



Amazon Students Meet



## DONOR FEATURE

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## SABERA Awards Recognizes FFEIT Managing Trustee Dr. Sudha Kidao with prestigious 'Change Maker' Accolade



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Microsoft Event, Delhi

Dear Friends,

Our FFE family has grown to include over 13,000 students and thousands of alumni and donors worldwide, supported by our ever-dedicated volunteers. FFE's Scholarships team has been working tirelessly to review renewal applications and expedite the process for awarding scholarships for the year 2023-24. All the while also working with our numerous NGO partners and volunteers to amplify awareness of our scholarship program so that more qualifying applicants throughout India have the opportunity to apply. Applications by women and persons with disabilities underscore our commitment to fostering inclusion, diversity and equity in this highly competitive field of professional education. We are grateful to our donors, whose timely contributions have enabled students to meet their college expenses when they need them the most. And congratulations to all the FFE scholarship awardees!

FFE Founders Dr. Prabhu and Mrs. Poonam Goel's vision to maximise impact and create transformational change in a single generation has manifested in our unique 'Beyond Scholarships' program. Now in its sixth year, the structured skills training program and robust mentoring program, along with numerous learning opportunities through webinars and certification courses, funded generously by donors, have played a pivotal role in sustaining students' interest in academics and beyond. Supporting career aspirations and preparing students for a rapidly changing professional world, with new and in-demand skill sets, remains a key area of focus at FFE.

The unprecedented number of applications we have received is humbling and disconcerting... that so many need our help. We appeal to you to please expand your support where possible so that, together, we can facilitate the success of gifted students <https://ffeus.org/donate/>. Please join us in supporting these scholars through our participation in India Giving Day on March 1st, 2024 and make it happen for these deserving students. <https://www.indiagivingday.org/organizations/foundation-for-excellence-ffe>

Regards,  
Minoo



**Message from  
Minoo Gupta,  
President,  
Foundation for  
Excellence**

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on the vibrant period from October to December, filled with festive cheer, we are delighted to share the latest highlights and accomplishments at FFE. This quarter has been particularly meaningful as we witness the fulfillment of pledges made by FFE Gala donors during the SV23 Gala event.

We are excited to announce that FFE was selected for a grant of \$150,000 from an East coast-based Family Foundation. Following meticulous research, the foundation chose FFE as the recipient to support the education of children in India. This grant will have a profound impact on the educational journey of 50 female scholars, and we express our heartfelt gratitude to the Family Foundation for their unwavering support.

In addition, one of our FFE Alumni Board members organized a successful fundraiser inside Google, drawing contributions from 93 new donors. These individuals, who joined us through the Google donation platform, show great potential to become significant FFE donors in the future. Their support fortifies our mission and opens doors to empower more bright minds in underprivileged families.

Taking a step into the world of technology, we hosted a groundbreaking technical webinar on AWS and generative AI. Featuring a senior AWS architect from the Bay Area, this session was attended by 508 FFE scholars in India, providing them with valuable insights into the dynamic tech landscape. We invite anyone interested to contribute their expertise by hosting a webinar on technical or general management topics. Your knowledge can leave a lasting impact on our scholars, preparing them for the challenges of the modern world.

As we express our gratitude for your continued support, we want to acknowledge each one of you for being an integral part of the FFE family. Your dedication is transforming the lives of bright students from underprivileged families. Together, we continue to create a brighter and more promising future for the next generation.

Regards,  
Anil



**Message from  
Anil Kumar,  
Executive Director  
Foundation for  
Excellence**

## A. Donor-Scholar Engagements

### Virtual donor-scholar meet with Savita Sinha, San Jose, California, USA

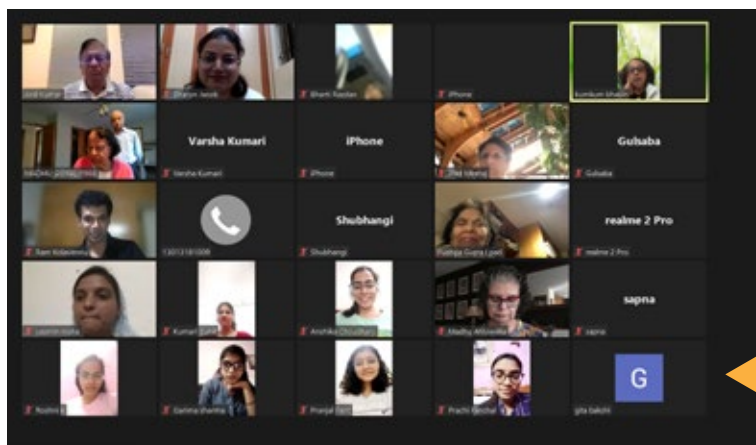
Our long term donor Savita Sinha met the scholars supported by her on Oct 27, 2023. Ms. Sinha met the scholars for the first time and was excited to interact and know more about their families and educational backgrounds. Out of the 8 scholars who attended the call, one scholar said, "I finally have a face to the name of the donor that I have been seeing on e-mails and whatsapp groups." After the virtual interaction Ms. Sinha said, "Thank you so much for arranging this meeting. Am truly humbled by the group of scholars. Their focus and stories were inspiring to listen to."

