

RUDRITARA JAIDEV SHROFF
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EDUCATION

American School of Bombay, Mumbai, India
- *International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, Grade 12*
Dhirubhai Ambani International School
- *IGCSE, Grade 9 and 10*

2023 – Present
2023 – Present
2011 - 2023
2021 - 2023

STANDARDIZED TESTS

- SAT Test: Total - 1400 ; Math - 790 ; English - 610

ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS

- Distinction in IGCSE board examinations in Grade 10 2023
- Elaine Hobson Literary Award for her essay 'Why compassionate empathy is imperative for personal and societal development' 2024
- Nominated for the Baal Puruskar, India's highest civilian honor for children, supported by UNICEF, for contributions to art and culture (Result Awaited) 2024
- Diana Award Nominee 2024

Art For Baby

2022-2024

- Authored Art for Baby, a picture board book designed to aid cognitive development in infants, featuring 15 black, white, and grey artworks, along with 15 flashcards, by leading Indian contemporary artists who donated their works for the project.
- The project and its artworks were vetted by Dr. Vikram Patel, Paul Farmer Professor and Chair of Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School, and endorsed by other experts, including Dr. Ashwin Sainani, paediatric ophthalmologist, and Dr. Vicky Armstrong, Infant Art Psychotherapist.
- Raised \$57,468 from the auction of the artworks, with proceeds supporting UNICEF India's children's projects and Outset UK's initiatives for vulnerable children. Book sales in perpetuity will also contribute to these causes.
- Art for Baby is specifically designed for newborns aged 0 to 3 months, who can only see black, white, and shades of grey. The book nurtures their visual and cognitive development by presenting high-contrast images that help develop picture recognition and foster a connection with the surrounding world.
- The project emphasises the importance of early visual and cognitive development, with medically backed benefits such as strengthening eye muscles, enhancing visual tracking skills, and stimulating brain development during critical early growth stages.

RESEARCH AND EXPERIENCES IN DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

Research

Transforming Philanthropy in the Global South:

2024

Navigating Institutional Frameworks in the Face of Competing Global Crises, Cambridge University Press, 2026, Edited by Clare Woodcraft and Dr. Nitya Mohan Khemka.

- Served as a research assistant for Dr. Nitya Mohan Khemka, Senior Fellow, Homerton College, University of Cambridge on the book over the summer of 2024.
- Completed the Yale University 'Introduction to Psychology' course, earning a certificate and gaining foundational knowledge in key psychological concepts and research methodologies.

Mindset Intervention Program

2024

- Implemented Carol Dweck's Growth Mindset principles in collaboration with local NGO schools in Mumbai, targeting young children aged 5-7 years, aligning with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020's emphasis on critical thinking and resilience.
- Designed and conducted a six-month intervention program to foster a growth mindset, encouraging resilience, perseverance, and a love for learning among students.
- Collected and analyzed pre- and post-program data to assess the impact of the intervention, demonstrating significant improvements in students' attitudes towards challenges and their ability to embrace mistakes as learning opportunities.
- Collaborated with educators and school administrators to integrate mindset strategies into daily classroom activities, ensuring sustainability and compliance with NEP 2020 guidelines.

Sangath:

2024

- Interned with Sangath, an Indian non-profit dedicated to improving mental health through evidence-based interventions.
- Worked under Dr. Vikram Patel, Paul Farmer Professor at Harvard Medical School, on the EMPOWER Infosys project in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. This maternal and child development initiative trains ASHA workers in perinatal depression counselling via digital platforms, enhancing their capacity to provide essential mental health support.
- Contributed to the program's integration of videos on parenting, early learning, and nutrition, which are used by Anganwadi workers in interactions with pregnant women and caregivers. This initiative addresses the urgent need for early intervention in maternal mental health in low and middle-income countries, where perinatal depression and undernutrition significantly affect child development.

Museum of Solutions (MuSo):

2023 - Present

- Completed a three-week internship with The Museum of Solutions, a children's museum in Mumbai that provides a space for children to apply their learning to real-life situations, fostering creativity, critical thinking, communication, and collaboration.
- Developed and led an innovative STEAM project where children participated in obstacle courses carrying pots on their heads, simulating the challenges of water access in rural India, fostering experiential learning and raising awareness about water conservation.
- Began working at MuSo before its official opening and continues to work there, contributing to the development of interactive learning experiences for children.

