

# inFocus

"The object of education was to produce a desire to serve the community as a whole and to apply the Knowledge gained not only for personal but for public welfare."

Jawaharlal Nehru

India's first Prime Minister

Jan-Mar 2023



pg 8

**103%  
Increased  
Intake Of  
Female  
Scholars**

**Supporting  
13,575  
bright minds  
to pursue  
their  
dreams of  
higher  
education**

read more.... pg 2-3

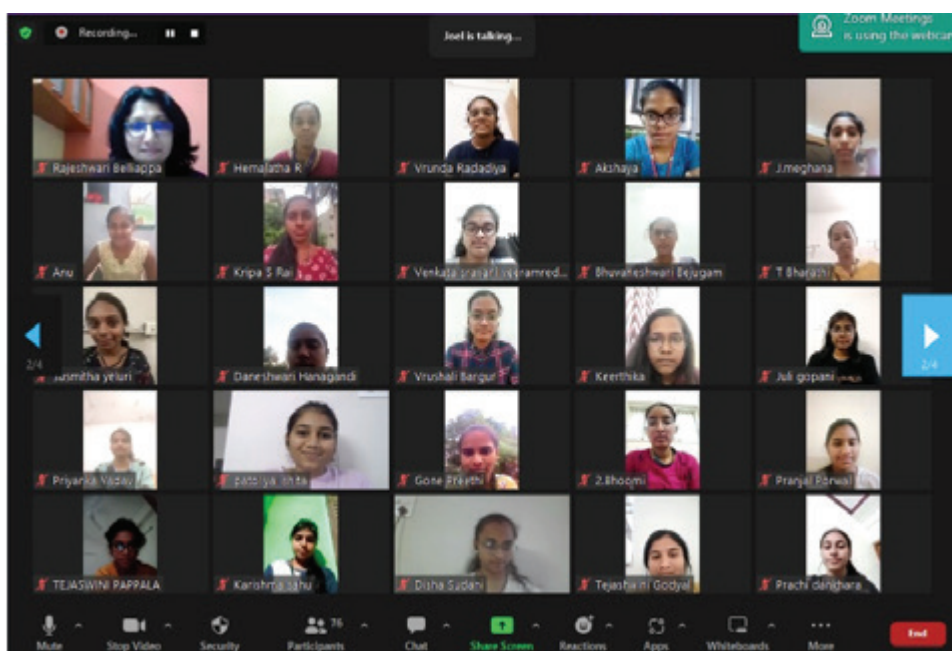


FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENCE

"Technology is at the core of what we do at Tesco Bengaluru. We believe in being agile to adapt to the dynamic technology environment and invest in ensuring that our employees are future ready. To meet the technology needs of tomorrow, it is imperative to hone the talent today."



pg 15



Scholars meeting Merkle employees pg 7

## Message from Dr. Sudha Kidao Managing Trustee, FFEIT



Dear Friends,

I am delighted and proud to announce that FFE has just completed a year of significant firsts' including, among others:

1. The highest number of students (13,575) awarded scholarships to date in a single year amounting to Rs. 59.59 Crores in scholarships.
2. Maximum number of women (40%) onboarded into the program as first-time scholarship awardees.
3. Increasing alumni participation in all of FFE's programs (financial contributions, mentoring, volunteering, fund raising through CSR partnerships)
4. 1200+ students mentored by individuals from 80+ corporates, including Engineers, Lawyers, Technocrats, Biotechnologists, Pharmacists and many more.

We achieved these significant milestones, thanks to the unwavering support of our partners and collaborators throughout, including our donors (Corporates, Foundations and Individuals), alumni, volunteers (Facilitators and mentors) and our 50+ NGO partners. More details of how our supporters helped achieve these results is further elaborated in Ram Kolavennu's message.

On behalf of FFE, my hearty congratulations to all the FFE Scholarship Awardees of FY 2022-23!

