



**Lend A Hand India**

## **Scholarship Programme**

**"Empowering Futures**

**The LAHI Impact on Student Lives and Career Pathways**

**(2011-2022)"**

Lend A Hand India

<https://lendahandindia.org/>

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# Abbreviations

- B.A. - Bachelors of Arts
- B.Com. - Bachelors of Commerce
- B.Sc. - Bachelors of Science
- BCA - Bachelors of Computer Applications
- BDS - Bachelors of Dental Surgery
- B.E. - Bachelors of Engineers
- B.Ed. - Bachelors of Education
- E&TC - Electronics and Telecommunication
- GNM - General Nursing and Midwifery
- HM - Head Master/Mistress
- IBT - Introduction to Basic Technology
- IT - Information Technology
- ITI - Industrial Training Institute
- LAHI - Lend A Hand India
- MDS - Masters in Dental Surgery
- MSFC - Multi Skill Foundation Course
- M.Sc. - Masters in Science
- M.Tech. - Masters in Technology
- NEET - National Eligibility cum Entrance Test
- NSDA - National Skill Development Agency
- NSQF - National Skill Qualification Framework
- SCERT - State Council of Educational Research and Training



# Foreword



As we look back on the impactful journey of the Lend A Hand India Scholarship Program over the past decade, I pen this foreword with a sense of profound gratitude and pride. This program is a testament to the collective endeavours of our team, partner schools, and organizations, and the resilient spirit of our students, who have transformed adversities into stepping stones toward their dreams.



At Lend A Hand India, we have always believed in the transformative power of education. The Scholarship Program was conceived out of a critical need to support students who, despite possessing the talent and drive, were constrained by financial limitations. I wish to extend my heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated team members, who have worked tirelessly to identify, support, and mentor our scholarship recipients. Their commitment goes beyond financial assistance; they have built relationships, offered guidance, and stood by our students at every step of their journey.

Our commitment to inclusivity and equality is exemplified in our concerted efforts to support female students, who often face additional socio-economic barriers. Empowering female students is a cornerstone of our initiative, aiming to not only provide them with equal educational opportunities but also inspire confidence and ambition in their own potential. This focus has borne fruit, as evidenced by the significant representation of female students among our scholarship recipients, making up 43% of the total.

Since its inception, the scholarship program has had a monumental impact. It has supported 260 students and witnessed the heartfelt return of support through 28 students who have repaid their scholarships in full. This circle of giving and receiving enhances the program's sustainability and exemplifies the ethos of community and mutual upliftment. Our partner schools and organizations deserve special mention for nurturing these young talents. By fostering an environment that values education and skill development, they have been instrumental in shaping the futures of countless students. Most importantly, I applaud our students, who have shown us that any challenge can be overcome with determination and the right support. Their success stories are a source of inspiration for us all. They have remained connected with Lend A Hand India, not just as beneficiaries but as active participants in our various programs, illustrating a beautiful cycle of giving back and fostering a community of support and encouragement.

As we move forward, let us continue to empower, inspire, and uplift. Together, we are not just providing scholarships; we are nurturing dreams, building futures, and creating a legacy of hope and opportunity.

With warm regards,  
Sunanda Mane  
Co-founder and Executive Director - Lend A Hand India  
Ashoka Fellow - 2011

# Introduction



## **Empowering Youth Through Skill Education**

Established in 2006 in Pune, Maharashtra, **Lend A Hand India (LAHI)** is a nonprofit organization committed to bridging the gap between education and livelihood. Lend A Hand India provides opportunities for youth, empowering them with the skills and knowledge needed for gainful employment and entrepreneurship.

## **Pioneering Skill Education at Scale**

LAHI is a pioneering organization in India, leading the charge in introducing skill education as an integral part of the secondary school curriculum nationwide. Our overarching goal is to accelerate India's development by focusing on education and skill development, thus creating a productive workforce capable of realizing their aspirations and contributing to the growth of their families and communities.

## **Collaborative Efforts for Quality Skill Education**

LAHI collaborates closely with state governments and educational institutions such as Samagra Shiksha, State Boards, and State Councils of Educational Research & Training (SCERT) to promote and implement high-quality skill education in secondary and higher secondary schools across India. These collaborations are formalized through memorandums of understanding. Our dedicated project management unit within Samagra Shiksha is a catalyst for delivering top-notch skill education at the state level. As of 2022, LAHI operates in 25 states and union territories, impacting over 10,000 schools and serving a student population of one million.

## **Innovative Skill Education: Multi Skill Foundation Course (MSFC)**

LAHI champions an innovative model of skill education called the Multi Skill Foundation Course (MSFC), designed for students in grades 9th to 12th. In 2014, in collaboration with the Government of Maharashtra, LAHI obtained recognition for MSFC from the National Skill Development Authority (NSDA) under the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF). MSFC holds a Level 2 compliant qualification, marking it as a groundbreaking NSQF qualification that originates at the grassroots level.

## **Enhancing Skill Training Impact**

In addition to its core initiatives, LAHI enhances the value and utility of skill training through feedback-driven development. We've implemented complementary initiatives, including Employability Skills training, 80 hours of internships, and Career Guidance, alongside the primary skill training modules. LAHI also contributes to improving the quality of skill education by offering pedagogy training programs for vocational trainers within schools.

# Lend A Hand India's Scholarship Program



This initiative is dedicated to providing support to deserving students who have **completed their 10th grade with Multi Skill** as one of their subjects and aspire to pursue technical education after high school.

Commemorating a decade of  
Interest-Free, Refundable  
Scholarship Program

## Key objectives:

**Enabling Access to Education:** We aim to empower financially disadvantaged students, preventing them from discontinuing their education due to economic constraints.

**Promoting Technical Education:** We actively encourage students with a passion for technical fields to pursue their aspirations and kickstart their careers immediately after high school.

**Empowering Girls in Education:** Our initiative places a special emphasis on motivating female students to opt for technical and higher education beyond the 10th grade, countering socio-economic barriers that might otherwise hinder their educational journey.

## Eligibility Criteria

Passed the 10th grade with an MSFC as the 6th subject or an additional subject

Proof of admission in ITI/Diploma/Technical/ Science stream/ Nursing/other technical or professional field

The chosen course's ideal duration should be three years and above, as LAHI Scholarships are available for three years

The annual family income should not exceed one lakh rupees (Rs. 1,00,000/-)

The family's agricultural land, with water resources, should not exceed one hectare (1.5 acres)

LAHI Instructors' children are also eligible for the scholarship\*

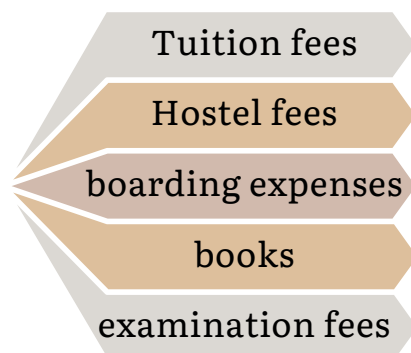
Submission of scholarship applications along with all supporting documents.

\*Few additional requirements for Instructor's students

# Amount & Duration

- The scholarship is granted for three consecutive years to complete the chosen course.
- Continuation of the scholarship beyond the first year depends on the student's academic performance on a semester/annual basis and regular updates to LAHI Team
- LAHI offers a scholarship amount covers the following expenses as shown in the figure

Rs. 40,000  
per year



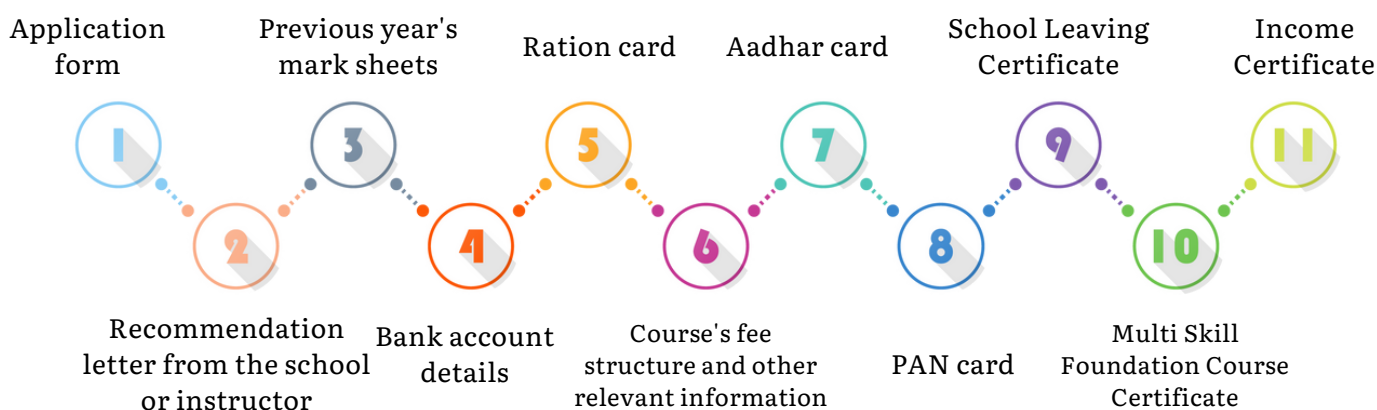
## Scholarship Refund

Upon course completion, LAHI kindly requests scholarship recipients to refund the scholarship amount, ensuring the growth of the scholarship corpus and the ability to support more students in the future.

## Application Process

- The application process commences at the start of each academic year, typically in July-August.
- It takes approximately four months to complete, including steps such as application submission, scrutiny, document verification, interviews, shortlisting, re-verification, final approval, and disbursement of the first-year scholarship amount.
- All scholarship disbursements are conducted through bank accounts, with no cash transactions involved.
- For students under the age of 18, a joint account with one parent is opened for disbursements.
- A bond, outlining terms and conditions, is signed by selected students annually.
- In exceptional cases, scholarships may be extended to a fourth year.

## Required Documents



# Scholarship Impact



**260**

Number of Students  
Who Received  
Scholarship since 2011

**14.38  
Million  
INR**

Scholarship Amount Disbursed

**28**

Number of Students who  
Repaid Scholarship in full

**2.01  
Million  
INR**

Scholarship Amount Repaid

**43%**

Girls Recipients for  
Scholarships

**"With the Right Trust and support for students, the repayment modalities only drove students to do better in their careers and repay the scholarship amount to Lend A Hand India"**

**\*Updated As on December 2023**

# Alumni Stories and Feedback



This comprehensive report has been meticulously assembled to chronicle the evolution and outcomes of implementing the LAHI scholarship over the past decade. Its primary focus is to showcase the scholarship beneficiaries' remarkable journeys and current endeavours as of 2022, particularly highlighting the transformative experiences of female students.

The report vividly portrays how the scholarship has catalysed change, especially for female students, by enabling them to venture into fields traditionally dominated by men. It details the significant number of female recipients who have pursued technical and professional courses, thereby challenging and altering established stereotypes. Many of these courageous women are now successfully employed in their chosen fields, serving as stories of inspiration and testament to the impact of even minimal encouragement.

To ensure thorough and nuanced documentation, our team conducted a meticulous pre-test of a survey, which was subsequently distributed to the students via WhatsApp. Additionally, personal outreach was extended through phone calls, enriching the data collection process.

The ensuing pages of this report offer a window into the transformative journeys of the LAHI scholarship recipients. Through their stories, the report aims to provide insightful glimpses into their educational pursuits, professional achievements, and the broader implications of the scholarship program. It is a narrative of empowerment, progression, and the positive ripple effects initiated by targeted educational support.

Moreover, the report delves into the broader impact of the LAHI scholarship on the communities from which these students hail. By empowering individual students, the scholarship inadvertently acts as a lever for community upliftment. The success stories of these scholars serve as a source of motivation for their peers, fostering a culture of aspiration and educational pursuit within their communities. It demonstrates that targeted educational interventions can have far-reaching effects beyond the immediate beneficiaries, contributing to a cycle of empowerment and educational enthusiasm that transcends individual achievements. This aspect of the scholarship highlights its role in shaping the recipients' destinies and catalyzing positive societal change, reinforcing the belief that education is a pivotal tool for collective progress and development.



## "Prathmesh Choudhary: A Tale of Resilience and Triumph"

Prathmesh Choudhary's educational and professional journey, rooted in the halls of Bhairavnath Vidyalyaya, Pabal, exemplifies how focused ambition, coupled with supportive interventions, can lead to substantial personal and professional growth. Coming from a modest background with his parents earning a combined income of Rs. 8000/- per month, Prathmesh harnessed the power of education and determination to forge a path to success.



As an active participant in LAHI's events since the 8th grade, Prathmesh cultivated a keen interest in the technical field, particularly Mechanical Engineering. The LAHI scholarship he received in 2011 was pivotal, supporting him through his diploma and significantly influencing his career trajectory. His academic excellence in the diploma course earned him a place in a Pandharpur college for his degree, supplemented by his engagement in an 'Earn and Learn' scheme to manage fees.

Post-graduation, Prathmesh's career took a promising turn, with a notable position at T.E. Connectivity as a Statistic Sourcing Analyst, commanding an impressive annual package of Rs. 9.68 lakh. His commitment to education continues as he pursues a Post Graduation Diploma in Supply Chain Management and Logistics in Pune.

Prathmesh's narrative is a testament to his tenacity and highlights his family's role in his journey. His parents' unwavering dedication to their professions and his brother's parallel achievements in mechanical engineering underscore a family united by a commitment to education and excellence.

Reflecting on his journey, Prathmesh acknowledges the indispensable role of the LAHI scholarship in providing him the platform to excel and repay his educational debt, underscoring his sense of responsibility and gratitude. Looking at his long-term commitment to staying connected with LAHI's multiple programs, Prathmesh was given the concession to repay his scholarship loan, which he has paid in full. Prathmesh is currently doing a graduation Diploma in 'Supply Chain Management and Logistics' along with doing the job. This is a 2-year diploma, which he is doing in Pune.

As Prathmesh forges ahead in his career while nurturing his academic ambitions, his story remains an inspiring testament to the transformative impact of education and the enduring value of perseverance and support. LAHI is proud to have played a role in his journey and looks forward to his continued achievements.

## "Madhuri Vinayak Sonawane: Empowered by Education"



Madhuri Sonawane's journey, from a financially constrained family in Khiroda with an annual income of Rs. 25,000, to becoming a diploma and degree holder in Electronics and Telecommunication, is a story of determination and resilience. Her passion for the electrical field was kindled during her IBT/MSFC course in school, leading her to aspire for higher technical education.

Despite her family's financial struggles, with her parents earning daily wages and her two elder brothers also pursuing studies, Madhuri found hope in LAHI's scholarship program. Her proactive approach and determination earned her a scholarship that supported her diploma studies with Rs. 57,000, allowing her to complete it successfully in 2013-14.

Tragedy struck with her mother's passing, but Madhuri's resolve only strengthened. She continued her education, achieving a first-class degree in Electronics and Telecommunication. Even after her marriage and moving to Indore, where she worked as an Operation Executive at Urja Technical and later experienced motherhood, Madhuri's commitment to education and personal growth remained unwavering.

Her story highlights her academic achievements and her practical skills and confidence, which she attributes to her foundational learning in IBT. Her gratitude towards LAHI for their crucial support is profound, reflecting the impact of educational assistance on individual lives. Today, Madhuri enjoys her role as a parent, carrying forward her journey with the lessons and strength drawn from her educational experiences.



