NOTE FROM THE MANAGING TRUSTEE, FFE INDIA TRUST

Dear Friends and Supporters,

FFE has had a busy and rewarding 3-months, despite the COVID-19 pandemic that has brought uncertainty to our lives, affecting examination and college schedules for all the FFE scholars. Despite the challenges that continue, FFE hosted a series of 8 Virtual Open House events and interacted with close to 7000 participants virtually. This ensured that FFE was able to maintain our connection to students, alumni, donors, mentors and volunteers and all our programs continued unhindered.

We are delighted that Amazon has chosen FFE as its exclusive partner for the Amazon Future Engineers Scholarship Program in India, which was launched recently. We hope that the coming months will bring in other new partners as well. We managed several Donor-Scholar interactions during this time, along with opening the scholarship application process for this academic year.

FFE’s mission, as envisioned by the Founders, Dr. Prabhu Goel and Mrs. Poonam Goel, to transform lives of talented and gifted students, can be best accomplished only through our collective efforts, to create meaningful impact through scholarships. Supporting the education of as many students during this very difficult and challenging year when many families have lost their livelihood can have lasting impact. FFE’s goals to support 10,000 students as well increase the number of women scholarship awardees (to 30%) this year are ambitious but can be achieved through your support. Your help, through financial contributions as well as by connecting us to donor partners, NGO partners and volunteers can make these goals a reality. If you know of opportunities for FFE scholars- jobs, internships, workshops, etc. in corporates through your networks, please let us know.

We value your contributions and look forward to your continuing support.

Sudha Kidao
Managing Trustee
FFE India Trust
1. NEWS AND EVENTS

Message from Ram Kolavennu, COO – FFE India Trust

Dear Friends

It was a pleasure meeting several of FFE family members virtually last quarter—there is nothing more energizing than hearing from you. We want to wish the 2021 graduating class all the very best in their next journey. 83% of them have already settled well in jobs or got admissions to pursue higher studies—the kind of jobs you are landing is very satisfying. It is a reiteration of the importance of FFE’s “Beyond Scholarship Program” covering Skilling, Training & Mentoring.

Our Mentorship Program kicked-off very well with close to 1000 mentors registering from 80 corporates and paired to mentees (3rd year Scholars). It is an important aspect of FFE’s scholarship program as it not only enhances employability but also helps Scholars acquire essential career-relevant skills.

In addition to the existing training programs for Engineering students, we have launched skilling programs in different Engineering streams through Skill Lync and more certified technical courses through IBM EduNet. Thanks to our generous donors, we have now initiated the pilot batch for end-to-end skill development for Medical & Law students as well.

A busy 3 months is ahead of us with admissions to most of the Engineering, Medical, B.Pharm and Law colleges starting soon. We have used last quarter to get geared for the new scholarship season:

▪ Enhanced systems to make it very user friendly for applicants and donors. All these are now mobile friendly and compatible.
▪ Created a strong and deeper connect to eco-system players: colleges, NGO partners, etc.
▪ New corporate relationships have been formed which will help in leveraging technical training offerings to our Engineering scholars.

Applications for FY 2021-22 scholarships have started. Please publicize the program so that more qualifying students can be a part of the family. [https://ffe.org/scholarships/](https://ffe.org/scholarships/)

Thank you.

I) Virtual Open Houses

FFE hosted 8 Virtual Open House events in the last quarter, covering 27 states in India with close to 7000 participants attending the events virtually. The purpose of the Virtual Open House events was to connect with all FFE’s stakeholders that included students, FFE Donors, Facilitators, Mentors and Alumni who shared their inspiring stories with the audience.

FFE’S OPEN HOUSE EVENTS
July-September 2021

▪ 08 Open House Events hosted this year.
▪ Close to 7000 Participants attended across 27 states of India.
▪ Students participated virtually from the most remote areas of the country.

- Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh & Jharkhand - 1st July 2021, 705 Participants
- Andhra Pradesh, Telangana & Kerala - 15th July 2021, 963 Participants
- Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan - 20th July 2021, 756 Participants
- Delhi, Goa, Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh & Uttarakhand - 5th August 2021, 653 Participants
- Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry - 10th August 2021, 841 Participants
- Gujarat - 2nd September 2021, 896 Participants
- Odisha & West Bengal - 16th September 2021, 801 Participants
- Karnataka - 30th September 2021, 1107 Participants
The Keynote speakers at the events included: Ms Subha Swaminathan-Senior Finance Director, HP Inc., Mr. Rahul Pakkal-Manager, Bengaluru Technology Center, ExxonMobil, Mr. Syed Sultan Ahmed-MD & Chief Learner, LXL Ideas, Ms. Catriona Mackness – Director, Regional HR India, Thomson Reuters, Mr. Sumit Mitra-CEO of Tesco Business Services & Tesco Bengaluru, Mr. Amar Kaul-Chairman & MD, Ingersoll Rand India Limited, Dr. P K Banerjee-President & Chief Technology Officer (CTO), Hindalco Industries Limited, Mumbai and Mr. Sav Saravanan-Vice President & Business Leader, Microsoft.

An hour-long event included a presentation on FFE by Dr. Sudha Kidao, Managing Trustee, FFEIT and Mr. Ram Kolavennu, COO, FFEIT, followed by a motivating message from FFE’s Founder, Dr. Prabhu Goel and a special message by the Keynote speaker for the students. FFE’s Facilitators, Alumni and Scholars also used this opportunity to proudly share their journey with the participants. These events were a great platform to recognize several Facilitators for their dedication and commitment towards FFE by awarding them with a “Certificate of Appreciation”. Alumni Champions of FY2020-21, who contributed to FFE as donors, facilitators & mentors, were also felicitated. All events concluded with a very engaging and interactive Q&A session, addressed by FFE’s team, witnessing remarkable students’ participation. The session aimed to resolve queries around various FFE programs and the scholarship renewal process for FY 2021-22. FFE expresses its heartfelt thanks to all its Donors, Scholars, Facilitators, Mentors, Alumni, and FFE staff members, who actively participated in the virtual Open Houses and ensured these events, were meaningful and successful.

FFE is thankful to all the keynote speakers for their time and inspiring messages that have drawn large audiences to each of the events.

II) COVID-19 Second Wave and support to FFE Scholars & their families

The Covid-19 pandemic has devastated more lives and families than ever before; resulting in the loss of livelihood or significantly reduced incomes. Many lost earning family members to the pandemic. Soon FFE scholars reached out for assistance of every kind. FFE conducted a “Needs’ Survey” of its cohort of 7498 scholars to understand the specific kind of help sought by FFE scholar’s families. While the nature of COVID-19’s impact ranged from the death of an earning member of the family to a significant income reduction, the nature of help sought was immediate financial assistance.

FFE reached out immediately to its vast donor community for COVID relief funds. FFE’s donors responded promptly and FFE was quickly able to raise funds to provide interim financial assistance to the families most affected by the lockdown. With the help of Give India, FFE’s Corporate partners as well as its vast network of alumni and individual donors in India and USA, FFE was able to raise Rs. 1,46,54,560/- supporting 2807 FFE scholars through one-time cash grants of Rs. 5000 towards each family. Additionally, 377 scholars are in the process of receiving one-time cash grants from Give India.

Counseling Session:

During COVID Campaign, while most students opted for financial help, some scholars requested career and emotional guidance as well. FFE’s donor partner, Scientific Games conducted virtual sessions on career guidance and emotional wellness. A series of 6 sessions were conducted between 12th - 18th June 2021, by Senior Leaders from Scientific Games, attended by 60 FFE scholars across all streams.

FFE scholars and their families are deeply thankful to all the donors for their timely help and extend their deepest gratitude to them.

III) Webinars for FFE Medical Scholars

During July-September 2021, FFE hosted three medical webinars for its medical scholars. With more than 500 scholars, PAN India, attending these events; these webinars have continued to be engaging and informative for scholars.