Ms. Sinha's husband Mr. Rajiv Sinha started donating to FFE in 2018 and Ms. Savita Sinha



decided to continue the sponsorship in his memory after he passed away recently. She also started an endowment donation in his memory sponsoring a scholar from the same college that he went to, IIT Kharagpur. She along with her son and daughter are now starting another endowment donation in memory of her father.

### Virtual donor-scholar meet with donors from Lady Hardinge Medical College Alumni Association of North America (LHMCAANA)



On 9th December 2023, members of the Lady Hardinge Medical College Alumni Association of North America (LHMCAANA) met their sponsored scholars in the Annual Donor Scholar Interaction Session.

The association between FFE and the Lady Hardinge Medical College Alumni Association of North America (LHMCAANA) began in 2020-21, with 9 scholars being supported by 6 LHMCAANA members. Currently, 25 LHMC scholars are

supported with the generosity of 19 donors and more donors have joined the cause in FY 2023-24.

21 LHMC scholars from various academic years attended the call and shared their experiences in college, their areas of difficulty and academic progress. Scholars expressed their gratitude and emphasized the importance of receiving the FFE scholarship to their academic journeys.

### Virtual donor-scholar meet with Dr. Sudha Kidao and Dr. Vivek Raghavan, Bengaluru, India



Dr. Sudha Kidao and Dr. Vivek Raghavan met their supported scholars on Oct 30, 2023. Dr. Kidao shared about their 20-year association with FFE in various capacities of being volunteers, donors, and now as Managing Trustee. During the meet-up, two Bpharm scholars, Gajera Ruchita and Yogesh Vallamwar shared their college experiences and their motivations for pursuing a pharmaceutical course. Gajera mentioned how her key objective is to ensure that her father, who has worked

hard all his life, gets complete rest and care when she starts to earn.

Vinod Kelageri and Koitoree Nag, both law scholars, shared their personal and academic progress with the donors. Koitoree spoke about her exciting journey as a Law scholar and her experiences of participating in Trial Courts. Dr. Raghavan who used to be the Chief Product Manager and Biometric Architect at the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) and Koitoree spoke about various issues such as privacy of information and their thoughts about the same. Dr. Kidao and Dr. Raghavan concluded the session by extending their best wishes to the scholars and expressing deep gratitude for being part of such inspiring stories.



### FFE Scholars Visit KLA Office in Chennai, India on 27th October 2023

25 scholars pursuing engineering degrees from various colleges in Chennai such as Madras Institute of Technology and IIT, Chennai were allowed to visit the KLA Office in Chennai on 27th October 2023. The half-day event was organized by KLA as part of their Volunteering Week and was curated to provide the scholars with an extremely relevant, informative, and valuable experience.

Being prominent figures in the semiconductor industry they provided meaningful insight into the intricate world of semiconductor testing and created awareness regarding possible career opportunities in the field.

The scholars also participated in hands-on, group-based activities encouraging fun, participative learning. 4th-year scholars were also trained to deal with prospective job interviews through sessions of mock interviews by KLA employees.

All the scholars who attended the event were provided with a digital certificate of participation by the KLA team.

### FFE-IDP Donor-Scholar Meet in Chennai, India



The first offline Donor-Scholar meet of FFE-IDP Scholarship Program was organized in the Chennai office of IDP Education on 12th October.

Organized in a hybrid mode, 18 scholars joined the meeting in person, and close to

75 scholars joined virtually, getting the opportunity to meet and interact with their Donor, IDP Education. This all-female cohort of FFE-IDP scholars is currently pursuing one of the four courses of BE/BTech, MBBS, BPharm, and Law.

With an introduction and icebreaker with the IDP Education Team, the meet kickstarted followed by an office tour and an interactive session. The scholars got the opportunity to experience the corporate workspace culture. This meet gave great exposure to the FFE-IDP scholars who met the IDP Education Team and interacted with fellow students in the cohort from different colleges and courses.

## FFE scholars visit to Collins Aerospace, Bangalore, India

On November 3, 2023, 40 FFE scholars seized a unique opportunity to explore Collins Aerospace's manufacturing facility. This enriching experience unfolded during Collins Aerospace's Manufacturing Week, leaving an indelible mark on our scholars.

The visit afforded our scholars the privilege of engaging with Collins Aerospace's leadership team, providing them with a firsthand glimpse into the intricate engineering processes behind the construction of various aircraft components.

Mr. Binu Krishnankutty, Senior Director of India Operation Management at Collins Aerospace, took the opportunity to address the theme of Industry 4.0 and the current challenges facing the world. He also inspired the scholars to cultivate a vision in their lives and diligently pursue it.

Additionally, Mr. Narasimha Shenoy, Principal Engineer for Lighting at Collins Aerospace in India, conducted an informative session on "Customer Centric Product Strategy." Mr. Vinayak Shridhar Hedge, Associate Engineer, delved into the intricacies of Product Life Cycle Management.

What added a special touch to this visit was the involvement of FFE Alumni currently employed at Collins Aerospace, who organized and facilitated the entire experience. AFE scholars met the AITC (Amazon in the community) leadership at the Amazon office on Dec 4th and Dec 5th.