As you are aware, FFE seeks to bring transformational change in a gifted student's life within a generation as envisioned by FFE's Founders, Dr. Prabhu and Mrs. Poonam Goel. Hence, in addition to awarding scholarships, the FFE Scholarship Program offers a distinctive and holistic ecosystem of support- including learning, developmental and networking opportunities that will benefit scholars both during their time as FFE Scholarship Awardees and in their future careers as they transition to alumni. The vibrant and dynamic ecosystem that drives change and creates impact includes the participation of 1000's of volunteers throughout India, and grants from partners that enabled us to leverage social media to attain wide reach and publicity.

FFE's unique Pay Forward Model has resulted in many 'lost' alumni reconnecting with FFE to contribute in myriad ways, and joining the strong foundation of alumni donors that continues to grow. Our alumni undoubtedly are the strongest champions of the cause, whose involvement and contributions are critical to the future of the Foundation.

Thank you to the Board of Trustees for their enthusiastic support and guidance on all our programs. I also want to gratefully acknowledge and thank the FFE team, whose enthusiasm, passion, commitment, dedication, and relentless efforts year round, under the leadership of Ram Kolavennu, COO of FFE India Trust, has made FY 2022-23 a year of new beginnings!

Looking forward to your continued support in the years ahead.

## Message from Ram Kolavennu, COO, FFEIT



Dear Friends,

As we close out another impactful year, I want to express my sincerest thanks to everyone involved in making this happen. It has been a challenging year, but thanks to our collective efforts, we have achieved a great deal.

This could not have been possible without - the Generosity of Donors (2,458), the Guidance of Mentors (1,241), the Commitment of Alumni (1,530), Hard work of selfless Volunteers (1,027) and our eco-system partners and other NGOs (52).

While the numbers are evident, the work that has gone behind achieving this is significant. First and foremost on the list is FFE's call out and reach to the most deserving students across the country. We received 23,016 applications this year for scholarships – we have received more applications from girls than boys for the first time ever.

- Our Volunteer facilitators have put in lot of hard work in ensuring the right student is selected for scholarship – 7,112 physical/virtual meetings were completed to screen new applicants.
- 13% of the new scholarships were awarded to students who were referred by FFE's partner NGOs who are working with underprivileged school students. Support that we have been receiving from our donors has been significant.
- 2/3rd of our Corporate donors and Foundations have substantially increased the number of students they are supporting.
- 23 new CSR partners have joined hands with FFE this year
- Our alumni have directly contributed Rs. 2.04 Cr and through referrals and connects (CSR and colleagues/networks) another Rs.1.75 Cr have come in

Through this collective effort we have been able to support many deserving students this year. It is however heart-breaking not to be able to provide support to every deserving and eligible student – we hope to continue to narrow the gap in the coming years.

Employability skills and Mentoring initiatives are ensuring that the scholars are settling well in their careers after graduation.

- 10,674 training sessions were conducted during the year
- 1,241 volunteers from industry have mentored 3rd Year students and prepared them well for internships and placements
- 81% of the Engineering class graduating in June 2023 have already secured jobs with an average Salary of ~ Rs. 11 Lakhs per annum.

To our dedicated staff, I am in awe of your unwavering commitment and tireless efforts for the success of our mission. Your professionalism, teamwork, and passion for excellence are the cornerstones of our continued growth and impact.

Thank you all once again – looking forward to working with you all in creating greater impact in the coming year.

### Mrs. Rumki Fernandes meets 15 FFE Scholars

Facilitated by FFE, a virtual donor scholar engagement was conducted on 4th Feb 2023 for Mrs. & Mr. Michael Fernandes and their 15 supported scholars. 3 Scholars took this opportunity to introduce themselves, discuss their academic progress, training and skilling sessions they recently attended and their career aspirations along with placement status. Final year students shared and highlighted the role of FFE's training and mentorship programs on their job preparedness and final placement.

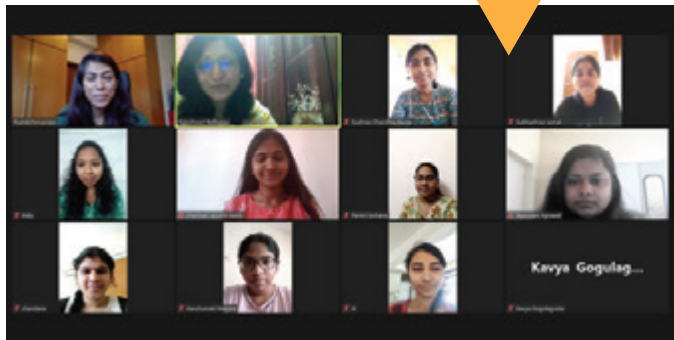
Mrs. Rumki Fernandes interacted and shared essential tips on career readiness and also offered to support and guide students post their graduation as well. FFE remains grateful to Mrs. & Mr. Michael Fernandes for their time and continued support to FFE and its scholars.

