



'Award of Excellence for Institutional Achievement in Distance Education'

# Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University

(Established by Government of Maharashtra)



## Success Story



# Success Story



**Jaydev Thakur**

## Student at 80!

Age is no barrier if you determine to pursue education or achieve anything you have set your heart on. Here is the case of an 80-year old grandpa Jaydev Kishor Thakur. At an age when most of senior citizens give up hope for life, here is this grand old man pursuing graduation with the enthusiasm that will put even a youngster to shame! Thakur recently appeared for his graduation examination from HPT college run by Gokhale education society. Thakur is unlike others of his age. According to him, there is no age limit for education and that one must keep learning all through life. Looking at his enthusiasm and liking for education, one does not know whether he should still be called a grandfather. On the other hand, the youngsters who bunk lectures should a lesson and imitate his determination to pursue education.

Thakur was born on January 7, 1933 in Shirpur in Dhule district. His father died when Thakur was just 10 years old. He then came to Mumbai in search of employment. He did odd jobs and kept studying. After some time, he got a job in Nashik's general post office. He used to work during day and attended night school. He cleared 11<sup>th</sup> class board exam with first class.

Earlier the 11<sup>th</sup> class exam was conducted by the education board. Thakur got the post of a

clerk in the post office. His faith in education and love for learning helped him get promotion after promotion. He worked as wireless inspector, assistant postmaster, supervisor, and so on. However, due to the burden of official work and his expanding family impeded his plan for formal education. Hence his education remained incomplete. His filial responsibility increased. Later his children settled in Nashik and Thakur also retired from service. Since he was fond of reading, he decided to spend the retirement while reading. Once he read in a newspaper that those who had passed Old SSC before 1975 were eligible for admission to the first year of graduation degree course.

This news rekindled the fire for education that had remained dormant in him all these years and he decided to seek admission. Soon after admission, he started his study and cleared the first year with 51 % marks. He never missed a single lecture and always mingled freely with students of his grandchildren's age. He used to study along with his grand child at night. When asked about his determination, he quotes Mahatma Gandhi who stressed the need for making learning a life-long activity. Education never goes waste, he adds.

# Success Story



**Swati Wankhede**

## **An ideal teacher**

Just imagine a teacher who fords through river everyday at a grave risk to her life and then starts teaching students after changing her wet clothes. No ordinary teacher this! She is none other than Swati Narayan Wankhede, the teacher who teaches at tribal hamlet and at the same time she enrolled with Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University for pursuing higher education. Interestingly, she did all this while looking after her family. This is nothing but strong determination! Nothing can be achieved without strong determination. She is no ordinary teacher. For, she has no vehicle to carry her to school or road leading to her school. The school is situated across the bank of the river and there is no boat to carry her across. This teacher reaches her school by using an aerated tube to swim to the school. The school is situated at Sherpada which is 20km away from Nashik. She would walk through or swim through the river to reach the school. Her uncommon determination and sense of duty put Sherpada on world map. Since she would get wet while reaching the school, the teacher would keep a couple of sarees at school itself.

During the monsoon when the river is in spate, the teacher would use an aerated tube of

truck to cross the river.

She had to cross the river twice a day; while reaching the school to teach students and while returning home. No teacher can accomplish all this without determination.

Swati Wankhede's greatness is not confined to passing through the river. She has undertaken a number of academic, social awareness projects like 'akshardindi', 'akshargudi', 'shardotsav', 'savitri classes', 'geetai pathan', 'palak dattak yojna', aksharshala and aksharpanti during Diwali, among others for upliftment of the tribals. While educating others, she also kept educating herself. The society took note of her selfless service and in 1970, she was awarded the state government's Savitribai Fule Adarsh Shikshika award. She also got several other prizes and awards. Swati Wankhede lives in Nashik and is employed with Zilla Parishad school. Ever since her appointment, she has been teaching at tribal hamlets and villages. She never sought a transfer to the place of convenience. On the other hand, she adjusted herself to the prevailing circumstances. While accomplishing her goal of educating the masses, she faced many problems but she overcame them successfully due to her staunch faith in education.

# Success Story

Kavita Thonge

## On fast track to MPSC career!

The general perception is that girls in the rural area lag behind their urban counterparts as far as higher education is concerned. But here is the story of girl student who successfully fought all the hurdles in her way to realise her dream of donning the uniform!

Kavita Thonge topped the Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC) exam for the post of police sub-inspector. She had failed in the first attempt but did not lose heart. On the other hand, she studied with renewed vigour and passed the competitive exam with flying colours. Her success is all the more praiseworthy as it was achieved without any academic background and it is the result of her resolute determination which will serve as an inspiration to the students from the rural area.

Kavita hails from Kohkali in Parner taluka of Ahmednagar district. Her father worked her a garage while her mother is a farm labour. Her parents always nursed the dream of giving her university education and Kavita also reciprocated their dream by her singular devotion to study. Most people nurse the dream in childhood, but there are very few who strive to fulfil that dream by overcoming adverse circumstances. Kavita Thonge belongs to that rare category of people who not only nurse a dream but ensure that it is fulfilled. She completed her SSC and

then dreamt of college life. She wanted to pursue higher education along with her school mates. But unfortunately, her father met with an accident. Now she became busy climbing the steps of the hospital where her father was admitted. The accident brought a calamity in her household. The sudden illness of her father caused a quick turnaround in her family's condition. Now her dream of becoming a police officer lay shattered. However Kavita was not the person to accept this sordid condition and then she made a resolve to complete her education by staying at her maternal uncle's house.

She cleared Common Entrance Test (CET) for D.Ed and got admission into a government college. Instead of baton, she now held the chalk and faced the blackboard. She took up a teaching job at village Gonde Dumala near Igatpuri in Nashik district. Soon she was married. She resided at Nashik and taught at Igatpuri taluka. Her dream got full support after marriage. Her husband Dr Samadhan Hire encouraged her to appear for competitive exams as he himself appeared for them. He relieved her of many familial chores and boosted her confidence. At first she could not appear for the test due to some technical glitches. But she did not lose hope and studied on. Within 2 months after their marriage, both Kavita and her husband

cleared the MPSC exams. Kavita attributes her success to the encouragement she received from her husband and the favourable atmosphere at her in-law's home. Now they have nursed another dream of becoming DySP by 2015. She had attended coaching classes for some months ahead of MPSC exams. She achieved a new level of success after completing her graduation and later post-graduation from the Open University, firmly sending the message of self-study.

Her message to the students is: First fix your goal and then make concerted efforts. You may not succeed immediately, but you should not get upset on account of failure. Students

should continue to study determinedly and achieve the goal. Honest efforts always succeed, says Kavita.

The growing instances of atrocities on women disturb her and hence she has decided to use her uniform to curb the atrocities against women. She wants to encourage women to pursue education and stand on own feet. Now Kavita has set herself a new goal of becoming a gazetted officer by 2015. She has already fulfilled the dream of her parents and she is sure to fulfil her new dream also.

- Santosh Sable



# Success Story



**Mrunal Dusanis**

## Star Actress

There is always curiosity among people about the personal life, success and achievements of film, television, drama, theatre and sports personalities. One such actress who evokes curiosity is the emerging TV star Mrinal Dusanis aka Shamika, the popular character in the first Ekta Kapoor's show in Marathi 'Mazhiya Priyala Preet Kalena'. This debutant actress from Nashik created her own identity on the strength of her innate acting talent. She has acted in popular television serials as well as big screen hits like Shrimant Damodarpanth.

Importantly, she is also a student of Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University. Here is a free-wheeling interview wherein she speaks about her background, career and academic success, too.

**Q: Why did you decide to enrol yourself with Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University?**

MD: I wanted to study journalism. But I took

admission in another course. Thus my desire to study journalism remained unfulfilled. Hence I decided to seek admission in BA CMJ course and opted for HPT college study centre. Moreover, it allowed me to pursue journalism without the compulsion of attending the classes regularly.

**Q: What is your opinion about the Open education system?**

MD: Open education system is distance education system. Here the students are not bound by the limitations of time, place or even age. You can study as per your convenience at

home. Though there is no compulsion of attending the classes everyday, the guest lectures are highly useful and informative. Since the emphasis is on self-study, you get to learn a lot through experience. The textbooks are packed with all relevant knowledge in simple language and hence you can even do without teacher. All this



increased my self-confidence and hence I studied journalism for three years without any stress.

**Q: How did your education in the YCMOU benefit you?**

MD: While doing my journalism course at the YCMOU, I had also enrolled for a fashion designing course in the KK Wagh college. While doing these two courses, I was also acting in TV serials. I was also doing internship in Maharashtra Times. Thanks to the YCMOU, I got the opportunity to complete my course in journalism without any problem.

**Q: What would you tell us about your introduction to the theatre?**

MD: I was in eighth standard in Maratha school when I first participated in children's drama contest. This developed a liking in me for theatre and then decided to follow this line. I focused on dancing and appeared for Katthak dance exams. I was trained in Katthak form of dancing under the guidance of Jaikumar Khele and Karuna Tile. Soon I was introduced to Praveen Kalokhe and joined the Genius group. Soon roles started coming my way and I got opportunities to work in theatre, serials and film. Hard work and determination hold the key to success.

**Q: You have worked in several serials. Which are your favourite characters?**

MD: Both Manjiri and Shamika are my favourite

characters. The character of Shamika in the show 'Mazhiya Priyala Preet Kalena' is important. I feel the character of a simple innocent and a bit naive girl who totally loves her parents and is family oriented with the girl next door values made the viewers identify with her and touched a chord somewhere. But the character of Manjiri is equally important to me.

**Q: What role did your family play in your career?**

MD: Actually, my middle-class family is the mainstay of support in my career. I am thankful to my parents for trusting me and letting me go to Mumbai. It has been a very good journey starting from overnight trips for my theater work and now I am firmly settled in Mumbai for a career in the entertainment industry. But the one thing that I regret is that I am not able to give much time to my family.

**Q: What is your future plan?**

MD: I do not just want to confine myself to acting in television serials and cinema. I want to take up newer projects and would love to play challenging roles. My advice to aspiring actors is not to run after fame and money. They should first identify their interest and concentrate on it. Every field has opportunities and is equally important.

**Mr. Sham Padekar**



# Success Story



## Padmashila Tirpude

### Adversity to become a PSI

A person's character is best tested when put to adversity and those who can successfully clear the trials and tribulations of life have success touching their feet! An ideal example of this axiomatic truth was experienced by the residents of Nashik when Padmashila Tirpude, the wife of a labourer got over the adverse circumstances to become a police officer!

The success achieved by Padmashila Tirpude, who lived the life of poverty and deprivation along with her husband and two kids before she became eligible to don the uniform, is quite inspiring to the students from Maharashtra. The convocation ceremony of Maharashtra police academy wherein her passing-out batch was honoured will remain embedded in her memory for ever.

This is the story of unusual determination to succeed in the face of heavy odds that threatened to shatter her dream. Padmashila Ramesh Tirpude married Pawan Tukaram Khobragade out of love

ten years ago. Pawan belonged to village Pahela near Walkeshwar in Bhandara district. After marriage, the duo left for Aurangabad and eked out a living by doing odd jobs. But success eluded them despite trying various trades even doing a coolie work. Hence they left for Nashik where they pitched a tent on the bank of river Godavari and subsisted somehow doing hard physical work. Padmashila did not let the odds pull her back from her dream of becoming a police officer. Her husband helped her a lot by doing household chores and playing with kids, leaving



**"Since the Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University gave me the chance to pursue my education while looking after my household, I could fulfil my dream of becoming the police officer. I am indeed grateful to my husband who suffered a lot for me. He has a lion's share in my success."**

**- Padmashil Tirpude (PSI)**



Padmashila a lot of free time to concentrate on studies. Her small room turned into a study room where books lay scattered on the cot. Her husband also gained some skill as paver block worker and started work on contract.

I am very happy to see my wife Padmashila in uniform. We put up a great struggle and sometime even went without food. But in the end, all is well that ends well. Pawan Khobragade, husband of Padmashila When she realised that life without education is meaningless, she became restless and felt the need for action. It was really tough to manage household, look after kids and then find time for study. But she accepted the challenge and along with her husband, she also worked and studied for her bright future. Her hard work and dedication paid.

Padmashila enrolled herself with Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University and completed BA. Meanwhile she was blessed with two kids Pranjali and Prajwal. While looking after the kids, she prepared herself

for the MPSC exams. Last time she had missed the rank by one mark, but she did not lose courage and studied on, forgetting failure and hunger. She passed both prelims and mains. Seeing her poor condition, many extended her help. Some gave her dry fruits, some nutritious food and above all, many sympathisers boosted her confidence that helped her pass the physical test confidently. She was selected for 18 months' training at Maharashtra police academy. She passed out of the academy as a confident PSI and has been posted in Amravati. It was her realisation that education is the key to success in life, besides encouragement and help from her husband and overall support from the society that made Padmashila what she is today. According to her, if a person has three attributes of curiosity, determination and ambition, nothing is impossible. Her achievement will continue to inspire girls of Maharashtra to achieve greater goals in life.

- Santosh Sable

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# Success Story



Sanjay Pakhode

## New dimension to career

I entered the field of journalism by accident but later settled with this profession. The year was 1991. After a diploma in civil engineering, I worked with a private firm for one and a half years in Mumbai. But later came back to Amravati due to some inevitable reasons but did not turn back to constructions.

I took up a job with a local daily in Amravati and later got the opportunity of working with television channels like SAAM Marathi and E-TV. That time I did not have any professional journalistic qualification, but later felt that I should

have some degree or diploma in journalism. That time I completed a diploma in journalism from Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University in 1997 but I still felt that I should have a degree in journalism. But due to the ever increasing burden of work and extensive travelling,

it was not possible to seek admission in college. Meanwhile, my friend Shrinath

Wankhede informed me about the degree course in Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU). He bought a prospectus and form which he himself filled and submitted on my behalf on the last day of submission. Then I completed BA MCJ degree course in

three years. Since the classes were held on Sunday, I had the opportunity of attending them and studying on the weekly holiday.

