Note from the Managing Trustee:

The Foundation For Excellence has been growing steadily, thanks to our strong support base. We are already in the midst of the Scholarship season with thousands of students renewing their applications. While we are keen to support scholarships and serve the mission of the organization to bring about a transformation of lives, it is evident that employability and financial stability of our students are key to accomplishing the mission and bringing about lasting change.

FFE’s scholars now have several new opportunities to explore and reach their full potential by being a FFE Scholarship Awardee. Today FFE offers its scholars opportunities to upskill-including English and Aptitude courses, IT and re-skilling opportunities in the 3rd year through Coursera courses and certification, and interviewing skills in the 4th year of Engineering. All of these opportunities have been made possible through a generous grant from the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation (MSDF). The necessity for soft skills training for FFE scholars has led to the launch of the In-House Mentoring program for Engineering students where the curriculum addresses specific work skills for employability. Mentors include industry experts from among our corporate partners who volunteer for the program; currently 130 mentor-mentee pairs are benefitting. FFE’s dynamic team in Bangalore under the leadership of Sandhya Manoj, COO have been working tirelessly to deliver these programs efficiently.

We are indeed proud that over 80% of the graduating class of FY 2017-18 are already employed; some are seeking entrepreneurship opportunities, preparing for roles in the civil service or are keen to pursue higher education. These results are indeed gratifying and is a reflection of the impactful skills program that FFE has been delivering over the past two years - leading to a FFE Scholar who is career ready.

FFE’s work has won recognition on the national stage. FFE India Trust has been the recipient of 2 Awards recently- FFE was declared the Regional Winner for Social Impact, awarded byAmericares, and a second coveted award, The CSR Project of the Year-2018 (Special Jury Mention) awarded by the NGO Box-CSR Box. We are indeed honoured to win these accolades.

While we are working hard to deliver our programs, I am also counting on each of you, as individuals (including alumni), Foundations and/or corporate partners to extend your support to support additional students this year. We continue to receive more scholarship applications each passing year and are keen to spread our wings and impact more lives. Because together, we can create a better tomorrow.

Best Wishes,

Sudha Kidao
Managing Trustee, FFE India Trust
I. Open House - Uttarakhand

The Hans Foundation (THF) in partnership with FFE hosted an Open House, on 11th September 2018 at the College of Technology, GP Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, Uttarakhand. Dr. H C Sharma, Dean-College of Technology, presided as Guest of Honour. Fifty six participants including FFE scholars and faculty participated at the event.

Scholarship cheques amounting to Rs. 16.8 Lakhs were awarded to 42 FFE scholars at the Open House. Certificates for outstanding leadership were also awarded to four student Coordinators, all studying at the College of Technology, Pantnagar - Shubham Kala (Civil Engineering, 4th Year), Shivansh Mehra (Industrial Production, 2nd Year), Aseem Aggarwal (Information Technology, 2nd Year), and Dr. Sudha Kidao, Managing Trustee-FFE India Trust, awarding a scholarship cheque to FFE Scholar Gaurav Arora.

Testimonial from Shrishti Bisht, final year Electronics and Communication Engineering Student (College of Technology - Pantnagar)
II. Community Outreach

Mentoring Program

FFE launched its in-house remote mentoring program with video interface for third year engineering FFE scholars in October 2017. This enables scholars from anywhere in India to get connected to mentors/industry experts from any other location. Participating students are matched with mentors based on their course of study, language, gender and general interests. Currently, the mentorship program has close to 200 active mentor-mentee pairs. The program continues to grow with financial and human resource support from companies like Axtria India Private Limited, HP PPS India Operations Pvt. Ltd., Intel Technology India Private Limited, Robert Bosch Engineering & Business Solutions Private Limited, Amdocs Development Centre India LLP, Amazon India and Boeing International Corporation India Private Limited among others. The keen interest expressed by corporates to mentor and the enthusiasm from scholars to be mentored is truly very encouraging.

Mentor-Mentee Speak

“The Mentoring Program is an excellent initiative from FFE that provides a solid foundation to help shape the career, goals and aspiration of young graduates who will be the pillars for this country tomorrow.

Besides building the mentor-mentee relationship virtually, I would request FFE to provide a platform where both mentor and mentee could interact face to face. I have a great mentee who has the potential to conquer his goals seamlessly for I saw that fire in him. He always likes to put his best foot forward to engage himself in learning what he doesn’t know or in the areas where he needs to develop more. My best wishes to him as always!”