## "Swapnil's Journey: From Aspiration to Achievement"

Swapnil's journey from a financially challenged background in Belewadi Kalamma to becoming a successful Mechanical Engineer in Pune is a narrative of determination and support. Born into a family with an annual income of Rs. 28,000 from farming, Swapnil nurtured ambitions for a technical education, inspired by his secondary schooling in IBT/MSFC.



After his 10th grade in 2010, financial hurdles loomed large, but the intervention through LAHI's scholarship after a conversation with his school's Headmaster lit the path to his aspirations. This support enabled him to complete his Diploma in Mechanical Engineering in Kolhapur and later, despite financial constraints, his degree, thanks to strategic advice and assistance from LAHI.

By 2017, Swapnil completed his education with flying colours and secured a promising position at FLASH VIVEN in Pune. His dedication to his career and commitment to repaying the kindness he received is evident in his swift action to start repaying the scholarship funds, earning a 50% concession from LAHI.

Now, with a stable career and his family's situation greatly improved, Swapnil reflects on his journey with gratitude and pride. He shares, "I just built a new house, spending Rs. 28 lakh in my native country with the help of my younger brother. It was a very proud moment for me as, because of LAHI, I could stand on my feet and build my own house. Not only scholarship but LAHI also allowed me to advocate for technical education by participating in the skill yatra from Pune to Leh-Ladakh. That was an amazing experience for me and unforgettable as well. I am very thankful to LAHI for always lending a supporting hand to me. And I am saying this very generously."

Swapnil's story poignantly reminds us how targeted educational support and personal resilience can transform lives, providing hope and a roadmap to success for others in similar circumstances.



## "Pooja's Pursuit: A Journey Through Education and Ambition"

Pooja's educational journey, starting from her completion of 10th grade at Dhanaji Nana Vidyalaya, Khiroda, underscores the transformative power of dedicated scholarship programs. With a profound interest in computers from an early age, Pooja aspired to delve into the field of Computer Engineering, despite the financial limitations posed by her family's modest income of Rs. 6,000 per month and her brother's ongoing educational expenses.

Post-diploma, Pooja expanded her expertise with a software testing course and a B.Com degree, aiming to secure a position at Tech Mahindra. Though the pandemic paused her immediate employment plans, her determination remains unshaken as she optimises her job search.

Pooja reflects on her educational journey: "It's because of LAHI that I could complete my education in the stream I always wanted to have. If LAHI had not given me the scholarship, I would have had to settle for routine education, i.e., 11th grade in any stream. LAHI allowed me to explore the world by completing my education." Her story underscores the significant role educational support can play in shaping one's future and enabling one to pursue their passion.

Her education also endowed her with diverse skills, from carpentry to electrical work, enriching her personal and professional life. Pooja shares, "I learned so many skills that are useful to me. I can fix things, whether they are related to carpentry, electrical work, or other household tasks. I especially liked the Home and Health section, where pickle-making was one of my favourites. I still make different pickles, and everybody likes them very much."

Now, with her family's financial situation improved and her brother established as a Mechanical Engineer, Pooja and her family showcased their gratitude and responsibility by refunding the scholarship amount, a gesture acknowledged and appreciated by LAHI with a repayment concession.

Pooja's narrative is a testament to how targeted educational support can empower individuals to follow their dreams and achieve beyond their circumstances. It highlights the value of giving back and forward-looking gratitude. LAHI extends heartfelt wishes for Pooja's future endeavours, anticipating her continued success and realising her aspirations.

## "Sachin Ware: From Hingangaon to Entrepreneurship"

Sachin Ware's educational and entrepreneurial journey, rooted in the small village of Hingangaon, Pune, epitomizes the transformative impact of targeted academic support. Overcoming financial challenges with an annual family income below Rs. 1,00,000, Sachin's aspiration to pursue technical education in the Turner trade post his 10th grade was actualized through Lend A Hand India's (LAHI) scholarship, which provided him with Rs. 18,700 for his ITI course.



His ITI education, coupled with the insights gained from IBT/MSFC during his school years, paved the way for his initial job as a Machine Operator at HODEK and ignited his entrepreneurial spirit. With a monthly income of Rs. 35,000 from his job, Sachin ventured into establishing 'Mahalakshmi Transport,' a successful vegetable transport business that significantly boosted his earnings. Today, Sachin's life is a testament to how education and entrepreneurial drive can alter one's destiny. With four trucks under his business, he generates a substantial income, supporting his joint family and creating a stable and prosperous future.

Sachin acknowledges the pivotal role of LAHI in shaping his career and business acumen. He stated, "Today, whatever and whoever I am, is because of Lend A Hand India. Due to LAHI, I developed an interest in the technical field... This helped me develop my confidence and also allowed me to start my own business... If I would not have had IBT, I might have completed either B.A. or B.Com. and could have been doing a small job only... I am very thankful to LAHI for giving me the scholarship and [helping me stand] on my own feet."

Sachin's narrative underscores the significance of educational support in empowering individuals to explore and excel in their chosen paths, fostering self-reliance and economic advancement.

## "Komal's Educational Journey and Aspirations Amidst Adversity"



Komal, a resident of Shindawane and a bright student from Sant Yadavbaba Madhyamik Vidyalaya, embarked on a transformative educational journey despite financial constraints. With her father laboring on their small farm and as a laborer, and her mother also contributing as a laborer, the family faced significant financial challenges. Komal's academic excellence in her 10th grade, achieving 91%, set her on a path toward higher education in Electronics and Telecommunication, fueled by her engagement with the Multi Skill Foundation Course.

The scholarship from Lend A Hand India (LAHI) was pivotal, allowing her to pursue a diploma despite the financial odds against her family. However, an intersection of personal commitment and cultural pressures—her marriage—coincided with her final exam, leading her to an unfinished academic endeavour.

Komal's reflections capture the bittersweet nature of her educational journey. She said, "Not many girls in my village could take higher education. I did, and villagers began to discourage my parents and succeeded in changing my parents' minds to let me get married. Though my father was very supportive and felt proud of my achievement, he succumbed to the social pressure." Despite not completing her diploma, Komal carries a treasure trove of practical skills and a sense of empowerment: "I learned so many useful skills. I can fix things, whether they are related to carpentry, electrical work, or other household tasks. I do not need anyone's help for which my parents, in-laws, and even my husband feel proud of me."

Her gratitude toward LAHI is profound as she acknowledges the broader impact of the scholarship on her life, "The scholarship not only helped me educate beyond the 10th grade, but it allowed me to step out of my village, face new challenges, and explore the outside world, which helped in building my confidence and sociability. If I had not got this opportunity, I would not have been able to express myself as I do now."

Today, Komal contributes significantly to her family's income by assisting her husband in his hotel business, proving that education imparts skills and confidence that transcend traditional classrooms. She proudly states, "My husband consults me in the operations of his business, and I feel good about it," showcasing her active and respected role in her family and business.

## "Priyanka's Path to Nursing: A Journey of Perseverance and Support"

Upon completing 12th grade, Priyanka aimed to enter the medical field, driven by a passion for nursing. Despite her family's financial challenges, with her father earning Rs. 8,000 monthly, Priyanka's determination found initial support from her paternal aunt, allowing her to enrol in the General Nursing Midwifery (GNM) course at K.E.M. Hospital, Pune.



Her educational journey faced a hurdle during her second year when financial support from her maternal aunt ceased due to her own family's crisis. Priyanka learned about LAHI's scholarship program at this critical juncture through her school's Head Master, Mr. Vinod Bomble. With the scholarship amounting to Rs. 80,000, Priyanka was able to continue and excel in her nursing studies, achieving an A grade upon graduation in 2015.

Immediately after graduation, Priyanka embarked on her career. She joined a renowned hospital in Pune, contributing to her family and beginning to repay the scholarship, for which LAHI granted her a 50% concession in recognition of her commitment to repaying the amount.

Now a nurse at Cloud Nine Hospital, Pune, with a monthly salary of Rs. 23,000, Priyanka has built a stable life. She married in 2017, and together with her husband, who works at ATOS, they have created a fulfilling life in Pune.

Reflecting on her journey, Priyanka acknowledges the critical role LAHI played in her education and career. She states, "It's because of LAHI that I could fulfil my dream of becoming a nurse. LAHI helped in building my confidence and sociability. If I had not got this opportunity, I would not have been able to express myself as I do now." This testament highlights the profound impact educational support can have on an individual's life, providing financial aid, instilling confidence, and enabling personal growth.



## "Gauri's Journey: From Adversity to Aspiration"



Gauri's life story is a poignant testament to education's resilience and transformative power. Orphaned at a tender age, she and her brother found a home with their paternal aunt and uncle in Tandulwadi. Despite their humble means, reliant on small-scale agriculture, Gauri's academic prowess shone brightly. She consistently ranked at the top of her class, which caught the attention and support of her school's Headmaster, Mr. Mane.

Completing her 10th grade with an impressive 91%, Gauri was determined to secure a job early to support her family, yet she was equally committed to pursuing quality education. Her excellent grades earned her a spot in a government polytechnic college, where she completed her Diploma in Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering with first-class honours.

Understanding the importance of further education, Gauri aspired to continue her studies despite financial hurdles. Lend A Hand India (LAHI) recognized her potential and exceptional circumstances, extending a scholarship that enabled her to achieve a degree in Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering from a Baramati college, again with first-class results.

Her academic journey transitioned into a professional career when she secured a position as a Radio Frequency Engineer with a salary package that significantly contributed to her family's income. However, life's unpredictable nature struck again during the pandemic, leading to a temporary job loss and, later, a pause in her career to care for her ailing aunt.

Through all these trials, Gauri remains grateful for the support received from her family and LAHI, whose scholarship was crucial in her educational and personal development. She reflects, "Though I am not an IBT/MSFC student, LAHI helped me, and I am thankful to them. They helped me and gave me a concession to repay the scholarship amount. Nobody would do this for an unknown girl like me. I wish I could have IBT/MSFC during my schooling, which would have helped me understand the basic engineering concepts."

Gauri's story vividly illustrates how kindness and personal determination can overcome the most daunting obstacles, offering hope and a path forward even in the darkest times.

## "Ketan's Academic Journey: A Testament to Tenacity and Support"

Ketan's educational odyssey, starting from Gautameshwar Madhyamik Vidyalaya in Gotandi, is a story of ambition, resilience, and the critical role of scholarships in empowering students from underprivileged backgrounds. Despite his family's financial constraints, with an annual income of around Rs. 1,00,000 and the responsibility of supporting his brother's education, Ketan pursued his interest in the sciences, particularly chemistry, after completing 10th grade.



The turning point in Ketan's academic career came during his 12th grade when Mr. Tushar Ranjankar, the Founder & Director of Alfa Byte Institute, introduced him to the Lend A Hand India (LAHI) scholarship program. This opportunity was the lifeline Ketan needed to pursue higher education without the burden of financial strain.

With the support of LAHI, Ketan excelled in his undergraduate studies, graduating with first-class honours in Chemistry. He didn't stop there; his dedication to his field propelled him through post-graduation, again finishing with first-class honours in 2016-17. This academic success led him to a rewarding career at Alkyl Amines Company as a Quality Control Officer, where he has been making significant contributions for the past five years.

Ketan's gratitude towards LAHI is profound. He reflects on the impact of the scholarship, stating, "Nobody can understand how LAHI is like a god for me. LAHI's scholarship project helping students like me to complete their dream of taking higher education by providing them financial help." He is also ready to support LAHI or Alfa Byte, expressing willingness to assist them whenever needed.

With his and his brother's contributions, Ketan's family's financial situation has improved significantly. They ensure their parents have a comfortable life, repaying the kindness and sacrifices made for their education. Ketan's journey underscores the transformative power of educational support, demonstrating how targeted aid can uplift individuals and entire families, paving the way for a brighter future.



## Rahul Shegar's Educational Journey: Overcoming Challenges with Determination

Rahul Shegar's narrative is a testament to the transformative impact of educational support systems and personal determination. Growing up in a family where financial constraints were a constant challenge, Rahul's ambition to pursue higher education seemed fraught with obstacles. His father, a driver earning Rs. 11,000 monthly, was the sole provider for the family, making it difficult to support Rahul's educational aspirations.

While at the Alfa Byte Center in Indapur, Rahul was introduced to the Lend A Hand India (LAHI) scholarship through Mr. Tushar Ranjankar, the Founder-Director of Alfa Byte. This scholarship, awarded for his 11th and 12th grades, enabled him to continue his education, eventually securing 70% in his 12th-grade exams.

Rahul's desire to pursue a Bachelor of Computer Applications (BCA) was strong, but financial realities forced him to halt his education after the first year. Unwilling to give up, Rahul adapted to his circumstances by taking up a job and simultaneously pursuing a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree externally. His relentless pursuit of education was complemented by a Tally course, which eventually led him to a job as an accountant in a garment company in Navi Mumbai.

Now settled in Nerul, Navi Mumbai, and preparing for the Saral Seva Bharti exams, Rahul's journey reflects a commitment to continuous learning and self-improvement. Despite the setbacks, he weaved his path through education and employment, underlining the importance of perseverance and adaptability.

Rahul's gratitude towards LAHI is profound. He acknowledges the scholarship's role in his life: "It's because of the LAHI I could complete at least my higher secondary education. Otherwise, I could have worked on daily wages on a 10th-grade basis." His recognition of the value of the scholarship and his intention to repay it to assist other students illustrates his sense of responsibility and gratitude.

Rahul's story is not just about overcoming financial barriers; it's about the relentless pursuit of one's goals and the significant difference educational support can make in an individual's life.



## "Shubhangi's Journey to Empowerment Through Education"

Shubhangi's story exemplifies the transformative impact of educational support on an individual's life trajectory. After excelling in her 10th-grade exams at Narayandas Ramdas High School, Indapur, Shubhangi was introduced to the Lend A Hand India (LAHI) scholarship through the Alfa Byte Computer Institute, an opportunity that would significantly alter her future.



Coming from a family where her father worked as a farmer and her mother assisted in household and agricultural duties, the financial constraints were palpable. However, Shubhangi's ambition and drive led her to apply for and secure the LAHI scholarship in 2011, enabling her to pursue science for her 11th and 12th grades at her alma mater.

Her academic journey did not stop there. With a clear vision for her future, Shubhangi ventured into nursing, a field she was passionate about. Acknowledging her dedication and potential, LAHI extended her scholarship to support her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Vijaysinh Mohite Patil College of Nursing, Akluj, which she completed in 2018 with first-class distinction.

Shubhangi's hard work and support from LAHI paved the way for immediate employment opportunities post-graduation. Initially working as a tutor in a nursing college, her quest for growth led her to secure a government position as a Community Health Officer in 2018, where she serves the community of Kurwali village, Indapur block, making a substantial difference while earning Rs. 40,000 per month.

Reflecting on her journey, Shubhangi expresses deep gratitude to LAHI, stating, "It's because of LAHI that I could complete my education and my dream to stand on my own feet. If LAHI had not given the scholarship to me, I would have had to drop out of education and probably had to sit at home." Her experience with LAHI shaped her career and her desire to give back, as she aims to support needy students in the future, inspired by the organization that played a pivotal role in her life.

Now married and a mother, Shubhangi continues to thrive professionally and personally. She lives with her husband, who works in the insurance sector, and their one-year-old son in a nurturing and supportive family environment. Her story affirms how targeted educational support can empower individuals to achieve their dreams and contribute meaningfully to society.