On 31st July 2021, Dr. Sheetal Mahajani-M.D, D.M, Gastroenterology conducted a one-hour session on “Liver Cirrhosis - Causes, Diagnosis and Treatment”. On the 28th August 21, Dr. Ketaki Jathar, MBBs DNB, Ophthalmology addressed an important topic, “Diabetes and the Eye”. On 25th September 2021, Dr. Sakir Ahmed, M.D, D.M, Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology took a session on “Research in MBBs: translation versus mere research” sharing their experiences and expertise with students and answered to their questions. FFE is thankful to all the physicians for their time and sharing their experiences with students.

Scholar Feedback:

Hemanth A.M
3rd Year- MBBs
Madras Medical College, Tamil Nadu

“During the lockdown, there were no clinical postings for medical students in India. Being deprived of physical theory classes, FFE’s medical webinars delivered by specialized doctors have been extremely helpful and informative. Having participated in all webinars till date, I feel very proud to be an FFE scholar who gets various opportunities to grow.”

IV) Donor Scholar Engagements

a) Interactive Session with Lam Research India Pvt. Ltd.

Lam Research India Pvt. Ltd. held an interactive session on 31st July 2021 with FFE-Lam Engineering
Scholars. **Mr. Dinesh Munireddy**, Senior Director, Engineering. **Mr. Abhijit De**, Director, Engineering & **Mr. Prajwal Byresh**, Technical Lead Engineer – QA Lam Research India Pvt. Ltd. interacted with 7 FFE-Lam scholars. Scholars took this opportunity to introduce themselves, discuss their academic progress, training and skilling sessions they recently attended and their career aspirations and were keen to seek advice.

FFE is thankful to Lam Research India for their time and efforts to remain engaged with their sponsored scholars.

**Donor Feedback About the session:**

**Mr. Dinesh Munireddy**  
Senior Director, Engineering  
Lam Research India Pvt. Ltd.

“It was our pleasure to interact with your esteemed team and the scholars. We are extremely happy with your choice of awarding scholarships to needy students. Getting first-hand information on their progress and well-being only strengthens our belief in supporting the right scholars. Thank you very much for providing an opportunity for us to help the scholars”.  

b) **Virtual meet with Donor Mr. Pawan Kumar Marella and his scholars**

On 20th August 2021, **Mr. Pawan Kumar Marella**, Strategy Director-Unilever, United Kingdom, interacted with his supported scholars studying BTech and MBBS. An interactive session covered a range of topics from Time management, importance of a positive attitude, and why one should always keep learning. Students also shared their experiences of the year gone by and how they dealt with their studies amid a pandemic. FFE extends its sincere thanks to Mr. Pawan Kumar for his time to interact and motivate the scholars.

**V) Workshops/Conferences**

**Amazon Future Engineers (AFE -India Partner Kick-off meeting)**

**FFE is honoured to be chosen as Amazon’s trusted partner for the Amazon Future Engineers (AFE) Scholarship Program in India.**

To introduce AFE-India partners to a larger set of Amazonians globally and to open up the possibilities to explore synergies in the long term, a kick-off meeting was organized by Amazon India Team on 8th September 2021.

An hour-long session included a presentation by 9 AFE India NGO partners, followed by a Q&A session and a discussion on the project. **Ms. Anita Kumar** and **Mr. Akshay Kashyap** from Amazon Future Engineer Program, India along with Amazon’s Global team participated in the meeting. Mr. Ram Kolavennu, COO FFEIT and Ms. Taruna Agnani, Senior Executive-Donor Relation, FFE presented the AFE-FFE scholarship Program and discussed possibilities for further engagement.

Amazon has partnered with FFE for the Amazon Future Engineering Scholarship Program, and will be sponsoring the education of academically bright Engineering students studying Computer Science and related branches in colleges throughout India. AFE-FFE India Scholars, in addition to scholarships, will also have mentorship, skill-building and networking opportunities along with a chance for an internship at Amazon.

The Amazon Future Engineers initiative in India was virtually launched on 28th September 2021 by **Mr. Amit Agarwal**, Global Senior VP & Country Head,Amazon India, Lead program partners **Mr. Hadi Partovi**, Founder and CEO, Code.org & **Ms. Kruti Bharucha**, Founder and CEO, Peepul India highlighted the impactful work that would be possible through the Amazon partner network.
VI) COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Mentorship Program

FFE’s mentoring program saw the rapid enrolment of mentors and mentees from July 2021. The overwhelming and enthusiastic response of corporates, individuals and FFE alumni to serve as mentors has resulted in excess of 900 Mentors and Mentees registering during this Program Cycle.