While practising journalism, many minor points remain either untouched or invisible. However while studying journalism formally;

many such unnoticed points and dimensions became visible to me. The study of journalism added to my knowledge. The study material was of great quality and increased my general knowledge too. It is universally agreed that we must know about the domain in which we work, but most of the times, contrary is the case. The journalism course of the Open University acquainted me with the printing press started



by Johan Guttenberg to the internet revolution. In short, the Open University has brought knowledge, entertainment and education on a single platform. Fortunately, I got the honour of standing first in the Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University. I was awarded a gold medal. Immediately, I sought admission in the two year master of journalism course of Amravati University. Now I can claim to be a competent journalist. But all this was enabled by the YCMOU. Now I can proudly claim that I have got the masters in journalism. Along

with on- the-job experience, I have now the professional qualification too. At present, I am working as a special correspondent of the Divya Marathi newspaper of the Dainik Bhaskar group at Amravati. I am highly indebted to the Open University for giving an edge to my career in journalism.

**Sanjay Pakhode,**

Special correspondent

Divya Marathi newspaper, Amravati

Mobile no 9823023875 and 9822274677

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# Success Story



**Rupali Patil**

## Path to those deprived of education

I was born and was educated up to D.Ed in Navi Mumbai. My father was in a private company after closure of factory. My mother was engaged in tailoring business at home. Both my parents wanted that their three daughters should get enough education so that they are able to stand on their own.

My self-esteem suffered when I got promoted to standard X on grace marks. Later I fell ill and lost the whole year. This further added to my sadness. But due the blessings of my parents and teacher, I got through the SSC with 69 percent marks. I sought admission in commerce stream as the science education was beyond the budget of my poor family. I passed the HSC with 79 marks, the success gladdened hearts of my parents. People were advising me to go for Chartered accountancy, but my father insisted that I should complete my D.Ed first like my sisters to stand on my own. Soon I was married to the brother-in-law of my elder sister. I was afraid I might not be able to complete my education. Within a year, I was blessed with a girl child and I received a job call from Jalgaon Zilla Parishad.

Meanwhile, my husband quit CRPF due to domestic reasons. His future planning also did not

succeed. I faced all the problems encountered by women while receiving education like marriage, family, children, job at far-off place, and residing at village, among others. While bringing up my daughter, I got the best help from Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University to pursue my dream of higher education. Battling out the domestic issues and economic stress, I enrolled for FYBA in 2006 with English literature. But due to my D.Ed, I was directly admitted to the second year of BA. I overcame many hurdles in life and graduated with 65 percent in 2008. I was happy and everybody was happy. Later my sister and her husband also passed BA from YCMOU. We are greatly attached to this university. I am indebted to Subhash Selar for his valuable guidance.

He used to clear our doubts and counsel us regarding our study. He encouraged us to read extra books and thus developed a liking for reading books. He helped dispel my fears about English language. Later I took admission for MA English in Pune University and cleared the exam with B+ 55 marks. I got valuable guidance from Shelar sir and Shimpi sir. Besides, my husband encouraged me in my studies, and hence I achieved my present academic success.

# Success Story



**Lalita Mane**

## Experience of Open University

I am Lalita Laxmanrao Mane-Deshmukh. I was born in a farmer's family in village Akluj in Solapur district. We were five sisters and two brothers. I was just SSC pass. My mother was just Vth standard pass and father VII standard. Since my parents were literate, they sent us to school. My education stopped after SSC and I was married at the age of 23. There were three brothers in law, father and mother in law at the new home.

My husband was an employee while my brothers in law were students. After marriage I read great many books while looking after the family. I was blessed with a son and a daughter. Thus my first five years passed. I admitted my son in the primary school while enrolled daughter in the nursery in Satara in 1995. That very year my husband died and darkness spread before my eyes. I was worried about future of my children. My in-laws were very kind hearted folks. They helped me a lot and did not send me back home to my parents. My brothers-in-law also came to my rescue and treated me like their sister. I came back to Nandgaon from Satara where my son and daughter studied up to seventh and fifth standard. I stayed in Satara in 2000 for the sake of education of my children. My son was in Xth standard and daughter in VII. Luckily that time I met a great teacher Dr Mrs Ghorpade,

she encouraged me to do BA from Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University. I applied for entrance and cleared it. I became a graduate within 3 years and my degree was sent to LBS College, Satara. That was the biggest moment of happiness in my life. I am thankful to the Open University and Ghorpade madam. I am proud of my Open University that installed a sense of independence, inspiration and empowerment in me.

I got valuable guidance from Dr S D Kamble, principal and head of YCMOU centre and coordinator prof A P Margam. In 2005, I enrolled my son with D P Bhosale college in Koregaon for BCA course and that very year I got the job as an assistant at the study centre of YCMOU there. I have been working there as an assistant since 2006. My son is in the final year of MCA course in Pune while my daughter is studying in MA first year at Satara.

Open University system is very useful. This distance education system is making available educational opportunities to the various sections of society. I got to learn a lot from the Open University. Whenever people, particularly women come to me for advice, I tell them not to leave education incomplete and become graduate through the Open University.

# Success Story



**Vaishali Jadhav**

## A beacon of hope for one and all

'Dnyanganga gharoghari', taking the Ganges of knowledge to every household is the motto of Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU). This Open University has done a remarkable work in reaching the unreached.

It has thrown open the doors of knowledge hitherto closed for the deprived sections of society. It has helped those desirous of pursuing higher education fulfil their dream. Importantly, the Open University makes available education at an affordable cost. The students of this university come from various working background, some are adults, housewives and even in business. The structure and working style of the Open University is different from the conventional universities. The syllabus of this university is of high standard and has been designed by taking into account the practical needs of the students. The syllabus helps the students in day to day life and enables them to improve their life style too.

Another aspect of this informal education system is the self-study method which instils confidence in the pupils and enables them to complete their educational courses confidently. Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University has helped in reduction of illiteracy in the society and instilled confidence among the deprived sections of the society that they too can aspire for higher education and climb up the professional ladder.

I express my deep thanks to Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University for creating self confidence among the neglected sections of the society.

My education came to an end after Xth standard due to the poor economic condition of my family. Since my father was a farmer, I used to help him on the farm. Since my education had ended, I did not think of studying ahead and was busy doing domestic work. I thought the entire life of mine would be spent in doing household work. But my life changed after Prof. Anil Patil (Dada) of Kameeri and Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University came into my life. 'Dada' who changed the lives of many students at Karmaveer Education Society's study centre also expelled the darkness in my life when he persuaded me to study for graduation. He compelled me to appear for the prelim test at his centre and helped me in every way.

He had also helped my brother complete his graduation in commerce. He told me that I could study sitting at home while looking after my household. This boosted my confidence that I could become a graduate and then chart out my professional career. I completed my BA in 2001. The conferment of that degree by the Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University opened a new door of opportunity for me.

# Success Story



**Savita Brahmane**

## Beautician Savita

Laharon se darkar nauka par nahin hoti, koshish karne walon ki kabhi har nahin hoti (Boatman can not paddle his canoe if he fears waves, but he who tries never fails).

I am Savita Vasant Brahmane. I was born in a very poor family in Deolali Pravara in Ahmednagar district in 1980. I studied up to VIIIth standard and despite my desire, my family condition did not permit me to study further. I had three brothers and a sister who were born after me. Being elder daughter, I used to help my mother in housework. My father was a mason at village Khurd (Loni) in Ahmednagar district but he did not get regular work and hence the family suffered. Hence our family shifted to Agartakli in Nashik in 1988. Now my father got regular work but he got into the habit of gambling. Whatever he earned, he gambled away, pushing the family into worst financial crisis. At last my mother began to sell vegetables and I also helped her in this business.

During rainy season, when there were no takers for vegetables, my mother would do domestic work like cleaning utensils and thus earned money to keep household running. I was married on May 17, 1995. My husband worked in a factory in Ambad while I did housework. A daughter was born to me in 1999 and household expenses went up. Meanwhile, my husband lost

his job but he did not lose heart and did odd jobs. However we faced penury during this time.

I always thought that I should do something. But due to lack of proper education and guidance, I could not do anything. I bought a few sheep and my mother-in-law did housework. One day my mother-in-law gave me Rs 1500 and my mother gave me Rs 500. I bought a sewing machine but I could not operate the sewing machine and hence my mother-in-law sent me to my mother's place to learn sewing. I joined the sewing class but within 15 days I took ill and started working at home.

Then one of my friends suggested that I should do a course in beauty parlour. I met the owner-madam of 'Rasika' beauty parlour who told me that one must be at least Xth standard pass. I felt dejected but seeing my strong desire to do the course, the madam admitted me to the course. I also joined the fashion designing course elsewhere. Since I was just VIIIth standard pass, I experienced many difficulties but the madam always helped me. Once I could not understand the meaning of the word 'eye brow' but the madam encouraged me to learn and boosted my confidence. She advised me to appear for HSC and later told me about Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University. I followed her advice and enrolled in the university and passed

with decent marks. When my husband was admitted to a hospital, I used to study in the hospital.

Today my condition has improved a lot. I have set up my own 'Mahalaxmi beauty

parlour and tailoring shop'. My daughter is studying in VIIIth standard while my son is studying IVth standard. I owe a lot to the Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University for improving my condition.





# Success Story



**Ashwini Shinde**

## Hausalon se udaan hoti hain

Nothing succeeds like success! This is true. The result of STI-2012 was declared recently and my name figured in the list of successful candidates declared by the MPSC. Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University can claim a lion's share of credit in my success. I am eternally grateful to the YCMOU.

Soon after I cleared SSC, I sought admission in arts faculty of Sunanda Jadhav Girls Junior college, Kameri. I got 81 percent in HSC. I had nursed the dream of appearing for competitive exams since I entered the junior college. I always felt that the MPSC exam was the ray of hope for a commoner like me who also comes from rural background. I adopted a commercial point of view and got admission for D.Ed in 2006-07. However, my heart lay in the competitive exam and that did not let me sit idle. But the basic eligibility for MPSC was graduation. Prof Anil Patil and Karmaveer Education Society study centre Kameri suggested that I should do my graduation from Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University while still doing D.Ed. Since Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University is a prestigious university, its degree is valid for MPSC exam. Centre incharge

Prof Chhaya Patil and centre coordinator Prof Sanjay Patil gave me valuable guidance. I sought admission in the first year of graduation and in 2010 I passed with economics in first division. I also cleared the D.Ed in first division around the same time. Due to the self-study method and flexibility of the examination system, I saved my time and also got a new direction in life. I could begin preparations for the MPSC exams early.

Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University also inspired me to study while continuing my job as a teacher. This Open University has proved to be a great boon to the needy students like me from Maharashtra.

Heartfelt thanks for letting me communicate with the students of this great university. I also extend my greetings to the students of the university for their bright future. I would like to give a message of achieving success through hard work and those who believe in this dictum better note:

**Sapne unke sach hote hain, jinke sapnon mein jaan hoti hain**

**Pankhon se kuchch nahi hota, hausalon se udaan hoti hain**

# Success Story



**Prem Jha**

## YCMOU helped realise my dream

My name is Prem Shankar Jha. I completed a diploma in mechanical engineering from Government Polytechnic Bijnore in 2003. But due to financial constraints and other reasons, I could not pursue my academic qualification further.

I joined Jindal Saw Ltd at Sinnar near Nashik as D.E.T. Soon after joining I realised the difference between a diploma and degree engineer. Though they work together, perform similar tasks, there are huge differences in salary, position and growth prospects as well.

I decided to pursue degree program when

I realised that graduation in engineering will lead to my career growth. I am thankful to my colleague Mr Sachin Jadhav who suggested that I should pursue degree course with Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU).

Even as I was thinking over the suggestion, I was sceptical about the validity of the degree awarded by an open university; whether it could be considered valid for promotion, etc. Many questions crowded my mind like whether the private or public sector undertaking will ever prefer an open university graduate over the one who has done full time graduation from some reputable college of the country.

Confused, I sought advice from many

experienced people and got strange and demotivating opinion who said that pursuing a B.Tech from an open university would be a waste of 3 years of life. Generally, all of them were against me enrolling at the YCMOU. However, I was not that convinced by their opinions and tried to know the background of the YCMOU on my own. I spent 5 hours online trying to understand the processes followed by the YCMOU. After this, I decided to join the B.Tech degree program of this open university.

I took the admission in 2004 and my study centre was N.D.M.V.P Samaj college of engineering. Since my duty was in three shifts, it was difficult for me to attend the college everyday.

I discussed my issue with the colleague and requested them to cooperate. Finally they agreed to post me in two shifts only, leaving me enough time to attend the college. I managed my time skilfully between office and college. Meanwhile,

I got a job with L & T at Powai, Mumbai. So

I transferred my study centre from Nashik to Mumbai at Sh Polytechnic, Airoli. On account of certain personal reasons, I could not finish my B.Tech within the stipulated time. Finally,

I completed my degree in 2010. After completing B.Tech, reaction from the industry was very encouraging. I was happy. For,

suddenly several possibilities opened up. Finally I chose to join the Philips. Currently I have been working with world's no 1 company in its segment—Philips lighting. It has been two years at the company as a regional manager and I am happy with sudden increase in my salary and position. It is a dream come true for me.

I am glad to see that I get to rub shoulders with the colleagues from IIT, IIM and other prestigious engineering colleges. The fact that I am working at par with them motivates me to do better in my career.

I have suggested many of my friends to do B.Tech from YCMOU and many of them have

already enrolled for the program. My advice to everyone in similar position I was when I started: Do not be afraid of taking a similar course of action. I benefited immensely from the YCMOU degree and others too will.

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# Success Story

Adv Meera Doifode

## My Lord.....

Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU) has been serving as a beacon of light for neglected sections of the society including lonely women. The Open University is bringing new light of confidence, inspiration and self-reliance into their lives. The YCMOU has opened doors of education to women like me who are today moving with confidence in the society.

My mother was a literate and hence she admitted us to the school. I studied up to VIIth standard and was married off at the age of 13. My marriage was an accident. My husband's first wife died, leaving behind three kids including two sons and a daughter. Since she was related to me, my parents married me to the man who was 20 to 25 years older than me. The entire responsibility of bringing up the three kids fell on me. The daughter was 9 years; sons were 7 years and 2.5 years old respectively. Due to the huge difference in the age, it was impossible to reconcile our thoughts. Since I was married at a minor age, I was not aware of the institution called marriage. I always felt like a caged parrot and when I read a story in the Vth standard textbook about a boy who is caught in a similar situation as I was, I immediately identified myself with that boy.

I felt as it was my own story in another

context. But I was saddled with the duty of ensuring that all the kids in the household got education. Now the daughter has completed her D.Ed, one son is doing MVSC while another has just cleared the entrance test for engineering college. Besides being parent and teacher to these children, I also adopted five other children irrespective of their caste and religion and educated them. My husband's friend Mr Prahlad Toge helped me fill the exam form for SSC. I cleared the exam in 1993 but I still wanted to learn and hence contacted the study centre of Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU) at Balbheem college. The centre head Dr Hanmant Patil and his colleague Suresh Mhaske helped me a lot and I secured admission in the Open University in 1995. Due to availability of books on subjects like economics, Marathi, history and psychology, I started studying in right earnest. At the same time, I looked after the needs of my family and dealt firmly with people of negative attitude.