## "Vijay Tarange's Ascent to Achieving His Dream in Dentistry"



Vijay Tarange's story is a testament to the power of determination, support, and education in overcoming adversity. Hailing from a modest background in Tarangwadi, Vijay completed his 10th grade with an impressive 80%, harbouring the dream of entering the medical field. Despite his family's financial constraints, with his father struggling to support them through daily wage work, Vijay's ambition never waned.

His journey took a positive turn at Alfa Byte, an institute in Indapur, where he learned of the Lend A Hand India (LAHI) scholarship through Mr. Tushar Ranjankar, the institute's founder. This opportunity marked the beginning of a transformative chapter in his life. With LAHI's support, Vijay pursued his higher secondary education in science, securing 64% in his 12th grade and excelling in the CET exam with a score of 154 out of 200.

Vijay's hard work and perseverance led him to the Government Dental College and Hospital, Mumbai, where he embarked on a five-year BDS program, completing it with first-class honours in 2020. Post-graduation, he began practising in a private clinic, earning Rs. 10,000 per month and shouldering his family's financial burdens while saving to repay the scholarship.

In 2022, Vijay took another significant step toward his dream by preparing for the NEET exams for MDS, underscoring his commitment to furthering his education in dentistry. Through his journey, Vijay remained grateful for LAHI's pivotal role in his education, stating, *"If LAHI had not stood by me during my financial crisis, I would not be here, where I am today. LAHI supported me in achieving my dream."*

Today, as Vijay prepares for his MDS entrance, his family's situation has improved, with his parents managing better earnings from farming. His story reflects educational support's profound impact, turning dreams into reality and inspiring others in similar situations to pursue their aspirations with zeal and hope.

## "Priyanka's Educational Odyssey: From Diploma to Lectureship"

Priyanka's educational journey, marked by ambition and the transformative support of scholarships, showcases the impact of well-timed assistance on a student's career trajectory. After completing her 10th grade at Hirkani Vidyalaya, Gawadewadi, Priyanka's interest in computers led her to pursue a Diploma in Computer Engineering at the Government Polytechnic of Awasari. Despite her parents' modest means, with her father working as a clerk and her mother as an Anganwadi Sevika, they supported her academic aspirations.



Upon completing her diploma in 2013, Priyanka aimed higher, recognizing the need for advanced education to secure better career opportunities. Financial constraints could have hampered her aspirations were it not for the Lend A Hand India (LAHI) scholarship, which provided her with substantial support of Rs. 1,20,000 for her Bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering at Sahyadri Valley College of Engineering.

After graduating with first-class honours in 2016, Priyanka's academic journey continued with a Java Programming Course, leading to positions in an Android Application Company and later as a Computer Teacher. Her marriage to a businessman in 2018 and the birth of her daughter marked new chapters in her personal life while she continued to excel professionally.

Priyanka is a lecturer at Jai Hind College of Engineering pursuing her Master's in Computer Science. Her dedication to repaying the scholarship led to a concession from LAHI, acknowledging her commitment to giving back to the community that supported her.

Reflecting on her journey, Priyanka credits the IBT/MSFC programs for providing a foundational understanding that benefited her during her technical studies. She gratefully acknowledges LAHI's role, saying, "If I had not received the scholarship, I would have had to borrow money, which was difficult then. But LAHI helped me a lot, which was a great help for me."

Priyanka's story underscores the importance of educational scholarships in empowering students, enabling them to transform their potential into success and contribute meaningfully to their communities.



## "Varsha's Triumph: From Top Scorer to Voice Specialist"



Varsha's academic and professional journey is a narrative of resilience, ambition, and the transformative power of education. As a top scorer with 93.27% in her 10th board exams from Sant Yadavbaba Madhyamik Vidyalaya, she embarked on a path that would see her overcoming numerous challenges, supported by her determination and the helping hand of Lend A Hand India (LAHI).

Opting for a technical stream, Varsha pursued a Diploma in Electronics and Telecommunication at Government Polytechnic, Shivajinagar, Pune. Despite her family's financial constraints, with her mother managing the household and farm and her father bedridden, Varsha's exceptional academic performance secured her a place in a government college, easing the financial burden of her diploma education.

Upon completing her diploma with an impressive 84%, Varsha's aspirations led her to pursue a Degree in Electronics and Telecommunication. Given the increased financial demands of her degree education, she turned to LAHI for support. With guidance from her maternal uncle, Mr Suresh Kanchan, she successfully obtained a scholarship to enrol at MIT College, Pune, where she continued her track record of academic excellence.

After earning her degree in 2015-16, Varsha explored various job opportunities, contributing to her family's income and gaining valuable experience. Her journey took a new turn in 2018 when she married and started her own family, welcoming a daughter into the world.

Today, Varsha works as a Voice Specialist at Deutsche Bank Group in Pune, earning a respectable salary and continuing to grow professionally. Reflecting on her educational journey, Varsha acknowledges the crucial role of the IBT program and LAHI's scholarship in her life, saying, "It's all because of IBT. I can't forget the helping hand lent by LAHI to me." Her gratitude extends to her commitment to repaying the scholarship, ensuring that other deserving students can benefit from the support that aided her success.

Varsha's story is a testament to the impact of educational support and individual perseverance. It illustrates how a helping hand at the right time can pave the way for a brighter future filled with possibilities and achievements.

## "Vishal's Journey: Navigating Through Education to a Brighter Future"

Vishal's educational path exemplifies how determination, coupled with timely support, can navigate one through financial hurdles to achieve academic and professional goals. Completing his 10th grade at New English School, Bargaon Pimpri, Nashik, he set his sights on a Diploma in Mechanical Engineering, despite the financial constraints his family faced with an annual income of just Rs. 1,00,000.



Enrolling at Shatabadi Institute of Technology, Sinner, Nashik, was a leap towards his dream. However, financial challenges mounted as his family shouldered the additional burden of his sisters' marriages, leading to a situation where his diploma completion was at risk. Lend A Hand India's (LAHI) timely scholarship intervention in 2013 was a turning point, providing Vishal with the needed support to continue his education without interruption.

After graduating with a diploma and further securing a Bachelor of Engineering degree in Mechanical Engineering, Vishal exemplified perseverance and dedication. Yet, upon entering the workforce, he encountered new challenges, particularly with his initial salary not meeting his expectations. This prompted a strategic pivot to IT, where he saw better prospects, funded through his savings.

Today, as Vishal prepares for new opportunities in IT, his family's financial situation has stabilized, allowing them to manage their expenses independently. His commitment to giving back, demonstrated by beginning to repay the LAHI scholarship, reflects his gratitude and understanding of the program's value in his life.

Vishal credits the financial support and the technical knowledge he gained through his education, acknowledging how IBT/MSFC experiences enhanced his practical skills, particularly in fabrication.

His story is a testament to educational scholarships' profound impact, enabling students to overcome economic barriers and realize their potential. LAHI is proud to have been a part of Vishal's journey and looks forward to his future successes.



## "Sayli Patil's Educational Pursuits: A Blend of Aspiration and Gratitude"



Sayli Patil's academic journey from Anandrao Patil Prashala in Kolhapur to pursuing advanced degrees in education and business management is a testament to her relentless pursuit of knowledge and excellence. With an impressive 87.40% in her 10th-grade exams, Sayli's academic prowess was evident early on, setting a strong foundation for her future endeavors.

Currently, Sayli's academic endeavours in B.Ed. and MBA in Agri-Business Management reflect her commitment to continuous learning and her aspiration to integrate her passion for agriculture with business acumen. Inspired by her educator parents, she views them as her role models, drawing motivation from their dedication to teaching.

Sayli attributes her practical skills and understanding of agricultural concepts to the IBT program during her school years, emphasizing its impact on her higher education. She says, "Basic techniques learnt during IBT in the Agriculture and Animal Husbandry section have helped me during my graduation. My basic concepts were clear, so it made me understand practical aspects like saplings, grafting, and types of beds easily. I am very thankful to LAHI for implementing IBT in my school, which benefitted my further studies."

While contemplating her future path, Sayli is keen on leveraging her educational experiences to make informed career choices. Her story is a roadmap for students, showing that with the right foundation and ongoing dedication to learning, one can explore vast horizons and find one's true calling.

## "Rupesh's Journey: From Mechanical Engineering to Graphic Designing"

Rupesh's story unfolds a narrative of self-discovery, resilience, and the pivotal role of adaptability in navigating life's unpredictable paths. Graduating with 62% from Shri Kolheshwar Vidyalaya, Tandulwadi, his initial academic pursuit led him to a Diploma in Mechanical Engineering, a path aligned with his aspirations yet challenged by financial constraints and academic difficulties.



The scholarship from Lend A Hand India (LAHI) in 2013-14 offered a glimmer of hope, enabling him to embark on this educational journey despite his family's modest income from agriculture. However, Rupesh encountered unforeseen challenges in his studies, finding the curriculum demanding and ultimately realizing that his passion lay elsewhere.

Transitioning from engineering to graphic design wasn't straightforward. A friend's casual introduction to graphic design sparked Rupesh's interest, leading him from mere observation to active learning and practice. His journey into graphic design started serendipitously but grew into a passionate pursuit, eventually transforming into a viable career and small-scale business. Working as a Coordinator and Designer at UFO Company, Mumbai, he began to find his footing, earning Rs. 14,000 monthly until the pandemic disrupted his career. Yet, adversity bred innovation, and Rupesh returned to his entrepreneurial roots, revitalizing his graphic design business.

Now settled in his business, Rupesh reflects on his journey with a sense of gratitude and a recognition of the foundational skills acquired during his schooling and brief stint in engineering, acknowledging, *"I am always grateful to LAHI for supporting me during 1st year of my mechanical engineering. Basic skills and techniques I learnt during IBT/MSFC helped me greatly while understanding basics during my diploma."*

Married and living in Thane with his wife, a commerce graduate working at TCS, Rupesh's life is a testament to the idea that success is not a straight path but a series of learning experiences and adjustments. His story resonates with the notion that while education is invaluable, the essence of learning lies in its application and the ability to adapt and thrive, irrespective of the field. As he contemplates further education, Rupesh embodies the lifelong learner's spirit, open to new opportunities and growth.



## "Vikram's Journey: From Aspiring Student to Inspiring Teacher"

Vikram's educational journey from the small village of Survad near Pune to becoming a teacher is a narrative of determination, resilience, and the impactful role of timely support. Scoring an impressive 85% in his 10th-grade exams, Vikram's passion for science paved his path forward, despite the daunting financial challenges his family faced, with an annual income of merely Rs. 50,000 and the burden of loans taken for his sisters' marriages.

Determined to pursue further education in science, Vikram sought the assistance of Lend A Hand India (LAHI) through Alfa Byte Institute. His 11th and 12th grades scholarship enabled him to continue his studies and achieve 68% in his 12th-grade exams. His academic journey didn't stop there; LAHI's continued support allowed him to undertake a Bachelor of Science, which he completed with first-class honours, even while contributing to his family's income through part-time work.

Vikram's dedication and hard work culminated in a Master's in Organic Chemistry with an impressive 9.25 CGPA. His academic excellence led to a job opportunity at Syngene International Ltd. in Bangalore, where he served as a Research Scientist until familial responsibilities called him back home.

The subsequent career transition to teaching at Navodya Vidyalaya, Belgavi, was a professional choice and fulfilling a lifelong dream. The role came with the added stability of quarters and food facilities, easing his family's financial strain and allowing him to become the primary breadwinner.

Reflecting on his journey, Vikram expresses deep gratitude towards LAHI, acknowledging that their support was crucial in preventing him from dropping out of education. He says, "I am very much happy with my job as a teacher...It's all because of LAHI I am doing a job in my favorite field." His commitment to giving back, demonstrated by repaying the scholarship, highlights his understanding of the significance of 'paying it forward' so that others can benefit as he did.

Vikram's story is a testament to the power of education and how strategic support can transform lives for individuals and entire communities. As he steps into the future, embracing his role as an educator, Vikram carries forward the legacy of LAHI, inspiring his students just as he was inspired and supported during his formative years.



## "Akshay Shete's Entrepreneurial Journey: From Scholarship Recipient to Business Owner"

Akshay's journey from a student at Gotandi Gautameshwar Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Indapur, to a successful entrepreneur is a narrative filled with ambition, strategic planning, and gratitude. After completing his 10th grade in 2012-13, Akshay chose the science stream for his higher secondary education, with a clear vision of eventually entering the business domain.



Being a part of the Alfa Byte Institute and learning about Lend A Hand India's scholarship opportunities from a friend, Akshay took proactive steps to secure financial support for his academic pursuits. His scholarship allowed him to complete his 12th grade and subsequently a Bachelor of Business Administration, laying a strong foundation for his future in business.

With a degree in hand and brief stints at Wipro and HP to gain industry experience, Akshay's entrepreneurial spirit led him to establish "Shivanya Sales Pvt. Ltd."—a venture dealing in IT products and boasting a distributorship of HP products for the Baramati region. His business acumen and strategic investments have propelled his company to impressive annual turnovers, exceeding Rs. 4.5 crores.

Akshay's story is about business success, community, and responsibility. Recognizing the importance of his support, he expresses his intention to repay the scholarship from LAHI, understanding the impact such assistance can have on a student's life and opportunities. He says, "I am very much thankful to LAHI for sponsoring my scholarship, without which I could not take higher education."

Today, as Akshay navigates the challenges and triumphs of his business, he stands as a testament to the power of combining education, experience, and entrepreneurial zeal. His journey from a scholarship beneficiary to a business owner is an inspiration, showcasing how strategic choices and a commitment to giving back can shape a promising future.

## "Abhijit's Journey: From Aspiration to Achievement in Automobile Engineering"



Abhijit's story is a narrative of passion, perseverance, and the pivotal role of educational support in transforming dreams into reality. Growing up in Indapur with a keen interest in automobiles, Abhijit faced financial constraints that threatened to curb his academic aspirations. His parents, earning modestly through daily wages, could not afford the fees for the science stream he was eager to pursue after scoring 81.27% in his 10th grade.

The turning point in Abhijit's educational journey came when he connected with Alfa Byte Institute, where he was introduced to the Lend A Hand India (LAHI) scholarship program. This opportunity allowed him to enrol in the science stream while also participating in the 'Earn and Learn' scheme at Alfa Byte, helping him to support himself during his 11th and 12th grades.

With a determined spirit, Abhijit completed his 12th grade with 62% and pursued his passion in Automobile Engineering at Dr. D.Y. Patil School of Engineering, Talegaon, Pune. LAHI's financial support was instrumental in this phase of his education, enabling him to graduate with a first-class degree in 2019.

Now a Job Purchase Engineer at Sensor Teck Innovation India Pvt., Abhijit has embarked on his professional journey, earning an annual salary to support his family and live independently in Pune. His marriage in 2022 to a graduate in Lab Technology marks a new chapter in his life, as they both look forward to building their future together.

Reflecting on his journey, Abhijit acknowledges the crucial support from LAHI, stating, "If LAHI had not helped me, I would have had to select a regular stream or consider taking an educational loan, which wasn't feasible due to high-interest rates. I am very grateful to LAHI for their help, which enabled me to complete the education of my choice."

Abhijit's story highlights the transformative impact of targeted educational support, illustrating how it can empower individuals to pursue their passions, overcome financial hurdles, and achieve their professional and personal goals. His gratitude towards LAHI and his commitment to his chosen field exemplify the positive outcomes that can emerge from the synergy of ambition and support.