On December 4th, the students went for an informal lunch with the AITC team at Hotel Sheraton and interacted with very senior people in Bangalore. Students came from different parts of the country to interact with the AITC team.

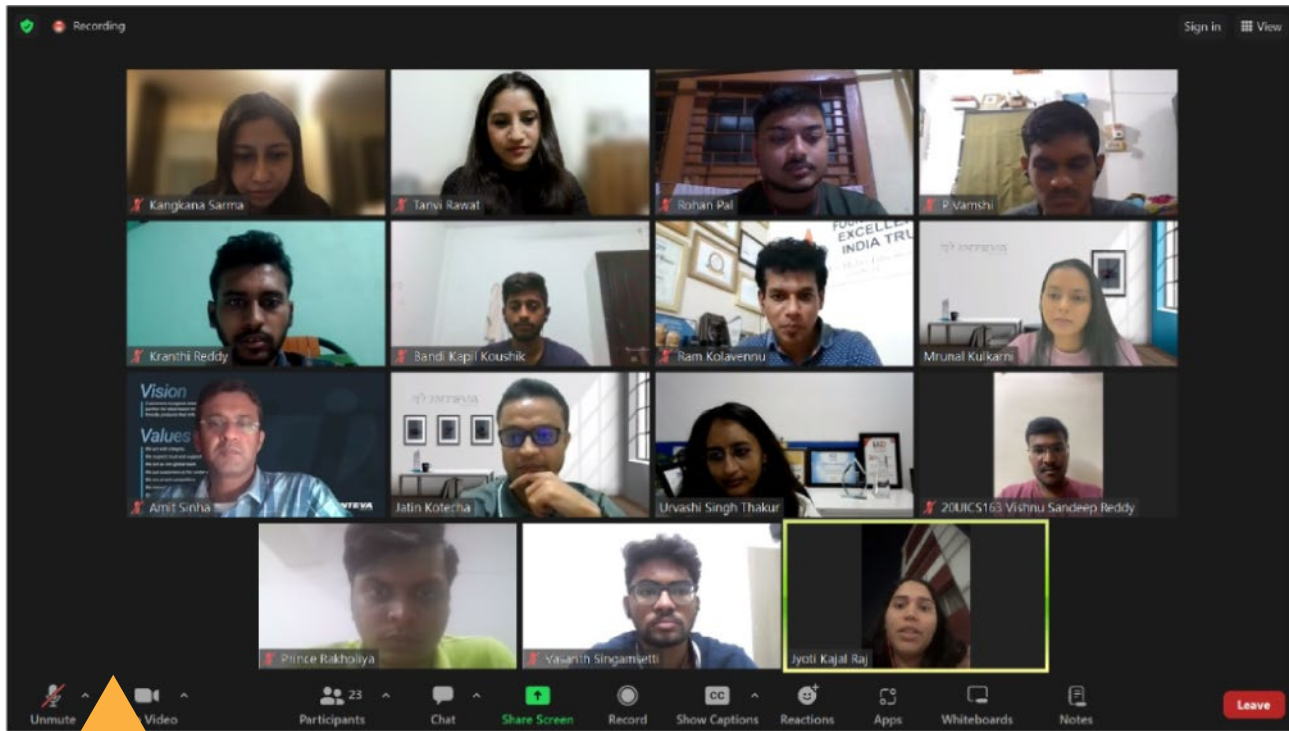
## AFE scholars meet with Amazon Leadership in Bangalore, India



On Dec 5th, the students had an in-depth conversation with the leadership team where questions like how did your internship go, was the stipend enough for your expenses, and what were the problems faced during the internship were asked to the scholars.

The scholars then went for a mentoring session with the tech Product head at Amazon and understood the potential of careers in tech in the coming years.

## Virtual session for scholars with Inteva Products



On 15th December 2023, a virtual interactive session was held between Inteva Products India Automotive Private Limited and their supported scholars. The attendees included Ms. Urvashi Singh Thakur, Director of Global Talent Management and India HR, Mr. Jatin Kotecha, Country Finance Manager, Ms. Mrunal Kulkarni, Company Secretary & Legal Associate, Mr. Amit Sinha, Chief Engineer Electronics, and Ms. Ramya R, Senior Manager in Finance & PSA, representing Inteva Products India Automotive Private Limited.

During the session, the FFE-Inteva Scholars expressed sincere gratitude to Inteva for their invaluable support and shared their scholarship journey. They highlighted how FFE's mentorship and skill training programs had played a pivotal role in preparing them for placement interviews, emphasizing the significance of these programs in their personal and professional development.

The representatives from Inteva extended guidance and encouragement to the scholars, emphasizing the pivotal role of academic excellence. They urged the scholars to prioritize their studies, assuring them that a strong academic foundation would pave the way for future job opportunities.

Inteva team also expressed keen interest in absorbing some of the talented FFE-Inteva Scholars into their workforce. FFE is thankful to Inteva for supporting FFE in its mission of supporting underprivileged and deserving scholars in pursuing higher education.