I completed my BA with good marks. I was greatly influenced by the serial on the life of social reformer Savitribai Fule which was being telecast on Doordarshan. The firmness of Savitribai Fule's character and her rebellion against the outdated social customs greatly influenced me. Similarly another serial on Anandibai Joshi

also influenced me positively. It stresses the need for education in the life of women. There is a great deal of similarity between Anandibai's and my life. Anandibai's life deeply impressed me and I realised the value of education. My husband also encouraged me in my academic pursuits and that is why I could study up to LLB and became a competent lawyer. Today I am doing social service. I was awarded Adarsh Mata Jijau Puraskar, best woman farmer award of Agriculture University, Parbhani. I have also been nominated on Mahatma Gandhi trust, Corruption Eradication Committee, Mahila

Dakshata Samiti, Tanta-mukta Samiti, etc. Besides, I am also working as the state secretary of Yuvak Kranti Dal.

Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University has inspired, educated and empowered me. It has given a new meaning to my life. The university has instilled a great self-confidence in me and hence I will always remain eternally grateful to the YCMOU. I always advise women to educate themselves through the Open University and live life with dignity.



# Success Story



**Sharad Gadikar**

## The swimmer journo of YCMOU

You do not need to attend a prestigious traditional university to get name and fame in life. This is what we learn from the life and career of Sharad Gadikar, the ace swimmer from Amravati. He represented the Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University in the Ashwamedh sports tournament and today he has earned name and fame at national level.

Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University has not only thrown open the doors of education to the deprived sections of the society but also scouted for talented students and promoted their talent by giving them due exposure in the sporting events and festival. Sharad excelled as a swimmer and his talent was promoted through one such event organised by the university.

This national swimming champion was interested in sports since his childhood. His sporting talent was moulded on the grounds of Amravati's Hanuman Vyayam Prasarak Mandal

(SVPM). He used to participate in the various events of the SVPM as a wrestler, malkhamb artiste or gymnast or even took part in the SVPM's band squad. SVPM general secretary Prabhakar Vaidya and prof Vasant Harne, district swimming expert prof Laxmikant Khandagale guided Sharad to the swimming.



Sharad proved his mettle and excelled in the swimming contests bringing laurels to the SVPM. He wanted to be a sports teacher and this ambition did not let him remain still. Hence he sought admission to the course of journalism and mass communication.

He was selected for swimming competition organised at zonal level by the conventional universities. He won laurels in the competition. Later he participated in the inter-university Ashwamedh competition and represented the YCMOU, proving that the students of the Open University are second to none. Since Sharad had a certificate of participation in the Ashwamedh

sporting event, he easily obtained admission in the physical education course. Then he participated in several national swimming competitions. He completed B.P.Ed and later earned a degree in journalism and mass communication too.

Meanwhile, he got a job in Chandrabhanji school at Kund Sarjapur in Amravati district. He also worked as a sports reporter. He wrote on the sporting talent of the physically handicapped and encouraged the sporting spirit in the blind, deaf and dumb categories of sportspersons. In recognition of his contribution, he was awarded 'Late Anil Moharil award', a state level sports award for sports writers in 2005; District Youth Award in 2009, Award for promoting conflict-

free community living through journalism as a part of Mahatma Gandhi Tanta-Mukt campaign in 2005, late Arvindbabu Deshmukh sports journalism award for 2009-10. He is credited with moulding the careers of 8 to 10 state and national level sportspersons.

He is associated with a host of associations like Prabhat Krida Mandal, Amravati Zilla Bhasha Adhyapak Sangh, District Jump Rope Association and Physical Teachers Association among others. Indeed, Sharad's achievements are spectacular and he is an inspiration unto the students of the Open University.

- Aashish Yavale



# Success Story



**Bhushan Matkari**

## YCMOU Showed the path of success

I was born and was educated up to D.Ed in Navi Mumbai. My father was in a private company after closure of factory. My mother was engaged in tailoring business at home. Both my parents wanted that their three daughters should get enough education so that they are able to stand on their own.

My self-esteem suffered when I got promoted to standard X on grace marks. Later I fell ill and lost the whole year. This further added to my sadness. But due the blessings of my parents and teacher, I got through the SSC with 69 percent marks. I

sought admission in commerce stream as the science education was beyond the budget of my poor family. I passed the HSC with 79 marks, the success gladdened hearts of my parents. People were advising me to go for Chartered accountancy, but my father insisted that I should complete my D.Ed first like my sisters to stand on my own. Soon I was married to the brother-in-law of my elder sister. I was afraid I

might not be able to complete my education.

Within a year, I was blessed with a girl child and I received a job call from Jalgaon Zilla Parishad. Meanwhile, my husband quit CRPF due to domestic reasons. His future planning also did not succeed. I faced all the problems

encountered by women while receiving education like marriage, family, children, job at far-off place, and residing at village, among others.

While bringing up my daughter, I got the best help from Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University to pursue

my dream of higher education. Battling out the domestic issues and economic stress, I enrolled for FYBA in 2006 with English literature. But due to my D.Ed, I was directly admitted to the second year of BA. I overcame many hurdles in life and graduated with 65 percent in 2008. I was happy and everybody was happy. Later my sister and her husband also passed BA from YCMOU.

We are greatly attached to this university. I






am indebted to Subhash Selar for his valuable guidance. He used to clear our doubts and counsel us regarding our study. He encouraged us to read extra books and thus developed a liking for reading books. He helped dispel my fears about English language. Later I took admission for MA English in Pune University

and cleared the exam with B+ 55 marks. I got valuable guidance from Shelar sir and Shimpi sir. Besides, my husband encouraged me in my studies, and hence I achieved my present academic success.

- Santosh Sable



# Success Story



**Balu Bhadrike**

## From peon to bank officer

Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU), Nashik can help even a bank peon to realise his dream of becoming an officer in the same bank!

Myself Balu Sitaram Bhadrike. I am working as a peon in the state bank of Hyderabad. I was not even Xth class pass, but always dreamed of completing my education and occupying the officer's chair. My dream came true when I contacted and enrolled myself for the graduation course of Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU).

I joined State Bank of Hyderabad on January 24, 1983. Soon I sought permission from the bank for pursuing further education. The bank granted me permission for further study and I enrolled myself with the YCMOU. I sought admission in the YCMOU's study centre at Sanskardhan college, Kurar village in Malad suburb of Mumbai. I cleared the pre-examination test and then took admission in the first year of Bachelor of Arts (BA) course. I liked the teaching approach of the YCMOU, their high standard books, simple method of instruction that made even the difficult concepts very easy. It instilled confidence in me that I can now pursue higher education without any difficulty. Moreover, there was no obligation to attend the classes everyday and the same could be attended on Saturday-

Sundays when the bank had its weekly holiday. I got valuable guidance from the teachers, study centre incharge and the course coordinator. They all helped me when I had any difficulty. They made me feel as a part of YCMOU's large family. I cleared my BA examination in 2012.

Armed with a graduation degree, I became eligible for promotion to the post of clerk in my bank. I approached the headquarters of my State Bank of Hyderabad at Hyderabad and submitted my educational document including the BA degree awarded by the Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University. I appeared for the internal promotion test and cleared it. The habit of self-study instilled in me by the YCMOU helped me in cracking the bank test. Soon I was appointed as a clerk. I was very happy. I just could not imagine that a Xth standard fail student could achieve such a great success in life! All this was possible due to the YCMOU.

At present I am working as a clerk but I am trying for promotion as an officer. I am sure with the backing of YCMOU degree, I will soon be promoted as an officer. I am appearing for JAIIB exam conducted by the Indian Institute of Banking and Finance. I am confident of clearing the test and later getting promoted as the officer.

I owe my promotion to the YCMOU. It has

built in me abilities to take on any examination with a great degree of confidence. The Open University has instilled a great confidence in me and now I can crack any exam under the sun. Now I have not only got a higher position but my salary has also increased manifold. I will

always be grateful to the Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University for providing me this great opportunity to move up in life. Story of an Xth standard fail student and how YCMOU helped get a degree



# Success Story

Dr Vijay Shirbhate

## Platform to serve the farmers

I was born in a poor family. Our family had more mouths to feed than sources of income. There was no favourable atmosphere for educational growth. Though we were poor, our mother insisted that we should have education under any condition and live with dignity.

Poverty, lack of guidance and confidence had compounded the problem. Fighting all these odds, my elder brother educated himself to become an engineer. He fulfilled the dream of my poor father. Now it was my turn to do something spectacular. But I was confused about which direction to take. But the right moment arrived and that changed my life for ever. I took admission in a veterinary college. Since I needed to have experience and means of income, I accepted a low-paid job in Gujarat's Amul Dairy. There I got to see the sufferings of the animals and the sorrow of the farmers. I could study the problems faced by the farmers. It was an eye-opening experience for me. It made me realise that there was need for extension of education about agriculture in the rural area. Accidentally, I got a job in the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, (Durgapur) Badnera, near Amravati. I got the opportunity of working there as a specialist.

Meanwhile, Yashwantrao Chavan

Maharashtra Open University had stepped up its educational campaign to educate the disadvantaged sections of the society without disturbing their schedule, job or causing any inconveniences. The YCMOU teaching method is simple and fee is very reasonable. Besides, this Open University is flexible about the eligibility criteria for admission to its varied courses. It has opened the door of education to one and all. Given these advantages of the YCMOU, I was naturally attracted to this great Open University. I chose to study agriculture as it is always near to my heart. When I took admission in the YCMOU, people outside sneered at me. They felt it was not possible to pursue education at my age. Some questioned the utility of the course, whether it had any validity and what benefits it could give me at so late in my career. A few also thought that obtaining diplomas was a waste of money and time. But I was determined to pursue education and hence overrode all their objections and pursued education in the YCMOU. Then I started obtaining diplomas one by one from the Open University. I obtained good marks in the prelim and registered myself under Dr K A Dhapke, coordinator of Agricultural Science Centre. I wrote a project report on 'The low milk yield in Amravati district and the scientific techniques to bridge the gap' under Dr

Dhapke's guidance. I submitted the project to the Open University and got the degree.

The YCMOU is playing a vital role of educating the masses through open education system. It is a great help to those who are working yet can not find time or get admission in the traditional universities. It has unlocked the golden treasure of knowledge for one and all. The YCMOU is enabling the people to receive education at their convenience and reasonable fee. It has brought about a great educational revolution.

It is only when the YCMOU achieves its objective of taking education to every doorstep that there will be agricultural growth and progress. It will make farmers aware of the technology and how it can be used to increase the productivity. I am thankful to the YCMOU for providing me the opportunity to serve the farmers and the society by enabling me to seek higher agricultural knowledge through its portals.



# Success Story



**Mangesh Jagtap**

## YCMOU SHAPED UP MY CAREER

My name is Mangesh D. Jagtap. Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University has played a pivotal role in my career. YCMOU's diploma, degree programs everywhere are treated equivalent to the degree diploma of any other university for the purpose of employment in government and semi-government establishments. There is no doubt or misconception about the courses and the university. This is a reputed university, which runs various programs in various educational fields. When I was 24 years of age, I stood at the crossroads of my career.

I wondered which course to pursue to gain a decent employment opportunity. Fortunately, I met my cousin who had done a diploma course in fire and safety engineering and who has been working for the years successfully in this field. He advised me to do a course in fire-fighting so that I could become a fire safety officer. There are lots of job opportunities in this field and it makes a real fighter who fights for the welfare of the society and nation by fighting the fire, which destroys the life and property of the nation.

I was convinced that I will get job satisfaction in this field and that was true. I was very lucky to get into the Institute of Fire and Safety Engineering (IFSE) at Nagpur which is one of the best fire training colleges in Asia. The IFSE is

affiliated to the YCMOU Nashik. This government recognised institution has been training the youngsters in the field of fire and safety for decades. Earlier there were few courses only but now there are many courses and degree course in fire. All these are provided by Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU), Nashik.

The IFSE is being headed by its director Kumar Arvind. He is very generous by nature, a very talented personality, having more than 15 years of experience in the field of fire training. Kumar deals with the students very softly and strictly also whenever it is required. This fire college has the best infrastructure in the country. It also has highly qualified and experienced teaching faculty, some of whom have been rewarded with presidential awards. I was admitted in the IFSE in academic year 2008-09. I had a great time at IFSE. It shaped my life;

I opted for diploma in Fire and Safety Engineering Management. It was one year course during which extensive training was provided. This training was the combination of physical, theoretical and practical work; all these together made me a skilled and dedicated fire fighter and a trained person in the fire and safety field. During the campus recruitment program in the college, I was selected for abroad as a HSE officer in Al-

Futtaim Engineering in Qatar to my delight. I am ever so grateful to the YCMOU for providing career oriented courses to the students, which enabled me to secure a place in the above mentioned establishment. I am thankful to the visionary Director Dr. Surendra Patole of the School of commerce and management- YCMOU Nashik under who fire safety courses are going on. I am very happy in my life and yes, I would say that whatever training and knowledge I

got from IFSE has given me a high rise in my career growth. I am working in Qatar but I still remember those golden days when I was in IFSE College for my training. For all these, I would like to say special thanks to Arvind Sir, Director of IFSE, Dr. Surendra Patole, Director of the School of Commerce and Management, YCMOU Nashik, Mrs. Babita Singh, principal of IFSE and all professors of IFSE.



# Success Story



**Babli Wasnik**

## An efficient sarpanch out of a village woman

A village woman in Amravati district raised the voice of the suppressed sections of society including women; she challenged the monopoly of men in politics, and was elected as the sarpanch of the village. All this was possible due to the education she received from Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU) which made her aware of her rights and duties as a citizen. It made her a socially committed person for the greater good of the society.

Babli Raut of Rasulpur village in Amravati district could have chosen to live a married life happily. But she chose the path of social service and left no stone unturned to change mindset

of society towards women. After becoming the sarpanch of grampanchayat, Babli who had left education unfinished after marriage, decided to complete her education through Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University. She not only completed her incomplete education but also proved that those educated through the



Open University are capable of awakening the masses, raising the voice of women and bringing about a social change.