Vijaya Kumar Buntupalli, FFE Mentor
IT Project/ Program Manager
Intel Tech. India Pvt. Ltd.

This program is one of the best opportunities FFE provides to its scholars apart from the financial assistance. Not only does it equip us with the necessary skills for corporate life, it also teaches lifelong skills. I have leveraged this program to learn invaluable practical and industry focused skills and it has already started to benefit me a lot. I am really thankful to the FFE family for giving me the opportunity to be a part of this program.

This was the first time my mentor took up mentoring officially, and I really felt great to be his first official mentee. He was committed to this...
program and he did his part really well. Between his hectic work schedule and family life, he took out time for me and I am very thankful to him for that. While discussing things, he preferred focusing on the practical aspects aside from discussing the theoretical material, sharing his own experiences and also of the people he knew well. Sometimes he would narrate stories to explain certain scenarios, which really helped me understand them better. So I would say my mentor and I really enjoyed the journey during this program and have both benefitted in numerous ways.

Ashu Garg, FFE Mentee
4th Year, Computer Science Engineering
Gurukul Kangri Vishwavidyalaya
Haridwar, Uttarakhand

This is a really good program. There were a couple of things I learnt throughout the duration of the program. One was identifying which information to share with my mentee on getting oneself ready for the corporate industry. Secondly, I was able to learn some of the expectations students have regarding jobs/the industry. My mentee is a good person and good learner.

Rajesh S P, FFE Mentor
Software Engineer
Intel Tech. India Pvt. Ltd.

The Mentoring Program is a great initiative taken by the FFE team. It has great impact on the personality of students like me. It was well organized in terms of content and timing and gave us insight into our own hidden strengths.

The Program also provides a good platform to build relationships with experienced industry professionals which instills in the mentee a sense of professionalism and motivates to achieve his/her goals. It helped groom me to face tough situations and I am very grateful to the FFE team for giving me the opportunity to be part of the mentoring program. I consider myself very lucky to have Mr. Suraj Ranjan (SOC Design Engineer, Intel Technology India Pvt. Ltd.) as my mentor. The way he helped me to identify my strengths and weaknesses was truly remarkable. It helped me to work on those problems and improve. My mentor was always there to help me and I benefitted from his valuable experience. I would love to work under his guidance. My thanks to him for all the guidance and support throughout the session.

Abhay Kumar, FFE Mentee
Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology
4th Year, Electronics and Communication Engineering, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh

Skill Development and Job Readiness Program 2018

In partnership with the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation (MSDF), FFE launched a Skill Development Program for over 1000 second year Engineering scholars in September 2017. The program focused on improving English and Aptitude skills of FFE scholars using app-based training platforms.

This first cohort of students completed their English training in December 2017 and the Aptitude training in May 2018. As a baseline skill test, students also took a pre and post AMCAT (Aspiring Minds Computer Adaptive Test). Based on their end-line AMCAT scores, the 2017-18 cohort are mapped to either a high-touch English Program or an aspirational course. The high-touch English program commenced on 20th September 2018 through
a phone-based platform by eAge Tutors which aims at improving communication skills, corporate readiness and interview skills of the scholars. In collaboration with Coursera, the aspirational courses are expected to commence by mid-October 2018. These are advanced technology courses and IT reskilling programs which are latest in the market.

A new cohort (2018-19) of Engineering scholars (900) in the second year began their English training programs via Hello English and Kings Learning in August 2018.

“I have been part of the app-based English training program offered by FFE via Hello English. I find that it is very useful for students like us as we learn how to interact with others verbally in English, improve our vocabulary by learning a new word every day through the ‘Word of the Day’ concept and improve grammar by using the interactive mode.”

**Bharat Kumar K G**
2nd Year, Electronics and Communication Engineering, UVCE, Bangalore

“The main highlight of the Aptitude training program is that we could utilize training videos and tests effectively by applying techniques we learnt during the training. As per its aim, I gained a lot of knowledge which helped solve issues related to time management, aptitude skill, verbal and non-verbal problems. It really helped me a lot.”

**Manasa S K,**
3rd Year, Computer Science Engineering RNS Institute of Technology, Bangalore

“FFE’s mobile app-based trainings are very interactive, user-friendly and a fount of knowledge. Among them, Hello English app training really helped me in redefining my English and communication skills in a better way and with Pariksha aptitude training, I came to know about various types of aptitude questions and the perfect way to tackle them. All these have been increasing my morale and helps boost my self-confidence.”