## B. SABERA Awards Recognizes FFEIT Managing Trustee Dr. Sudha Kidao with prestigious 'Change Maker' Accolade



On December 7th, Dr. Sudha Kidao, the Managing Trustee of FFE India Trust, received the prestigious "Change Maker" award during the 6th edition of SABERA Awards, hosted at Teen Murti Bhawan, New Delhi. This accolade not only acknowledged Dr. Sudha's exceptional contribution but also highlighted her impactful initiatives in social development, recognising her exemplary work in the Higher Education sector in India. The selection process for the awards was rigorous, with a total of 150 inspiring entries across various categories. During the event, Foundation For Excellence's accomplishments were showcased under the "Empowerment" category, where the organization was selected as a top finalist. The event brought together thought leaders, industry experts, and change-makers, all gathering to celebrate and discuss innovative solutions propelling sustainable development in India.

Chairing the jury for the third time, Ms. Renu Sud Karnad, Chair of the Board of Directors at GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals Ltd. and Vice Chair of the Governing Council at Indraprastha Cancer Society and Research Centre, led a distinguished panel of jury members. Notable names included Dr. Mukund Rajan (Chairperson of ECube Investment Advisors), Mr. Dinesh Chhabra (former CEO, Usha International), Mr. Richard Rekhy (Board Member – KPMG Dubai and Former Chief Executive Officer – KPMG India), Mr. Sanjay Prakash (Managing Director and CEO, SBI Foundation), Ms. Sujatha UG (Head-Global Partnerships & Multilaterals, Invest India Senior Advisor, WAIPA), and Ms. Aastha Grover (Head, Startup India, DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Vice President, Invest India).

Dr. Sudha's recognition at the SABERA Awards not only celebrates her individual achievements but also brings the spotlight to FFE's impactful work in the field of higher education in India. The award is a testament to FFE's commitment to empowering individuals through education creating a brighter future through quality education opportunities.

## C. Achieving the Gold Seal of Trust Certificate on Give:

Foundation for Excellence India Trust achieved the Gold Seal of trust after completing the due diligence process at Give. FFE's commitment to excellence, dedication to serve, and adherence to best practices helped in delivering large-scale projects to create the required impact on the ground and earn this accolade.

This remarkable achievement reflects our collective efforts to ensure that our organization adheres to the most rigorous standards of diligence in every aspect of our operations. Our diligence has not only safeguarded the interests of our beneficiaries but has also helped in earning the trust and confidence of our donors and other stakeholders.

As a recognition for achieving the Gold Seal of Trust, a certificate of excellence was awarded to FFE to celebrate this achievement.



## D. Give - Due Diligence Visit to FFE Office (10th November 2023)

Ms. Priyam Agarwalla from the Give Team visited the FFE Office on the 10th of November, 2023, as part of the Due Diligence Visit with the NGO partners.

As part of the due diligence process, she met 8 of Give India's Beneficiaries at the FFE office and another 6 beneficiaries over a virtual call, all of them studying at various Engineering and medical colleges in Bangalore. The interaction was mainly to understand the current activities at college, the skills training and the mentoring support provided by FFE, and the academic performances and extracurricular activities of the sponsored scholars.





**Aditi Chouhan**

**4th Year**

**Chemical Engineering, IIT Kanpur  
Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh**

**Supported by FFEUS donor Hitesh and Varkha Chellan**

I am Aditi Chouhan, and I want to share my incredible journey with you. Born to parents who couldn't afford my education, I started my academic journey at Navodaya Vidyalaya and later cracked a scholarship test that paved the way for my JEE coaching.

Entering IIT Kanpur for Chemical Engineering was a dream come true, but financial struggles cast a shadow. Fortunately, the FFE scholarship became my beacon, supporting me throughout my college life. A heartfelt thank you to my generous FFE scholarship donor for transforming my dreams into reality and lighting the path to my success.

Now, as I stand on the cusp of graduation, I am thrilled to announce that I've secured a position as a Digital Consultant at ACCENTURE JAPAN in Tokyo. This achievement would not have been possible without the unwavering support I received. I promise to give back and support students facing financial hurdles. Let's join hands to make education accessible to every deserving student.

## F. VOICE OF SCHOLARS

### Kirankumar R.

**3rd Year, B.Tech,  
Information Science and Engineering  
B.M.S. College of Engineering,  
Bengaluru, Karnataka**



inFocus

FFE scholar Kirankumar hails from Davanagere, Karnataka. Kirankumar completed his schooling, laying the foundation for his pursuit of higher education. Currently enrolled in the Information Science program at BMS College of Engineering, Bengaluru, he is driven by a passion for technology and a vision for a bright future.

Kirankumar is one of two siblings raised by a single mother. Following the untimely loss of his father two years ago, his mother, a daily wage worker, became the sole breadwinner for the family. His primary school teacher, Mr. Raghavendra's wisdom, and kindness became a source of inspiration, shaping Kirankumar's approach to challenges with determination. The financial strain on the family was alleviated by FFE's scholarship program which proved to be a transformative force in Kirankumar's life. This support not only eased the burden of college fees but also served as a beacon of hope, allowing him to focus on academic excellence and personal growth.

Grateful for the scholarship, Kirankumar extends heartfelt appreciation to his donor, Global Logic India for their invaluable contribution to his journey. Their generosity has not only made education accessible but has also inspired him to dream beyond personal success and strive for positive impacts in the lives of those around him.