FFE is thankful to JTF for offering mentorship support and internship opportunities to students and for making these virtual interactions possible.



### Donors meet with scholarship awardees of the Mrs. Sushila D'Souza Memorial Scholarship Program

A virtual donor scholar meet-up was held for the scholars and alumni supported under FFE- Mrs. Sushila D'Souza Memorial Scholarship program on Feb 23, 2023. The event was a heartwarming and inspiring experience for all involved as the scholars shared their stories of how the scholarship has impacted their lives and allowed them to pursue their dreams.



### Meet up with the FFE- Joy Thomas Foundation ( JTF) scholars

Twelve FFE- Joy Thomas Foundation scholars studying in colleges across India interacted virtually with Mr. Balaji Shyam Kumar Lead-College STEM & Mrs. Janaki Krishnaswamy, Lead-Mentoring JTF on 11th February 2023. The students were introduced to the sponsors, JTF and its mission of 'Positively impacting STEM education, careers and research worldwide'. The interactive virtual session covered topics including Job readiness, focusing on the importance of soft skills, communication skills, building networks and importance of interacting with a Mentor to guide in goal setting and attainment. The event left everyone feeling inspired and motivated to continue supporting the education of deserving students.

During the meet-up, the scholars talked about the challenges they faced and how the scholarship has helped them overcome those challenges and achieve their goals. They also shared their aspirations and future plans. The meet-up not only served as a platform for the scholars to express their gratitude and share their experiences, but also an opportunity for the donors to witness the impact of their support firsthand, and were undoubtedly touched and proud of the scholars' achievements. They reiterated their commitment to the scholarship program and expressed their joy in seeing the scholars excel and succeed. The late Mrs. Sushila D'Souza, in honour of whom the scholarship Program has been instituted, believed in the power of education and the donors echoed her sentiment by supporting the scholars in their pursuit of education.

## Visit to projects supported by Sarthak Foundation, Lucknow, a NGO partner of FFE

Sudha Kidao, Managing Trustee, FFE India Trust participated in Sarthak Foundation's (an FFE Partner) 10th Anniversary celebrations held in Lucknow on 25th Feb. 2023. Sarthak works with children 3-18 years belonging to economically marginalised communities. Through the concept of 'Yellow Rooms' established in 21 slum communities in Lucknow, Sarthak provides students a robust after school program in a safe environment. Sarthak offers opportunities for a holistic education including skilling, and empowers students in the process. Sarthak students in the higher grades, interested in STEM fields were introduced to FFE' scholarship program and were provided details of the eligibility criteria for scholarships. This was an aspirational goal for many students who attended the information session.



Addressing the senior students of Sathak Foundation (from different Yellow Rooms).



Assembly at Sarthak Gurukul, with Founder, Kshama Hastak (far right)



Dr. S Kidao interacting with Senior students at the Science Fair, Sarthak Gurukul, Village Sonari, Sitapur Dist



## FFE US Participates in India Giving Day

Foundation For Excellence actively participated in the 1st India Giving Day on March 2nd 2023, organized by India Philanthropy Alliance (IPA) a network of leading India-focused non-profits, in the U.S.

FFE US President Ms. Minoo Gupta spoke about the 'Joy of Giving' in her podcast with TAL Radio

<https://player.fm/series/talradio/joy-of-giving-with-minoo-gupta-india-giving-day-special>

The campaign, which culminated in a national day of giving to India, attracted more than 1,000 unique donors contributing \$1,376,262 directed to 25 NGOs to support various humanitarian and environmental causes in India.