**Shashi Chandel**
3rd Year, Electrical and Electronics Engineering National Institute of Technology, Jamshedpur

**III. FFE Awards and Achievements**

**Regional Winner Award, Spirit of Humanity Awards 2018, Mumbai**

FFE was declared the Regional Winner for Social Impact in the Education category at the 9th Spirit of Humanity Awards.

An initiative of Americares India, the event was held in Mumbai on 17th September 2018. The Spirit of Humanity is a national platform that recognizes organizations in the social sector for their outstanding contribution to the underprivileged community.

**CSR Project of the Year (Special Jury Award) at 5th CSR Impact Awards 2018, New Delhi**

At the 5th CSR Impact Awards 2018, FFE India Trust was awarded the CSR Project of the Year.
(Special Jury Mention) 2018 at the annual ‘India CSR Summit and Exhibition 2018’ held on 24-25 September, 2018. This is the largest CSR forum in India and the largest development sector forum in South Asia.

The Award was presented by Shri Anant Kumar Hegde, Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Govt. of India.

An initiative of NGOBOX, the CSR Impact Awards recognize organizations implementing high-impact CSR projects in 14 categories at national level. The event hosted more than 1800 organizations from across the country, 110+ exhibitors and more than 3000 delegates.

IV. Corporate Engagement

FFE-Capgemini Impact Story: ‘KUDOS” Book Launch

FFE’s corporate partner and long-time supporter, Capgemini Technology Services India Pvt. Ltd., launched “Kudos”, a Coffee Table Book. Kudos features inspiring stories of 15 FFE scholars sponsored by Capgemini through the FFE Scholarship Program.

The book launch held on 1 August, 2018 at Capgemini, Bangalore included Christine Mary Hodgson - Head of Corporate and Social Responsibility Business Coordination UK at Cap Gemini S.A, Srinivas Kandula - CEO, Capgemini India & Capgemini Group Executive Member, Anurag Pratap - Senior Director and Head CSR, Capgemini Ltd., Dr. Sudha Kidao, Managing Trustee, FFE India Trust and Sandhya Manoj, COO, FFE India Trust. The book was released in recognition of the impact of the scholarship program and transformation in the lives of students through the FFE-Capgemini partnership.

V. Voice of Scholars

Current Scholar

Afzal Ahmad
Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh

Afzal is a final year Electrical and Electronics Engineering student from IIT Guwahati, Assam. His family lives in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh. This is his story:

“I have been interested in engineering or simply ‘making things’ since my childhood. My parents have always been supportive of my education, but growing up, I did not know many people who had even studied to graduate level so there was no one to guide me. Despite that, I worked
hard for two years and secured admission to IIT-Guwahati.

In college, I was fortunate to be awarded FFE’s scholarship for 4 years. My interests extend beyond academics; I was elected head of the Robotics Society and led a team of 50 students to work on innovative ideas for new robots and also conducted workshops for the student community.

My interest in Robotics was further fueled when I received an internship opportunity on Swarm Robotics at MIST Lab in Polytechnique Montreal, Canada. This involved working with students from other countries (including Brazil, Germany, France, China, Egypt and Italy), allowing for collaborative work in a multi-cultural setting outside India. I was also selected for a Student Research fellowship from Shashtri Indo-Canadian Institute of India (total of 18 fellows in India). I aspire to complete my Masters in Robotics one day.

During the last 3 years, my life experiences have shaped my thinking. I feel a lot of problems can be solved through automation and I hope to contribute to society through my education. Moreover, FFE and my donor’s generosity has inspired me to help others too. I hope one day I’ll be able to help other students achieve their goal just as you have helped me.”

Alumnus
Padmaja V. Bhagwat
Bijapur, Karnataka

Padmaja, a native of Bijapur, Karnataka lost her father when she was 7; her mother, a dedicated school teacher, single-handedly brought up Padmaja and her brother who is now a Civil Engineering graduate. Padmaja completed her engineering degree in Information Technology (National Institute of Technology–Surathkal, Karnataka) and currently works at VMware R&D as a member of the technical staff.

Padmaja attended St. Joseph’s English Medium School, Bijapur where her mother taught. She received mentoring from one of her best teachers, Mr. Shaju Joseph, and her mother that taught her to have a sense of confidence and optimism from a very young age. Securing above 95% in both Class 10 and 12 exams, she cleared her JEE Main exams with a rank of 28660 and secured admission to one of the premier colleges in South India.