FFE conducted, 22 Mentorship Orientation sessions for FFE’s corporate partners including Intel Technology India Private Limited, Trane Technologies, Lam Research (India) Pvt. Ltd., Dell Technologies, Cognizant Foundation, TESCO Bengaluru Private Limited, O9 Solutions, Fractal Analytics Pvt. Ltd., Robert Bosch Engineering and Business Solutions Limited, TransUnion CIBIL, Axtria India Private Limited, Thomson Reuters India Pvt. Ltd., Microsoft and KLA - Tencor Software India Private Ltd. Almost 900 FFE scholars who enrolled as mentees attended one of the 10 Mente Orientation sessions. FFE is thankful to all the mentors for their commitment to mentor a student for the next 6 months.

Here are the views of a Mentor and her Mentee

Ms. Manisha Sarkar
Joint Vice President, TransUnion CIBIL

“The program is well thought of and designed with good intentions. My mentee, Kavipriya was initially very shy and unsure of herself. But as we progressed, she opened and in our last training session, she did an extempore speech as well. This is what makes the mentorship session so valuable; there is a visible improvement in Kavipriya’s confidence while speaking in front of the camera and a drastic change in her confidence level between our first session and our last session.”

Kavipriya Selvakumar
4th Year, Information Technology
Government College of Technology, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu

“Through FFE’s mentorship program, my mentor gave me valuable tips on time management, motivated me to always remain focused and guided me towards my Career path. Each session had something new to learn which I thoroughly enjoyed. It started with an introduction that served as an ice breaker. Today, after the complete session, I find myself much more confident to face future placement processes. Thanks to FFE and my Mentor, Manisha Maam.”

Skill Development Program (sponsored by MSDF and Capgemini)

1548, 2nd year scholars from the 2020-21 cohort completed their AMCAT Baseline assessment. Based on their scores, 699 students were mapped for pursuing the Enguru English program and 739 scholars for the Hello English program beginning on 10th August 2021.

The Campus to Corporate “Skills Training Program” supported by Capgemini had 1353, 3rd-year scholars in the Aptitude program that concluded in mid-July. Following this, 1460 scholars completed their AMCAT Midline test. Based on these scores, 485 students took Hi-touch English in September and 713 scholars have started the Coursera program on 1st October 2021. 100 scholars have been identified for the IBM Skill Build program (Innovative Camps on IT courses) that will commence in October.

FFE is piloting 2 new programs in order to provide a wider range of technical courses to students in different branches of Engineering. In collaboration with Skill Lync, a year-long pilot program on Core Stream Reskilling for 30 selected FFE Engineering scholars from Mechanical and Civil branches, commenced on 10th September 2021.

Additionally, 18 2nd-year LLB students and 52 BPharm students enrolled in the English program with Enguru that commenced on 31st August 2021.

Soft Skill Training programs for Medical FFE scholars

FFE is also piloting a new course for 66 Medical students through QMed Knowledge Foundation. A year-long, self-paced online course will enable medical students to learn methods of online searches in medical and allied health domains that will be required for research reports that are currently not part of the academic curriculum.

FLY (Finding the Leader in You) Program in partnership with CMI and IIT-Gandhinagar

The FLY program is a 12 day program that is available for 2nd year engineering students, and is designed to teach non-cognitive skills for the personality and character development of students. In July, August & September 2021, 5 batches of 34 scholars each, completed the workshop.

Skills Training: Scholar Testimonials

Sathyashree N
4th Year BTech, Information Science and Engineering
Dayanand Sagar College of Engineering, Bengaluru, Karnataka

“FFE’s Soft Skill and Training Program are very relevant and in line with the corporate worlds demands. The detailed and informative course like “Python for Everybody”, not only added weightage to my CV but also helped in building my confidence. The
engaging assignments and quizzes allowed me to utilize my time productively during the pandemic, along with gaining knowledge. Thanks, FFE for providing these courses."