When Babli was married in 2002, her husband Ganesh Wasnik was a driver. Her father-in-law Murlidhar Wasnik was a farmer. Rasulpur was faced with many civic problems like bad roads, insufficient water, school

without classrooms, unhygienic conditions and there was no connecting bridge to nearby Sukli village from Rasulpur. Moreover some vested interests practised dirty politics that brought developmental activities in the village to a standstill.

Seeing all this, Babli decided to plunge herself into politics to bring about a change in the village. The village grampanchayat required a tough person who could deal with vested interests firmly. Babli who had never fought an election earlier decided to fight the 2007 grampanchayat election from the reserved seat and she was elected.



Grampanchayat is a grassroots administrative unit which is the medium between the government and the people.

After becoming the sarpanch, Babli realized the need for education as now she had to deal with government officials, schemes and developmental programmes. Adinath Nandne, a journalist encouraged her to complete her education. Babli who was Xth standard fail, decided to pursue her education. So she enrolled herself with the Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University. She prepared for preliminary exam and cleared it. She not only educated herself but also encouraged female relatives of her family and women of the village to educate themselves through the Open University. Babli took admission in 'Journalism and Mass communication' program of the YCMOU. Education instilled self-confidence, strengthened

her resolve for social service and firmed up her commitment to women's empowerment through participation in democratic process. Babli undertook a flurry of developmental activities and built roads, laid water pipelines, built school and hospital. She also organized women and formed saving groups or bachat gats to make women self-reliant. Now she has decided to declare war against the evil customs in the society by organizing women who are often the first victims of outdated customs. Babli has now set the agenda of education, women empowerment and agricultural development of the village.

Since Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University has made available opportunity of education to Babli, her vision has changed for better. It has made her a more efficient, social-oriented, committed and honest person striving for the good of society.



# Success Story



**Vithoba Sawant**

## Warkari of Journalism

I am Vithoba Sawant, serving as an input head with ZEE 24 Taas in Mumbai.

I entered the field of journalism after BA. My earlier education up to HSC happened at Harkul Khurd and Fondaghat. I did my graduation in Mumbai. I worked as a sub-editor reporter in Vrittamanas and Maharashtra weekly. Then I got the opportunity to work for E-TV Marathi. Electronic media is a dynamic field. You have to use all your resources including meeting deadlines, rushing to the spot and catching the action. I was greatly attracted to the electronic media due to the novelty factor. That time there were no full time news channels like now. The infotainment channels ran five minute news bulletin at regular intervals. There were very few journalism schools that time and almost no institute to train journalists for electronic media. We all learnt the ropes of the trade on job and got newer opportunities.

I was greatly fascinated by journalism and that is why I joined it. But after spending around six years in the field, I felt the need for taking a formal degree in journalism. Since I was working, joining a full time college was out of question. Hence I chose the alternative of Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University. That time I had left E-TV to join Belgaum Tarun Bharat's Mumbai bureau as a Mantralaya reporter. I along

with a couple of journalists enrolled ourselves with Mumbai centre of YCMOU.

Since we had been working in the field of journalism, it was nothing new for us. However, we lacked formal journalism education and hence we opted for it. Though we learn a lot through experience, formal education makes our concepts clear and reveal to us the hitherto unknown facets of our own field. Though we are aware of many concepts, our understanding is value. It takes guidance from the experts to make those ideas clear.

The syllabus of the YCMOU helped me a lot. Though many colleges and universities have launched journalism courses, the journalism course offered by the Open University is unique. Moreover, the fee structure is very light on pocket.

Meanwhile, the 24-hour news channels started and I got the chance to work for the first such round the clock news channel called 'Zee 24 Taas'. It was a new experience for me. It was different from the news bulletins presented by the infotainment channels. The work in day and night news channels is quite challenging. One has to break stories that have far reaching consequences, presentation of news and stories in a fascinating manner and maintaining the speed of the news channel. It demands a rare

skill, efficiency and sensibility as the news deals with human beings and their environs. There is heavy competition in the electronic media and hence the tension is greater. Hence along with latest syllabus, the incorporation of training and skill development are necessary for the formal journalism course. If the YCMOU paid heed to these suggestions and implemented, it

would definitely add value to its course. Besides, thousands of students would be able to receive standard education without burning any hole in pocket. Then YCMOU would pose a challenge to the private institutes that charge

huge fees from the students. Thus the YCMOU can serve a great cause and save students from exploitation too.



# Success Story



**Aarti Abhyankar**

## YCMOU helped me synch with technology

My name is Aarti Abhyankar. I cleared B Tech in electronics through Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU). I did my B Tech in my forties after I had settled in life and my son had got admission in a prestigious engineering college. It is only YCMOU which allowed me to fulfill my dream of getting a degree. I belong to Sangli. I won many prizes, certificates and trophies in my school days. I was a brilliant student and lost the chance to get into medical college by a narrow margin of marks. Thereafter I did a diploma and did short term jobs. I wanted to complete my graduation, but since my name figured in the list of a college in Nanded, which is far away from Sangli, I dropped the idea. I got a job as a bio-medical engineer in a prestigious hospital in Miraj. I got the job in the cardiology department of the hospital and worked under a talented American doctor named Juliet. I used to repair medical equipment and maintain them. The doctor had good knowledge of electronics too. I was busy in my work when I got a job in AIR and Doordarshan. Since it was the central government job, I accepted it. I was married and came to live in Mumbai.

During my work, I met many great men and women in Mumbai. The interaction enriched my knowledge and I realized that I had not completed my graduation. Though now I had

been in my forties, I always felt that there was something lacking in my life. I wanted to complete my graduation. However I was skeptical whether any college would admit the woman in forties. There was a study centre of the YCMOU nearby and I became curious to know whether my queries will be answered or I will be turned away. But the staffers at the YCMOU were quite helpful and assured me that I could complete the course without hassles.

As per the classes were held on the weekend and Sunday, it suited me. Sometime I used to reschedule my duty to attend the classes. But I encountered many problems along the way like I was not certain whether I will be able to complete the course, sustain my interest in studies over two decades after I quit college. But the YCMOU staffers reassured me and since I desired to complete the studies from the bottom of heart, I overcame every difficulty. During the exam time, I had fallen ill and my mother-in-law also passed away. Now burden on me was greater. I was uncertain whether I should appear for the exam or take a drop. My son who was doing engineering felt that I may not be able to manage and clear the exams what with my fulltime career. But I did not lose hope, on the other hand I challenged him that I would clear the exam and obtain the degree within the stipulated period.

Meanwhile, I requested my father to come to my place. Being a retired engineering professor, my father simplified concepts for me and helped me with my studies. He supported me and made me confident that I could clear the exam. Despite many difficulties faced by me in life, I managed to pass the exam in April 2011. I received the

degree at the convocation ceremony of the YCMOU in Nashik on March 12, 2012.

Today I have fulfilled my dream with the help of YCMOU. It has made me confident to take on the world, Now I can claim that the university has definitely helped me in widening the horizon of my knowledge.



# Success Story



**Dr Deepak Salve**

## Platform to showcase academics

Sometimes life becomes an inspiring anecdote for people who aspire to achieve something in life. One such example is the odyssey of Dr. Deepak Mahadev Salve. Born in poor family which could hardly make both ends meet, Dr. Salve achieved what seems nearly impossible.

His mother was a simple homemaker and his father, a ward boy in a hospital. Despite all his hardships and travails, he dreamt of making his son Deepak a doctor. Deepak, an enthusiast, adventurous and hardworking boy too, wanted to make his father's dreams come true. But as they say destiny had other plans in store for Deepak.

With high hopes and a twinkle in his eyes this young boy came to Mumbai. His elder sister and brother in law assured to help him. Unable to bear the cost of medical education, young Deepak found himself in Commerce stream. Who knew that this stream would take him far and wide. Deepak had to fund his own education. He started to work as a Xerox Boy. Later as a peon in Murugappa Group, rose to the rank of a sales executive, and finally, a manager in Sudhir Genset. Deepak had an inherent interest in academics. Deepak decided to take this inclination to a decisive destination in 2001 and joined academics. In 2006, he got a chance to work as an external examiner at YCMOU, Grant road division. He started research for his Ph.D under Dr. Vidya Hattangdi. After a long deliberation and mutual consent a topic was decided and was put in place. This journey was accompanied by many staffers of YCOMU and they gave encouragement and the desired motivation. YCMOU not only provided the right platform but also proved to be a beacon of light in Deepak's future. At every junction he got help from people concerned who left no stone

unturned in realizing Deepak's dreams. Some people like Dr. Pandit Palande, Ex Pro Vice Chancellor of YCMOU, Dr. Surendra Patole presently The Director IC of School of Commerce & Management and Dr. Sanjay Kaptan are remembered with humility and gratitude.

Earlier his thesis was not accepted and he was told to amend it. After a long string of efforts finally the thesis was accepted. The only tear of pain in Deepak's eyes was that his guiding force, his father was not in this world to see Dr. added to his name. This journey and its eventual success would not have been possible without the support and encouragement of all at YCMOU, School of Commerce and Management. Deepak would be highly indebted to these people all his life.

Tribulations and challenges kept crossing his path which made Deepak a strong and better individual. The thesis saga was over; yet again another challenge was waiting for Deepak. In 2011 when the work was final and as per the government laws he was entitled for advanced increments. But hurdles kept coming in his way, when he submitted his file for further approvals, he came in for a shock when he was told that YCMOU Degree was not approved for further increments. He called up Dr. Pandit Palande who advised him to write a letter to the Vice Chancellor, YCMOU. Dr. Pandit Palande made personal efforts to going to Director, Higher Education, Pune and then he personally went to meet the concerned authority at Mantralaya. After all these trials finally his file was signed. I am still a learner and consider myself a protégé of all of you. This is my proud privilege to be associated with my Alma mater-YCOMU as an examiner. I wish to contribute in whatever way possible in my humble capacity.

# Success Story



**Ramesh Gholap**

## Iron will power matched with hardwork

Where there is will there is way! If you work in right earnest, you can crack any examination and success is all yours. We see many people around us who are striving for success all their life and their struggle is truly inspiring. Though born handicapped, Ramesh Gholap did not let physical disability stand in his way. By dint of hard work and determination, Ramesh Gholap topped the MPSC in 2012-13. He did not stop at this, but also cleared the UPSC examination which is a rare success since not many from Maharashtra appear and do well in this central government examination.

Ramesh hails from Mahagaon in Barshi taluka. He is a graduate from Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU). His success in top competitive exams has proved the effectiveness of open and distance education system. Ramesh has been a brilliant student right from his school days and he always aspired for success in various fields of life.

Ramesh Gholap overcame all the hurdles

and adverse circumstances to emerge successful in life. His story of success comes as an inspiration to every student striving for success in career. Ramesh Gholap who will now get the positions like deputy chief executive officer and block development officer hails from the small village yet it is his determination and tenacity to excel in studies that made him stand apart.

His earlier life was full of difficulties particularly after his father expired soon after Ramesh completed his SSC with 89 percent marks. His mother strove day and night to ensure decent education for him.



**CREDIT OF SUCCESS GOES TO YCMOU**  
Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU) has a lion's share in my success. It is due to this great Open University that

I could obtain a graduate degree in art and the books prescribed for the study also proved to be very useful for the competitive exams.

She even sold bangles to support family. His brother worked in a private company to bear the burden of family. To supplement the income of family, Ramesh did D.Ed and got the job of a primary teacher in Solapur Municipal Corporation. Though he landed the job as a teacher, he wanted to continue his education and become a graduate. He got the support from Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University. He appeared for the BA exam and cleared it successfully. His graduation paved the way for his future career. Ramesh always used to participate in the social and cultural programmes in his village. Being a secretary of D.Ed students organisation and his association with Nehru Yuva Kendra, made Ramesh aware of social issues and he wanted to reform the society. He started dreaming of becoming an IAS officer to do good to the society. He appeared for

the UPSC exam but failed in the first attempt. But he did not lose courage and continued to make valiant efforts. He did not join any coaching classes and concentrated on studies. He studied for 16 hours everyday and topped the MPSC exam in the state. He also cleared the UPSC exam and got the 287<sup>th</sup> rank which is a rare success at the central level examination.

Ramesh Gholap, MPSC topper Ramesh Gholap attained the summit of success on the basis of his extraordinary talent and hard work. He overcame the physical handicap to emerge victorious in the MPSC and UPSC exams. There is no specific success formula. But if you have determination matched with hard work, success is all yours. He who has mastered the mind can never face defeat in life. Salutations to the success of Ramesh Gholap!!!

- Santosh Sable

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# Success Story



**Ravindra Akhade**

## From newspaper vendor to sub-editor

Despite failing in as many as five subjects in the SSC exam, Ravi Akhade was able to complete a course in journalism from Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University and today he is working as a sub-editor in a leading newspaper. Here is the story of the Xth standard fail student in his own words.

Had any astrologer told me 15 years back that I was going to be a journalist, I would not have believed him because the poor economic condition of my family did not permit me to study journalism. Moreover, my academic record was not that good. Originally our family hails from Sangamner taluka. But my father settled down in Nashik due to his work. I was born and brought up in Nashik. My father was a coolie while my mother was a biri worker. We lived from hand to mouth. My father was a drunkard and we were four siblings with the eldest being my sister. But my parents ensured that we got education though they starved for us. Three of us brothers also did odd jobs to contribute some money to the family. Later I started delivering papers in the early morning, attending school thereafter and in the afternoon I would run a paan-kiosk which was set up by my maternal uncle. Unfortunately, my studies suffered and I failed in almost all the subjects in the Xth standard except science. All my classmates went ahead of me in academics. Later I lost interest in study and decided to devote full time to the newspaper delivery work and running the paan kiosk. My younger brother

also stopped his education after SSC. He used to help me in my work and my family's economic condition improved somewhat. My elder sister was married. My elder brother continued to study and he passed SSC with 78 percent of marks. He did an IIT course and worked as a trainee in a private company in Sinnar. Once he read about the UPSC exam and he told us about it. He said he wanted to be an IAS officer and that we should support him financially. We assured him of our support and told him to study without worry. He later graduated and went to Pune for further education.

Meanwhile, I became an avid reader of newspapers and collected the articles and the clippings of the news items I liked. I thought I should also become a journalist. But I was an Xth class fail. However, my elder brother told me about Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University and how I could fulfill my dream. He not only brought an admission form but also helped me fill it in. He told me to clear the pre-selection test and I did accordingly.

I got admission into the three year long course of journalism. I completed the journalism course with dedication. Now I am doing post-graduation in journalism from Pune university though the fact remains that I am Xth standard fail. The YCMOU has enabled me to realise my dream. I have worked with Deshdoot newspaper and now I am working with Lokmat.

