

PROJECT GHARANA

A sustainability initiative led by **Aarav Gandhi**

Supported by **Arjit Agarwal & Rohan Patel**



Highlights from Our Experience

During the three months it took for Project Gharana to come to life, we spent countless hours at the construction site partaking in many of the processes that helped see Gharana through to fruition. In the initial stages, we deliberated over the internal floor plans with professionals to come to a consensus on the feasibility and aspirations of what we wanted to include within the container. Moving forward, when it came to the physical labour, we participated in processes such as welding of metal pipes, cutting of the glass wool insulation, panelling the walls, building the custom-made furniture, painting the complete exterior of the home, and finally staging the interiors to our likings. While our role was slightly more passive in comparison to the workers who worked on the project everyday, we still believe we made a considerable contribution to the project, which helped us garner several skills through this rigorous experience.



\$6,000
in crowdfunding donations

\$200,000
through sponsors

For the initial pilot project i.e. the first container home, we raised over \$6,000 from our close friends and family. After the success of this home, donors such as AU Small Finance Bank have pledged over \$200,000 to sponsor Gharana's growth.

Our Aim as a Group

The aim of the project was to create a small dent in the housing landscape of India. We hope Gharana will set an example for a sustainable means to alleviate poverty in a country that is immensely impacted by it. By creating this cost-efficient and sustainable home, we hope to grasp the attention of government officials and big corporations to contribute in solving this widespread problem in our country.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

our project focuses on





In the short period of time that the project has been extant, it has already amassed some notable and prestigious sustainability awards. As mentioned on the right are awards that have been given to Project Gharana

Won the
**"FEELL 150
Change makers"
award**

Placed top 50
out of 1000 entries
in **"IITF 2022"**

Skills we Garnered

We were able to develop a great array of skills through this process including teamwork, communication, problem-solving and time management. Having had to coordinate the procurement & delivery of all the construction materials associated with the build, we were able to greatly refine our communication skills by negotiating, following up, and dealing with a plethora of vendors. Teamwork was also key in effectively working with a team of over 20 carpenters, electricians, and fabricators by balancing their needs and requirements to complete this passion project. Throughout the construction process, we faced multiple snags and challenges. Firstly, there was a delay in materials arriving at the construction site due to the rise in covid cases in Jaipur. There were also unexpected weather conditions such as extremely low temperatures and unexpected rainfall that hindered the construction of the container as it is out in the open. However, despite these obstacles, we found alternative solutions through brainstorming and communication.

Knowledge Gained

Throughout the journey, from the birth of the idea all the way to the end-product and execution of the idea where we were able to realise our idea and apply it to our physical society, we have learned a lot of new information and gained some important knowledge that has helped us to become more aware about the problems around us, not only nationally but also those that are evident in our direct neighbourhood and community. The first and most important piece of knowledge that we gained as a team was the importance of giving back to the community. Though we knew about the situation regarding homelessness across India, we never realised how serious the impact was on our neighbouring communities. Furthermore, secondary research enforced the need within our team to give back to the community as we learned about the worsening situation and looked at horrifying and scary statistics regarding the staggering extent of homelessness in India. We learned how important giving back to the community that supports us is because not only is it important for our country or community as a whole, but it's the least we can do to help better the situation.

Impacts & Outcomes

The impact of Project Gharana thus far is extremely significant. In this short time, we were able to create a functioning, self-sufficient, sustainable housing container that will soon house an underprivileged family. The immediate outcome of this project is that a family struggling to survive will be provided with a home that can sustain them; the family will not have to worry about rent or electricity, and can focus on getting on their feet. This is unfortunately a privilege that not all people affected by homelessness in India have, but rather one that they desperately need. The fact that having a home is considered a privilege in our country portrays the problem in itself, and showcases the significance of this project in the grand scheme of things: it is not enough to limit the impact of this project to its currency or tangibility, but rather to its influence on mindsets and scope for momentous, resounding reverberations in the future. We may have built only one home, but in doing so, we proved that using sustainable housing to combat homelessness is a very feasible solution. This creates enormous scope not only environmentally, as the world calls for the use of sustainable forms of energy, but also socio-economically, as we have created an implementable solution to homelessness.