It was a triple celebration at the Gawle household in Navi Mumbai as Sampatrao (47), his brother Janardan (35) and his daughter Kaveri (16) have cracked SSC exams together.

Struck by poverty in their hometown in Nanded, the brothers had not been able to complete their education as kids. “I had enrolled in a school up to class II, but never attended it... We helped our father in the farms,” said Sampatrao, who moved to Mumbai 20 years ago. “I always wanted to appear for at least my class X board exams.” The brothers went back to school three years ago. They juggled their day jobs—Sampatrao is employed as a civil contractor and Janardan is a driver with the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation—before heading for classes.

Sampatrao scored 40% in his SSC exams, Janardan 50% and Kaveri secured 68%.

—Vinamrata Borwankar