“I believe education is the key to achieving one’s dreams. It’s not just gaining knowledge, but sharing that same knowledge with others that helps one grow. Assisting passionate students in achieving their dreams in whatever way possible is what I look forward to do,” says Padmaja. In college, she was part of Shiksha, a program that teaches the basics of computers to college students who transitioned from a vernacular medium to English medium. Padmaja’s Talk Proposal, “Algorithmic Music Generation”, presented at PyCon India 2016, New Delhi was well received. Organized by the Python developer community, PyCon India is an annual premier conference which attracts the best Python programmers world-wide.

Once financially self-reliant, Padmaja hopes to be part of FFE’s ‘Circle of Giving’ thus supporting FFE’s vision of reaching more talented scholars across India. Padmaja intends to pursue her Masters and Doctorate degree after a few years of professional experience. She extends her gratitude to FFE, her donor Microsoft R&D and Facilitator Mr. S. S. Patri whom Padmaja fondly remembers as a humble and empathetic person.
VI. Volunteer Speak

Rajeswara Rao
FFE Facilitator
Nellore, Andhra Pradesh

Mr. Rajeswara Rao has been associated with FFE for more than 15 years, long before he became a volunteer Facilitator in 2003. He retired as Headmaster of Rama Krishna Junior College – Allur, Andhra Pradesh, in 2013 and currently lives in Allur with his family.

Mr. Rao was an only child born to late Sri Ramaiyah Garu and Smt. Venkata Subbamma Garu. He attended school from Vemuri Subbiah School and Rama Krishna Higher Secondary School, both in Allur. He received his Bachelor’s degree in Science from SDGS College, Hindupur and completed his Master’s degree in Mathematics from SK University, Anantapur. Mr. Rao also holds a Bachelor’s degree in Education from Government Comprehensive College of Education, Nellore.

Mr. Rao began his academic career from 1980 where he worked as a School Assistant in Mathematics at Sri Jagath Guru Panditarajya High School, Guntakal. In 1983, he worked at Railway English Medium School, Gotti and Guntakal for a year and finally joined Rama Krishna Junior College - Allur as School Assistant (Mathematics). After nearly two decades, he retired as Head-Master of the college in 2013.

An exemplary teacher, Mr. Rao has received various awards including the “Best Teacher Award” at regional, district and state levels. His publications include academic and non-academic books about school and education.

Mr. Rao’s desire to serve goes beyond his role as a teacher or Headmaster. He said, “I feel very happy to be an FFE Facilitator. It has given me a huge opportunity to promote poor yet talented youngsters studying professional courses for the scholarship. It is a privilege to serve the Foundation to my utmost satisfaction. I am very thankful to A Jayaram Reddy, FFE Coordinator, who proposed I become a Facilitator, thus beginning my journey with the Trust.”

VII. Employee Feature

Minu Joseph
Manager, Donor Relations

Minu joined FFE India Trust as Manager, Donor and External Relations in August 2016.

As Manager, Minu focuses on establishing and building strong sustainable relationships between FFE and donors - individuals, foundations and key corporate partners including Capgemini Technology Services India Ltd, Cognizant Foundation and Cisco Systems India Pvt. Ltd.

Minu actively engages with donors and scholars for project reports, scholar-donor engagement activities and other donor engagement initiatives including an impact story book launch, promoting FFE program activities through cor-
porate events and corporate workshops for FFE scholars.

Minu holds a Master of Science in Analytical Chemistry from St. Joseph’s College (Art and Science), Bangalore. She completed her Bachelor’s degree in Microbiology & Chemistry from Mount Carmel College, Bangalore.

During her free time, Minu loves to travel, listen to music, spend quality time with her husband and sings in a local Gospel choir.

VII. FFE Videos 2018

Against All Odds

Elevate

Connect With Us

Scholarships: scholarships@ffe.org | 99000 76280
Donors: donorsupportindia@ffe.org | 98805 47890
Mentorship & Training: mentorship@ffe.org | 8861501155
Alumni: alumni@ffe.org | 9886021861
Editor: alyssa@ffe.org | 81054 44220

www.ffe.org | Facebook | LinkedIn | Donate

Foundation For Excellence India Trust
#840, MHT House, 1st Floor,
5th Main, Indiranagar 1st Stage, Bengaluru 560038
adr@ffe.org | +91 (080) 2520 1925