## "Sudam's Path to Becoming a Civil Engineer: Overcoming Obstacles with Support"

Sudam's journey from a student with aspirations in Civil Engineering to securing a government position exemplifies the transformative impact of support and determination in the face of adversity. Growing up in a family that toiled on their land and worked as daily wage laborers, Sudam witnessed firsthand the challenges posed by financial constraints and the burden of debt.



Despite these challenges, Sudam excelled academically, securing 80% in his 10th and 62% in his 12th grades. Lend A Hand India (LAHI) recognized his performance and potential and provided him with a scholarship that supported his educational pursuits until he completed his civil engineering degree in 2019.

Sudam's academic journey didn't stop at graduation. With ambitions to further his expertise, he prepared for an M.Tech in Hyderabad and seized the opportunity to apply for a Civil Engineer position through the MPSC examination. Although the COVID-19 pandemic delayed the recruitment process, Sudam's perseverance paid off, and he is now awaiting his official appointment.

Reflecting on his journey, Sudam acknowledges the critical role that LAHI played in his success, stating, "If LAHI had not stood by me during that bad patch of my life, I would have crumbled. I would not be here where I am today. LAHI supported me in achieving my dream." He is committed to repaying the scholarship, recognizing its value in providing similar opportunities to other needy students.

In his personal life, Sudam has embarked on a new chapter, having married in 2021. His wife is pursuing a Computer Management Application (CMA) course, indicating a shared commitment to education and advancement within the family.

Sudam's story is a testament to the power of educational scholarships in enabling individuals to overcome socioeconomic barriers and achieve their professional goals. His gratitude towards LAHI and his commitment to giving back underscore the importance of support systems in fostering individual potential and contributing to community development.

## "Vaibhav's Journey: From Agricultural Enthusiasm to Professional Success"



Vaibhav's story is a compelling narrative of how a young boy's passion for agriculture transformed into a successful career, underscored by the critical role of educational support in achieving one's dreams. Growing up in a modest farming family in Gawadewadi, Pune, Vaibhav's academic journey began with promising results in his 10th-grade exams, followed by a focused pursuit of science in his higher secondary education.

Despite facing financial hurdles, Vaibhav's determination to advance in agriculture remained steadfast. His aspirations led him to pursue a B.Sc. in Horticulture at Shri Sharadchandra Pawar College of Horticulture, Chiplun. The scholarship from Lend A Hand India (LAHI) played a pivotal role in this phase of his life, enabling him to complete his education without financial strain.

The intervention of Mr. Bomble, the headmaster of Hirkani Vidyalaya, became a turning point when he introduced Vaibhav and his family to the Lend A Hand India (LAHI) scholarship. This support enabled Vaibhav to enrol in a B.Sc. program in Horticulture at Shri Sharadchandra Pawar College, where he excelled and graduated with first-class honours in 2018.

Vaibhav's journey from academia to the professional world saw him securing a position as an Operational Executive at a vegetable mall, only to face unemployment due to the pandemic. However, his resilience and the practical skills acquired through his education allowed him to contribute meaningfully to his family's agricultural activities during these trying times.

Currently working as a Supervisor at Kartik Agro Foods Company, Vaibhav applies his expertise to ensure the quality of exported baby corn. His role signifies professional growth and highlights the practical application of his educational background in horticulture.

Vaibhav reflects on his journey and the critical role of LAHI's support, stating, "I still make Amla candy, Groundnut chikki, and lemon-chili pickle, which I learnt in IBT classes. The basic techniques learned in the IBT classes are still helping me in my work and daily routine. If LAHI had not given me the scholarship, I would have had to borrow with huge interest. I am very thankful to LAHI for their extended hand."

His commitment to repaying the scholarship as soon as his financial situation stabilizes further illustrates his gratitude and sense of responsibility. Vaibhav's story is a testament to the enduring impact of targeted educational support, empowering students to achieve their dreams and contribute positively to their communities.

## "Dhanashree Solase's Journey: Bridging Dreams with Education"

Dhanashree Solase's academic path is a shining example of how passion, coupled with the right support, can overcome even the most daunting challenges. After excelling in her 10th-grade exams at Shree Pandharinath Vidyalaya, Pokhari, Dhanashree's aspirations to integrate her interests in numerical subjects and drawing led her to pursue a Diploma in Civil Engineering.



The financial constraints of being raised by a single mother, an IBT/MSFC instructor, did not deter Dhanashree. Her mother's acquaintance with the Lend A Hand India (LAHI) scholarship provided much-needed support for Dhanashree's embarking on her educational journey in civil engineering at Government Polytechnic, Avsari Khurd, Pune.

Understanding the value of higher education and facing her family's limited financial capacity, Dhanashree sought additional support, securing a scholarship from the Leela Poonawala Foundation. This further assistance enabled her to attain a first-class degree in Engineering from ESSMS Bhiwarabai Sawant College of Engineering, Narhe, Pune.

Today, Dhanashree is a Design Engineer at Vyankateshwara Ltd., contributing to the Jaljeevan Mission and earning a stable income. Her professional role signifies her achievement and reflects the practical application of her learned skills, particularly those acquired through IBT/MSFC sessions emphasising engineering and construction basics.

Reflecting on her journey, Dhanashree acknowledges the critical role of scholarships in her education: "If I could not have received the scholarship from LAHI, I would not have completed my Diploma in Civil Engineering, a field I am deeply passionate about." She is grateful for the dual support she received, which alleviated the financial burden of tuition and living expenses during her studies.

Dhanashree's commitment to repaying the scholarship reflects her understanding of its value and her desire to contribute to the system that supported her, ensuring that future students receive similar opportunities.

Her story is a testament to the impact of educational support systems in empowering students to pursue their dreams and achieve their goals, illustrating how targeted assistance can transform individual lives and contribute to broader societal progress.



## "Netra's Path to Success: Empowered by Scholarships in Electronics and Telecommunication"



Netra's educational journey from a diploma in Electronics and Telecommunication to becoming a Program Analyst at Cognizant illustrates the profound impact of financial support for aspiring students from underprivileged backgrounds. After excelling in her 10th-grade exams at Sant Yadavbaba Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Shindavane, she faced financial barriers that could have halted her academic and career aspirations.

The timely intervention through Lend A Hand India's scholarship program provided Netra with the necessary support to pursue her diploma at the Institute of Technology, Hadapsar, Pune, where she excelled, securing 80.41%. Recognizing the importance of advanced education for better career prospects, Netra proactively sought additional scholarships. She was awarded the Leela Poonawala Foundation support for her engineering degree at Sinhgad Institute of Technology.

Graduating in 2020 with 71%, Netra's transition into the professional world was briefly stalled by the pandemic. However, her resilience and commitment to furthering her skills through online courses in Cyber Security and a CDAC course kept her on track. In 2022, she began her career with Cognizant, marking a significant milestone in her journey.

Netra reflects on the critical role of scholarships in her life, stating, "Today, whatever I am earning is because of LAHI and the Leela Poonamawala Foundation. Without their support, I couldn't have completed my education." She acknowledges the pivotal moment when LAHI's support saved her from taking on burdensome loans. She highlights her gratitude and the cycle of giving back as she plans to repay her scholarship to assist other needy students.

Her story is a testament to the power of educational support systems in transforming lives, enabling students like Netra to overcome financial barriers and achieve their dreams. Her journey underscores the importance of such scholarships in nurturing talent and providing pathways to success for students from economically challenged backgrounds.

## "Pooja's Educational Journey: From Science Enthusiast to Dedicated Lecturer"

Pooja's academic journey is a story of ambition, perseverance, and the significant impact of educational support at crucial times. After achieving an impressive 89% in her 10th-grade exams at Narayan Ramdas Highschool, Indapur, Pooja was determined to pursue science, despite the financial challenges her family faced. Her father, a small flower shop owner, and her mother, a homemaker, were committed to supporting her educational aspirations, albeit with concerns about funding.



The introduction to Lend A Hand India (LAHI) through her MS-CIT classes at Alfa Byte Institute became a turning point. Pooja seized the opportunity, applied for the scholarship, and was granted the much-needed financial support to continue her education in the 11th grade. Demonstrating maturity and awareness of her family's improving financial situation, Pooja stepped back from the scholarship after 11th grade, allowing LAHI to redirect the funds to assist other needy students.

Pooja's educational journey didn't stop there. She completed her post-graduation in microbiology at Tuljaram Chaturchand College, Baramati, guided by her interest and promising prospects in the pharmaceutical industry. Today, as a lecturer in the Arts, Science, and Commerce College of Indapur, Pooja contributes to her field and inspires the next generation. Alongside her teaching responsibilities, she is preparing for the NET/SET examinations to further her academic career while pursuing a B.Ed. to enhance her teaching qualifications.

Reflecting on her path, Pooja acknowledges the critical role that LAHI played in her education, stating, "LAHI's timely aid through scholarship was very helpful for me; otherwise, I would have had to drop out of college. It's because of LAHI that I could continue my education, and I am very thankful for that."

Pooja's journey underscores the transformative power of targeted educational support, illustrating how timely assistance can enable dedicated students to overcome financial barriers and achieve their academic and professional goals. Her story is a testament to the enduring benefits of scholarships in fostering talent and ambition in students who aspire to make a difference in their communities and fields.

## "Mangesh's Educational Ascent: From Financial Constraints to Empowered Educator"



Mangesh's story is a beacon of hope and determination, illustrating how ambition and the right support can turn dreams into reality, even in the face of daunting financial challenges. After an impressive 86% in his 10th-grade exams at Shreenath Vidyalaya, Vadapuri, Indapur, Mangesh's aspiration to pursue science seemed distant due to his family's financial constraints, with an annual income of less than Rs. 35,000 from half an acre of agricultural land.

However, Mangesh's proactive approach led him to the Lend A Hand India (LAHI) scholarship, a crucial turning point in his educational journey. His engagement with the Alfa Byte Institute, which partnered with LAHI, opened the door to this opportunity, enabling him to continue his education in the 11th and 12th grades without burdening his family.

Upon completing his 12th grade with first-class honours, Mangesh's sense of responsibility and independence shone through as he chose to forgo further scholarship support, managing his higher education independently. He pursued a B.Sc. followed by an M.Sc. in Mathematics, excelling with an 8.8 CGPA, driven by his passion for the subject.

Now a teacher at S.B. Patil School, Indapur, Mangesh contributes to his family and inspires his students. Committed to furthering his qualifications, he is pursuing a B.Ed. while also preparing for NET/SET exams, balancing his professional responsibilities well with his academic pursuits.

Reflecting on his journey, Mangesh expresses deep gratitude to LAHI, acknowledging the scholarship's critical role in his formative years. He says, "Because of LAHI, I could do the 11th and 12th grade and continue my education as per my interest and choice. I am very much thankful to LAHI for all the support." His commitment to repaying the scholarship and the education loan underscores his appreciation for the assistance he received and his desire to give back, ensuring that other students can benefit from similar support.

Mangesh's narrative is a testament to the transformative power of education and the impact of timely assistance, highlighting how dedication, coupled with community support, can overcome financial barriers and pave the way for a successful and fulfilling career.



## "Ajay's Journey to Becoming a Design Engineer: Fueled by Scholarly Support"

Ajay's educational journey, marked by his determination and a pivotal scholarship from Lend A Hand India (LAHI), illustrates the profound impact that financial support can have on a student's career path, especially when pursuing technical education. After achieving a commendable 76% in his 10th-grade exams at Gautameshwar Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Gotandi, Ajay set his sights on the mechanical field, a decision that would shape his future career.



Completing his diploma with an impressive 74%, Ajay was keen on advancing his education but was confronted with financial challenges, particularly since his family, reliant on agriculture, had an annual income of less than Rs. one lakh. Despite concerns about already having a family member as an LAHI scholarship beneficiary, Ajay applied, demonstrating the family's acute need for support. The scholarship he received was a testament to LAHI's commitment to aiding deserving students, regardless of their circumstances.

With LAHI's support, Ajay enrolled in D.Y. Patil Institute of Engineering, where he completed his degree in Mechanical Engineering. His academic success opened doors to specialized design courses, further enhancing his skills and employability.

Now a Design Engineer at Cummins India Company in Pune, Ajay's professional achievements reflect his dedication and the critical role the LAHI scholarship has played in his educational journey. Residing in Pune and contributing to his field, Ajay's success story is an inspiration for students facing similar financial hurdles.

Reflecting on the impact of the scholarship, Ajay acknowledges, "Yes! Of course! Because of LAHI's scholarship, I could complete my education in my chosen course. I am very much thankful to LAHI for their extended hand." His commitment to repaying the scholarship underscores his gratitude and recognition of the support system that helped him reach his goals.

Ajay's story underscores the importance of scholarships in empowering students to pursue their chosen fields of study, achieve their dreams, and ultimately contribute meaningfully to their professions and communities. His gratitude towards LAHI and his plans to give back highlights the cycle of support and success that scholarships aim to create, benefiting individuals and society.

## "Satyabhama's Educational Journey: From Electrical Enthusiasm to Future Aspirations"



Satyabhama's story showcases the power of targeted support and personal determination in navigating educational and career paths. With an impressive 80% in her 10th-grade exams from Vasantao Naik Vidyalaya, Warwati, her passion for electrical studies, sparked by her exposure to the IBT/MSFC curriculum, guided her towards a specialized career path.

Despite the financial constraints faced by her family, with an annual income of less than Rs. 50,000, Satyabhama's commitment to her interest led her to explore vocational training in the Electrical Wireman trade. However, she initially enrolled in the 11th grade. Her decision to pursue ITI, supported by a scholarship from Lend A Hand India (LAHI), underscores the importance of aligning educational pursuits with one's interests and the available support systems.

Completing her ITI with first-class honours, Satyabhama exemplified the practical application of her learning by undertaking an apprenticeship with MSEB in Pune, further enhancing her skills and knowledge. Her proactive approach to education, complemented by completing a bachelor's degree through an Open University, showcases her commitment to continuous learning and personal development.

Transitioning from her technical role at MSEB to preparing for police recruitment illustrates Satyabhama's adaptability and determination to explore diverse career opportunities. Meanwhile, her family continues farming, with her siblings making strides in their personal and professional lives.

Reflecting on her journey and the support she received, Satyabhama says, "Basic knowledge and technique taught during IBT/MSFC are very useful while working and studying as well. I am very thankful to LAHI for their extended support to needy and deserving students like me. I immediately repaid the scholarship amount to LAHI so that another needy student would benefit."

Today, as Satyabhama transitions her career focus towards police recruitment, her story remains a testament to the enduring value of practical education and the significant role of scholarships in enabling students to overcome financial barriers and pursue their aspirations. Her gratitude towards LAHI and her proactive approach to repaying the scholarship highlights her recognition of the assistance she received and her desire to contribute to the support cycle for future students.

## "Shubham's Journey: Navigating Through Challenges with Determination and Support"

Shubham's educational path, from Shri Dnyansanvardhini Vidyalaya, Shirwal to navigating the post-pandemic job market, illustrates resilience and the pivotal role of educational support in shaping futures. Garnering an impressive 80% in both his 10th and 12th grades, Shubham's passion for automobiles was ignited through his exposure to the Engineering section of the IBT/MSFC syllabus, charting his course toward a degree in Mechanical Engineering.



The financial constraints of his family, with an income of less than Rs. 70,000, could have truncated his educational aspirations. However, the timely intervention through a Lend A Hand India (LAHI) scholarship enabled him to pursue and complete his B.E. with an 8.5 CGPA at Navsahyadri College, Nasrapur. His initial professional endeavour as a CNC Operator at "Tal Bruf" in Shirwal was cut short by the pandemic, leading him to pivot to a JAVA course to broaden his skills.

