarkable potential but often lack access to the right opportunities. WEnyan enables those opportunities. I have watched grantees transform from hesitant, uncertain individuals into confident contributors who are beginning to shape conversations in their fields. That transformation doesn't happen by accident - it happens because of the intentional mentorship, the structured check-ins, and the genuine investment the program makes in every single grantee's journey. What distinguishes WEnyan from other scholarship programs is its ability to truly leverage the science and innovation ecosystem across the country to hand-hold grantees through their research journey. The Pune Knowledge Cluster has created something rare here: a program that goes beyond scholarships to really build a support system for women to pursue careers in science. The administrative support is seamless, collaborative, and the mission - to nurture women leaders from very diverse backgrounds. This program is the kind of initiative that makes a country's intellectual future brighter, one grantee at a time.

Dr. Avinash Kumbhar

CEO

Pune Knowledge Cluster

(former HoD of Chemistry Department, SPPU)



It has been a pleasure to be associated with the selection and evaluation process of the WEnyan Scholars over the past few years. The opportunity to interact with and mentor the students during this journey has been deeply rewarding. It is heartening to witness their transformation from shy participants into confident individuals.

The WEnyan Scholars Program has emerged as a flagship initiative of PKC, distinguished by its well-defined structure, adherence to timelines, and clear articulation of expected outcomes. The industrial visits, mentor talks, and communication skills training further enrich the program, enabling students to understand the broader ecosystem and preparing them to pursue careers in both industry and academia.

I take this opportunity to compliment the PKC team and its sponsor, BASF, for their generous support and vision in nurturing such a meaningful and impactful initiative.



Dr. Rajesh Gonnade

Chief Scientist and Chairperson Physical &

Materials Chemistry (PMC) Division

Head, The Central Analytical Facility

Professor, Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research

CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory

Serving on the selection committee for the Pune Knowledge Cluster's (PKC) WEnyan Program has been an immensely fulfilling experience. Reviewing proposals submitted by young women from marginalized and economically disadvantaged backgrounds across Maharashtra provides a remarkable insight into the vast untapped talent and determination these students possess. What makes this role especially meaningful is the opportunity to witness their resilience, intellectual curiosity, and innovative approach to science first-hand. Assessing projects spanning fundamental chemistry and pharmaceuticals to advanced materials science and sustainability goes far beyond a routine evaluation; it offers an inspiring glimpse into the future of Indian scientific research. Contributing to the identification and nurturing of these promising young minds and helping transform their scientific curiosity into meaningful research and entrepreneurial opportunities is deeply rewarding. The WEnyan Program distinguishes itself from conventional financial aid initiatives through its comprehensive and thoughtfully designed support ecosystem, which effectively bridges the gap between academic aspirations and practical implementation. By creating dedicated pathways aligned with different stages of a student's academic and professional journey, through targeted research scholarships for undergraduate and postgraduate students, and substantial prototyping grants for early-stage doctoral innovators, the Program establishes a strong, step-by-step support structure tailored to individual needs. Beyond financial assistance, the Program's greatest strength lies in its strong mentorship and guidance framework. Access to advanced analytical facilities, expert support in data interpretation, and meaningful interactions with accomplished scientific role models help participants navigate complex research challenges with confidence. Moreover, exposure to industry environments, academic laboratories, and the broader science and startup ecosystem expands their perspectives far beyond the classroom. Through this holistic approach, WEnyan is not only supporting students academically but also empowering them to become independent, confident researchers prepared to address pressing challenges in chemistry and sustainability. I extend my best wishes to the PKC and the WEnyan Program for their continued success in shaping the next generation of women leaders in science.

Dr. Ayesha Alim Khan
Professor
Department of Chemistry
Savitribai Phule Pune University



Since the inception of WEnyan program being introduced to the graduate and post graduate women students, my inclusion as a student mentor and a member of the selection committee has been incrementally additive process. The dual role allowed me to witness the program's impact from two exclusive vantage points: the meticulous selection process and the transformative journey of each of the scholars.

The uniqueness of this program is the structured and transparent framework guiding every stage- from identifying promising candidates to nurturing their overall growth through mentorship. The selection process is scrupulously designed to recognize potential beyond academic achievements, valuing resilience, creativity, and global commitment. This ensures that each awardee embodies the spirit of WEnyan in a distinctive way.