COVID 19 INITIATIVE

Corona Quilt Project: On the Rise

2021

- Spearheaded a creative initiative during COVID-19, enabling classmates to artistically express their pandemic experiences using pieces of recycled cloth.
- Created an artwork that incorporated contributions from all her classmates, including those outside Mumbai, symbolizing unity, hope, and solidarity.
- Contributed to "On the Rise," a public art installation made from over 5,000 pieces of recycled cloth, displayed on the facade of the Bombay Municipal Corporation building. The project emphasized themes of transformation, hope, and faith, with the butterfly as a symbol of metamorphosis.

LEADERSHIP

Student Council, American School of Bombay

2023-Present

- Elected to the Student Council, managing student initiatives and representing peers in school-wide decisions.

Model United Nations Press Corporation, American School of Bombay

2023-Present

- Led and developed the Press Corporation for ASB MUN, implementing new strategies to optimise event coverage and reporting.
- Managed a team of student reporters, ensuring high-quality content creation and mentoring younger students in journalistic practices.

UNITED NATIONS PURSUITS

2022-2024

- Successfully raised \$57,468 through my 'Art for Baby' project, supporting children's initiatives in partnership with UNICEF India and Outset UK, with proceeds contributing to projects for vulnerable children.
- Completed the United Nations Young Leaders Online Training Programme with UNITAR in July 2024, gaining essential knowledge and skills to navigate global challenges and drive positive change.

WRITING AND PUBLICATIONS

- Insignia – Annual School Magazine, Regular contributor

2016-2022

Elaine Hobson Literary Festival

2024

- Won the Elaine Hobson Literary Award for her essay on the topic of empathy titled "Why compassionate empathy is imperative for personal and societal development". Essay has been picked for a showcase at the 2024 Global Empathy Conference in Prague.

Learning and Observations:

- Patience is the bridge to empathy, a crucial link that allows us to cross over into the experiences of others, to truly listen and connect.

Empowering Young Minds: Implementing Growth Mindset for Lasting Change in Mumbai's NGO Schools – *Times of India*, 2024

- Authored an article published in the *Times of India* 'School is Cool' section, detailing the implementation of Carol Dweck's Growth Mindset program in NGO schools across Mumbai. The article highlights the transformative impact of the program on young children, fostering resilience, perseverance, and a love for learning through structured interventions.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

First Steps Club - ASEEMA

2023

- Locally volunteered once a week with Aseema, a non-governmental organization with a mission to equip children from marginalized communities with high quality, value-based education, enabling development of their limitless potential.
- Taught English and communication skills to kids in grades 5 and above.

Tibet in India (Enhancing the lives of others)

2023

- Conducted interactive sessions with Tibetan refugees, fostering cross-cultural understanding and awareness.
- Led conversation classes with LHA students to enhance their English language skills.
- Taught English to Tibetan refugees in the rural township of Mcleod Ganj, Dharamshala, contributing to their educational development and community integration.

Next Gen Club - Kotak Education Foundation

2024

- Teaches conversational vocational skills and extemporaneous speaking once a week for 2 hours to children from the Kotak Education Foundation, contributing to their cognitive and social development.
- Focus on enhancing communication abilities and building confidence, equipping underprivileged children with practical skills that support their overall development and future success.

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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| - DAIMUN, Dhirubhai Ambani International School | 2019-2022 |
| - ASB MUN Press, American School of Bombay | 2023-Present |
| - Honourable Mention, SOCHUM, DAIMUN. | 2024 |

LANGUAGES

- English (fluent), Hindi (fluent), Gujarati(fluent)
- French (intermediate)

INTERESTS

- Avid traveler, passionate about skiing (IGCSE Level 5), track and field, and Western ballroom dancing (IGCSE Level 5); enjoys writing (Elaine Hobson Literary Award winner), and deeply interested in the intersection of art and psychology with plans to pursue this field in the U.S.