

Today, we are in conversation with the local leaders from all corners and communities of India. From a self-made autistic firm owner to a teacher who rewards failures, from teaching how to carve your own stories to the geek of sustainable Jugaad, and the Sapnon Ka Saathi (Partner of Dreams).

Our national vibe check for the day is: "Ik zindagi, 100 khwahishaa, ik ik mai puri kran."(One life, 100 dreams, one by one, we'll fulfil them all)

With this, let's dive straight into the interviews.

Interviewer: Meet Vamika, a young 19-year-old entrepreneur from Bihar who gives grants to teens like her to kickstart their dreams. They call her Sapno Ki Pari Didi. Some of those she has supported have impacted more than 10,000 youth in India.

Vamika: It all started when someone believed in me and gave me a chance to make my dreams a reality. When I was in grade 10, I really wanted to be part of a summer camp that taught high schoolers entrepreneurship. Coming from a modest family, I knew my parents couldn't fund my trip. Thus, with just a seedling idea and an essay full of hope and dreams, I applied. Ten days later, I got a call saying I had been shortlisted for the interview. In the interview, I spoke my heart out and gave all I had, and the result was that I got selected. I could never forget that summer camp nor the people who gave me this chance. Coming back, I realized how many peers like me are wandering, waiting for someone who wants more than just a pat on their back to kickstart their own journeys. With the remaining money, I started training the youth, helping them carve their unique paths. Once they were ready, I gave them a small grant to kickstart their journeys. In the future, if they meet someone less fortunate than themselves and see their younger version in them who had been given a chance to prove themselves, they too can do that. Even if they don't receive their desired outcome, it will give them hope and inspire a chain of youth to do the same in the future, just like I was with the help of someone.

I firmly believe my students are ready to harness the most advanced technology for the greater good. With this analogy, we not only help each other but form a mutual understanding rooted in compassion and gratitude.

Interviewer: Today we are meeting Aman, who teaches basic computer skills besides education at schools in the slums of Punjab. He is a proud owner of more than 10 centers across Punjab.

Aman: Many of you know me by the name Aman, though my original name was Vadik. It wasn't until a teacher came into my life and told me it was okay to express myself the way I wanted. When my friends and neighbors bullied me because I went by a different name, I never confronted them and became quieter. But when I met

Triman Di (I used to call her Gurman Di; I was never able to pronounce her name right until today), she introduced me to a new way of learning. I used to go there to study because school seemed to bore me, and I could never grasp concepts there. Triman taught the same concepts in a drastically different way. She made me learn a table by asking me randomly and spent hours teaching me just four English letters in a two-hour class. Time used to fly when I studied at Pratigya Abhiyan. She taught me English using her laptop, and by the time I learned typing in grade 4, I already knew how to read letters fluently.

She never said no to anything. Once, I brought my three-year-old brother to tuition, and she still taught him something. I remember her bringing us chocolates from different countries she visited. I loved asking her how, and she used to recount stories about how she got into those opportunities, which motivated me to keep learning and thinking one day I will too. When I came back home, I saw a distant reality from what Triman Di used to tell. Now, since my grade 12 ended, I did not want to pursue college but wanted to teach peers around me these techniques, like computer basics, so that I could help them escape this cycle mentally and then physically, and Triman Di taught me how to do that.

I dream of taking my teachings to the most remote places in India through my students. I have faith that whoever graduates from my course will help others escape the cycle and perhaps even prevent them from entering it in the first place, encouraging them to start wisely. A good example is that instead of the youth leaving their hometowns and moving to big cities to pursue their dreams, they might start their own companies in their hometowns and help each other.

Interviewer: Let's meet another individual, Mohit, who is diagnosed with autism, ADHD, and was non-verbal till the age of 7. Today, he is the owner of his own recycling firm, earning billions while giving jobs to his neurodivergent community.

Mohit: You just need one person to believe in you, even if others around you resist, but when that one person persists, everything changes. I was that person whom everyone lost hope with. Non-verbal, with no parents, just one grandmother who was about 70 when she used to take me to therapy every day without fail, trying to make ends meet by ironing clothes and taking care of me, my paralyzed mom, my grandfather, and herself too.