Currently working in his cousin's salon, Shubham remains committed to leveraging his technical background and continuing his job search, demonstrating adaptability in changing economic landscapes. His family remains a cornerstone of support, with his father still working in a salon and his mother as a homemaker while his sister embarks on her new married life. Reflecting on the impact of the LAHI scholarship and his IBT/MSFC education, Shubham acknowledges, "If LAHI had not given me the scholarship, I would have had to leave my education. The technical education they are giving students is very important in life." This gratitude extends to his understanding of the scholarship's cyclical nature, expressing a commitment to repay the aid to support other students, underscoring his recognition of the help he received and his desire to give back when circumstances allow.

Shubham's journey underscores the value of perseverance, the critical role of targeted educational support, and the enduring impact of technical education in equipping students with practical skills and knowledge that benefit them beyond the classroom and into their professional lives.

## "Ganesh's Journey: From Electrical Enthusiasm to Professional Achievement"



Ganesh's educational and professional journey, originating from Vijaya Gopal Gandhi Anudanit Ashramshala, Mangaon, exemplifies the profound impact of early exposure to specialized subjects and the vital role of financial support in realizing academic and career aspirations. His interest in electrical engineering, sparked during his IBT/MSFC classes, set a clear path for his future.

Despite his family's financial challenges, with an annual income of no more than Rs. 50,000, Ganesh's parents prioritized his education, enabling him to complete his diploma. However, when financial constraints tightened further during his Bachelor's in Engineering, Ganesh turned to LAHI, securing a scholarship that helped him continue his studies for an additional year.

Through determination and resourcefulness, Ganesh managed to fund the rest of his education by borrowing from relatives and availing a loan from a Self Help Group to which his mother belonged. In 2019, he completed his B.E. with commendable marks, transitioning into the professional world as a Site Supervisor at Aegasun Energy Pvt. Ltd.

Ganesh's reflection on his educational journey underscores the value of the technical knowledge gained through the IBT/MSFC program, which he credits for his confidence during practical exams and overall understanding of electrical engineering concepts. His gratitude toward LAHI for the scholarship and the introduction of technical education in schools highlights the critical role such support plays in student lives.

Now an integral earning member of his family, Ganesh acknowledges the importance of repaying the scholarship, intending to contribute back as soon as possible to enable LAHI to assist other students in need, just as it aided him during a crucial phase of his education.

Ganesh's narrative is a testament to the power of perseverance, the significance of targeted educational support, and the positive ripple effect of giving back. It illustrates how structured assistance can help students from underprivileged backgrounds achieve their goals and support their families.

## "Nikesh's Resilient Pursuit of Mechanical Engineering"

Nikesh's educational journey is a narrative of perseverance and the critical role that timely support can play in a student's life. After excelling in his 10th-grade exams at New English School, Bargaon Pimpri, Pune, Nikesh's passion for the mechanical field, fostered during his IBT/MSFC classes, led him to pursue a diploma in Mechanical Engineering. Initially, his family was able to support his education, but unforeseen health issues with his father brought financial strain, compelling Nikesh to seek assistance.



Lend A Hand India (LAHI) stepped in to provide Nikesh with a scholarship during this challenging period, enabling him to complete his diploma with commendable marks. His academic journey continued into a Bachelor's program in Mechanical Engineering, reflecting his determination to advance despite obstacles.

The recurring health problems of his father necessitated Nikesh to intermittently pause his studies and employment to shoulder family responsibilities and medical expenses. Despite these interruptions, he completed his B.E. with a strong CGPA and gained experience as a Quality Executive, demonstrating his commitment to his professional and familial obligations.

As Nikesh seeks new job opportunities while caring for his ailing father, his story highlights the significance of educational scholarships in providing a lifeline to students in need. Nikesh's gratitude to LAHI underscores the impact of their support: *"I would have had to borrow money on a huge interest from a moneylender or bank if LAHI had not given me the scholarship when I was in need. I am very much thankful to LAHI for the same."*

Through his journey, Nikesh exemplifies resilience, the value of education in overcoming adversity, and the profound difference that supportive organizations like LAHI can make in students navigating their academic and personal challenges.



## "Tanvir's Educational and Professional Journey: From Local Farming to International Engineering"



Tanvir's academic and professional journey exemplifies resilience and the transformative impact of foundational education and timely support. His progression from Hirkani Vidyalaya in Gawadewadi to a pivotal role in Bhutan with Perfect Company Composite highlights the value of persistence and continuous learning.

After completing his diploma with a commendable 76% at Government Polytechnic Awasari, Tanvir's aspirations led him to pursue a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. Despite the financial constraints faced by his family, with an annual income under Rs. 75,000, the support from Lend A Hand India (LAHI) played a crucial role in his early college years. However, the setback of failing a subject, which resulted in the discontinuation of his scholarship, became a turning point for Tanvir, teaching him the importance of perseverance and hard work.

Tanvir's determination saw him completing his B.E. in 2018 with a 68% score, after which he embarked on a diverse professional path in companies like Bharat Forge and Deep My Auto before securing his position in Bhutan. His role as a Project and Plan in charge marks his personal and professional growth and signifies the global applicability of the skills and knowledge acquired through his education.

Reflecting on his journey and the skills gained from the IBT/MSFC program during his schooling, Tanvir acknowledges the practical benefits of his education, stating, *"The basics I learned during IBT/MSFC in schooling are helpful for me while studying and now working as well. Joints, drawing, and welding techniques helped me a lot."*

Tanvir shows gratitude to LAHI for the scholarship support but regrets missing the opportunity to maximize this assistance due to his academic stumble. His acknowledgement of this and his commitment to repaying the scholarship underscore a sense of responsibility and appreciation for the support he received, illustrating his readiness to give back and help pave the way for other deserving students.

As Tanvir continues to build his career in Bhutan, his story is an inspiring example of how dedication, supported by educational initiatives and personal effort, can lead to fulfilling and impactful career opportunities that transcend geographical and economic boundaries.

## "Pratik's Path from Passion to Profession in the Mechanical Field"

Pratik's journey from a high school graduate from Hirvani Vidyalaya, Gawadewadi, to a job developer at Hitachi Group illustrates a successful blend of passion, education, and timely support. With an innate interest in automobiles nurtured further by his IBT/MSFC courses, Pratik embarked on a diploma in Automobile Engineering at Government Polytechnic, Awasari, supported by his family's commitment despite their modest farming income.



Pratik's proactive approach to advancing his knowledge with a bachelor's degree led him to seek financial assistance. This led him to the Lend A Hand India (LAHI) scholarship, which supported him during the initial phase of his degree program. His decision to relinquish the scholarship in his second year due to improved financial stability reflects his integrity and consideration for other needy students.

Completing his B.E. with an impressive 82%, Pratik further specialized in Mechanical Design, showcasing his commitment to continuous learning and professional development. His current role at Hitachi Group signifies his successful entry into the professional world and his ability to integrate his mechanical engineering skills in versatile domains.

Pratik's reflection on his educational journey underscores the impact of foundational courses like IBT/MSFC and the pivotal role of scholarships in alleviating financial burdens, allowing students like him to focus on academic excellence. He notes, "LAHI's scholarship helped me step forward and walk ahead...It enabled me to concentrate on my studies."

Today, as Pratik stands ready to repay the scholarship, acknowledging its significance in his education, he embodies the ethos of giving back, ensuring that future students can benefit from similar support. His story is a testament to how targeted assistance and educational opportunities can equip individuals to pursue their passions, achieve their goals, and contribute positively to their fields.

## "Komal's Inspiring Educational Journey and Aspirations Beyond"



Komal's story of empowerment and determination illuminates the path for other girls in her village and beyond. Completing her graduation as one of the few girls from her village to do so, she stands as a testament to the impact of education on personal growth and community development. Despite her family's financial challenges, with an annual income of merely Rs. 30,000, Komal's educational journey was propelled by her resolve and the support she received from the Lend A Hand India (LAHI) scholarship through Alfa Byte Institute.

Choosing to major in Science after her stay in a government hostel facilitated her 10th grade Komal's academic pursuit, a critical support system that allowed her to focus on her studies. Her decision to request LAHI to discontinue the scholarship in her final year of graduation, as she had saved enough to cover her expenses, reflects her thoughtfulness and desire to help others in need.

Komal acknowledges the barriers many girls face in accessing higher education, particularly in rural areas. She underscores the importance of educational scholarships and hostels in enabling female students to pursue their academic goals. Her graduation is a personal achievement and a milestone for her community, inspiring other families to support their daughters' educational aspirations.

Now married and preparing for competitive examinations, Komal continues to set an example with the support of her husband and in-laws. Her story underscores the transformative power of education in personal development and empowering women to participate fully in all aspects of life, including competitive and professional realms.

Expressing gratitude for the scholarship and its opportunities, Komal states, "The scholarship not only helped me educate beyond the 10th grade, but it allowed me to step out of my village, face new challenges, and explore the outside world." This experience has been instrumental in building her confidence and social skills, empowering her to become a role model and advocate for education within her community.

Komal's journey poignantly reminds us of the far-reaching benefits of educational support. It inspires other young women to pursue their dreams and break through traditional barriers with the backing of their families and the broader community.

## "Amol's Journey of Resilience and Academic Achievement"

Amol's educational trajectory from Shri Laxmi Vidyalaya in Hasurkhurd to becoming a Research Associate in Lupine Pharma epitomizes resilience, dedication, and the transformative power of educational support. Despite the adversities of losing close family members at a young age, Amol's pursuit of higher education in Analytical Chemistry underscores his determination to overcome challenges and build a promising future.



Navigating through his academic journey, Amol's commitment to education was evident as he completed his bachelor's degree in Chemistry and aspired to further his expertise through a master's program. The financial hurdles that emerged were mitigated by the scholarship from Lend A Hand India (LAHI), a critical support that enabled him to complete his M.Sc. with commendable marks.

Working as a Research Associate since 2017, Amol has embarked on a professional path that leverages his academic background in Chemistry, contributing meaningfully to the pharmaceutical industry. His role in Lupine Pharma not only signifies his individual growth but also his contribution to the broader scientific community.

Amol's reflection on the educational expenses before receiving the LAHI scholarship highlights the challenges he and his sister faced, underscoring the importance of financial support in enabling students to pursue uninterrupted higher education. His dedication to repaying the scholarship amount, despite personal and familial responsibilities, speaks to his character and gratitude for the assistance he received.

Discussing the impact of his IBT course, Amol recognizes the indirect benefits of the skills acquired, which have proved useful in his day-to-day life, illustrating the broad utility of such educational programs beyond their immediate academic context.

Amol's story is a testament to the enduring spirit of a learner who, supported by community and educational scholarships, transforms obstacles into stepping stones, achieving his academic and professional goals while preparing to give back and support future students in their educational endeavors. His narrative is an inspiring reminder of the critical role of educational support systems in nurturing talent and enabling individuals to contribute positively to society.

## "Hitesh's Triumph Over Adversity: An Inspiring Journey in Electrical Engineering"



Hitesh's educational odyssey, marked by determination and resilience, reflects a commendable transition from a diploma in Electrical Engineering at J.T.Mahajan Polytechnic College, Jalgaon, to completing his M.Tech at the prestigious National Institute of Technology (NIT), Calicut. His journey is punctuated with challenges, yet his unwavering commitment to his education and his mother's steadfast support stands out as inspirational for many future students

After losing his father at a young age, Hitesh and his family faced financial hardships, with his mother managing a small general store to sustain them. Despite these constraints, Hitesh's aspiration to advance academically in electrical engineering never waned. The scholarship from Lend A Hand India (LAHI) emerged as a pivotal enabler at a crucial juncture, supporting him through his bachelor's degree in engineering.

Achieving an impressive 8.19 CGPA in his undergraduate studies and subsequently excelling in the GATE exam, Hitesh's academic excellence opened doors to an M.Tech program at NIT Calicut, where he continued to shine, completing his postgraduate studies with an 8.17 CGPA. His journey culminated in securing a position at Mahindra and Mahindra, Chennai, as an Engineer (Trainee) in the Research and Development department. This role aligns with his academic pursuits and promises a bright professional future.

Reflecting on the impact of the LAHI scholarship, Hitesh acknowledges, "It's because of LAHI I got the opportunity to learn technical education since my schooling...If LAHI had not provided me with the scholarship, I would have to borrow money from others on huge interest or had to drop out of taking further education." His gratitude towards LAHI and his proactive approach to repaying the scholarship amount demonstrates his appreciation for the support received and his commitment to enabling similar opportunities for other deserving students.

Hitesh's story is a testament to the power of education and the significant role of scholarships in enabling students to overcome financial barriers and realize their potential. His journey from a small village in Maharashtra to an engineer in a leading multinational company underscores the transformative impact of targeted educational support, resilience, and hard work. LAHI and all who have supported Hitesh celebrate his achievements and look forward to his continued success.



## "Kajal's Fashion Designing Dream Fulfilled with LAHI's Support"

Kajal's journey from a small village in Maharashtra to becoming a fashion designer and entrepreneur is a narrative of ambition, perseverance, and the critical role of educational support. Growing up in Shidawane village, Kajal showcased her academic prowess by securing 80% in her 10th-grade exams at Sant Yadavbaba Madhyamik Vidyalaya. Her decision to pursue fashion designing post-12th grade was fueled by her passion but hindered by her family's financial situation, with her father paralyzed and the family reliant on their modest farming income.



The scholarship from Lend A Hand India (LAHI) enabled Kajal to enrol in the Fashion Designing course at Manilal Nanavati Vocational Training Institute, Pune. Her successful course completion and subsequent employment at a boutique in Pune were significant milestones in her career journey. Her initiative to open her boutique, "Fashion Paradise," in Urali Kanchan, showcases her entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to her passion.

Kajal's gratitude toward LAHI reflects the scholarship's profound impact on her life, providing her with financial assistance and the confidence to pursue her entrepreneurial dreams. Her acknowledgement of the respect and pride her family feels towards her achievements underscores the personal and communal value of her success.

Now married and planning to establish a new business setup with the support of her husband and in-laws, Kajal continues to embody the values of hard work, resilience, and gratitude. Her commitment to repaying the scholarship to assist another deserving student like herself speaks volumes about her character and the positive cycle of giving back inspired by LAHI's support.

Kajal's story is a testament to the transformative power of targeted educational assistance. It demonstrates how support in critical moments can pave the way for fulfilling careers and realising entrepreneurial aspirations, significantly impacting individuals and their communities.

## "Mayur's Journey in Civil Engineering: Building Foundations for the Future"



Mayur's educational narrative is a blend of aspiration, family support, and the crucial backing of Lend A Hand India (LAHI), which collectively propelled him from New English School in Bargaon Pimpri to the verge of a promising career in civil engineering. Achieving an admirable 85% in his 10th-grade exams and 66% in his 12th from J.M.V. College, Junnar, Mayur set his sights on an engineering career, inspired by his peers and relatives.

Facing the financial challenges of his family, whose income was rooted in their modest farming activities, Mayur recognized the necessity of external support to pursue his higher education. The guidance from his cousin and the scholarship from LAHI proved instrumental in enabling him to undertake and complete his engineering studies at Sandeep Foundation College, Nashik, with a commendable CGPA of 7.61.

Currently focusing on competitive examinations, Mayur is on the cusp of securing a government position, which speaks volumes about his dedication and the effective foundation his education has provided. His younger brother's selection in the Army adds another layer of pride and support to Mayur's endeavours, underscoring the family's collective achievements.