The sustained guidance as a mentor is particularly meaningful because of the program's emphasis on continuous mentorship rather than one-off interactions. The mentorship model fosters genuine relationships, where students feel supported in navigating challenges and inspired to pursue ambitious goals. It is in these conversations- whether about career paths, personal growth, or leadership- that the true value of WEnyan shines through.

What makes the program distinctively valuable is its holistic approach: it combines structured processes with personalized mentorship, creating an environment where students are not only recognized for their achievements but also empowered to envision and shape their futures. On footboard of the WEnyan Project, for me, this journey is catapulting, in unleashing the potentials and building communities of excellence.



Dr. Utkarsha Manoj Lekhak

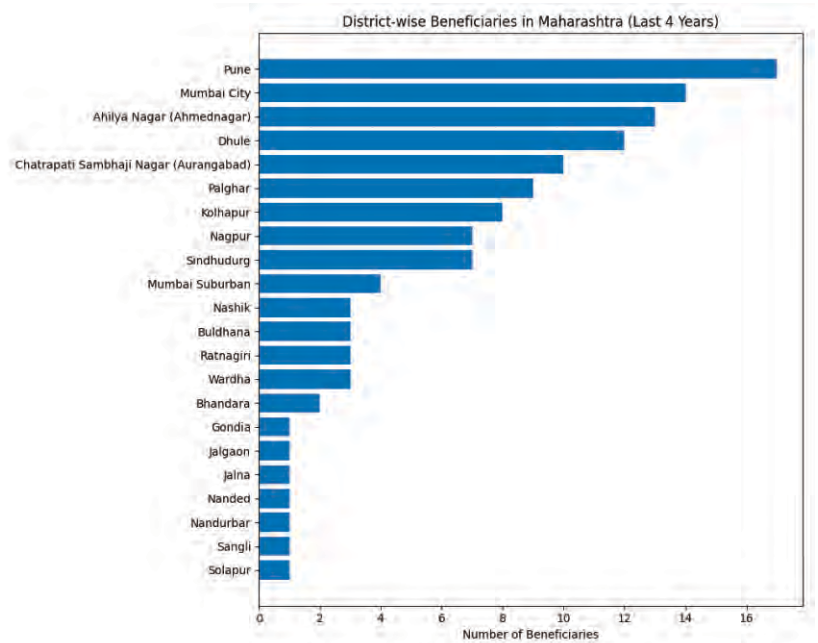
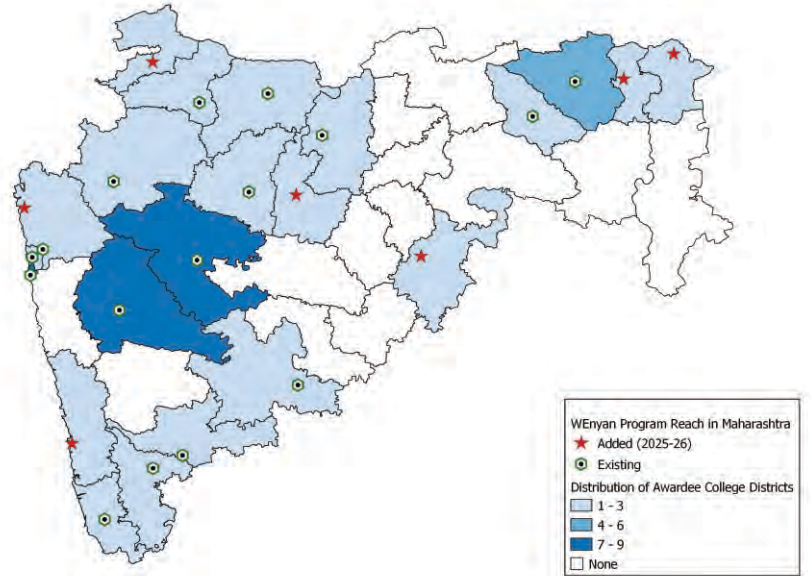
**Assistant Professor
The Institute of Science,
Dr. Homi Bhabha State University,
Mumbai**