I knew basic commands like yes, no, namaste, but nothing further. I couldn't even identify colors, let alone speak them. There was one place I used to go for therapy at Samadhan—my second home. People used to say I had severe behavior issues, which was understandable given they were uneducated and illiterate. My grandmother told me that it was due to the interns at Samadhan that I am who I am today. They taught

my grandmother how she could support me, believed in me, and patiently repeated a single thing ten times just because my brain was wired differently. Even today, I hesitate to speak, sometimes unable to clarify my point, yet those interns believed in me and gave me a voice. In return, I want to help youth who are like me, with their unique personalities and untapped potential. I want to make them grow as I was given a chance. As a thank you to my grandmother, I am helping all caretakers with their never-ending enthusiasm in helping their kids live their lives not just independently but by earning their living—something my grandmother wished I could have done for her when she was alive. To all the interns out there who never stopped helping and catering to my specific needs, I am training my neurodivergent friends who can then help the interns understand their specific needs and experiences, so they learn firsthand and help more naive boys like Mohit who were once lost and hopeless.

I can easily visualize my neurodivergent friends opening up their own side hustles, ultimately leading to multiple revenue streams for their families. This gives them a chance to be proud of their work and who they are. I believe self-acceptance is the final step toward achieving satisfaction, something my grandmother always used to say: "Mohit, tu karta sab kuch hai, baaki ko samajhne mein thoda samay lagta hai" (Mohit, you can do everything; it's just that others take some time to understand your way).

Interviewer: Today we are going to meet Srishti, who teaches children to fail and rewards them the more they fail. Her students have created revolutionary green startups, technology, and are self-made entrepreneurs and billionaires.

Srishti: This idea came into being when I was running in a race during my sports day and fell down even though I was winning. Crying, I left the ground. My teacher, though, rewarded me for failing. She said, "If you wouldn't have failed today, you would have never tried another race because you would have become overconfident and egoistic about winning this one." Though I passed school, I never forgot my teacher's words, which motivated me to pursue an education degree myself. I remember all my friends growing up used to run after perfect A's and high marks in exams and always chose the safest option. However, my teacher always rewarded me when I failed at the hardest options, even if they were miserable attempts. Today, as I recall my idea of teaching my children, I always start with this concept. This makes my children try so many different things because of the reward, that they find themselves and their likings and weaknesses along the way. Thus, most of them, even though they started for the reward, end up doing something out of their purpose and realization of their gift and not the reward that comes with it.

I aspire for my students to teach my methods in various aspects of their lives. When they face the most difficult challenges, they can access this trick like an unconscious memory, easily recallable, and pass it on to those who need it the most. Who knows, it could become a new cure—so simple that even a five-year-old can learn to adapt to it.

Interviewer: Meet Nehrashi, someone whose name means 'new bonds' and which inspired by her work. For her, it's the intermix of eco-consciousness with curiosity that helps her inspire the next generation of eco-preneurs by teaching them sustainability in their daily lives to government school children. The knowledge once available only to private school children is now widespread and consciously lived by government school children in India today.

Nehrashi: Growing up, my parents always emphasized that individual actions always matter and taught me how living consciously can help me become a better individual. Today, I feel their teachings, along with my own unique perspective, have helped me inspire the way I teach sustainability and green living. I believe that children learn because they are naturally curious, and since many of my children come from underprivileged backgrounds, I love to teach them sustainable living by what they already know indigenously—the term called Jugaad. This one time, I took children on a field trip and asked them to come up with imaginary dishes using whatever was available in the garden. I was amused to see some using composting habits, recycling, and reusing plastic waste, which showed that they knew much of the green knowledge we thought was only known to private school children. That's when I realized—sustainability isn't new to them; they just need the language to express it, and just like that is how I introduced them to sustainability and green living.

I want my students to realize that they are self-sufficient and unique in their own ways. I believe that once they tap into this realization, they will live a proud life internally because sustainability today is a part of everything. Their jugaad lifestyle will help them be proud of achieving more with limited resources, something most of them are capable of but never fully embrace.

As we close our interviews for the day, we can see a remarkable shift: the Indian youth is not just surviving but thriving in what they believe is their drive. Now, the one who has money isn't the most successful, but the one who can win trust and be compassionate on the inside. Wake up India, the youth you call today has taken UDAAN (taking the flight)