Reflecting on his journey, Mayur acknowledges the intertwined support of his family and LAHI, stating, "My parents and younger brother are pillars of my life... LAHI is my fourth pillar. Without them, I could not complete my graduation." Despite current financial constraints due to his ongoing studies, his commitment to repaying the scholarship highlights his sense of responsibility and gratitude towards those who have aided his academic journey.

Mayur's story illustrates the transformative impact of targeted support and education, setting a strong foundation for a career that promises to leverage his skills and dedication. LAHI celebrates Mayur's achievements and determination, wishing him success in his future endeavours and recognizing his journey as a testament to the power of education, support, and personal resolve in building brighter futures.

## "Satappa's Journey: From Chemistry Graduate to Jr. Scientist"

Satappa's academic and professional trajectory showcases a commendable transition from a student at Shree Laxmi Vidyalaya, Hasurkhurd, to a Jr. Scientist in the pharmaceutical field. His determination and the critical support he received highlight the power of targeted assistance in transforming lives.



After securing 67% in his 10th grade, Satappa's passion for the pharmaceutical field led him to pursue a B.Sc. in Chemistry. His choice to specialize in this field was strategic, aligning with his career aspirations. However, the financial strain on his family, exacerbated by his father's job loss and shift to farming, posed significant challenges to pursuing further education.

The scholarship from Lend A Hand India (LAHI) emerged as a pivotal support for Satappa, enabling him to complete his master's degree in Chemistry at Baburao Gholap College, Sangvi, Pune. This assistance alleviated the financial burden on his family and allowed Satappa to focus on his studies, culminating in completing the program with a 62% score.

Satappa's post-graduation career progression, culminating in his current role as a Jr. Scientist at Inventia Healthware Company in Mumbai, is a testament to his hard work, expertise, and the scholarship's foundational support. His work, crucial to the pharmaceutical industry, underscores the importance of skilled professionals in ensuring the safety and efficacy of medicinal products. Beyond his professional achievements, Satappa's commitment to his family is commendable. Taking on the responsibility for his younger brother's educational expenses and supporting his family showcases his gratitude and sense of duty—a reflection of the values instilled in him through his upbringing and educational journey.

Reflecting on the impact of the LAHI scholarship, Satappa acknowledges, "If LAHI had not given me the scholarship, I would have had to take a loan or borrow money on a huge interest... But due to LAHI, I could save some money as they gave me an interest-free scholarship." His proactive approach to repaying the scholarship, even in small amounts, demonstrates his recognition of the support he received and his desire to contribute to the cycle of giving, ensuring that other students can benefit as he did.

LAHI celebrates Satappa's accomplishments and ongoing commitment to his family and education, wishing him continued success in his career and future endeavours. His journey is inspiring, showing how support at critical junctures can pave the way for promising futures in fields where skilled professionals can make significant contributions.

## "Swapnil's Ascent from a Village Prodigy to a Network Engineer"



Swapnil's journey from Belewadi Kalamma, a quaint village in Kolhapur, to becoming a Network Engineer at TATA Communication embodies the essence of determination and the transformative power of education. Scoring 79% in his 10th-grade exams, Swapnil's academic prowess was evident early on, leading him to pursue a science stream in higher secondary education, laying the groundwork for his future endeavors.

Faced with financial constraints, as his family's income was predominantly from seasonal farming on a mere acre of land, Swapnil's educational aspirations seemed daunting. The support from his maternal uncle at this juncture enabled him to enrol in Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering, although his initial preference was mechanical engineering.

His journey at Dattaji Kadam Textile College in Ichalkaranji was marked by dedication and resilience. After learning about the Lend A Hand India (LAHI) scholarship program, Swapnil seized the opportunity, receiving financial support that propelled him through the last two years of his engineering degree, culminating in his first-class honours.

Post-graduation, Swapnil's commitment to enhancing his skills through specialized courses like CCNA illustrates his proactive approach to personal and professional development. His entry into the workforce in 2022 at TATA Communication as a Network Engineer marks a significant milestone, translating his academic and practical experiences into a promising career.

The symbiotic relationship between Swapnil and his family, with mutual support and shared successes, highlights the collective journey of growth and achievement. His sister's microbiology accomplishments and collaborative contribution to their parents' well-being reflect the family's ethos of perseverance and unity.

As Swapnil embarks on a new chapter in his life with his marriage, his story continues to inspire. It illustrates that individuals from even the most humble beginnings can achieve remarkable success with determination, support, and access to educational resources.

LAHI takes pride in being part of Swapnil's journey and extends heartfelt wishes for his continued success and happiness. We hope his story will inspire many more students to pursue their dreams with vigour and tenacity.

## "Tatyarao's Journey: Harnessing Skills to Empower and Sustain"

Tatyarao's educational path from Dr. Vasantrao Naik Vidyalaya in Warvati to becoming a skilled electrician and farmer exemplifies the empowerment that vocational training and targeted support can provide. His decision to pursue an ITI in Electrical trade was informed by the practical understanding of job opportunities in his region, reflecting a strategic approach to education and career planning.



The financial constraints of Tatyarao's family, with an income solely based on daily wages and subsistence farming on barren land, underscore the challenges many students face in rural India. The scholarship from Lend A Hand India (LAHI) became a critical intervention, enabling Tatyarao to complete his ITI and apprenticeship without financially burdening his family.

Completing his ITI with commendable dedication, Tatyarao's journey didn't stop at technical education. His return to his village and engagement in farming, alongside electrical work, showcases his commitment to contributing to his family and community. This dual engagement in farming and electrical work underscores his versatility and highlights the value of vocational skills in providing diverse income sources and self-reliance.

Tatyarao's gratitude towards LAHI reflects the significant impact the scholarship had on his life. It provided him not just with an education but with a pathway to meaningful employment and self-sufficiency. His story is a testament to how vocational training can equip individuals with the skills needed to navigate the complexities of the job market and create opportunities for sustainable livelihoods.

As Tatyarao embarks on a new chapter in his life with his marriage, his journey is an inspiring example of how education can transform lives when aligned with individual interests and market needs. His experience reinforces the importance of providing accessible educational opportunities and support for students from all backgrounds, enabling them to pursue their passions and contribute positively to their communities.

LAHI celebrates Tatyarao's achievements and the role of their scholarship in supporting his educational journey, wishing him continued success and fulfilment in his endeavours. Tatyarao's story illuminates the potential for vocational education to create ripple effects of empowerment and development for individuals and entire communities.



## "Trupti's Inspiring Journey in Information Technology"



Trupti's journey from a diligent student in Sant Yadavbaba Madhyamik Vidyalaya to a successful software engineer in Pune is a narrative of perseverance, academic excellence, and the transformative impact of targeted support. Achieving an impressive 81% in her diploma and progressing to secure a first-class degree in Computer Engineering, Trupti's story is one of unwavering commitment to her aspirations despite financial hurdles.

The scholarship from Lend A Hand India (LAHI) was pivotal in her educational journey, providing the necessary support to complete her degree. Trupti's subsequent success in the IT industry, culminating in her role at Zimetrics Technologies with a commendable package, underscores the value of investing in education and the potential for such support to change lives.

The adversity Trupti and her family faced, particularly with the loss of her brother and her father's health issues, adds a layer of resilience to her story, showcasing her strength and dedication not just to her career but to her family as well.

Reflecting on her journey, Trupti expressed her gratitude towards LAHI, saying, "I could complete my degree because of Lend A Hand India; otherwise, I would have had to sit at home post-diploma... I am very thankful to LAHI for their help with my education, which has led me to stand up on my own feet and become confident." Her acknowledgement of the scholarship's impact and her commitment to repaying it demonstrates a deep appreciation for the support she received and a desire to pay it forward.

Trupti's story is a powerful reminder of the potential within each student and the significant difference that support and encouragement can make in realizing that potential. As she embarks on a new chapter in her life, married and continuing her career in IT, her journey inspires other young women and students facing similar challenges, illustrating that with determination and the right support, they, too, can achieve their dreams.

We at Lend A Hand India extend our heartfelt congratulations to Trupti for her accomplishments and wish her all the best in her continued journey, confident that she will inspire many more students to strive for their best.

## "Vaibhav's Journey: From Mechanical Enthusiast to Plant and Machinery Engineer"

Vaibhav's academic and professional journey is a testament to the transformative power of passion aligned with the right opportunities. His interest in mechanical instruments, further inspired by his sister's success in the same field, paved his path toward pursuing mechanical engineering. However, the financial constraints of his family, subsisting on less than one lakh rupees per year, posed a significant challenge to his educational aspirations.



The scholarship from Lend A Hand India (LAHI) emerged as a crucial turning point for Vaibhav, allowing him to enrol in a diploma program at the Vilasrao Deshmukh Foundation, Latur. His exemplary performance, culminating in an 86% score, clearly indicates his dedication and potential in the mechanical engineering domain.

Vaibhav's transition from a diploma graduate to a Plant and Machinery Engineer at L&T Company through a campus interview is remarkable, highlighting the synergy between academic excellence and career opportunities. His role at L&T validates his expertise and passion for mechanical engineering and marks his significant contribution to the industry with an impressive annual package of Rs. 6.8 lakh.

His father's continued agricultural pursuits and his sisters' accomplishments in their respective fields add to the narrative of a family committed to education and progress despite financial hardships. Vaibhav's gratitude towards LAHI and his sense of responsibility, as demonstrated by his repayment of the scholarship, reflect his understanding of the value of the support he received and his desire to extend similar opportunities to other deserving students.

Vaibhav's story is an inspiring reminder of how targeted support and individual determination can converge to create pathways to success and fulfilment. His achievements elevate his life and serve as a reminder and inspiration for other young aspirants facing similar challenges.

We at Lend A Hand India are proud to have been a part of Vaibhav's journey and are thrilled to witness his growth and success. We extend our best wishes to him for his future endeavours and are confident that he will continue to excel and inspire others along his path.

## "Pratik's Path to Becoming a Software Developer: A Tale of Academic Passion and Support"



Pratik's educational journey is a narrative of passion for mathematics and computer science, coupled with the enabling support of a timely scholarship. Completing his B.Sc. with an impressive 9.6 CGPA at Wadia College, Pune, Pratik's academic excellence was evident early on. His choice to pursue a specialized combination of Maths and Computer Science for his undergraduate studies underscores his clear vision and dedication to his interests.

The transition from a B.Sc. to pursuing an M.Sc. in Pune marked a critical juncture in Pratik's academic journey, compounded by the financial constraints his family faced. With a modest income from agriculture and small-scale animal husbandry, the prospect of affording postgraduate education in Pune seemed daunting for Pratik's family.

Lend A Hand India's (LAHI) scholarship emerged as a beacon of hope at this pivotal moment, providing Pratik with the necessary financial support to pursue his M.Sc. at Y.C.M. College, Pune. His successful completion of the M.Sc. with first-class honours is a testament to his academic prowess and validation of the support extended by LAHI.

Pratik's transition from an academic environment to the professional world as a Software Developer at Value Peace Company in Navi Mumbai, with an annual package of Rs. Seven Lakh is a remarkable achievement. It signifies the fruition of his educational endeavours and the beginning of his contributions to the tech industry.

Beyond his achievements, Pratik's involvement in LAHI's Maths project and his commitment to repaying the scholarship reflect his gratitude and recognition of support's role in enabling educational pursuits. By repaying the scholarship, Pratik contributes to a cycle of giving that allows other deserving students to benefit from similar opportunities.

Pratik's story is an inspiring account of how dedication to one's passions and the right support can overcome financial barriers and pave the way for success. LAHI celebrates Pratik's accomplishments and wishes him continued success in his career; confident that he will inspire future students to pursue their academic and professional dreams with equal zeal and determination.

## "Khandu's Journey: Balancing Education and Responsibility"

Khandu's educational journey from Gautameshwar Madhyamik Vidyalaya in Gotandi to pursuing an M.Sc. in Physics is a narrative of resilience, determination, and the transformative impact of support at crucial times. Completing his 10th and 12th grades with commendable scores, Khandu's passion for physics propelled him toward a B.Sc., despite the financial challenges posed by his family circumstances.



Raised by a single mother who worked as a cook, Khandu's story highlights the challenges many students from underprivileged backgrounds face. The scholarship from Lend A Hand India (LAHI) enabled him to complete his undergraduate studies with first-class honours and embark on a career to support his family.

His role as a Sales Officer in a construction company and his pursuit of higher education demonstrate his commitment to self-improvement and financial stability. Balancing work and studies, Khandu exemplifies the drive and dedication necessary to overcome adversity and pursue one's aspirations.

Khandu's gratitude toward LAHI reflects a deep appreciation for the opportunity the scholarship provided him, recognizing it as a pivotal factor in his academic and professional achievements. His intention to repay the scholarship underscores his understanding of the broader impact of such support, ensuring that future students can benefit as he did.

As Khandu continues his journey, juggling his job and M.Sc. studies, his story inspires students facing similar challenges. It illustrates that with determination, support, and a strong work ethic, it is possible to overcome obstacles and achieve one's educational and career goals.

LAHI is proud to have supported Khandu in his journey and looks forward to his continued progress. We wish him all the best in his M.Sc. and future endeavours, and we are confident that he will achieve his goals and serve as a role model for other aspiring students.

## "Prasad's Resilience: Navigating Through Education and Aspirations"



Prasad's educational journey from Shree Palasnath Vidyalaya in Palasdev to becoming a Marketing Executive is a narrative of resilience, adaptability, and the pivotal role of timely support. After completing his 12th grade with 55% from S.N.R. High School and Junior College, Prasad's desire to pursue an ITI in the Fitter trade reflects his clear vocational inclination and practical career vision.

The financial hurdles following his father's demise significantly burdened Prasad and his family. His mother's unwavering effort to support the family through labour work laid the foundation for Prasad's determination to contribute to their well-being. His initial step towards higher education in a regular science stream, funded by a scholarship from Lend A Hand India (LAHI), demonstrates his commitment to leveraging available resources to advance his education.

Prasad's pivot from pursuing a B.Sc. to enrolling in a government ITI underscores his responsiveness to aligning his education with his career aspirations. This strategic shift, facilitated by the affordability of the government ITI, showcases his ability to adapt his educational path in response to his vocational interests.

Completing his ITI with first-class honors amid the pandemic is commendable, illustrating his perseverance through uncertain times. His proactive approach to acquiring additional marketing skills during the pandemic further exemplifies his dedication to personal and professional development.

Now, as a marketing executive engaging in digital marketing from home, Prasad has not only begun to support his family financially but also continues to explore opportunities in the technical field, which aligns with his ITI training. His gratitude towards LAHI underscores the critical role the scholarship played in his educational pursuits, providing a foundation upon which he built his subsequent achievements.

Prasad's journey is a testament to the importance of adaptability, the value of vocational training, and the impact of targeted support in overcoming financial and personal challenges. His ongoing commitment to his career and family reflects his resilience and forward-looking perspective.

We at Lend A Hand India commend Prasad for his achievements and determination. His story inspires students facing similar challenges, demonstrating that navigating the path to success and fulfilment with persistence, adaptability, and support is possible. We extend our best wishes to Prasad for his continued career growth and contributions to his family and community.

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## "Prajakta's Journey: From IBT Student to Designer Application Engineer"

Prajakta's educational journey, rooted in the foundational learning of Introduction to Basic Technology (IBT) during her school years at Bhairavnath Vidyalaya, Pabal, exemplifies how early exposure to technical education can shape a student's career path. Her narrative is a testament to the synergy between inherent interest, strategic educational choices, and external support in achieving professional aspirations.