I mentored a WEnyan awardee two years ago. Thereafter, I became a selection committee member associated with the WEnyan program. As a mentor, I thoroughly enjoyed my experience with this platform, which significantly enhanced my mentoring skills over the past two years. I feel the evaluation process is quite stringent and the detailed mentor guidelines provided were instrumental in helping me become more insightful and effective. WEnyan team is trying to groom the girls from rural areas, where they lack the sufficient facilities required for the research and innovations, with a continuous tracking system, mid term evaluations and continued follow up of the work done. As a selection committee member, I do assess the projects of the students, contribute to their timely evaluations and suggestions. I must share that the WEnyan team is there after the students to implement the suggestions given by the mentors and the continuous assessments are helping the students to improve their scientific temperament. I can see that the quality of the projects chosen improves each year. A few of these students are also publishing in peer reviewed International and National journals with good impact factors and some of the projects are ready to be patented. It's nice to see WEnyan growing and BASF supporting for the capacity building of the women students to be future scientists.

IMPACT

The WEnyan Scholarship and Mentorship Program has reached students across Maharashtra (32 districts) and received strong participation (~1000 applications) over the past four years. Through nearly 70 sessions conducted across the state, the program has engaged and supported women from 58 colleges in 24 districts.

So far, 124 women have received support through the program. Since completing their scholarships, many have gone on to industry jobs or higher education opportunities. Some participants from the earlier batches have also started entrepreneurial journeys, including one co-founder and several students who have filed patents. The students have also contributed to research and academic publications, reflecting the growing impact of the program



ACHIEVEMENTS FROM 2024-2026



AWARENESS SESSIONS

28 Sessions
561 students
31 Colleges
28 Districts



MENTORSHIP & CAPACITY BUILDING

182 Mentoring hours
5 Mentors onboarded
12 Industry visits
8 Role Model Talks
4 Skill Building workshops



APPLICATIONS

773 Applications received
252 Undergraduates
439 Postgraduates
33 Doctoral students
29 Districts



GRANTEE ACHIEVEMENTS

3 Patent filed
2 Papers published
9 Conference presentation
7 Felicitated with awards
19 Recruited by industry
16 Pursuing higher education



BENEFICIARIES

75 Grantees
32 Undergraduates
34 Postgraduates
9 Doctoral students
19 Districts

LOOKING FORWARD

WEnyan aspires to nurture talent and innovation, empowering young women to shape the future of science with independence and purpose.

The program has delivered remarkable outcomes over the years. While remaining regionally focused, it is guided by a vision with global ambition. We are therefore expanding its reach beyond Maharashtra's Tier 1 and Tier 2 cities, enabling young women from more diverse geographies to pursue careers in science and technology.

Looking ahead, WEnyan will deepen its integration into the regional science and technology ecosystem by aligning talent development with industry needs, bridging workforce gaps, strengthening academic research, and contributing to informed policymaking.

We believe WEnyan has matured through a rigorous journey and has now completed its initiation phase. Together with BASF India Limited, we enter a new phase of purposeful and scalable implementation. This next chapter will focus on advancing STEM leadership and catalysing innovation for community transformation and opportunity creation. A key focus will be expanding inclusive and intersectional participation, with particular emphasis on Artificial Intelligence (AI), while enabling skilling for emerging career pathways. Equally important will be the development of resilient alumni networks and feedback systems that sustain long-term impact across generations.

WEnyan is a highly impactful program dedicated to advancing women in science. We envision it not merely as a scholarship, but as a 'pipeline builder' for the next generation of women scientists.



The Pune Knowledge Cluster (PKC) is one of seven Science & Technology clusters established by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India (O/o PSA) under The City Knowledge and Innovation Cluster Initiative. PKC aims to create, enable and nurture a collaborative S&T ecosystem for various stakeholders, including Industry, Academia, Government, and Citizens. It is registered as a private (not-for-profit) company, under the Section 8 of The Company's Act, 2013 and is recognized by the O/o PSA as a Bonafede legal entity.



PUNE KNOWLEDGE CLUSTER

Office Address: 3rd floor, Placement Cell, Savitribai Phule Pune University Campus,
Ganeshkhind Rd, Ganeshkhind, Pune, Maharashtra 411007.
+91 78238 92474 | contact@pkc.org.in | www.pkc.org.in