Beyond the academic sphere, Kirankumar finds joy in playing chess, immersing himself in captivating storybooks, and enjoying the world of cinema, contributing to his personal and intellectual development. Kirankumar's aspirations extend beyond financial stability to making a positive impact on the lives of others. Focused on achieving personal success, he envisions a future where he can contribute to the betterment of society. He recently completed an online internship with Codsoft, showcasing his dedication and problem-solving skills. Currently preparing for an on-campus internship with DELL, he remains steadfast in his commitment to further honing his skills and gaining hands-on experience.

Engaging in mentoring sessions and skill training with FFE has added another layer to Kirankumar's journey. The guidance received in communication, goal setting, and personality development has broadened his perspectives, equipping him with the tools needed to face future challenges with confidence.

Kirankumar R's story is not just one of academic achievement but a testament to resilience, gratitude, and the transformative power of education. As he continues to navigate his path, he stands as a beacon of inspiration for others facing challenges on their educational journeys.



### Nikhil Nandkumar Kancharlawar

**Currently Working as  
Scrum Master  
in Servicenow, NJ, USA**

I was born into a lower-middle-class family in Nanded district of Maharashtra. My Father had a grocery shop and was trying his best in his small-scale business to ensure we had enough for our education.

In the beginning of year 2006, when I was 1.5 months away from my board grade exams, my father passed away in a road accident. At this point, when my entire family collapsed in sorrow, my teachers guided me, and I scored great in MH-CET exams and secured 11th Rank in General Science merit list in Latur Board. With this result, I got admission to B.Tech in IT branch at Veermata Jijabai Technological Institute, Mumbai.

This is where one of my seniors who was from the same region guided me to apply for the FFE Scholarship program. He gave me the contact of my facilitator, Mr. Mendulkar Sir, who verified all my documents, credentials and provided me all necessary information.

I completed B.Tech with first class as the FFE scholarship helped me to focus on my studies. I got selected for a job at TCS through the campus recruitment process in my college. After 3.5 years, based on my performance and commitment, I was selected for an onsite deputation in Connecticut USA in Feb 2014. I had to learn some basic things such as cooking, driving, and living independently so far from home.

I have been residing in the USA since the last 9 years; working in a product-based company, Servicenow, headquartered in Santa Clara, CA since the last 1.5 years.

Looking back at where I came from and where I am now, I am thankful to a lot of individuals and organizations, with FFE being a prominent contributor to help me build the foundation for my professional life.

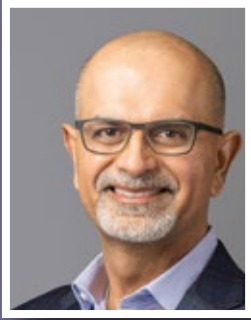
I am proud to be associated with this great organization and its noble work in helping bright students access higher education across India. I sincerely request all FFE alums to come forward and join this movement of paying it forward to allow other scholars to pursue their dreams and, in turn, get a satisfying experience like I was lucky to have.



*“Education’s purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one.”*

Malcolm Forbes

## G. DONOR FEATURE



### **Deepak Ahuja** **Chief Business and Financial** **Officer at Zipline**

“While at my engineering school in India I realized vividly the challenges faced by students whose parents could barely afford further education for their child. My respect and empathy for these students grew immensely when I saw their hardships, their loneliness and their courage. FFE’s foundational principles to enable further education of the most deserving students who are the first to go to college from their families really strikes a chord with my core values. Their approach of fanning volunteers across the nation to select students based on personal meetings with students and their parents is unique, on-target and very effective. My wife, Madhu, and I have felt tremendous gratification from our interactions with the scholars supported by our funds. Experiencing the impact on these students has been far more satisfying and first-hand than our other charitable contributions. We look forward to supporting FFE for many more years to come.

## H. BOARD MEMBER INTERVIEW

### **Darshan Bhatt**

#### **Co-Founder & Deputy CIO** **@ Glovista | CFA, Portfolio Management**



“Just providing education is not enough, students need to be employable. FFE provides scholars adequate support and training to make them more valuable to future employers” says Mr. Darshan N Bhatt, Co-Founder, Deputy CIO of Glovista Investments. Mr. Bhatt has been associated with the FFE for the past

7 years. Through his work as a Board Member, he has met numerous FFE volunteers and scholars at galas and other events and has been moved by the life-changing impact of FFE’s work on thousands of families.

FFE’s unique built-in “pay it forward” growth model is something that has stood out to Mr. Bhatt. “FFE is already seeing the benefits of increased engagement with scholars who graduate from FFE programs. They are acting as FFE champions in their respective organizations.”

Looking forward, Mr. Bhatt hopes that the FFE can continue to expand their model to cover more students and fields. FFE has expanded to fields beyond medical and engineering to cover pharma and law. Mr. Bhatt hopes that someday this model could be replicated in other countries.

He wants FFE to continue growing, and remarked that “Although FFE has been very successful over the years, the need for education is larger than the funds the foundation is able to collect.” If FFE can continue to expand as Mr. Bhatt hopes, it can play a significant role in elevating the lives of thousands of families and in building a strong diverse workforce for India.