# Success Story



**Swamini Wagh**

## My Ph. D dream!

I am Swamini Sunil Wagh, a student of Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University. We all have some childhood dreams cherished deep down in our hearts and we all try to realize them as we grow. I too had a dream to take up the Ph.D. course. I did my B.Sc, B.Ed, got teaching job and my life was going on in the routine manner. I wanted to do Ph.D but could not because I was not a post graduate.

While wondering about what to do, I got introduced to the Post Graduate Research Programme run by the Academic Service Division of the Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University in 2005. I realized that this course could help me to continue my studies.

But there were questions like would I be able to study while working?, Will I have to take leave?, What about the guidance? I had opened the prospectus with all such questions in my mind. It was such a relief to know that there

was no need to go to college every day. Contact sessions would be on Saturday-Sundays and final exam will be in May. This sounded quite practical to manage.

I was getting introduced to the distance education mode of the Open University. I found the three main subjects quite different and good. Also, there was an opportunity to conduct research. Hence, I enrolled myself for



M.A. in Educational Communication. We can't imagine today's world without communication and effective communication is an integral part of school teaching also. The subject, 'Communication Modes in Education' helped me to improve my communication

skills. I could develop a good rapport with students, parents, colleagues and authorities. 'Instructional Systems Design' enabled me to streamline my teaching work.

Evaluation always throws light on 'where we are and where we can reach'. The study of

'Assessment and Evaluation' subject gave a direction to my teaching-learning process. For the research component of the program, I had selected the option of 'Material Development'. I developed a C.D. to provide information about HIV/AIDS to the high school students with the help of pictures and illustrations. I studied the effectiveness of it in view of communication and presented the research report. This research helped me to develop a new approach towards problem solving.

**My experience with Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University has been extremely rewarding and satisfying. I find that the YCMOU has truly extended the river of knowledge to everyone's doorstep. My advice to everybody is that they should enrol themselves with the YCMOU for any course they like and complete it with dedication to become successful in life**

All this was immensely useful in my professional as well as personal life. It not only

helped me to raise my teaching standards, but also, opened doors of my further education. I completed the entire course in the stipulated time and was content with the intellectual satisfaction it provided. With 71% aggregate marks I stood first in Maharashtra. I was awarded 'Yashwantrao Chavan Gold medal' and two more sponsored prizes of Rs. 1000 each.

I continued my educational journey and completed various courses such as Post graduate Diploma in Psychological Counselling, Diploma in School Management, Master of Education, all related to my profession.

I also expanded my research area of HIV/AIDS awareness and have recently submitted my Ph.D. thesis. The Open University has brought me at the doorstep where all my dreams will come true. I realized that the inner satisfaction which one gets after successful completion of a task is also an award in itself.

The YCMOU staff is quite cooperative and it is their earnest wish to guide and help students in every way. It is reflected through the constant cooperation which one gets from them.



# Success Story



**Haresh Dalvi**

## In US University

Just imagine a slum boy doing research in the US! It may sound strange but it is true. Thanks to the graduation degree awarded Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU), Haresh Dalvi from Mumbai™s slum is doing Ph.D in Indianapolis in the US.

Haresh Dalvi belonged to a poor family. His father was a clerk in the postal department. The family lived in a slum which did not provide any conducive atmosphere for education. Still Haresh continued his education. He did not get proper guidance as most of the people in the slums were illiterate. After completing his school education, Haresh decided to study for university degree and took admission in a college in Sangamner. He enrolled himself for science stream. But soon he realized that chemistry and physics did not interest him. Or rather the way those subjects were taught in the college was wrong. But then his life took a turn for better when he learned about the YCMOU study centre in his college. He contacted the teachers and staffers of the centre and discussed his problem with them. He got a good guidance from them for pursuing university degree.

He took admission in the first year of BA degree of the YCMOU. He appeared for B.Sc papers of Pune University and BA of the YCMOU

at the same time. He cleared the first year of BSc as well as BA. In the final year, however, he failed to appear for the chemistry paper of BSc final. However, he appeared for all the papers of BA exam conducted by the YCMOU. The result was that he failed in the BSc but passed BA. Thus by seeking admission in the YCMOU, he did not miss his year. On the basis of BA degree from the YCMOU, Haresh got admission in MSW course in the Tata Institute of Social Sciences. Since he got a good company of teachers and students, Haresh got the opportunity to serve the earthquake affected people in Gujarat, victims of the floods in Mumbai and tsunami-hit people.

Haresh also worked as a training assistant in the Tata Research™s Centre for Aids Research. He also worked as a project director on Pune™s Jambudeep project. Meanwhile, he got an opportunity to go to Indianapolis to conduct research. But he required a degree certificate. As per rule, the university degrees are distributed in the convocation ceremony only. However, the YCMOU made an exception to the rule. Since Haresh required the degree certificate, he rushed to the then YCMOU vice chancellor Dr Rajan Velukar and apprised him of his need. Dr Velukar understood the need of Haresh and bypassed the rule for him; so that

Hareesh could go to the US to pursue research. This is a speaking instance of how the YCMOU keeps the needs of the students in mind.

It is three years since Hareesh has been conducting research on sociology in the Indianapolis university. His advice to the students wanting to conduct research in the US

is that they should study in the YCMOU.

Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University is an alternative education system which suits all classes of people. It has become popular and is engaged in the task of spreading the light of knowledge.

- Santosh Sable



# Success Story



## Success Stories in Marine Engineering

Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University is giving wings to the dreams of young men and women of Maharashtra and the rest of India. There are many success stories of the students of B.Tech. Marine Engineering Programme offered by School of Science and technology of the YCMOU.

This programme is offered at one of the excellent study centers of the university ie Maharashtra Academy of Naval Education and Training (MANET) at Loni-Kalbhori, Pune. Every year about 200 students take admission to this programme with a vision to become a best mariner in the world. Many students are working abroad in merchant navy, dockyards and other various positions successfully. The YCMOU is proud of these students for promoting the Open university brand all over the world.

**Cdt. Pushpak Anand:** This cadet came from a small village in Jharkhand. He joined the first batch of B.Tech Marine Engineering in the year 2001. This batch had only 13 cadets, even though D. G. Shipping had approved an intake of 120 cadets. He had enormous enthusiasm for learning new things in Marine engineering. These cadets had invested their trust in the institute and the university, even though everyone was new to this stream of education. It was a tough journey, but the university and the Institute shouldered

it with grit and determination. Pushpak showed the willingness to take challenges from the very first day. He was a very studious cadet and he adjusted to the rigorous routine very fast. He was hard working and brimming with motivation. He came out with flying colors in every examination. In recognition of this, the university bestowed a gold medal on him in the year 2006.

Post his academic excellence, he was selected in the campus interview by M/s Anglo-Eastern Ship Management, Hong Kong. He showed a similar performance on board too. We are proud to announce here, that he has become the first cadet from MANET to clear M. O. T. Class I (Motor), chief engineer's examination conducted by D. G. Shipping, Government of India.

**Cdt. Punyavati Malik:** This cadet took admission in the second batch of the institute. She was the first girl cadet of the institute. We all were hesitant while giving admission to her, because we weren't sure, whether a girl cadet would be able to sustain the pressures of this profession. In fact, we tried to dissuade her from joining the course. But she was determined to join it.

She too was a very studious cadet and she adjusted to the rigorous routine very fast. She was hard working and highly motivated. She was not amongst academic toppers, but her

grit and determination made her to stand much above other cadets. She was the most preferred cadet in the campus interviews, because of her this extraordinary ability. She was recruited by M/s The Great Eastern Shipping Co. Pvt. Ltd on campus interview. She too has grown very fast in the shipping profession reaching the post of a second engineer by now!!

**Cdt. Poonam Devangan:** She had joined third batch of MANET. She was completely unaware of this profession. She only wanted do something unique, something challenging. Many times she felt like quitting this profession, but she was determined to do make it to the top. She passed out in year 2007.

She was the first lady officer on Wilhemsen

Ship Management, Hong Kong. She had a lot of apprehension about her safety before she joined her first ship. But soon her apprehensions went away. On all the three ships that she has sailed on, she was the only lady officer on board.

She is enjoying her career. She wants to remain in this profession for many more years. She has cleared her M. O. T. Class II (Motor) examination conducted by D. G. Shipping, Government of India. There were many equally exceptionally talented cadets like Cdt. Harsh Pratik, Cdt.C. Manav, Cdt. Sandeep Singh Siddhu who have done very well in this profession.

We wish them the best of luck !

- Dr Sunanda Arun More

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# Success Story



Harpreet Singh

## A platform to the army men

I am a soldier in the Indian Army. I have already completed about 14 years of service. I come from a very poor family where we could hardly make both ends meet. Somehow my parents wanted me to study and thus I could complete my HSC. My father advised me to join the army and I applied for the same. I got my call letter and was selected to join in the Regiment of Artillery as a gunner. I completed my training in the centre and joined an artillery unit in high altitude area in Jammu & Kashmir. I got my promotion to the rank of a Naik and I felt very satisfied. This rank is achieved after appearing in an exam. I had done a number of army courses in which you have to study to qualify. I got interested in studies.

How I did I learn about the YCMOU? I was serving in the Artillery Centre when there was a lecture organised by YCMOU in the centre. After hearing the talk I felt very happy that I have been given a chance to study further. In the army if we want to improve our qualifications, then we have to join privately in the regular colleges and appear in the exams as per the schedule. Our service commitments do not allow us to go on leave as per our desire and thus it becomes very difficult to appear in the exams on a fixed date. I immediately filled up the form and was admitted to the BA program for army jawans. They gave me

the books and we had to study on our own. The books are very simple and have been specially made for us. I passed all three years exams in the first attempt. The exams were online and conducted in the centre. At first I thought as to how I would handle the computer but found the system very user friendly and simple to use.

YCMOU has given a chance to all army soldiers to improve their educational qualifications. This would give us knowledge and also help us to get a good job in our second career as we retire at a very young age. The degree would enhance my standing in the village. If we want to study further we can do so. I never thought that I would ever be a graduate and I am very grateful to YCMOU to have given me a Bachelor of Arts degree. I want to study further

**“ Right from a daily wage earner to the soldier, every Indian is looking to the Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University for bettering academic qualification, career prospects and higher learning that makes one look at education as the most essential aspect of life. The YCMOU has emerged as the hub of higher education for all sections and classes of people not only in Maharashtra but also across the country.”**

**By Hav Harpreet Singh (Indian Army)**



and will join another course shortly.

I would recommend to all jawans to join the courses conducted by the Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University and improve their personal educational qualifications. It is very good opportunity given by YCMOU and

all army jawans should make use of it. I would like to place on record my appreciation for the wonderful job done and the cooperation and help I got from the teachers and staffers of the YCMOU.

**Col. V. K. Malik**



# Success Story



**Rekha Kadhne**

## Upliftment of my lifeline

My name is Rekha Kadhne. I had my early education in the municipal corporation school at Nashik Road. After I passed IVth standard exam, I took admission in Yashodamata Dahyabai Bitco Girls High School. After finishing high school, I joined Aarambh Mahavidyalaya.

I faced worst poverty in my childhood. My father was a rickshaw puller and hence the economic condition of my family was not good at all. Seeing the economic penury of my family, I decided to take up some job. But the plain education degree can not arm you with eligibility for any employment. You must have a specialized knowledge about something. Since I was a student of commerce, I felt that I should do some course that will have something to do with accountancy. While still a student in the commerce faculty doing my B.Com, I learnt about Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU) and enrolled myself for a diploma in

Computerised Financial Accounting. This diploma helped me get a job as a teacher in Akola in Vidarbha. I was appointed as a computer teacher. I did this job of teaching computer to the students for four years and during this period, I enrolled myself for postgraduation degree. After doing my M.Com, I got the job as a lecturer in Adv Nanabhau Deshmukh college at Rajura.

Since the passing of NET/SET examination is now mandatory for confirmation in service, I enrolled myself for an M.Phil in the Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU). I was joined Anantrao Thopte college study centre of the YCMOU and cleared the M.Phil. This paved way for my confirmation in job. Interestingly, I am teaching at the very college and I am the head of commerce department. The study material and the text books provided to the students at the YCMOU is of excellent quality and they should be preserved by the students as they are an invaluable aid in life as well as profession.

Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University gave a new direction to my life. The YCMOU helped me twice. Once when I badly required job and I did a diploma in computerized accounting and secondly when I got post-graduation degree and became a lecturer. It helped me get a permanent and well paying job as a lecturer. It not only helped me get

**“ I will always be grateful to the YCMOU. My advice to any aspiring professional or poor student is that they should continue with their job and at the same time pursue higher education by enrolling themselves in the YCMOU ”**

**Rekha Kadhne**

higher education and position as head of the department of commerce in a college, but also taught me the importance of education. It helped me get out of the mire of poverty and acquired a dignified position in life. Importantly, it helped me acquire higher educational qualifications

without forcing me to quit the job. In any regular university, they would have insisted that I come to the college regularly. But Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University allowed me to keep my job and learn.

**Rekha Kadhe**



# Success Story



**Sangeeta Dhoke**

## The rural entrepreneur

Dhangar community is traditionally engaged in tending sheep. They are shepherds who keep and trade in sheep. It is mostly a male-dominated business. However, here came a woman who breached the male dominion. Sangeeta Dhoke not only excelled in sheep-keeping and selling, but she also completed her incomplete education through Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University. She also proved that women could participate in the agrarian business that could see the turnover of Rs 60 lakh.

Rural Maharashtra has agrarian economy.

Besides farming, the villagers look upon poultry and animal husbandry as the complimentary business.

The Dhoke family in Ladki (Bu) village in Morshi taluka of Amravati district had animal husbandry as the traditional business. But Sangeeta's father Jagannathrao Dhoke did not follow the traditional business of tending sheep.



Instead he established himself as a scribe and started a small grocery store and thus supported his family on meagre income. Due to vagaries of nature and declining business, their income also dropped. Dhoke was suffering from asthma which claimed his life in 2000. The family was in a crisis. Being the eldest in family, the

burden of family fell on Sangeeta's shoulders. Soon she started poultry business but suffered heavy losses. However Sangeeta did not lose hope and decided to keep sheep. She collected some money and bought 5 sheep. Due to her dedication,

her 5 sheep multiplied into 20 sheep within 3 years. She later sought loan of Rs 3 lakh from Punyashlok Ahilyabai Sheli-Mendhi Development Corporation and built a proper shelter for sheep.