Choosing to pursue higher education in the technical field, Prajakta's initial inclination towards Aeronautical Engineering reflects her ambition and passion for engineering. However, practical considerations led her to opt for Mechanical Engineering, demonstrating her adaptability and commitment to her technical education despite financial constraints.

The intervention of Lend A Hand India (LAHI) at a crucial juncture in her third year of engineering provided the necessary support to ease the financial burden, allowing Prajakta to focus on her studies and ultimately secure a placement at ZF-India Company. Her role as a Designer Application Engineer signifies her successful transition from academia to industry and highlights the application of her skills and knowledge in a professional setting.

Prajakta's acknowledgement of the IBT course's impact on her understanding of mechanical engineering underscores the value of practical, hands-on learning experiences in shaping students' comprehension and skill development. Her appreciation for LAHI's timely support illustrates the significant difference that scholarships and educational aid can make in a student's life, particularly when facing financial challenges.

The personal touch to Prajakta's story, her marriage to Prathmesh Choudhary, a fellow LAHI scholarship alumnus and Mechanical Engineer, adds a layer of shared values and common educational backgrounds to their partnership, emphasizing the broader community and network that LAHI's support helps cultivate.

Prajakta's journey is an inspiration for students aspiring to technical careers. It demonstrates that with determination, the right educational pathway, and support, one can achieve one's career goals and contribute effectively to one's field. As she continues to grow in her role and explore future opportunities, her story will undoubtedly encourage other young aspirants to pursue their technical interests with zeal and resilience.

We at Lend A Hand India are proud of Prajakta's accomplishments and are delighted to have been a part of her educational journey. We extend our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for her continued success and fulfilment in her career and personal life.

## "Yash's Transformation: From Aspiring Student to Automation Engineer at TATA Consultancy"



Yash's educational odyssey is a stirring narrative of ambition, resourcefulness, and the transformative power of support at the right time. Graduating from Shankar Mahadev Vidyalaya, Kumbhvade, with a strong foundation in Multi Skill Foundation Course (MSFC), previously known as Introduction to Basic Technology (IBT), Yash harbored a deep-seated interest in Information Technology (IT), which guided his academic and career choices.

Completing his higher secondary education in science was a stepping stone toward realizing his aspiration in the IT domain. However, his family's financial constraints could have derailed his dreams, highlighting the precarious balance between ambition and reality for many students from economically challenged backgrounds.

Lend A Hand India's (LAHI) scholarship program emerged as a pivotal influence at this critical juncture, providing Yash with the much-needed financial support to pursue his Bachelor's in Information Technology. His attainment of an A+ is a testament to his dedication and the conducive learning environment enabled by LAHI's support.

The transition from academia to industry was not immediate for Yash due to the pandemic-induced job market disruptions. However, his perseverance paid off when he secured a position at TATA Consultancy, Pune, one of India's leading IT firms. His role as an Automation Engineer signifies the culmination of his academic endeavours and the beginning of his professional journey in the IT sector.

Yash's initiative to start a small grocery shop in his village demonstrates his entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to giving back to his community and family. This venture and his successful career at TATA Consultancy underscore his multifaceted abilities and resolve to improve his family's economic condition.

Expressing gratitude for the scholarship, Yash recognizes the critical role that LAHI played in his academic and professional journey. His acknowledgment of the significance of timely financial aid underscores the impact of educational support programs on altering students' life trajectories.

Yash's story is an inspiring tale of how determination and targeted support can enable individuals to transcend their circumstances and achieve their professional dreams. It also reflects the broader mission of organizations like LAHI to empower students through education, fostering talent and enabling socio-economic mobility.

We at Lend A Hand India are immensely proud of Yash's achievements and are inspired by his journey. We congratulate him on his successes and wish him continued growth and fulfilment in his career and personal endeavours.

## "Siddheshwar's Journey: From Financial Constraints to Empowered Technician"

Siddheshwar's narrative is a compelling testament to how targeted educational support can transform lives, particularly when students face financial barriers that threaten their academic and professional aspirations. His decision to pursue ITI after completing the 10th grade from Dr. Vasantrao Naik Vidyalaya, Warwati, was driven by a passion for the electrical trade, inspired by his exposure to the Energy and Environment section of the Multi Skill Foundation Course (MSFC) during his schooling.



Despite his family's financial hardships, with annual earnings barely touching Rs. 60,000 and the responsibility of supporting his studies and brother's, Siddheshwar's determination remained unshaken. His proactive approach to seeking Lend A Hand India's (LAHI) scholarship underscores a commendable level of initiative and resourcefulness, qualities that are pivotal in overcoming adversity.

Siddheshwar's choice of the Electrician trade reflects a strategic alignment of his interests with market demands, demonstrating his forward-thinking approach to career planning. His success in the ITI program at Government ITI, Parbhani, showcases his academic diligence and ability to leverage opportunities for practical training and skill development.

The dual path of continuing his education in the science stream while undertaking an apprenticeship at MSEB illustrates Siddheshwar's commitment to holistic growth and skill acquisition. As he progresses through his Diploma in Electrical Engineering, he embodies the integration of theoretical knowledge and practical expertise, positioning himself as a well-rounded professional in the electrical field.

Working as a Technician at MSEB, Ambejogai, Siddheshwar has begun translating his education into economic empowerment, contributing to his family's income and setting a foundation for future financial stability. His acknowledgement of LAHI's role in this journey reflects a deep appreciation for the scholarship support that played a critical role in his educational pursuits.

Siddheshwar's story inspires students facing similar financial and socio-economic challenges, demonstrating that overcoming obstacles and achieving one's career goals is possible with determination, the proper support, and a clear vision. His future in electrical engineering is bright, and his continued commitment to repaying the scholarship underscores his sense of responsibility and gratitude toward the organization that aided his academic journey. We at Lend A Hand India are proud of Siddheshwar's achievements and are inspired by his journey. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to him on his successes and wish him continued growth, prosperity, and fulfilment in his career and personal endeavours.

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## "Suraj's Journey: From Student to Aspiring Designer"



Suraj's academic and career journey epitomizes the transformative impact of targeted educational support. His successful completion of the 10th grade with commendable marks from Hutatma Umaji Naik Vidyalaya, Bhivadi, laid the foundation for his future endeavors. His subsequent choice to pursue science for his 12th-grade education at Vaghire College, Saswad, reflects his academic dedication and strategic planning for his career.

The decision to specialize in the draftsman trade at ITI post-12th grade was pivotal in Suraj's life, aligning his passion for design with his professional aspirations. The financial support from Lend A Hand India (LAHI) through a scholarship program enabled Suraj to undertake this specialization without financial constraints. This support was particularly crucial, given the additional costs associated with hostel and mess fees beyond his family's financial reach.

Suraj's proactive approach to his education and career is evident in his choice to further his qualifications with a Diploma in Design from Rajgad College, Bhore, Pune. His first-class achievement in this diploma demonstrates his commitment to excellence and his potential in the design field.

The internship experience in Talegaon Dabhade provided Suraj with practical insights and exposure to the industry, enhancing his skills and readiness for the professional world. His ongoing pursuit of specialized courses in design, such as Solid Works and Edges, underscores his commitment to continuous learning and professional development.

Suraj's journey from a high school graduate to an aspiring designer is a testament to the power of educational support programs like LAHI's scholarship. These programs alleviate financial barriers and empower students to pursue their passions and achieve their career goals.

Expressing gratitude for the scholarship, Suraj acknowledges the significant role that LAHI played in his educational journey. His inspiring story demonstrates how timely assistance can pave the way for a brighter future.

We at Lend A Hand India are proud of Suraj's achievements and are inspired by his determination and resilience. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to him on his successes and wish him continued growth and success as a designer.

## "Sainath's Inspirational Journey: Breaking Barriers through Education"

Sainath's academic odyssey, from a diligent student in Sagroli, Nanded, to an accomplished civil engineer, illustrates the transformative power of education and targeted support. Completing his 10th grade with commendable marks, he pursued his passion for the technical field, excelling in his Diploma in Civil Engineering from Gramin Polytechnic, Nanded. His desire for further academic advancement led him to overcome financial hurdles, with the vital assistance of a scholarship from Lend A Hand India (LAHI), to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering.



Choosing People Education Society College, Aurangabad, for his bachelor's, Sainath pursued his educational aspirations and set a new precedent for his family, being the first to attain higher education. His success, underscored by an impressive 9.2 CGPA, opened new professional avenues, leading him to a promising position as a Site Engineer in Pune.

Sainath's narrative is more than just academic success; it's a testament to resilience, ambition, and the impact of well-timed support. His journey underscores the notion that financial constraints should not be a barrier to education and that students can achieve their dreams with the right support regardless of their economic background.

Now an inspiration for his family and community, Sainath's commitment to furthering his education, even as he contributes to the workforce, speaks volumes about his dedication and foresight. His acknowledgement of the scholarship's role in his achievements reflects profound gratitude and a deep understanding of the cycle of giving and receiving. His pledge to repay the scholarship funds demonstrates a commendable sense of responsibility and a desire to pay forward the kindness he received.

Sainath's story powerfully reminds us how educational support can lift individuals and, by extension, their communities, paving the way for a brighter, more promising future. Lend A Hand India is proud to have played a role in Sainath's journey and looks forward to seeing him achieve even greater heights in his career and educational pursuits.

At Lend A Hand India, we extend our heartiest congratulations to Sainath for his achievements and wish him continuous success in his future endeavours. His journey exemplifies how targeted support and individual perseverance can collaboratively forge paths to success and fulfilment.



## "Tejaswini's Story: A Journey of Perseverance and Achievement"



Tejaswini's educational journey exemplifies determination and the profound impact of supportive interventions in bridging the gap between aspirations and reality. Originating from a humble background in Sagroli, her ambition to pursue a Diploma in Civil Engineering could have been curtailed by financial constraints. However, Tejaswini's proactive approach and the timely assistance from Lend A Hand India (LAHI) enabled her to embark on this path, demonstrating that with the right support, dreams are within reach.

Her successful completion of the diploma with first-class honors is a personal achievement and a beacon of hope for many who find themselves in similar challenging circumstances. Tejaswini's resolve to further her education underscores her understanding of the value of continuous learning and self-improvement.

Transitioning to a bachelor's program in Engineering at MGM College, Nanded, with support from Swadhaar, Tejaswini continues to build on her foundation, moving closer to becoming a civil engineer. Her story is a testament to the idea that financial barriers should not impede one's educational pursuits and that organizations and communities are willing to support determined individuals.

Tejaswini's gratitude towards LAHI and Swadhaar reflects her acknowledgement of the collective effort involved in her academic journey. Her story inspires other students in similar situations and highlights the importance of seeking out and utilizing available resources and scholarships.

Lend A Hand India is proud to have been a part of Tejaswini's educational journey and is confident that she will continue to excel in her endeavours. Her story reaffirms our commitment to empowering the youth by giving them opportunities to realize their potential, irrespective of their economic backgrounds.

We extend our best wishes to Tejaswini for her ongoing studies and future career. We are hopeful that she will continue to excel and be inspired. Her journey from a small town to pursuing engineering is a narrative of courage, resilience, and the transformative power of education and support.

## "Rutuja's Journey: From Aspiration to Achievement"

Rutuja's educational journey, marked by determination and resilience, serves as an inspiration to many. With her roots in Muktabai Vidyalaya, Shelgaon, she excelled in her 10th grade and navigated through her higher education with notable dedication despite financial challenges. Her decision to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry was fueled by a deep-seated passion for the subject, which she nurtured amidst financial constraints that clouded her educational aspirations.



Lend A Hand India (LAHI), recognizing her potential and determination, stepped in at a crucial juncture, providing her with a scholarship that paved the way for her successful completion of a B.Sc. with impressive grades. Rutuja's journey didn't stop there; inspired by her elder sister, she ventured into the realm of education, pursuing a B.Ed. to mould future minds. Her ability to secure admission to a government college for her B.Ed. further exemplifies her resolve and commitment to her academic and career goals.

Now, as she imparts knowledge to young students at Trimurti Highschool, Karmala, Rutuja fulfills her professional duties and realizes her personal aspirations, becoming a story of inspiration for her students and a source of pride for her family. Her acknowledgement of LAHI's role in her educational journey reflects deep gratitude and recognition of the support that helped her transform her dreams into reality.

Rutuja's story is a testament to the power of educational support, resilience, and pursuing one's passions against all odds. As she continues to teach and inspire, her journey remains a vivid illustration of how targeted assistance and personal perseverance can create pathways to success and fulfilment.

Lend A Hand India takes immense pride in being a part of Rutuja's journey and extends heartfelt congratulations on her achievements. We continue to support individuals like Rutuja, fostering educational aspirations and transforming lives, one scholarship at a time.

# "Kishori's Academic Pursuit: A Story of Resilience and Triumph"



Kishori's educational journey is a profound testament to the power of support and perseverance. Having embarked on her academic path from Shri Palasnath Vidyalaya, Palasdev, she showcased remarkable academic prowess, culminating in commendable performances in her 10th and 12th grades. Her aspiration to delve deeper into Physics through higher education was met with financial hurdles that seemed insurmountable, given her family's modest means.

The turning point in Kishori's educational saga came when she was introduced to the scholarship opportunities offered by Lend A Hand India (LAHI), facilitated through a collaboration with Alfa Byte Institute. This pivotal moment opened new avenues for her, enabling her to pursue a Bachelor's and, subsequently, a Master's degree in Physics, which she completed with notable achievements.

Her journey didn't halt with academic accomplishments; driven by a passion for imparting knowledge, Kishori is now preparing for NET/SET exams, aspiring to mould young minds in the field of science. Her narrative concerns personal growth and giving back to the community by stepping into the educational sector.

The backdrop of Kishori's journey is marked by her father's unwavering labour and her mother's silent strength, alongside the milestones achieved by her siblings. As a married individual and a mother, Kishori stands as a beacon of inspiration, not just to her family but to many aspiring students who encounter similar financial and circumstantial barriers.

Kishori's gratitude towards LAHI and Alfa Byte reflects a deep acknowledgement of these organisations' crucial role in her academic and personal development. Her story reinforces the belief that educational dreams are within reach with the right support and unwavering determination, regardless of one's socioeconomic background.

Lend A Hand India celebrates Kishori's achievements and is proud to have been a part of her educational journey. Her story is a testament to the transformative impact of educational support and the enduring spirit of a learner. As Kishori prepares for her next academic endeavour, LAHI looks forward to continuing its mission of empowering students and transforming lives through education.

## "Suyog's Culinary Journey: From Fields to Flavors"

Suyog's story is a stirring narrative of determination and success, illustrating the transformative power of targeted support and education. Embarking on his educational odyssey from Shankar Mahadev Vidyalaya, Kumbhavade, Suyog showcased a unique blend of perseverance and ambition that saw him transition from the fields of Kumbhavade to the culinary spaces of Mumbai.



His decision to pivot from a conventional academic path to a vocational course in Hotel Management marked a significant turn in his life's journey. This choice was driven by recognising the practical and immediate benefits of vocational training, especially in the context of his family's economic constraints.

Lend A Hand India's scholarship emerged as a ray of hope for Suyog, enabling him to pursue his passion for culinary arts at Mumbai University. His success in the course and subsequent transition into the professional realm as a chef is a testament to his hard work, talent, and the critical support provided by LAHI.