## I. FACILITATOR FEATURE



**Mrs. V. Satyabhama**

I, V Satyabhama, a retired physics professor at the National College Basavanagudi, Bangalore, am associated with FFE for around 22 years. I was introduced to FFE by Ramakrishna students' home, Bangalore (SRKSH), a free hostel for poor and meritorious students. At that time, FFE was helping not only engineering and medical students but also high school, PU, and degree students. We were doing a physical interview of the applicants at SRKSH regarding the genuineness of the applicants. Till now I have facilitated around 600 applicants.

I am very proud of FFE, who are doing wonderful social service and keeping the morale of the students high. Through this prestigious organization, I have come to know the real picture of the very poor and meritorious students of Karnataka.

To talk a bit about myself, I was born and raised in Bangalore. I studied in a Kannada medium Government School up to 10th grade and completed my Pre-University College in a Government college. I pursued a B.Sc. In National College, Basavanagudi. Secured 4th rank in B. Sc, under Bangalore University. I continued my studies pursuing an M.Sc. in Physics from Central College in 1973.

I joined National College, Basavanagudi as a Professor and worked for 39 years. I retired in 2012. I have also served as a governing council member of the National Education Society of Karnataka for 10 years. I have been closely associated with SRKSH since 1978 till date.

I continue to live in Bangalore along with my husband and 3 children.

My association with Education has been for almost my entire life and to be working closely with students of FFE gives me immense pleasure and happiness. I value "Education" and firmly believe that it is a weapon to eradicate poverty. Thus, I share the mission of FFE and am very happy to continue to work with FFE in the future too. I wish all the best for the students, staff and the organization in the future.

## J. MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

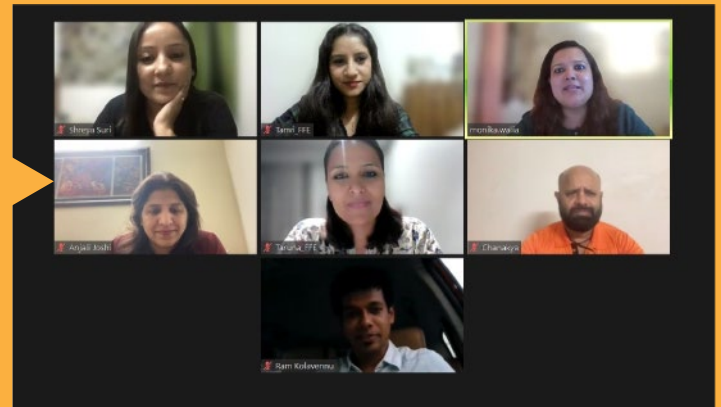
FFE's Mentoring program is specially curated for its engineering, BPharm, and Law scholars to enhance their career-relevant skills. The 6-month mentoring journey for 2000 engineering mentees that started in August 2023 will conclude in February 2024.

In November & December, FFE held virtual mid-program feedback sessions with all its corporate partners, individuals, and alumni Mentors to hear out their mentoring experience so far. With over 30 virtual feedback sessions conducted, mentors shared their experience, feedback, concerns, and their suggestions to the FFE team regarding the mentoring program. The sessions were intended to provide the opportunity for an open and trusting exchange between Mentors and the FFE team around the program to enhance the program in the coming cycle. The FFE team responded to Mentors' queries and helped them with any portal-related questions.

In December 2023, FFE kickstarted the Mentoring program cycle for its 60 Law & 75 BPharm scholars as well. Currently, 49 Mentor-Mentee pairs from the Law course are taking the mentoring program. Individual Lawyers, from last year's mentoring cycle, New individual volunteers, and Volunteers from EY-GDS & amp; Novartis, have enthusiastically registered as Mentors and are guiding the scholars.

Similarly, the BPharm Mentoring program 2023-24 for 75 3rd-year BPharm scholars has also been initiated. Mentors from Amneal Pharmaceuticals, Novartis, Clarivate, Dr. Reddy Labs, and Biocon have registered. A detailed orientation session was held with each corporate partner, post which the volunteers signed up for the program.

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.



*"A mentor is someone who allows you to see the hope inside yourself."*

Oprah Winfrey

## MENTOR TESTIMONIAL



**Mr. Navarasu E. Nathan**  
**Associate Vice President**  
**– Global Operations,**  
**Indegene**

Mentoring college kids is one of the most rewarding and fulfilling things I do. Being able to share my knowledge and skills with young and eager learners and see them grow and develop as professionals is very satisfying. One of the things I enjoy the most about mentoring is the diversity of perspectives and backgrounds the mentee brings to the table. I learn something new from them every day, and I appreciate their curiosity and enthusiasm.

Another thing I enjoy about this is the impact I can have on their careers and lives. I feel honored and privileged to be able to guide FFE Scholar - Logesh support him in his journeys and help him achieve his goals. I'm grateful to FFE for providing me with this opportunity to work with such a talented and amazing student, and I hope to continue doing so for a long time.