## Donors Mr. Ramesh Kacholia and Mr. Babu Joseph visit FFE India Trust, Bangalore- 3rd March, 2023

FFE was honored and delighted to host FFE's long time donors and supporters Mr. Ramesh Kacholia and Mr. Babu Joseph to FFE India Trust, Bangalore on 3rd March 2023. Their visit to meet the FFE team and learn in-depth about all of FFE's initiatives was both inspiring and informative.

Mr. Kacholia and Mr. Joseph are inspiring philanthropists, who have been associated with FFE for the last 8+ years. Mr. Ramesh Kacholia, founded Caring Friends (CF) Mumbai, in 2002, a very effective and informal group of friends, who serve as a bridge between outstanding NGOs and donors. FFE has been fortunate to be awarded grants through CF and their supporters for several years. Today CF is associated with more than 30 NGO's in 10 states of India, that work on education initiatives, children, women, farmers, physically challenged and others.

Dr. Sudha Kidao highlighted the number of students whose lives were impacted by the scholarships funded by CF, including personal donations and grants from Bengal Finance and Arpan Foundation. The new initiatives implemented by FFE including the skills training and mentoring were discussed. FFE is thankful to Mr. Babu Joseph, for his generous grants to support students and for his interest and commitment to engage with FFE scholars regularly.

Mr. Kacholia's and Mr. Babu Joseph's dedication to creating impact across different domains in India has been remarkable in their effort to drive social change. Their visit was inspiring and motivating to the larger FFE team as well.



Sudha Kidao with Mr. Ramesh Kacholia (center) and Mr. Babu Joseph

## MoU signed between FFE and CII Indian Women Network



CII Chairperson Ms. Sheetal Pai Kane, CII Co-Chair Sonia Kuncalinekar and Ram Kolavennu COO FFE India Trust.

Confederation of Indian Industry, Indian Women Network (CII IWN) & FFE signed an MoU on 3rd March in Goa. This partnership focuses on encouraging more girls to pursue higher education in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields, where there is a great need for such talent with resulting higher employability opportunities as well.

CII IWN will help in reaching out to their extensive network to spread awareness about FFE's Scholarship program. Through this new partnership, FFE looks forward to more academically brilliant and financially needy girl students benefitting from FFE's scholarship and other interventions.

## Donor Scholar Meet with IIT Delhi Alumni - FFE scholars

On March 1st, 2023, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT-D) Alumni (Batch of 1984) had the first virtual Donor-Scholar interaction with 25 FFE Engineering scholars supported by them studying at their alma mater, IIT-D. Mr. Jagsagar Chand one of the key members of the association spearheaded the program and brought together his batchmates from across the world to connect with the supported scholars.

During the event the students expressed their gratitude to the donors for their support and how the scholarship has helped them to overcome financial difficulties. The virtual meet was a wonderful opportunity for the donors to build meaningful relationships with the scholars while sharing their own journeys and reminiscing about the years spent at their Alma Mater. The session was highly interactive with donors and scholars enthusiastically listening to each other's stories and aspirations. The donors encouraged the scholars to rise against the odds and expressed their commitment to supporting and mentoring them throughout their academic journey.

The virtual interaction was a powerful reminder of the impact that philanthropy can have on the lives of scholars. It highlighted the importance of supporting education and providing opportunities to talented students who may face financial barriers.

FFE is thankful to IIT Delhi Alumni , Batch of 1984 for taking the time to interact with and motivate young scholars and look forward to more of such interactions in the future.

## Donor Scholar meet with FFE-Spark Scholarship Awardees

The first Donor-Scholar meet with students under the 'Spark Scholarship Program' supported by Merkle India was held on 23rd March 2023.

Merkle, a leading global data-driven performance marketing agency, held its first virtual meet up with its cohort of 86 meritorious but financially disadvantaged



Engineering scholars. The virtual event aimed to provide an opportunity for the scholarship recipients to interact with each other, as well as with their donors, and to receive insights and guidance on how to maximize the benefits of the scholarship.

The meet-up kicked off with opening remarks from FFE's Managing Trustee, Dr. Sudha Kidao, who welcomed the team from Merkle and thanked them for their commitment to offering support in academic pursuits of the bright and financially deserving scholars. Speaking on the occasion, Merkle's CSR team representative and Vice President HR, Mr. Joel Gonsalves emphasized that Merkle's scholarship program is not just about providing financial support to students, but also about fostering a culture of excellence and innovation in the field of Engineering.