She sold her sheep to 'bachat gats' and bought young ones. When they grew up, she sold them. Now Sangeeta had established herself

well in the business and she had some running capital in hand. Meanwhile she bought 5 acres of land. She farmed her field earned decently. However, she also faced many problems which were created by the jealous people and the relatives of the goat suppliers in the Sheli-Mendhi Corporation. Meanwhile, she bought 5 acres of land and farmed her field with dedication. At the same time, she continued her business of rearing sheep and selling them. She met with resistance in the initial years but her unyielding nature saw her triumph over all the difficulties. Seeing her devotion to the animal husbandry, the Sheli-Mendhi Corporation gave her the contract to supply sheep under the entrepreneurship program. Now she is supplying sheep to the six districts of Vidarbha including Nagpur, Amravati, Akola, Wardha, Bhandara and Buldana. Her business sees a turnover of Rs 60 lakh a year.

After her economic condition improved, she did not forget to complete her incomplete education. Since her father was a journalist, she also completed her education in journalism and mass communication from Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University. She used the instrument of journalism to ensure justice for different sections of society. She has always fought against the outdated social systems and participated in the agitations against social evils. Sangeeta who has achieved self sufficiency through sheep rearing is now living with dignity. In recognition of her achievements and hard work, Sangeeta was conferred upon 'Anandibai Karmath Samaj Sevika national award in 2007 by Shrikrishna Arts Academy, she was also presented Maharashtra Dalit Sahitya Academy in 2005, among others.



# Success Story



**Dr Prerna Dahiwalkar**

## Thanks to YCMOU!

I was born in Khed in Konkan. My mother's house is in Tisangi village. Before marriage I was known as Vasanti Sutar. I studied there up to SSC. I was married to Pradeep Dahiwalkar, resident of Veral in Ratnagiri district on March 2, 1991. As my family life was going on smoothly, just then an unfortunate incident took place. My husband died of snake bite on September 6, 1998. That time my two kids Pallavi and Vaibhav were 6 and 2 years respectively.

A calamity befell my life and the burden of running the family and bringing up the kids fell on my shoulders.

But I soon braced up for the changed situation and without losing hope, I courageously accepted the responsibility of running the household and bringing up my kids. I made up my mind to give the best of higher education to my children and make them self-reliant. I decided to do everything to improve the lot of my children.

I joined the ICH college of Sahajeevan Education Society as a lab attendant in 1989. That time I was just X standard pass. I faced many issues like domestic clashes, mental stress, and economic penury. But overcoming these odds, I decided to pursue higher education. Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU) came as a blessing

to me. I applied for the entrance exam of the Open University at the ICH college, Nashik. Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University is the greatest solace for the deprived sections of the society. I cleared the prelim test in 2000 and thereafter, I went on clearing all the years of the degree exam. I got the BA degree in 2006 from the YCMOU. Therefore, I have a great attachment to this university. This Open University inspired me to study further.

I did post graduation in history from Mumbai university in 2009 in second division. I applied for research at Jagdishprasad Jabarmal Tibrewala university, Rajasthan. I was awarded a Ph.D on the theme, "Historical study of the temples in Ratnagiri district". Dr Gawde Sadashiv Maruti from Phaltan in Satara district was my guide. He provided me inspiration and guidance. Dr G B Sarang, principal of ICH college also gave me valuable guidance. Similarly ICH college staffers extended me their full cooperation. While still on job, I completed my Ph.D as also ensured that my children got the best education. My daughter is doing BHMS while my son is doing mechanical engineering at GPP college, Pune. Since my children realised the situation, they never worried me and concentrated on studies in right earnest. My son helped me a lot while writing my thesis. He looked after things like

proof-reading, binding and pagination among other things.

The YCMOU is indeed a great boon for those who are deprived of education. The syllabus and exam pattern of the open university is simpler and easy to understand. The university charges reasonable fee and provides high standard books. Nobody should miss this golden chance.

Many teachers in my college have obtained degrees from this university.

I always tell those who come to me to complete their higher education at this open university. This is the best university that lets you continue your academic journey without affecting your family or job.



# Success Story

Archana Kulkarni

## My interest in horticulture

I am very grateful to Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University for helping me nurture my interest in gardening. I was among 100 lucky students selected out of 1000 candidates for pursuing a degree course in agriculture and horticulture.

My name is Mrs Archana Anilkumar Kulkarni. I belong to Mumbai. I was married in 1990 and after marriage came to live in Panvel. My graduation result was out, I had cleared BA. Soon I got a job in a printing press. I had done typing and shorthand in English while studying for BA. It helped me a lot in my job. After living a family life for some years, I felt that I should learn further. My grandfather used to say one must study till the last moment of life. Education never goes waste. His advice had firmly imprinted on my mind. I was interested in floriculture. My house in Panel is set amidst greenery and there are many flowering plants in the courtyard. I added some choice plants to the house garden. But I thought that I should learn agriculture, horticulture and floriculture in a scientific way.

I was busy in my DTP business. A day arrived in my life when I became a student of Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University. I still remember that day. I am extremely grateful to Yashwantrao Chavan

Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU). Had they not started a farming course, I would never have been able to nurture my interest. I still vividly remember the day when I accompanied my husband to his friend's residence. There

I came across an informative booklet on Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU) that gave information about the various courses, eligibility, fee structure and study centres. I noted down the phone numbers and took down the details. I am grateful to him for informing me about the YCMOU. I contacted the agriculture centre of the YCMOU at Karjat. I filled up the form and started attending the college from August 1, 2006. The staffers at the agriculture centre were very helpful. The teachers clarified all our doubts and provided us valuable guidance. The contact classes used to be held on the weekends and hence the arrangement was quite helpful to me. Agriculture courses are mostly project-based and it tests the research ability of the students. One has to select a topic and gather the relevant details and write the project under the guidance of a scholar who is known as a guide.

I faced many a difficulty while selecting the project topic as the information related to most of them was very scanty. Then on the suggestion of my relative I selected a topic on



strawberry. I actually visited the strawberry gardens and interacted with the farmers. The interaction was very instructive and opened my eyes to the difference between theoretical and practical education. I met a highly educated farmer though he looked like a farm hand. He possessed sophisticated knowledge about the farming techniques and the guidance he gave me proved to be of great value in writing my thesis.

I feel that the university should lay more stress on the practical aspects rather than theory one. For example, a student of agriculture who has theoretical knowledge about farming looks like a dullard in the presence of a farmer who knows how to farm his field. I also suggest that YCMOU should take the initiative in launching the courses that teach students how to process the produce.



# Success Story

Dr Shivajirao Chavan

## Age no bar

There is no limitation to learning. Anybody who has not been able to fulfill his ambition of acquiring higher education can do so after retirement. This is what has been proved by the example of Dr Shivajirao Chavan, a retired professor from Rayat Education Society. Though he is 69 and leading a retired life, he is a happy man as he has fulfilled the ambition of his life. He wanted to do a doctorate and after retirement, he found enough time to concentrate on research. I am thankful to the YCMOU for allowing me an opportunity to conduct research and get the Ph.D.

I also worked as the principal of Mahatma Fule Education College at Satara. While there's no way to prepare for every high and low, retirees will fare better if they familiarize themselves with the emotional challenges well in advance and utilize the time for conducting academic research. In the end, the years leading up to retirement should be a time to increase your self-awareness and chalk out a plan to fulfill the unsatisfied ambitions. Let the age not come as a hurdle for learning and what better place to pursue higher education and research than Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University.

I say this from my experience. I did my Ph.D from Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open

University in 2013. People should not look at the research from the narrow perspective of utility. They should look at it in broader context. Though I this doctorate may not earn me another innings in college, the fact is that the Ph.D has elevated my position in society. I am held in high esteem by people. Social and educational organizations seek my advice and invite me to guide them.

I am grateful to the Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University whose book 'Policy of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj towards women' proved to be very useful for my research. The doctorate has given me much respect in society and I now write thoughtful essays and dissertations in academic journals and mainstream papers too which are read by scholars and educated elite. I am thankful to Dr Umeh Rajdarkar, director of the sociology department. He has a lion's share in my research. He provided me an invaluable guidance and support throughout my research. It is due to the valuable doctorate that I am getting

**"Whether retirees return to the workforce or not, research indicates they'll need guidance on how to maintain their well-being throughout their retirement years. And what better way than pursuing education. The YCMOU which has opened door of learning to one and all is the best option."**

**Dr Shivajirao Chavan**

the opportunity to deliver lectures at various forums including the Satara Aakashwani, Pune Aakashwani and other radio stations. The wealth of knowledge generated from the research at the YCMOU would prove to be useful for generations of students to come.

With people living longer, proper retirement programme is required. "People are going to spend more time retired, even if we push the

retirement age back. We need to figure out a way to maximize people's happiness. One answer might be to encourage academic research. Engagement with education would not only lead to cognitive ability getting enhanced, it would also ensure proper mental health of the retirees. There is less decline in memory of the individuals who pursue education after retirement.



# Success Story



**Dr Ulka Nimbalkar**

## The sky of my life

YCMOU is lighting up the sky of everyone who wants to pursue higher education despite hardships and constraints. The YCMOU is the light at the end of tunnel for the disadvantaged sections of the society.

My school education was completed at Talegaon Dhamdhare in Shirur taluka. After school education was complete, I took admission in SP college of Pune.

Myself Nimbalkar, I was attracted towards MPSC exam. I prepared myself thoroughly for the same and cleared it. Today I am working as a class-I officer. When I was selected, my joy knew no bounds. I was sure that my days of economic deprivation were coming to an end and that the dream of my family to see me become a high-ranking official was going to get fulfilled. Later I decided to do my doctorate and what better option than YCMOU to conduct research. I chose the subject Tribal literature in Maharashtra: Inspiration, scope and analysis™. I got extensive support from the teaching faculty of the YCMOU and completed the thesis on this subject. Research methodology taught in the university is now being put to use in the administrative work. It taught me how to understand a subject. Due to the constant guidance and support from the YCMOU, I could do justice to my subject of

research. It also provided me an opportunity to exchange literary thoughts with the great men and women of literature at the literary conventions. I attended and delivered a lecture on tribal literature at the 15th Samarasta Sahitya Sammelan™ held at Junnar. This event increased my self-confidence. But the real self-confidence was increased by my study and research at the YCMOU. The doctorate has become a great entitlement for me; a medal that makes one stand out in the crowd.

YCMOU: A ray of hope for students who dream about MPSC/UPSC exams

Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University which is established by law, with UGC™s authorization. BA Public Services and MA Public services. According to the rules of the MPSC/UPSC, it was essential for the aspirants to have at least one degree. As no graduate course had a matching syllabus with

**“ The YCMOU allowed me to conduct the research without affecting my job and life. I got valuable guidance from the staff of the YCMOU. I am sure that the research conducted by me will surely benefit the larger society. At present I am working as the deputy commissioner of sales tax at Kolhapur. ”**

the competitive examinations, the aspirants had to study separately for competitive exams and for the degree courses. Now, with these two degrees this has become possible. The students will have more time to shape up an enriched personality by increasing their reading / practice and participation. The optional subjects have been removed from the MPSC. By taking into consideration this change we have included only six optional subjects viz. History, Political Science, Public Administration, Geography, Sociology and Marathi literature which will be

directly useful for the expanded General Studies. A student can get a degree by choosing any two optional subjects from these two. The syllabus for both the courses is exactly same as the syllabus of UPSC and MPSC. For those who are appearing for the UPSC with Marathi medium the course material will prove to be useful. These courses are conducted in Marathi medium. The admission to these courses, the study material for these courses, the classes and even the examinations everything is available.



# Success Story



**Sushila Nirmal**

## Mother daughter duo studied together!

With a view to encourage her daughter to complete her studies, a 65-year woman too enrolled herself and together they cleared their respective exams, once again highlighting that there is no age bar as far as education is concerned. And they are continuing their education. The daughter who is 50-year old wanted to study in her prime age, but due

**I would always hear the oft-repeated statement about the mother that mother not only teaches us the ways of the world, she also teaches us to live with dignity in society. But now I am experiencing the greatness of mother which proves the above statement to be true. My mother started studying and she encouraged me to complete my graduation. She provided me inspiration to complete my education.**

**Ujwala Nirmal**

to economic constraints, she could not. Her incomplete education made her feel unfulfilled in life and therefore after retirement, she decided to complete her education. Since the 50-year old, retired daughter felt squeamish about going to college and appear for exams at her age, her mother too enrolled herself for SSC exams. Both of them appeared for their exams from the same exam centre in Aurangabad.

I am Sushila R Nirmal. I stay at Shantipura Chhavani area. I appeared for BA first year

examination of three year degree course on May 21, 2014 while my daughter Ujwala Nirmal Dutt appeared for the second year exam of arts faculty. Our exam centre was same-Swaraswati Bhuvan



Arts College. I wrote paper from 10.30 am to 1.30 pm while my daughter's paper was from 2.30 pm to 5.30pm. When we used to come to the exam

**I am a firm believer in women's empowerment. I just could not reconcile to the fact that my daughter's education had remained incomplete. But she was hesitant as she had grown older. To encourage her, I decided to reeducate myself. We are not educating ourselves for getting and displaying degree or even as a matter of prestige. Our aim is self-empowerment through education. We want to empower ourselves by educating ourselves. My wish is that my daughter should study law and I will support her with all my might.**

**Sushila Nirmal**

centre for writing papers, others used to look at us in wonder. But we ignored curious glances and even comments and concentrated on our studies. My daughter used to wait for me outside the hall even as wrote my paper. And after I finished my paper and her paper started, I would sit out studying for the next day's paper. Thus both mother and daughter duo is engaged in academic pursuit and they are sure to complete their graduation from Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU). This instance shows that there is no age to complete your education provided you have determination and self-confidence.

Sushila Nirmal passed her HSC in first division and then she enrolled herself for the first year of BA with the YCMOU. Mother's daring to go to college to complete her education also encouraged daughter to complete her education. Both mother and daughter are now an inspiration for the youth. The youthful zeal of Sushila and Ujwal Nirmal will put even a youngster to shame. They are encouraging others too, to study and complete education. I salute the mother-daughter duo for their love of education.