## MENTEE TESTIMONIAL



**B Logesh**  
**3rd Year, Civil Engineering,**  
**Vellore Institute**  
**of Technology,**  
**Chennai**

I would like to express my gratitude for the wonderful mentoring session with my Mentor-Mr. Nathan. His insightful guidance on placement-related matters was incredibly beneficial. My mentor's approach made the sessions easy to understand, I particularly liked the self-introduction session where I could instantly connect with my Mentor and share my career goals. I will apply the knowledge gained in mentoring sessions in my professional & personal journey. I will recommend this valuable FFE mentoring program to all the other scholars. Thank you FFE and also my Mentor Mr. Nathan for this fantastic opportunity.

## K. SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Cohort	Training Programs	No. of scholars	Supported by
2022–23 (2nd Year Engineering Scholars)	English Training-Enguru	1,738	MSDF*
2021–22 (3rd Year Engineering Scholars)	Technical Skilling – Coursera	1,371	MSDF* and Capgemini
	Hi-Touch English	1,074	MSDF* and Capgemini
2020–21 (4th Year Engineering Scholars)	Mock Interviews	777	MSDF*
B.Pharma (2nd Year)	Technical Skilling – Coursera	70	Mr. Chirag Patel and Mr. Kanu Bhai Patel S&P Global MSDF*
	English Training-Enguru	83	
LLB (2nd Year)	Technical Skilling – Coursera	50	Mr. Mahesh Krishnamurthy S&P Global
	English Training-Enguru	42	
MBBS (2nd and 3rd Years)	Hi-Touch English	1,0	Mr. Babu Joseph

\*Michael and Susan Dell Foundation

*“Without Knowledge, Skill cannot be focused. Without Skill, Strength cannot be brought to bear and without Strength, Knowledge may not be applied.”*

Alexander the Great

## Other Skilling Initiatives

### FLY (Finding the Leader in You) Program

A 12-day workshop that started in 2021 with 1233 scholars having participated in the program so far. 5 batches were conducted in October, November, and December with a total of 170 participants from Year 2 of Engineering. The workshop is conducted by CMI - Competitive Mindset Institute Inc. and is designed to teach noncognitive skills for students' personality and character development.

### Amazon Future Engineer (AFE) Boot Camp

68 scholars from the 1st batch of Bootcamp attended the Internship program at Amazon. The second batch with 500 scholars is currently in the Bootcamp since May'23.

This cohort will undergo an extensive 10-month program that involves deep learning on Data Structures and Algorithms in Java with over 22 modules covered. The sessions are curated with live sessions, doubt-clearing classes, and mentoring sessions to upskill scholars and equip them to acquire Internship opportunities next year

### Wadhvani Foundation's Job Ready Program

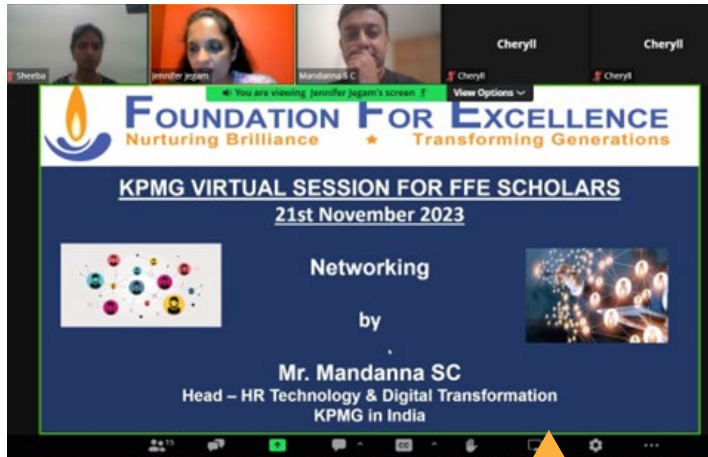
In June 2023, 500 Year 2 Engineering scholars enrolled in the Wadhvani program that primarily focuses on enhancing the employability and job readiness skills required by scholars to crack Internships and Placement offers. The program is structured with a combination of self-paced learning modules, available on a dedicated online portal, and weekly mentoring sessions. The mentoring sessions are designed to provide a deeper understanding of the course content and encourage practical application of the acquired knowledge. The different topics covered under this program are

1. Introduction
2. Communication Basics
3. Communication Workplace
4. Attitude and Behavioural skills
5. Customer Centricity
6. Digital Literacy Basic
7. Digital Literacy Workplace
8. Teamwork
- 9.. Workplace Awareness
10. Problem Solving

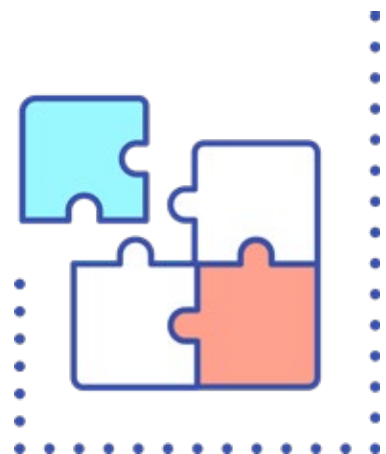


This program will be completed with a post-assessment in the month of Dec 2023

## KPMG Soft skill virtual webinars



In the month of November, a series of webinars were conducted by KPMG in India leadership team on soft skills topics like Personal Branding and networking, and Interview skills. The speakers for the webinar were Mr. Kurush Dordi - Head of Talent Strategy for Risk Advisory, Deal Advisory, and Corporate Functions at KPMG in India, Mr. Mandanna SC - Head of HR Technology and Digital Transformation for KPMG in India & Mr. Sahil Nayar – Senior Associate Director KPMG in India. The sessions had over 450 participants from the Engineering cohorts