The scholars then had the opportunity to introduce themselves and share their backgrounds, academic interests, and future aspirations. This was followed by an interactive session, wherein Merkle leaders, shared their personal career journeys and highlighted various opportunities that are available to aspiring Engineers. They also provided guidance on how to navigate the challenges of studies, and how to leverage their scholarship to maximize their career prospects.

We express our heartfelt thanks to Merkle for joining hands with FFE on its mission and look forward to their continued support in the coming years.

## 'LinkedIn Coaches' event in Bangalore and Gurgaon

FFE is committed to the holistic development of its scholars and seeks to provide its scholars guidance, support and exposure to real world situations through interaction with industry experts. One such opportunity, of one-on-one career guidance with industry experts was recently provided to FFE Scholars by LinkedIn through its 'LinkedIn Coach Session', a unique volunteering platform to provide mentorship to students on career development.

On 24th March, 62 FFE Engineering scholars from 2nd, 3rd and 4th year, participated in the events held at the LinkedIn offices in Bangalore and Gurgaon. During the event, FFE scholars got an opportunity to interact with LinkedIn coaches and received valuable inputs and tips on building and expanding their professional network, creating personal branding on social platforms and other career relevant guidance which will undoubtedly help the scholars in their future careers.

FFE would like to thank the #socialimpact team at LinkedIn for providing this wonderful opportunity to FFE scholars and inspiring young and bright minds with such a unique learning experience.

*"A dream is not that which you see while sleeping, it is something that does not let you sleep."*

Abdul Kalam  
President of India



LinkedIn Mentors



LinkedIn Mentors In Training



LinkedIn Mentors and Mentees



## B. MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

FFE's Mentorship program is committed to providing timely career guidance to its Mentees through interactions with industry experts for a positive and impactful outcome. FFE's Mentoring Program 2022-23 received an overwhelming response from both Mentors and Mentees. As of March 2023, 70% of the 1241 Mentor-Mentee pairs have completed the mandatory 4 Mentoring modules on soft skills. The remaining 30% of the pairs are at different stages of program completion.

On completion of the Program, FFE will collect feedback from both Mentors and Mentees to measure impact, gain a better understanding of their overall mentoring experience and also to identify areas for improvement. FFE is thankful to the numerous corporate employee volunteers, FFE's Alumni mentors and individuals for their participation in FFE's, one of a kind, Mentorship program.

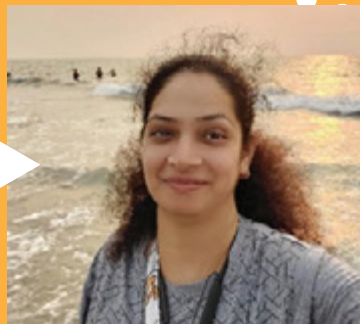
### MENTEE TESTIMONIAL



**Jash Kumar Roy**  
**3rd Year, Mathematics and Computing**  
**IIT Guwahati**

"First of all, I want to thank FFE team for organizing this fantastic Mentorship program into which I recently enrolled. It has been a learning experience for me; I feel much more confident in conversing in English in my day-to-day life as also while preparing for interviews. Kshitija Ma'am has been a great mentor as well as a good teacher. She used to talk to me before every session which helped me overcome my hesitation and allowed me to express my thoughts more freely to her. The assignments given along with mentoring modules were helpful for me in maximizing my output. I am very grateful to FFE and Kshitija Ma'am for mentoring and guidance."

### MENTOR TESTIMONIAL



**Ms. Kshitija Vaidya**  
**Vice President-RBL Bank**

"I entered the mentoring program, as I was mentored by someone about 19 years ago, and whatever I am today is all because of him. The mentoring journey was very exciting. I could see my inquisitive self in my mentee many times. Also, it brought a great deal of satisfaction when he looked up to me for small, intriguing questions. I learned a lot from my Mentee as well, mainly the effort he used to put to stay connected regardless of the quality of network connection, and also his enthusiasm was very infectious.