Koonreddy Kotesh Reddy
4th Year, BTech, Mechanical Engineering
National Institute of Warangal, Telangana

I was extremely thrilled when I got to know that FFE is providing free courses on Coursera to its scholars. Using this golden opportunity, I completed courses like Machine Learning with TensorFlow on Google Cloud Specialization, Intro to Digital Manufacturing with Autodesk Fusion 360, and Programming for everybody (Python). I am extremely grateful for the opportunity given to me by FFE.”

VII. CORPORATE WORKSHOPS

a) Virtual Session on Stress Management by NetApp India Pvt. Ltd.
On 26th August 2021, NetApp India Pvt. Ltd. under its ‘Women In Technology Project’, conducted an hour-long session on Stress Management. Attended by 185 female Engineering scholars, the session was conducted by Ms. Anju Mohan, Director IT- NetApp, focusing on the importance of psychological health for one’s overall well-being. FFE is immensely grateful to NetApp and Ms. Anju Mohan for her invigorating session on managing stress and keeping both the mind and body healthy.

b) Session on Workplace Attitude by Capgemini Technology Services India Private Limited
On 6th August 2021, Ms. Riya Jiandani, HR–Learning and Development, Capgemini Technology Services India Private Limited, conducted a session for FFE alumni on the topic ‘Work Readiness for Freshers and Workplace Attitude’. Attended by 24 FFE alumni, the session started with an ice breaker activity. Valuable tips on smooth transition from college to the corporate world along with the focus on 3 Cs–Communication, Competence and Culture in one’s professional life were discussed. FFE is thankful to Capgemini for this engaging session with FFE Alumni.

c) Interactive Session with IRIS school students
FFE and IRIS (International Science and Engineering Fair) conducted a virtual event on 3rd September 2021 for IRIS supported school children, orienting them about FFE’s Scholarship Program. Attended by 76 IRIS students across India, the event was addressed by Ms. Sharon Sekumar, Chief Operations Officer, IRIS, along with FFE Team. FFE Alumni supported by Broadcom Communication Technologies Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Kishor Gautam employed with Microsoft and Mr. Jitender Saw employed with Tata Power also joined the event and shared their inspirational journey with students encouraging them to dream big and follow their ambition.

2. VOICE OF SCHOLARS

I) CURRENT STUDENT

Drashti Lheri
4th Year, BTech-Chemical Engineering
LD College of Engineering, Ahmadabad, Gujarat.

Drashti hails from Amreli, Gujarat. Her father’s income as a diamond worker is inadequate to meet the expenses of a family of four which includes her parents and a younger brother, pursuing BEMS (Bachelor of Eastern Medicine and Surgery). Despite their financial constraints, her parents constantly motivated their children to do well in academics. A brilliant scholar, Drashti has recently completed her internship as a ‘Research Intern’ at the University of Calgary, Canada.

“My mother has always been my inspiration. Our family always had financial constraints but things changed for the worse for us in 2019 when my mother, who worked as a school teacher, had an acute paralytic attack leaving her with lost speech and reduced hand movements. To support my family’s income, I started giving tuitions, the least I could do to support my family. However, I always took life’s ordeals head-on and never let problems dampen my focus towards studies. My undeterred belief in hard work and commitment paid off when I scored high marks in class 10 and 12 and secured a high rank in Gujarat Common Entrance Test (GUCET) with admission to the LD College of Engineering, Ahmadabad and received scholarship from FFE.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to my donor, Late. Mrs. Krishna Agarwal from S.N Foundation & FFE for their constant support towards my education and for the interim financial support received during the COVID-19 pandemic which has been very helpful to me and my family. FFE’s training program helped me boost my confidence in English speaking and develop other soft skills. Once I start earning, I wish to support FFE through its ‘Circle of Giving’, supporting the education of many more needy students like me.

Drashti is keen to pursue her MBA after a few years of work experience.