Today, as Suyog dons his chef's hat at the prestigious ITC Grand Hotel in Mumbai, he not only fulfils his aspirations but also carries the legacy of his humble beginnings in every dish he crafts. His journey from a student to a professional chef in Gujarat and then Mumbai narrates a story of transformation that resonates with the core mission of LAHI - to empower and uplift through education.

Suyog's gratitude towards LAHI underscores a deep appreciation for timely educational support's role in changing lives. His commitment to repaying the scholarship reflects a commendable sense of responsibility and a desire to pay it forward, ensuring that other students like him get the same opportunities to redefine their futures.

Lend A Hand India celebrates Suyog's achievements and remains committed to supporting many more students in their quest for a better future through education and vocational training. Suyog's culinary journey inspires aspiring young professionals everywhere, proving that with the right support and determination, dreams can indeed become reality.

We wish Chef Suyog continued success and culinary excellence as he flavours the world with his talent and dedication.

## "Kanchan's Ascent: Nurturing Ambition Through Education"



Kanchan's narrative is not just a tale of academic excellence but a story of how timely assistance can pivot the trajectory of one's life, empowering them to chase after bigger dreams. Her journey, deeply rooted in the humble settings of Asde village, is a striking example of how determination, when met with the right opportunities, can lead to remarkable outcomes.

Her decision to pursue the science stream after her commendable performance in 10th grade was the first step toward her ambitious academic pursuit. However, the financial constraints of her family posed a significant hurdle. The role of Lend A Hand India (LAHI) became pivotal at this juncture, offering her the necessary support to continue her education unimpeded.

Kanchan's father, an IBT/MSFC instructor, connected her with LAHI, reflecting the organization's reach and impact even within its staff's families. The scholarship from LAHI not only eased the financial burden on her family but also underscored the importance of education, as evidenced by her sister following a similar path of seeking educational advancement through scholarships.

Now, as Kanchan pursues her B.Sc. from Garware College, Pune, her daily commute from Asde speaks volumes of her dedication and resilience. Her future aspirations of cracking the MPSC exams to become a Tehsildar reveal her desire not just to improve her circumstances but to serve and contribute to society.

Her gratitude towards LAHI is a touching acknowledgement: *"If I had not received a scholarship from LAHI, I would not have been able to attend college daily, which would have significantly impacted my studies. I am very thankful to LAHI for giving me this scholarship."*

As Kanchan prepares for her MPSC exams, her journey from a small village student to a potential future Tehsildar is an inspiring testament to the transformative power of education and support. We at LAHI take pride in being part of Kanchan's journey and look forward to seeing her achieve her aspirations.

We wish Kanchan immense success in her academic pursuits and future endeavours, and we hope she continues inspiring many more students like her to pursue their dreams with determination and grace.



# Acknowledgements

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who have played a pivotal role in the success of the Lend A Hand India Scholarship Program. This initiative has transformed lives, empowered students, and strengthened communities, and it could not have been possible without the dedicated support of numerous individuals.

Firstly, we acknowledge the relentless commitment of our Points of Contact within Lend A Hand India, who have been instrumental in bridging the gap between the organization and the scholarship recipients. Their dedication and empathy have facilitated the smooth administration of the program and provided invaluable emotional support to the students.

We are deeply thankful to Arun Raut, whose insight into the program's impact, especially his touching story about Ms Gauri Kadam, underscores the tangible difference we are making in students' lives. His words reflect the essence of our mission:

"The 'Scholarship' is a good initiative Lend a Hand India started. It helps students who need money for their higher technical education...Many students could go to higher education because of the scholarships we gave them. I wish the scholarship program 'All the best'."

Vijay Boda's reflections highlight the rewarding yet challenging aspects of working with the scholarship program. His narrative celebrates the growth and success of the students:

"Seeing how our support changes these MSFC students' lives is amazing...Despite these challenges, seeing the impact of the scholarship project on students' lives makes it all worth it."

Govind Bondar's perspective, shared in his native language and translated here, highlights the grassroots impact of the scholarship:

"The scholarship is a very good project from the student's perspective. The scholarship initiative has provided substantial support to many students for their education, connecting many students personally. Many are receiving good education today, while some have secured jobs, sharing their experiences and opinions."

# Acknowledgements



Gaurav Gaikwad's recount of his journey with the scholarship project, from its inception to its implementation, provides an in-depth look at the thought and effort that went into this initiative:

"While designing the project, the major challenge I felt back then was how we were going to propose to the students and their parents about repaying the loan scholarship."

Rahul Bhandari's account adds a layer of understanding about the meticulous selection process, ensuring that the aid reaches those genuinely in need:

"Scholarship for needy students is an innovative initiative of Lend A Hand India... and this was a different learning experience for me."

Finally, Gauri Kawale-Adivarekar's narrative offers a perspective on the continuous engagement and monitoring that defines the project's success:

"I am thoroughly enjoying working on the project. Listening to dynamic students, their academics and personal progress, and personal problems, and guiding them gives me immense pleasure."

We sincerely thank each of these dedicated individuals and all partners and team members who contribute their time, effort, and resources to the Lend A Hand India Scholarship Program. Your dedication shapes a brighter future for countless students and sets a profound example of compassion and commitment.

# Acknowledgements



Lend A Hand India

## Arun Raut:

The "Scholarship" is a good initiative started by Lend A Hand India. It helps students who need money for their higher technical education. I talked with many students from different places in interviews and for repayments of scholarships. Now, many of them are earning money and helping their families.

I want to mention a girl named Ms. Gauri Kadam. She studied at Tandulwadi School. She is an orphan child, so she lived with her uncle. She completed BE- E and TC, after she got a job, she called me to talk about repaying the scholarship. She said she couldn't pay all at once because she had to support her brother's education too. But she promised to pay back in instalments. And paid all in instalments.

Lots of students were able to go to higher education because of the scholarships we gave them. I wish the scholarship program "All the best".

## Vijay Boda:

I want to tell you about my experience working on a scholarship project with student beneficiaries. It's been really rewarding but also challenging.

First, working with students in the scholarship project has been fulfilling. I've helped with things like organizing documents, arranging interviews and students' recovery by understanding their financial situations. Seeing how our support changes these MSFC students' lives is amazing. Whether it's helping them overcome financial hurdles or watching them grow over three to four years, it's unforgettable.

Working closely with students has also given me insight into their dreams and struggles. Getting to know them has helped me understand their backgrounds and goals at that age. This connection has made me feel like we're in it together, on a journey towards success.

But there have been challenges too. Making sure students are genuine and navigating through rules and resources has been tough. And meeting the different needs of students has required flexibility and understanding.

Despite these challenges, seeing the impact of the scholarship project on students' lives makes it all worth it. Watching them succeed academically and make a difference in their communities shows how important this project is.

I thank Sunanda madam for giving me this opportunity, which gave me networking opportunities, various job prospects and pathways to make these students' college experience more focused and academically enriching.

## Govind Bondar:

शिष्यवृत्ती हा विद्यार्थ्यांच्या इच्छेनुसार खूप चांगला प्रकल्प आहे कारण शाळाभेटी दरम्यान आम्ही काही ग्रहभेटी देखील केलेल्या आहेत त्यातून बऱ्याच विद्यार्थ्यांच्या घरची परिस्थिती समजून आलेली आहे अशा विद्यार्थ्यांना त्यांचे शिक्षण पूर्ण करण्यासाठी एका मदतीची गरज असते ती मदत शिष्यवृत्ती माध्यमातून आपल्या लाही संस्थेअंतर्गत विद्यार्थ्यांना देऊन त्यांचे भविष्य घडविण्यासाठी खूप मोठे सहकार्य होत आहे. त्यामुळे मते शिष्यवृत्ती हा अतिशय चांगला उपक्रम आहे. या संदर्भातील माझे काही अनुभव खालीलप्रमाणे आहेत ते आपल्याला पाठवत आहे.

- शिष्यवृत्ती प्रकल्पामुळे शाळा व शाळेतील इतर कर्मचारी msfc उपक्रमाकडे सहभागी होत आहेत.
- पालक व विद्यार्थी शिष्यवृत्ती उपक्रमांमुळे लाही संस्था व संस्थेअंतर्गत घालणारे उपक्रम यासंदर्भात विचारणा करत आहेत व शिष्यवृत्ती मिळाल्याने विद्यार्थ्यांचे शिक्षण पूर्ण होण्यासाठी खूप मदत झाली आहे होते आहे त्यामुळे पालक अतिशय चांगल्याप्रकारे msfc विषयाकडे आकर्षित होत आहेत.
- शिष्यवृत्ती मिळालेल्या विद्यार्थ्यांच्या शाळा भेटी दरम्यान भेटी घेतलेल्या आहेत त्यामध्ये विद्यार्थ्यांनी अतिशय चांगली मते व्यक्त केली आहेत msfc विषय व लाही च्या सहकार्यामुळे शिक्षण घेण्यास सोपे झाले अशी मते विद्यार्थ्यांनी मांडली आहेत.
- शिष्यवृत्ती उपक्रमांमुळे पालक, विद्यार्थी व शाळा यांच्यामध्ये चांगले संबंध निर्माण करण्यास मदत झालेली आहे.
- शाळा भेटी दरम्यान व गावामध्ये ग्रहभेटी दरम्यान msfc विषय व शिष्यवृत्ती सारख्या उपक्रमांमुळे पालकांचा चांगला प्रतिसाद मिळत आहे.
- शिष्यवृत्ती उपक्रमांतर्गत बऱ्याच विद्यार्थ्यांना त्यांच्या शिक्षणासाठी सहकार्य झालेले आहे व त्यामुळे बरेच विद्यार्थी वैयक्तिक रित्या जोडली गेलेली आहेत बरेच विद्यार्थी आज चांगले शिक्षण घेत आहेत तर काही विद्यार्थी जॉब करत आहेत ते त्यांचे अनुभव व मते व्यक्त करत आहेत.

इ. प्रकारचे वरीलप्रमाणे शिष्यवृत्ती प्रकल्पातील अनुभव आहेत.

## Rahul Bhandari:

Scholarship for needy students is an innovative initiative of Lend A Hand India. Through this initiative, students with many financial constraints could complete their education without being deprived of education.

While selecting the needy students who need the scholarship, it is necessary to pay close attention and get detailed information about them. While making the selection, it is important to know the socio-economic condition of the student along with his own ability.

A memorable case for me while going through the process was a student named Ajgar Pathan from Beed who was doing ITI in Bandra, Mumbai. The said student had demanded a scholarship of fifty thousand from us regarding his hostel and food. In the interview, it was not certain whether the student would return the money again. I had brought this matter to the notice of Sunanda Madam, but in the final selection, she had considered the said students differently and granted him the scholarship. Even though there was no assurance that the said student would repay the scholarship amount in future, I had granted the scholarship to the student with the view that he should not drop out of the stream of education. And this was a different learning for me.

## Gaurav Gaikwad:

I had like to elaborate on my experience from this project on different levels and tangents here.

I still remember me as a fresher (1 yr. old @ LAHI) was given this opportunity and task to come up with a certain step to initiate the scholarship project. Whereas the outline and certain concepts were given I had to build up on that, this was back in 2010 where we had to launch this project in the academic year of 2011.

While designing the project fitting to Lend A Hand India's requirement and concept, different steps like researching on how the education loans provided by bank works, consulting a legal expert on how we can apply certain criteria being in legal jurisdiction. My learning journey knowingly or unknowingly started there.

While we were ready with our concept and criteria and steps to implement the project with lots of brainstorming put before launching the project. There were certain measures and situation which needed to be thought of as we were particularly going to provide scholarship to the deserving students from the rural areas. Hence, grass root reality was a major part to consider before building up on the steps and the criteria. The major challenge I felt back then was how are we going to propose the students and their parents about the repaying of the loan scholarship. Yes, that was the major catch as the project itself was named as Interest Free Loan Scholarship.

Thanks to all the brainstorming put in place along with Sunanda Tai, Prabhakar Patil (ex-member), Yeshodhara Bhalerao (ex-member), the communication here played a very big role in making the concept of repayment clear and accepted by the school authorities first and then they could accordingly make it understand to the parents of the deserving students before they apply. So, a major learning even before the launch of the project was about what and how the research needs to be done, how to redesign it for ourselves as per our requirement and concept, and how to communicate so that the message clearly reaches the masses and percolates.

Designing of the application forms, asking for the mandatory documents of the applicants and then scrutinizing, documenting them were the next learnings for me. While these steps were in making or designing stage, I may not have felt anything but while they were put to use and were working nearly smoothly, I was feeling empowered, happy and proud of myself that because of me and my contribution there were many lives which were going to change and impacted. While we used to interview the shortlisted candidates, there were so many realisations for my take away, to mention a few –

- a majority of the population are unaware of the different schemes for certain category of people which they can receive for free, only if they knew what and how of them
- there is so much in the education system itself which widely people are unaware of, may it be growth path or channel for further steps to be taken,
- there is a dire need of empowering the students and their parents in the rural with certain concepts, career options, educational courses, scholarship programs by government and so much more.
- only because we live in a certain world (privileged) doesn't mean all the others live in the same, hence empathise with them make them feel heard, respected.

By 2013 there were many other members who joined me for several reasons like interview panel, home visits, school visits etc. Their individual experiences were also of help and learning while on the project. While I have interviewed more than 100 students over 5+ years and contributed in granting scholarships to almost all of them. We also due to continuous follow up process of ours got to learn that many of these students were and have been opting for higher education and also opting for jobs which has developed their homes, families and communities. Especially, many girl students opted for scholarships which helped them to opt for higher education and specifically engineering degrees and have been employed after that which further develops lives wherever they go and reach up to.

All of the above (tried keeping it short) experiences and learning have helped me to deal with many other parts at work and enriched my life. The opportunity provided to me back then has been empowering me in many different ways unknowingly.

## Gauri Kawale-Adivarekar:

From the involvement of conducting interviews with scholarship applicants to looking after the project for the last three years is my journey in the Scholarship Project. While conducting the interview the perspective was different as I was just conducting interviews considering students' Socioeconomic background and their educational interests.

However, after the full-fledged involvement, my perspective changed as I had to do screening of the students considering all the aspects including social, financial, personal, family, and educational as well. I also have to look after the students' desire to take higher education, their promptness while submitting the required documents, and their responses while taking follow-ups to get their timely updates.

I am thoroughly enjoying working on the project as listening to dynamic students, their academics and personal progress, and personal problems, and guiding them give immense pleasure. I also learned detailed information about new educational courses like Artificial Intelligence, Aeronautical Engineering, etc. as daily tight schedule and responsibilities didn't allow me to read more on it but through this scholarship project, while talking with students I got detailed information. I am very surprised, happy, and heartened to see that student of this decade are much more aware and clearer about their career choices and their plans than us. Especially, many female students who opted for scholarships for higher education continued it and have been employed after that which further develops their lives wherever they go and reach up.

Though some of the students are responsible and take ownership of conveying their updates, and repaying the scholarship amount for Scholarship funds, on the other hand, some of the students are not at all responsive though the repetitive follow-ups are being taken. In this situation, I have to be very strict and hard with them and sometimes have to talk with them roughly to get their updates though I don't want to. But my experience is students give timely updates after that. This experience also gives learnings on how to handle this type of situation.

All of the above experiences and learning have helped me to deal with many other parts at both personal and professional levels and have enriched my life. The opportunity is empowering me at every aspect and I am thankful for that.



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