Being a Mentor took me to my old days where you had childlike innocence in asking questions and the required restlessness which kept intriguing you about the smallest problems. Personally, the program helped me to connect with my daughter more because she keeps on asking questions with a lot of innocence and is eager to learn. On the professional front, it helped me gain clarity on many basic concepts on communication skills and problem solving. I would love to continue mentoring, it has been an exciting and enriching experience."

## C. SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

FFE's Skill Training Program empowers scholars with the required soft and technical skills to become job-ready to enter the workforce and bridge existing gaps in the academic curriculum.

Cohort	Training Programs	No. of scholars	Supported by
2021-22 (2nd Year Engi-neering Scholars)	AMCAT Baseline Assessment	2636	Unrestricted Funds
	English Training-Enguru	2178	MSDF & Capgemini
	Aptitude – Ethnus & FACE	1000	MSDF & Capgemini
2020-21 (3rd Year Engineering Scholars)	AMCAT Midline Assessment	1412	MSDF
	IT Reskilling – Coursera	715	
	Hi Touch English	555	
B Pharm (2nd year)	English	50	Mr. Chirag Patel & Mr. Kanu Bhai Patel; Unrestricted Funds
	Coursera	50	
Law (2nd year)	English	37	Mr. Mahesh Krishnamurthy

**FLY – Finding the Leader in You (FLY)** is a 12-day leadership course conducted by CMI – the Competitive Mindset Institute, Inc. to teach non-cognitive skills for personality and character development of students. Starting in 2021, 807 FFE scholars have participated in the program so far with 96 - 2nd year Engineering scholars participating in the program held in the last quarter .

## C. SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

### Other Skill Training Programs conducted in the last quarter

#### Oracle Webinar

In January 2023, Oracle conducted a series of technical webinars for FFE's Engineering scholars, on topics ranging from Cloud Computing, Database Technologies & Data Warehousing and AI & ML. FFE would like to thank Oracle speakers Mr. Divyanshu Shekar – OCI| DATA| Cloud Platform; Mr. Chetan Sharma Pinupa, Development Manager at Oracle in India and Dr. Madalasa Venkataraman, Director, Data Science at Oracle for conducting such engaging & interactive sessions for FFE's engineering (2nd to 4th year) scholars from CS/IT Streams..

#### Amazon Future Engineer Boot Camp

A pilot bootcamp organized by Amazon with 200 AFE-FFE scholars begun in January 2023. The 6-month intensive training program on DSA in Java includes 22 topics covered through weekly live sessions, assignments and doubt clearing sessions and assessments with mentors.

#### TiE Entrepreneurship Program

On 4th March 2023, a pilot batch of 25, 2nd and 3rd year Engineering scholars started the Entrepreneurship program by TiE, a program aimed at fostering future generations of entrepreneurs. The 8-week course, held over weekends, trains scholars in entrepreneurship skills, ideation and business basics followed by one-on-one and group mentoring sessions with Coaches.. The Program will conclude with a pitch night, with an award for the best Entrepreneurship idea.

*“Education is the key that unlocks the golden door to freedom.”*

**George Washington Carver**

Was born into slavery and ultimately became one of the greatest scientists and inventors, as well as a pioneering educator. Carver was the first Black student and faculty member at Iowa State University.

#### Medical webinar for MBBS scholars

On 11th March, a medical webinar on Pediatric heart disease was conducted by Dr. Kavya Mallikarjun (MBBS, MD -Pediatric , FNB- Pediatric cardiology) a Consultant Interventional Pediatric Cardiologist at Manipal Hospital, Bangalore. The webinar was attended by close to 350 participants and covered a range of topics related to pediatric heart disease.

Dr. Mallikarjun started the webinar by discussing the clinical approach to pediatric heart disease and emphasized the importance of early diagnosis and intervention. She explained the different types of congenital heart diseases, their symptoms, and the various treatment options available. Next, Dr. Mallikarjun talked about acquired heart diseases, and discussed the common types of acquired heart diseases in children, their causes, and treatment options.