II) ALUMNUS

Ms. Nagahsree H N
FFE Scholar: 2017-2001

FFE Alumnus, Nagahsree H N completed her B.Tech in 2001 from Jawaharlal Nehru National College of Engineering, Shivamogga, Karnataka. Currently
working as Technical Program Manager with Google, Bengaluru she has been actively contributing to FFE since 2012 and has also committed to support a MBBS Female scholar from this year on.

“I belong to a small town named Shivamogga, Karnataka, where I have spent most of my growing years until graduation. Only child to my parents, they always dreamt of sending me to a professional college for higher studies. Despite our poor financial condition, my parents tried their best to arrange fee for my education until school. However, after achieving a merit rank in the engineering entrance exam and securing a seat in the Jawaharlal Nehru National College of Engineering, Shivamogga, Karnataka, it got very difficult for my father to pay my college fee but as they say “hope is being able to see that there is a light beyond darkness”, I never gave up hope. Soon through FFE’s Facilitator-Mrs. Anathalakshmi from Karnataka, I got introduced to FFE. With her guidance, I applied and got selected for FFE’s scholarship; financial support during such decisive moment was a big mental relief for my family. Soon after BTech, I joined Mphasis Limited, an IT services company based in Bengaluru as a Software Developer. After 5 years of work experience at Mphasis, I moved to Calsoft Labs and later to Juniper Networks. As a certified Project Management Professional, today I am working as Technical Program Manager at Google, Bengaluru (thanks to my husband for the support) in the security and privacy space.

I urge each one of you to come together and contribute to FFE’s Circle of giving. This will help create a better and engaging community for future India.”

3. VOLUNTEER SPEAK

Mr. Goswami Prafulgiri
Tribhuavangiri
FFE Facilitator
Rajkot, Gujarat

“Mr. Goswami Prafulgiri Tribhuavangiri, M.A, B.Ed., has been working in the field of education since 1981. Currently serving as a Managing Trustee & Principal in a Secondary School of Sankul city, Gujarat, Mr. Goswami is actively associated with various NGO’s like Bharat Vikas Parishad, Arpan Foundation and Nagarik Sahakari Bank working towards the upliftment of society. His wife, Ms. Shobhana Goswami, retired in 2005 as a Corporator in Rajkot Municipal Corporation.

“I was introduced to FFE 12 years ago through my friends based in America, Mr. Bhupenbhai Mehta and Mr. Naginibhai Jagda, who assigned me to be FFE’s facilitator. To date, I have introduced more than 130 eligible scholars to FFE and that that has given me immense satisfaction. I consider this one of my greatest achievements - to be able to serve and help such brilliant yet needy students.”

4. DONOR FEATURE

Siva & Royan Foundation, Bangalore, Karnataka

Mr. T C Meenakshisundaram
Siva & Royan Foundation

Siva and Royan Foundation, has been associated with FFE since 2017, supporting the education of engineering and medical scholars. This year the foundation extended its support to FFE scholars through COVID-19 Relief fund and also donating towards GuideStar renewal certification for FFE. FFE is deeply grateful to Siva and Royan Foundation for their invaluable support towards FFE’s mission.

“I have been associated with Foundation For Excellence India Trust for almost a decade as a donor at my personal level. I started a Foundation in my parents’ name in 2017 with my wife Karpagavalli to support deserving, underprivileged students for scholarships in higher education. Our goal matched that of FFE India Trust’s scholarship program in continuing our support to engineering and medical students. Starting with four students, we are happy to sponsor ten students during 2021-22. We appreciate FFE in going beyond scholarships with skill development and mentorships. FFE’s role to guide them with webinars and required training sessions has helped them to bridge the gap created by the pandemic crisis.

FFE India Trust’s transparency and accountability and its association with platforms like Give India and GuideStar India has given us great comfort and its donor-based reporting kept us updated well about our scholars’ progress. The open house sessions were interesting and interactive to bring donors close to the scholars. We are excited to know that the scholars supported by us have been placed well in the industry. The contribution of the alumni through the Circle of Giving program touching lives like them is truly commendable. During the Covid-19 pandemic, FFE India Trust has been playing a significant role in supporting its scholars morally and financially. With 7500 scholars awarded, we wish FFE India Trust every success in its march towards supporting 10,000 scholars soon.”

Connect With Us
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