## Cognizant Salesforce Virtual Internship program

93 FFE scholars enrolled for the Salesforce Virtual Internship program that started towards the end of September with 120 hrs. of overall learning experience, hands-on Bootcamps, Project work, and Mentoring support, acquire Super Badges on Trailhead platform. This is an intense 8-week program that develops interview skills through exclusive soft skills training and provides access to Salesforce Professional certifications

## IBM SkillsBuild Certification Program



2000 2nd-year Engineering scholars have been enrolled in the IBM Skills Build program that involves 3 months of portal-based learning followed by Project Based Learning. The topics include IT-related courses like Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence, Agile Methodology, Data Analytics, Blockchain, IoT, Emerging Technologies, and Cloud Computing. The portal also focuses on Job-readiness skills and Professional skills like Resume Writing, Interview handling, LinkedIn Profile Building, Design Thinking, professional upskilling, Problem-solving, Resilience, Decision making, Project Management & so on.

An orientation was conducted in the month of October to enlighten scholars about the onboarding and enrolment process. Students are actively involved in learning the courses they have enrolled.

## Office Visit And Interactive Sessions On “Career Development” With Microsoft



On October 10, 2023, FFE’s donor, Microsoft India organized a day-long event interacting with FFE scholars at its offices in Bangalore, Hyderabad, and Noida. The event, which drew the participation of 40 eager Engineering Scholars from across various years, commenced with an engaging icebreaking session. Later, a highly interactive session on career development unfolded, featuring Microsoft leaders who shared valuable insights into the latest industry trends. The leaders also offered quick tips on effective resume-building and interview preparation.

The event provided a platform for students to engage in one-on-one interactions with industry leaders, facilitating the clearing of doubts and inquiries related to career development. Overall, the day proved to be an enriching experience for the FFE scholars, fostering meaningful connections and empowering them with knowledge for their professional journeys.

## Medical Webinars



On the 23rd of September, a medical webinar was conducted on the topic – A career in Surgery-Beyond the hype. This session was presented by Dr. Nikhil Nanjappa M.S., FRCS Ed., M.IPD Ed., M. FST Ed., CESR (UK) MRCS Ed., Consultant GI & Colorectal Surgeon, Avant BKG Hospital Mysore. There were close to 1195 participants and the session included the different aspects of Surgery, the subspecialties it covers, what it takes to be a surgeon, and so on.



On the 26th of November, a webinar was conducted for the medical scholars by FFE Alumna Dr. Supriya Kulkarni Rawate MBBS M.D. DNB Anesthesiology, Consultant Anesthesiologist on the topic – Mindful Living of Medical Scholars. This session had close to 500 participants and the webinar included the mindful living of medicos, steps to initiate and practice, the importance of meditation, and its relevance in their lives.

## Microsoft Mock Interviews

In November, Microsoft conducted Mock Interviews through Give in Month. 96 final year Engineering scholars attended the workshop on Interview handling skills and resume-building abilities with close to 60 volunteers from Microsoft. Students were given feedback on their performance and suggestions/reviews were given on resume-building

## Wellness Program

On the 18th of November, FFE launched the Wellness program for all its beneficiaries to create awareness and foster education, advocating prevention & providing world-class holistic mental health services. FFE is very happy to partner with MPower Minds for this program to create a positive mental health environment and stamp out the stigma of mental illness. This is a year-long program where students will be onboarded in batches for a weekly workshop on the Mental health program. Beneficiaries will be given a 24\*7 Helpline number to seek support whenever required. Furthermore, there will be counselling sessions conducted on a one-to-one basis as required

## Qqmed Literature Searching Program

1169 medical scholars from year 2 and year 3 of the study were onboarded for the medical literature searching program conducted by QMed Foundation in November 2023. This is a year-long program that enlightens scholars with methodologies to specialize skills in online searching and literature. We assume that the health sciences curriculum includes training students to find useful research and evidence. This program offers skills for online searching in the medical and allied health domain.

## LinkedIn's Community InDay Workshop

48 scholars based out of Bangalore and Gurgaon locations attended the engaging workshop on the 23rd of November at the LinkedIn office. The session offered insights on workspace and STEM technologies with exposure to creating profiles and building a network. This workshop helped scholars gain knowledge on coding interviews and get introduced to Engineering roles at LinkedIn.



## Webinar on Reflection on the Research Process

A session was conducted for Engineering scholars on the 19th of December on the Research by Mr. Vyas Sekar, Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University, Chief Scientist at Conviva, and Co-founder of Rockfish Data. The session was attended by close to 400 participants who were given a chance by an expert in the fields of networks, systems, and security. The session briefed participants about the research, paper, journals, and thesis, the Ph.D. preparation process, best practices to be followed, opportunities, strategies, and challenges from the presenter's experience in the research field and collaborations.



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