The webinar concluded with an interactive Q&A session where participants had the opportunity to ask questions and clarify their doubts with Dr. Mallikarjun. Overall, the webinar was an informative and engaging session that provided valuable insights about pediatric heart disease

## SCHOLAR TESTIMONIALS: SKILLING

"I am Nandini, currently pursuing BTech (3rd year) in Chemical Engineering at IIT BHU, Varanasi. In 2nd year, I started preparing for a software development position taking help from online tutorials that were not very structured. Later, I developed curiosity in Data Science; however, to prepare for this career profile I needed a proper plan and guidance. This was the time when I got this fantastic opportunity from FFE to learn through various Coursera training programs. I enrolled myself for "Python for Everybody Specialization," where I got a chance to learn Python. It was a handy course that helped me understand the basics of Python programming in a simplified way. I completed this course and received a certificate. These courses were well structured and were easy to understand.

Currently I am attending the "Data Analysis and Machine Learning with python" course from the IBM, Data Science Professional Certificate course in the Coursera portal. Through this program, I believe that I can learn every concept that I need for my job preparation in more detail. I am very grateful to Foundation for Excellence (FFE) for providing us with such a golden opportunity at no cost and for being with us whenever needed. I would like to recommend others to make use of such initiatives, which can take them a step ahead in their academics and careers."

"I am currently studying in 2nd year, B Pharm at the Government College of Pharmacy, Aurangabad, Maharashtra, I am thankful to FFE for not just providing the scholarship but also helping us develop employability skills by organizing various skilling & training programs. I personally found 'Enguru', an App based program, most helpful in improving my English grammar, vocabulary and communication skills. 'Enguru' Online sessions and progress reports helped me keep track of my progress and know my strengths and weaknesses. It was one of my best learning experiences and credit goes to FFE."



**Ediga Nandini**  
BTech 3rd Year, Chemical  
Engineering, IIT,  
Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi



**Omkar Kantasing Pardeshi**  
BPharm 2nd year  
Govt. College of Pharmacy,  
Aurangabad

## D. VOICE OF SCHOLAR

### Current Scholar:



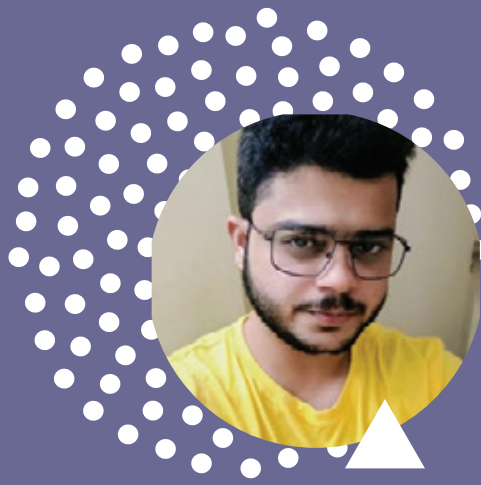
**Pradim Siwa**  
4th Year, BTech  
Scholar,  
Mathematics  
and Computing  
Indian Institute of  
Technology, Delhi

*inFocus*

Pradim hails from the Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal. A family of four, Pradim lives with his parents and sister. His father is a laborer in the tea gardens, and the family remains dependent on his income, approximately INR 45,000, annually. Pradim's mother manages the home. With very little to spare and often running short, Pradim's family have often struggled financially. Despite this, Pradim's parents have always encouraged their children to study and excel academically. Given that both his parents had little access to education, they had understood the importance of education and supported their children. Pradim remained motivated and had an outstanding academic record throughout his school, Pradim passed class 12 with 94.60 % and secured a rank of 10,474 in JEE Advanced gaining admission to Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT-D). Inspired by other scholars like him to persevere, he was aware that without financial support, his academic journey would have been cut short. "It was my proudest moment when I was selected as an Indus-AWOO FFE scholar! I want to become a successful software engineer. But without financial support, I would have had no option but to take a loan at a high interest rate or give up on my dream. Thank you, for your generosity!"

Maintaining a GPA of 7.7 over six semesters, Pradim has been actively participating in FFE's Skill Training Initiatives as well. Apart from academics, Pradim has a knack for coding and loves music.