- Santosh Sable



# Success Story



**Dattu Dhage**

## Simple farmer into an agro-researcher!

You need not depend on the traditional university education system to achieve career growth, if you are able to combine your aim with self-confidence, even distance education system can give you an edge in your career. This fact is highlighted by the example of Dattu Rambhau Dhage, a student of Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University. He had the honour of representing the state at the national workshop on 'Innovative experiments in the agricultural sector' organised by Indian Agriculture Research Council in Delhi. Dhage's life took a turn for better after he participated in a month-long camp on nursery organised by Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University. This camp proved to be a turning point in his life. There was not a single vegetable nursery in Nashik district. He felt motivated to set up one such nursery.

People laughed at the idea and even called

him a fool. But Dattu Dhage was determined to do something innovative. Accordingly, he set up a poly-tunnel shed measuring 10x4 ft using the old grape angles. He harvested the saplings at home taking into account the needs of the farmers. He began with 20000 saplings of vegetables.



Soon the farmers from near and far started visiting his nursery. In the due course of time, he set up a polyhouse on the 70 gunthas of land. Now he sells saplings of tomatoes, capsicum, piccado, eggplants, bitter guards, cucumber, lady finger, cabbage, cauliflower among

others. Now he grows around 12 lakh saplings of various vegetables. Seven to eight years back, people in Trambak area used to go out elsewhere in search of employment after harvesting paddy. Many farmers would sell away their land and shifted families elsewhere. But after Dattu Dhage's experiment, people turned to growing vegetables.

They started growing vegetables even using



less water. Now people love farming. Farmers from Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh besides various parts of Maharashtra visit his nursery and purchase saplings from him. Even farmers from Sri Lanka and other countries visit his nursery and thus bonds of affection have been formed with people all over. According to Dhage, everyone has got some talent. All that he or she requires is an opportunity to showcase his talent. "Thanks to Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, I got to attend the nursery management training camp and got to showcase my talent at the national level", says Dhage expressing his thanks to the YCMOU.

#### **An honour to Maharashtra**

Dattu Dhage was felicitated at the hands of Director General of Indian Agriculture Research Council Dr S Ayyapan. Dhage made a powerpoint presentation on the theme of 'Production of large scale vegetable saplings at low cost'. Dattu Dhage also figured among the 51 research farmers in the country who were felicitated at the hands of Maharashtra Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan.

There were three such farmers from the state including Devaji Khobragade from Chandrapur district who researched on the HMT paddy,



Prabhakar Ganpat Guwadkar from Gadchiroli who created a new identity in animal husbandry and of course, Dattaji Dhage. Chavan also honoured Abhinav Group for doing a special marketing of agricultural produce.

- Santosh Sable



# Success Story

Dr Thaka Gorane

## Highway to progress

I am the principal of Vidyaprasala High School and Junior College, Talegaon Anjaneri. I always felt that I should be able to discharge my social obligation while keeping my professional commitments. I also rebelled against and wanted to eliminate the outdated customs and superstitions that have entrapped the masses since centuries. But then I faced a major problem. How could I do all this while working as a teacher in a secondary school in a distant village? This question haunted me and I thought more intensely about eradication of superstition. Then I decided to do Ph.D on superstition. Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University opened the door of its research facility for me. The university gave me thorough guidance. It defined the concept of research and its application in social life. Now the research conducted by me at the YCMOU is helping me in my teaching profession as well as social work.

I conducted research on the superstition prevailing in the Dhangar community of North Maharashtra and through my thesis suggested a slew of measures to fight the blind faith. I received valuable guidance from Dr Kishor Pawar. The selection of this subject and my extensive research on it paved the way for my social work to get the community rid of the fetters

of superstition. This research is helping me to bring the disadvantaged sections of the tribal community into the mainstream of society. A

Now I realize that there is a close interconnectedness between research and life. The lessons I learnt at the Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU) are proving to be quite useful for me. As the principal of the junior college, I am using my research in administrative work too. The research findings have helped me tone up administration, improve teacher and student coordination and bring about overall improvement in the standard of teaching and administration. I now get full cooperation from the parents too, for I know how to solve their problems to ensure mutual satisfaction. The research has helped me a lot in my social work like eradication superstition. Dialogue with the community elders is helping the anti-superstition movement in the tribal

**“ I will always be grateful to the YCMOU for giving me an opportunity to conduct research and thus contribute to the welfare of society. The YCMOU is contributing substantially to the social reformation by encouraging relevant research that has a huge impact on the society.”**

**- Dr. Thaka Raghunath Gorane**

communities. The novel approach to education that seeks involvement of the community is making education popular and the tribals are now sending their wards to the school. I am now setting store by the practical aspect of education. A scientific temper is being developed in the tribal region. As an acknowledgement of that, my school won the first prize in the science exhibition held at the national level.

Akhil Bharatiya Andhashraddha Nirmulan Samiti helped me a lot in my anti-superstition work. I delivered more than 500 lectures, telling people how outdated customs are hindering their progress and the need to dump them. My drive against the custom of animal sacrifice is getting good response. Enough awareness has been created on this front. My research at the YCMOU is responsible for this success.



# Success Story



**Prof Dr Sunanda Patil**

## Research widened my outlook

I am Dr Sunanda Patil. The research conducted by me at the YCMOU has given a new meaning to my life. It has added a new dimension to my personality. Knowledge is indeed power. The more we immerse ourselves with research, the more we acquire the science of better ways of living. The Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University is doing a commendable job in encouraging research.

To many people, the word "research" carries the connotations of a rigorous and labor intensive academic activity in fulfillment of a school course requirement. Others may think of it as a cerebral activity heavily bombarded with complicated mathematical and scientific formulas by the radical thinkers wearing thick eyeglasses and robed under white oversized laboratory gowns. Fortunately, research is not all about the academics as it may have practical uses to one's daily activities. Before getting ahead, it may be beneficial to distinguish two forms of research: basic and applied. Basic research is designed to advance knowledge of a certain discipline, let's say biology or physics, with no application to existing problems in view and with its audience consisting almost exclusively of other scholars or researchers concerned about expanding a phenomenon or body of knowledge. On the other hand, applied research

is designed to solve particular existing problems with a much larger audience -- either scientists or laypersons -- who are eager to benefit from it. Either way, research adheres stringently to the scientific process. To be scientific, it means that a certain set of empirical procedures are followed to establish the reliability and validity of the findings from the moment a scientific guess or presumption about a phenomenon is conceived until it is tested in an experiment and a generalization is drawn about it. Simply put, a research is not based on one's whims or personal beliefs.

The purpose of my research was to improve the health of society. I studied the Banjara community in Khandesh through their folklore, customs, traditions, culture and language. I found that Banjara women are brilliant and healthy, but due to poverty and ignorance they are lagging behind. I also conducted a behavioral study of the community that concerned itself with tribal thoughts and behaviors.

I got valuable guidance from Dr Ramesh Warkhede. He guided me where I encountered difficulty. An important notion to remember is that neither one type of research is mightier than the other. Instead, it all depends on its applicability. In practical terms, research can make lives easier when used appropriately. For

the academic administrators, they may want to find out what factors are conducive and destructive to the students of this generation and so they conduct a behavioral study to beef up their educational standards.

I am thankful to Yashwantrao Chavan Open University for encouraging me to do research. I got valuable guidance, excellent books and study material, appreciation for my effort. Truly, the YCMOU is doing yeoman's job in encouraging

the cause of education and research in the society. It is extending the outreach of education to the disadvantaged sections as well as the aspiring professionals with same enthusiasm. The YCMOU has introduced many courses that are useful in life and generate employment too. This open university is reducing the percentage of unemployed people by training them in the practical skills that have market value.



# Success Story



**Sunil Sonwani**

## From M.R. to librarian!

There are upsets in everybody's life sometime or the other. I also faced such a lean phase in my life. Fortunately, I had the support of Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, which revived optimism in me. The YCMOU lifted me from the unstable job of medical representative and elevated me to the position of a full-time librarian in a degree college. I could fulfil the objective of my life due to the support from the YCMOU.

I belong to Nifad. My father was a teacher. I was working as a medical representative in 2004. My job involved a lot of travelling and hard work. I was given target to meet. Unless I sold the products of the company, I faced job loss. This feeling of insecurity haunted me all the time. I was fed up with this kind of life. Since I was BSc in chemistry, I applied for the post of laboratory assistant in a new college. I appeared for the written exam, followed by a round of interview which I cleared successfully. I got the job but the pay was very low. I was paid the wages of Rs 70 per day. I was married and the wages I earned hardly sufficed. I used to get financial support from my family. All my family members including my wife was opposed to me continuing as lab assistant in the college. But I was determined and wanted to create something out of this situation.

The monthly earnings of Rs 1700 was barely sufficient as I had to commute from Nifad to college. Though a lab assistant, there was hardly much difference between me and a peon as far as work and pay was concerned. I was looking for increasing my earnings. So when the computers were introduced in the college, I learnt computer-typing. Then I started typing out the documents of the college. One day Dr B E Kushare (Sir) asked me if I would look after the library. He introduced me to the education society chairman Balasaheb Wagh who cancelled my appointment on daily wages and issued a full time order as a salaried library incharge.

I was told to complete a course in library science. Accordingly, I and my wife took admission for LTC course under the guidance of Datta Pagar. We sought admission but faced money problem. Therefore we contacted Jayant Khadtale and discussed our problem with him. He told us to pay the fee in two instalments. We used to attend the classes on Saturday and Sunday. We successfully passed B.Lib from Yashwantrao

**"I am thankful to YCMOU teaching staff and the university for helping me make a great progress in life. Without the YCMOU, I would be nowhere!"**

**Sunil Sonwani**

Chavan Maharashtra Open University. I secured 72% marks and got the Aurangabadkar award at the hands of Sadanand More. My wife also passed the examination. Now I wanted to do M.Lib but again I faced economic problem. My salary was just Rs 2300 and therefore my wife suggested that I do M.Lib alone. I took admission and cleared M.Lib with 58 percent.

I was disappointed but the teachers of

YCMOU encouraged me to appear for NET/SET. I tried hard but success eluded me. Once I missed being declared pass in the NET by just two marks as the cut-off list was kept at 65% and I had secured 63%. Once again I was disappointed and did not appear for the December 2013 NET exam. Later I appeared for SET in December the same year and cleared it.



# Success Story



**Ramesh Chaudhary**

## Work among the disadvantaged!

When I took up a teaching job in the distant region of Nandurbar district, I wanted to pursue higher education. But how could I get the chance to do so in a geographically and developmentally backward area. But then Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU) came to my rescue. I got real inspiration and back-up from the YCMOU in my academic career. The YCMOU should be credited for taking the Ganges of knowledge to the distant tribal areas of Nandurbar district.

After doing my SSC and DEd, I got a job as a primary teacher in the distant tribal area of Nandurbar district. I wanted to educate myself further. I obtained BA degree from Pune University. But I was confused as to what to do next. But the YCMOU solved my problem and I enrolled myself for Master of Arts course in education. I opted for Nashik study centre. I later realised that I had to file a research report as a part of learning process and it was mandatory for the student wishing to pursue



post graduation. I was afraid whether I would be able to conduct research. However, authoritative books, journals and excellent guidance from the YCMOU helped me in preparing my research report. I got MA degree in 2003 and my bond

with the YCMOU deepened further when I enrolled myself for B.Ed, M.Ed and DSM.

All the research that I did as a part of study, helped me a lot in my professional career. It taught me importance of time management,

**I also got the inspiration from the YCMOU's motto of taking knowledge to everybody's doorstep. I work among the disadvantaged groups and educate them about the value of education. My stress is no longer on traditional method of teaching. My teaching is practical and project-oriented and I learnt all this from the YCMOU. I owe everything to this great university and wish it all the best for the next millennium!**

**Ramesh Chaudhary**



discipline, neat presentation and clear expression. Inspired by the new knowledge, I organised awareness camps in the villages and told the tribals about the importance of education. I was also invited to participate in the various symposia and workshops at taluka and district levels. I started delivering lectures at various centres and thus got wider recognition.

I studied about the scientific approach to research and mastered this subject area and hence I was invited at an education college in Shahada to speak on the importance of qualitative teaching.

The YCMOU has emerged as a major hub of learning and academic research. You get excellent guidance, standard textbooks and all round conducive environment for study and research. The syllabus is up to date. The textbooks provide deep knowledge on anything under the sun. The stress on self-study and research equips one to handle any academic project with ease and success. I passed the SET in 2011 and NET in 2012. Whatever I have got in life is thanks to the support provided to me by the YCMOU. The influence of the YCMOU's teaching is reflected in my teaching and socio-academic work too.



# Success Story



**Nirmala Khale**

## Wings to the dream of student!

Women are now stepping out of the four walls of house and rubbing shoulders with their male counterparts. Women have got the capacity of accomplishing anything in life. Here is the story of a girl from poor farming background who while completing her graduation from Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University dreamt of flying an aeroplane. Today she has become a licensed pilot, proving the adage that where there is will there is way.

Nirmala Khale hails from Nimgaonmadh, nine km from Yeola in Nashik district. Though she hailed from poor family background, she was determined to be a pilot since her school days. Born in a poor dalit family, Nirmala was a brilliant student since her school days. Her father Punjaram Khale is a farmer while her mother Housabai is a farm labourer. She had her primary education at her village and secondary education at Janata high school. After her SSC, she sought admission in SSGM

college, Kopargaon in Nagar district. She opted for science and completed her HSC. She used to pedal her way to school while dreaming of flying in the air!

Due to bad economic condition of family, she was worried whether she would be able to complete her graduation and then go for training

as a pilot. After giving a serious thought, she decided to enrol herself with Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University for graduation course in arts. After doing her BA, her dream of becoming a pilot did not let her sit at rest.



After her graduation from the Open University, she applied for admission to a pilot's course in Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi Wings Aviation Academy. She got the admission but she had to pay the huge fee of Rs 27.29 lakh which was clearly beyond her family's capacity. It is at this time that the society helped her financially to realise her dream. But she had

to struggle for 5 years to collect the required amount. She completed her commercial pilot's training within three years from 2010 to 2013. After logging 200 hours of flying, she is going to get the government approved commercial pilot's licence. Nirmala has passed the 200-hour flying course SESNA-152 A to SESNA 172 Aircraft from the flying club. Her real journey will begin after she gets job.

**Overcoming adversity:**

Nirmala feels that girls from rural area are intelligent and capable. They should have a dream in life and try to fulfil it. Girls should not lose heart if disappointment comes along, they should try to face every challenge courageously to move ahead in life.

**Never Attended Tuition Classes:**

I graduated from Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University and it boosted my confidence. It fuelled my ambition to become the pilot which I always wanted to become. I got success in education without attending any private tuition classes. I overcame all the hurdles along the way with determination. I am grateful

to my father for his support and encouragement. The self-study method of the Open University helped me a lot in life including at the aviation academy at Hyderabad.


**Unique gift**

"I am happy to know that Nirmala Khale, a student of Open University has achieved a unique success by becoming a pilot. She overcame every hurdle in her path of ambition. She has proved through her achievements just how solid is the foundation of Open University education system. Hers is a unique gift to the Open University in this silver jubilee year".

Dr Arun Jamkar,  
vice-chancellor, YCMOU

Determination and resolution of Nirmala Khale to overcome the impecunious condition to achieve her ambition is praiseworthy. She dreamt of flying while cycling to her college and she brought her dream to fruition at last. She really deserves our salutations!

- Santosh Sable



# Success Story

Ravindra Sawant

## YCMOU edifies Dabbawalas

Even as the Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University is celebrating its silver jubilee, I consider myself fortunate to be associated with this great institution. I got the opportunity to work as a trainer at its training centre. I got in touch with Dr Pawankumar Agrawal who gave me the mantra that whatever we should do we should do best. I learnt patience from the dabbewalas of Mumbai and got his insight, determination and hardwork. I learnt from them firm conviction and drive to excel.

My experience of teaching the dabbawalas is great. They have been attending classes for English and computers. They are purely voluntary and are held after work hours and on Sundays," says Gangaram Talekar, Secretary of Nutan Mumbai Tiffin Box Suppliers. Needless to say, there haven't been many dropouts.

The dabbawalas may be perfectly efficient, but knowledge of English would help them improve by leaps and bounds. "It'll be easier for us to read addresses," says Talekar. "Besides, lots of people in South Mumbai don't speak Hindi and Marathi." He points out that the motto of the dabbawalas is to serve everyone in the city, irrespective of language barriers. Computers would help them take orders online, cutting down their dependence on manual labour.

Designed by the Yashwantrao Chavan

Maharashtra Open University Nashik (YCMOU), the three-month course gives the dabbawalas basic knowledge of English and Computers.

The Agrawal Institute of Management and Technology (AIMT) conducts it in Mumbai. Incidentally, Dr Agrawal, president of AIMT, made Mumbai's dabbawalas the subject of his Ph.D. thesis. "YCMOU approached us, saying that they would conduct this course for free. How could we turn down the offer?" asks Talekar. AIMT is conducting their lectures in a simulated local train compartment, to give the dabbawalas an incentive to learn.

Their fully equipped computers have desktops that resemble the exterior of a train. All computers have been personalised, with some displaying images of the dabbawalas with Prince Charles and Richard Branson. Others display their gleeful memories of an interaction with

**" You know, we get invited by a lot of management institutes to discuss our system. They refer to us as management gurus. Now, this guru is attending school to learn. "I will give you my next interview in English!" Gangaram Talekar says thanking the YCMOU for starting the extremely useful courses for the dabbawalahs. "**

**- Ravindra Sawant**

Jackie Shroff.

I have only words of praise for his wards. "They pick up faster than the average 4th or 5th standard student". "Written skills are poor, but their verbal language is good. They have a tremendous amount of common sense, which will ensure that they don't give up."

I have been teaching the dabbawalas in Marathi, slowly translating sentences and explaining phrases. I have no doubt that they will be able to speak English soon. They're a clever bunch.

The lecture starts with a revision of what was taught the previous week. They revise their lessons and recite them every week. I have to

make sure they don't forget.

"My name is Gangaram Talekar. I live at Byculla. I am 65 years old," he announced confidently. Applause erupted, as Talekar took his seat, grinning from ear to ear. The others followed suit, with the occasional stutter. If one fumbled, the other jumped to his rescue, putting words in his mouth. I felt the urge to prompt them too. Pronouns and verbs took up the entire second half of the lecture. "I write, he writes, she write, they write," I wrote on the blackboard, as the dabbawalas bent over to scribble furiously in their books. Handwriting surprisingly neat, they followed every instruction to the T. Five more verbs were tackled before I called it a day.



# Success Story



**Sunil Battise**

## Rehabilitation of jail inmates

Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU) set up by the government of Maharashtra is doing a commendable job in providing higher education to the jail inmates serving their sentences. The YCMOU has designed several courses for the jail inmates to enable them to complete education so that they can earn their livelihood after their release. The YCMOU has roped in professionals to teach the jail inmates and clear their doubts.

I am Sunil Fakira Battise serving a life term in Nashik Jail. I was sentenced to life imprisonment by the sessions court in Osmanabad in 2006. I was brought to the jail on June 14, 2006. When I stepped in the jail premises, I felt totally disoriented. All the inmates were strangers and hence I could open out to them. But soon I realised that I would have to befriend them; at least those who are of my age. Otherwise it would be very difficult to spend the entire life term. Soon I came to know that the jail has the teaching facility and that the inmates are allowed to improve their academic qualifications. I came to know about the library facility in the jail. So I became a member of the library and started borrowing books to increase my knowledge. There was a TV in my barrack and hence I would watch the programme and then sleep at 9.30pm. I became so fond of reading that I would get up

at 1am to read the book. Again I would sleep at 4 am till the reopening.

Soon I learnt that there is Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU) study centre on the jail premises. I gathered the necessary information and I decided to enroll myself for the BA course. The YCMOU teachers are very cooperative and they helped me fill in the form and also explained to me everything about the entrance exam. I was just IXth standard pass but wanted to study further. I made up my mind to complete my graduation. I started studying in right earnest. I started learning English and borrowed the book 'English with smile' authored by Prof M K Deshpande

I am very thankful to Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU) for helping me complete my education.

Since I was fond of education, I took to studying for my graduation in right earnest. I got the textbook and study material which proved very useful. Since the YCMOU puts a great emphasis on self-study, I would involve myself in studying the lessons. Whenever I found any concept difficult, I would seek guidance from the teachers who were always ready to clear my doubts. Thus I studied happily and cleared the BA.

The YCMOU is doing a great service by

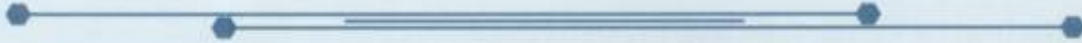
educating the jail inmates who are becoming wiser due to knowledge they receive during their studies. I am very grateful to the YCMOU for helping me become a graduate and kindling in me the desire to study further. I am now planning to study law.

The government's motto for the jail inmates is 'Reform and Rehabilitation'. It is good that

the inmates are getting educated and thus utilising their time fruitfully. What about their rehabilitation? My suggestion is that the government should approve reservations in job for the reformed convicts.

The YCMOU study centre in the jail produced as many as 51 graduates in 2013.

- Subhash Patil



# Success Story



**Jaiprakash Pawar**

## 'Jai' and 'Prakash' in journalism

From being an ordinary activist of Rashtra Seva Dal to becoming the editor of a much-respected newspaper: Jaiprakash Pawar has come a long way! Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU) has played a big role in his personal evolution. He graduated from the YCMOU.

While being a part of socio-political movement, I kept the journalist in me alive. I have witnessed and chronicled the momentous events of socio-political history of the state from the perspective of a journalist. Fondly called 'JP' by the people who admire and hold me in esteem, I belong to Malegaon. I began my career as an ordinary worker of Rashtra Seva Dal in the 80s. I devoted my life to edify the masses through lectures and speeches. I wanted social change to occur and made every effort in that direction. Since I was fond of reading, I read voraciously. Rashtra Seva Dal got divided over the issue of renaming of Marathwada university after Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar and the movement of social reform suffered a heavy loss. Fortunately, the greats like Prof Ranjeet Pardeshi, Mohan Gunjal, Subhash Pardeshi, Ashok Pardeshi again came together and promoted a new thinking and started working with comrade Sharad Patil. From socialism to communism, the transformation was quick and smooth. We all dedicated ourselves

to the promotion of communistic movement and out of sense of social commitment, my love for journalism developed. I used the pen to highlight the injustice and protest against unfairness; for grilling the government over wrong decisions and guiding the masses.

Though my economic condition was pitiable, the voices in my mind did not let me sit idle. My conscience pricked me to devote my life to secure justice for the suppressed sections of the society. What better weapon to raise the voice of the suppressed than the pen of journalist. I chose to become a journalist.

In 1983, I completed a year-long course in journalism conducted by Pune University. I also joined Prof Shyam Manav's Andhashraddha Nirmulan Samiti and contributed to the exposure of the charlatans and bogus babas. As the movements rose, so did the print media and the movements found their voice reflected

**"While practising experience-based journalism, I felt the need for studying journalism in a scientific way and hence I sought admission in BA M CJ course in Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University. This course widened my journalistic perspective"**

**Jaiprakash Pawar**



through the newspapers. I joined 'Rambhoomi' newspaper edited by Madhukar Buwa. That time Nashik was not as developed as it is today. The newspaper provided me a forum to express my views and opinions on the burning issues of the day. I did survey of the schools as directed by the editor and covered almost all the schools in the district by walking, cycling or using the public transport. I presented the problems faced by the schools in my report. During a communal riot in Nashik, I slept in the newspaper office for almost a fortnight. While working as a report and covering social, educational, political and cultural beats, I got introduced to many great persons and my network expanded. I wrote fearlessly and won admiration from the readers.


Soon after, I joined Deshdoot under the editorship of late Suresh Awdhoot and I wrote on a variety of subjects for the seven years. I travelled far and wide to know the problems faced by the people and highlighted them in my reports and special column 'Postmortem'. I also worked as a correspondent for Deshdoot Times and also freelanced for Chitralkha. Almost all the editors of leading newspapers knew me through my writings. I also wrote for Kalnirnaya of Jyotibhaskar Jayant Salgonkar. My special reports like 'Malegavatil Kadakyachi Thandi', 'Na chirtach dolyat pani ananara Kanda', 'Nagbali' were greatly appreciated and won me prizes and awards. I also worked under Dadasaheb Potnis for Gaonkari newspaper for two years. Hemant

Kulkarni, present editor of Lokmat gave me an opportunity to string for Loksatta. Soon I became a regular correspondent for Loksatta and was sent to Malegaon to cover the communal riot. I camped there for six days and untiringly reported on the developing situation there. My dedication won me a certificate of commendation from the great editor Arun Tikekar. I was assigned the responsibility of editing 'Vrutant' supplement of Loksatta which I carried out with great commitment. Due to my special and exclusive reports that highlighted the drought, land scams and sordid scandals, I won the Editor In chief Award.

Considering the changing dimensions of journalism, I decided to update my knowledge and sought admission for a diploma course in journalism in Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University. But I realized that it was not enough and hence I once again took admission in the YCMOU for BA M.CJ course.

Due to my education in the YCMOU, many doors of opportunities opened for me. Since I already had enough experience of working in newspapers, it helped me a lot. Since the textbooks were written in simple language and were of high quality, I easily passed the exam and obtained degree. At present I am working as the Resident Editor of Divya Marathi.

- Santosh Sable



# Success Story



**Kavita Raut**

## Sawarpada Express



a remote rural village Sawarpada, long distance runner Kavita Raut's rise to Commonwealth Games bronze medal winner and London hopeful is pure rags-to-riches.

Her mother Sumitra Ramdas Raut says it was hard to let her daughter leave the village to train hundreds of miles away, and admits she's more likely to catch a glimpse of Kavita on the TV than in real life. "My daughter was born with talent, but the most important thing I taught her was while learning to do chores," Samitra says proudly. "At home she used to wash dishes,

Long distance runner Kavita Raut's humble beginnings in remote tribal village couldn't hold back her spirit and determination, and it's all thanks to mum Sumitra for teaching her to run. Born to a tribal family in

wash clothes, go to the forest and fetch water, all kinds of things." Practicing barefoot on a dirt track, Kavita's natural talent shone through and she was spotted by a coach Vijendrasingh who not only admitted her to Bhosale Military school in Nashik but also lodged her at his own residence for five years. Vijendrasingh has a son and a daughter. He considers Kavita his third child. She is fondly called Sawarpada Express.

"When she won her first competition she was so excited. She wanted to win a medal for India." Although reluctant to send their daughter so far away, the Raut family realised what an opportunity their talented daughter had

**"I am extremely thankful to the YCMOU for enabling me to pursue higher education. Though earned name and fame as a sprinter, I always wanted to be a well educated person. It is at this time that I remembered the great work being done by the YCMOU in enabling the professionals to pursue their dream academic career without affecting their professions. I took admission in the BA course of the YCMOU and thus my problem of education got solved".**

**- Kavita Raut,  
International runner**

and allowed her to go and train professionally. As Samitra's only daughter, it was a huge decision. "Whenever there's a festival we don't like celebrating without her," she explains. "We'd see other people's daughters who live near them. But our daughter was too far away."

The decision paid off in 2010, with Kavita's success at the Commonwealth Games. "We saw her on TV. When she held the Indian flag, my eyes were full of tears," Samitra says, brimming with pride. And hopefully there's more to come at this year's Olympic Games.

She holds the current Indian National record for 10 km road running with a mark of 34:32. She won the bronze medal in 10,000 metres race at the 2010 Commonwealth Games, the first individual track medal by an Indian woman athlete at the Commonwealth Games. She also won the silver medal in 10,000 metres race at the 2010 Asian Games. By walking long distance to the forest, doing household chores, this lady learnt tenacity and perseverance; and both attributes helped her rise to fame. Whatever situation you are going through right now, that's your training for reigning! . Even if its a harsh one, you might say; YES, even if its a harsh one.



Always have it at the back of your mind that all things work together for your good. It does not matter what situation we are faced with, what matters is our response to the situation. God is able to turn any situation around for your good!

Though she got married in less than a

week, Raut decided to participate in the Federation Cup National Senior Athletics Championships as she wanted to test the waters following two months of training at the national camp in Bangalore. The rustiness showed both in the manner

of her victory and also the time she clocked. It was only in the last 200 metres that Raut went ahead of Lalita Babar to assure herself first place and the time of 35:30.21 was nearly three and a half minutes off her personal best. But for someone who was running her first 10,000m race in nearly eight months, Raut didn't have high expectations. "After failing to qualify for the Olympics I was rather depressed. I had trained abroad and worked really hard to qualify for London but it was not to be. But once I got the Arjuna award I really felt confident that I could still aim to win medals at the big events," Raut said.

- Santosh Sable





God churned the ocean to bring out ambrosia. But the ambrosia was consumed by the Gods, leaving nothing for us. Therefore knowledge is the ambrosia for us. This ambrosia will empower and invigorate you, and strengthen the societal set-up.

- Yashwantrao Chavan

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