Today, his hard work has earned him an impressive placement at Wells Fargo, and he is looking forward to the new chapter in his life! Realizing the potential of a degree, Pradim seeks to pay forward and help other meritorious students, especially those in slums who lack basic resources, Pradim believes that it is important to give back to society and is ready to start his "Pay-Forward" journey as he embarks on his career at Wells Fargo Bank.



**Akshay Hegde**  
Bangalore  
Institute of  
Technology  
(2013-2017)  
Data Analyst,  
Fiserv India Pvt. Ltd.,  
Bangalore

“I was born to a middle-class family in a village called Bilgi, in Bagalkot district of Karnataka, where I also completed my schooling (until 12th grade). My family’s main source of income was agriculture, and hence we were totally dependent on the crops that were cultivated each year. Since I was academically adept and keen about my grades, my parents worked very hard to ensure my education was not hampered. I passed 12th grade with a good score and was admitted into Bangalore Institute of Technology, to pursue Electronics and Communication Engineering.

It was a dream come true, but it also brought with it so many challenges and fears! For a middle-class boy to leave his family behind and relocate to a city was not easy – the new environment, new friends, higher cost of living were all new challenges.. As I prepared to move to Bangalore, one of my relatives told us about an NGO that supports bright students, who cannot financially support their education. This was the answer to my prayers – FFE was my guiding light!!

My Engineering days were the best days of my student life – with FFE not only supporting my education, they also helped mentor and guide me. Apart from this I also got to meet and connect with other FFE students and alumni - What else could one ask for? This was amazing!! I graduated with distinction and got my first job with Fiserv in 2018.

Today, I can say I am independent and financially stable only because of the big role FFE played in my life! I am currently a part of FFE’s Circle of Giving and will continue to help as much as possible. The feeling of giving back is amazing. Unless you try it you will never know it!! I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to FFE for all the great work it does and for always being the helping hand to deserving students.”

## E. DONOR FEATURE

**Ms. Manvi Bansal**  
**CSR Manager- TESCO**  
**Bengaluru**



“Technology is at the core of what we do at Tesco Bengaluru. We believe in being agile to adapt to the dynamic technology environment and invest in ensuring that our employees are future ready. To meet the technology needs of tomorrow, it is imperative to hone the talent today.

Through this partnership with Foundation for Excellence for Project NextGen, we aim to build technology leaders. We are proud of the cohort of our 200 FFE-Tesco scholars. It delights us to see them shine and fulfil their dreams and takes us multiple steps closer to our vision of better access to technical education for all genders.

Thank you FFE for this collaboration! Here's to building a stronger partnership!”

## FACILITATOR FEATURE

**Mrs. Tamilarasi Venkatachalam**  
**HOD, Electrical and Electronics Engineering (Retd)**  
**Murugappa Polytechnic College, Avadi, Tamil Nadu**



“I was introduced to FFE as a Facilitator early in 1996 by one of my industry friends, Mr Srinivasan. From him, I understood how the scholars are being selected based on their economical background and consistency in academic performance and was interested in ways to participate in the program.

On completing my undergraduate studies in Electronics and Communication Engineering, BE (Hons) in 1981, my Post Graduation, ME (Control Systems) in 1983, I started my career in teaching at the PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore until 1988. From then on, I moved to Murugappa Polytechnic College, Avadi, Chennai and retired in 2018 as the Head of Department, Electrical and Electronics Engineering.

I really was happy to identify one of my students as an FFE scholar, who was the top performer in her class by studying only with the chimney lamp, living under a thatched roof. The FFE scholarship helped her complete her studies successfully.

Few of my students, who completed their education as FFE scholars, even lent a helping hand to other students with similar backgrounds and needs. FFE is to be appreciated for inculcating such a valuable character in them.

I have referred more than 200 FFE students, from Engineering Colleges, Medical Colleges, and now BPharm students as well and have inculcated a good relationship with these 200 financially disadvantaged families as well.. During the Corona period, I even volunteered and handled Online Yoga Cum mental wellness programs for my FFE students and their families. As a Facilitator, keeping in touch with the scholars as well as their families is important to me and helps nourish this relationship.”

**To learn more about Foundation For Excellence and their work, visit <https://ffe.org/>.**