



KEEPING HOPE ALIVE

ABSTRACT

“Ability is Nothing, Without an Opportunity”

This is a bird’s eye of the journey of Opportunity Foundation Trust, Bangalore in its endeavor to empower disadvantaged girls & women to do more.

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Avasar: Keeping Hope Alive



Avasar, as know name of Opportunity Foundation Trust, based out of Bangalore, India is a nonprofit organization created to help underserved and underprivileged girl's complete higher education to help secure a better future for themselves and their families.

Avasar was founded in 2012 by Anand Chaturvedi and Sriram SN, actively encouraged and supported by leaders at Expeditors, a US MNC under the phrase "ability is nothing without opportunity". Anand saw many girls in poor socioeconomic situations, who possessed the aptitude and desire to receive higher education, but could not do so because of financial restrictions. And so, Avasar was created to help lift these girls out of the cycle of poverty through a comprehensive program that supports girls from their completion of the 10



Standard at age 14, through pre university and university courses, and until they have obtained employment. This system ensures that the parents of the girl experience no financial burden of education expenses; especially as it also provides

stationary, dresses, bus passes, and a small allowance for meals during the day for participants.

Since its founding in 2012, Avasar has enrolled about 42 girls until September 2017. All of these enrollees have continued their educational successes, with the oldest group preparing to complete their university classes. This method allows Anand and the volunteers of Avasar to give each of the girl's individual care and attention as needed, while also allowing them to dedicate time to the running and expansion of the organization. Over the next five years, Anand hopes to grow into other metropolitan cities in India.



The impact of this organization is ongoing, but it is one that truly changes the world for those who are involved. Many of the girls enrolled by Avasar are among the first in their family to receive higher education; and also the higher paying employment and other benefits that accompany it. The strongest impression of this organization can be seen at the grassroots level, where the ideals of education and employment truly begin to take place and shape the lives of families. As this organization grows, Anand hopes not only to continue to impact the lives of some of the most underprivileged girls in India, but also to encourage others around the world to look to into their community to help solve the problems around them.

Avasar's process begins by identifying girls who have shown academic interest and who demonstrate capacity, but are economically disadvantaged. When a girl who meets both criteria is located, an additional screening process is completed to ensure that she is the right fit for the program. Once the girls have been chosen, the program will provide full economic support for their education. In addition, Avasar also provides non-financial support to the girls via mentoring and tutoring as necessary. This ongoing interaction between the girls and the organization ensures not only the success of the girls, but also the future success of the organization by providing examples of how the organization works. The cost of the program for one girl for five years is ~ \$3,000 - that covers tuition and miscellaneous expenses related to the cost of education. Donations, like blood circulation, keeps flowing into Avasar from committed founder donors, a group of about 20 members, all friends, colleagues and family members known to Anand and Sriram. This program does not seek any type of Grants from any organisations.



Establishing trust and support from volunteers and donors is an essential part of any nonprofit. Anand credits this success to time spent building relationships and credibility with local contacts and beyond. He believes that this is a critical part of any organization; "The key word here is 'relationship'." To maintain this relationship, Avasar provides continuous, ongoing feedback about the successes of the girls with the donors who make it all possible. By sharing the successes in real time, donors and volunteers

Avasar – Keeping Hope Alive

can consistently see the impact that their donations are having, ensuring open lines of trust and communication between the organization and donors. This consistent feedback also provides the girls with a sense of accountability, helping to expand not only their education through the books, but also by teaching them the importance of communication and transparency.

As a Training Manager by day for a multinational logistics company, Anand appreciates the increasing importance of technology in day-to-day life. From this he has worked hard to establish relationship with industry giants such as Google, YouTube and Microsoft who continue to support Avasar through their own Donation Programs for Non-Profits. He understands that by embracing and leveraging technology, groups like his have the opportunity to share not only their organization, but also their ideals, with people around the world. Anand believes that the organization's website, social media, and other online tools have allowed them tremendous reach without sacrificing ease or usability. When asked what makes this organization successful, Anand explains that they are able to maintain a focus on their overall goals. "Organizations need to see the end they are working for" he adds, explaining that when they began the organization they were inundated by people looking for help with unrelated issues. "Of course there are so many problems in the world and we cannot solve all of them, We have chosen the cause of educating girls and we stay razor sharp, focused on our plans", he explains. This high degree of focus, in conjunction with strong visualization of the overall goals for the organization allows for their success, and is a methodology that can be replicated across organizations. His focus and structure also allows for a complete plan to be constructed that not only meets the short-term and immediate needs and goals, but also utilizes these successes as building blocks for the overall long-term viability of the organization. Avasar does not seek to solve all of the problems of the world, but rather to change the entire world of those who participate in the program. This attitude has allowed Anand and Avasar to slowly, surely, and irrevocably improve the lives of those within and beyond their community through education, employment, and the creation of a lifestyle that is sustainable, profitable and happy.



With Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) gaining momentum in India since 2013, Avasar has also been retained as an Implementation Agency by a Fortune 500 Logistics MNC to execute its CSR Policy. 16 computer Labs and 10 Science Labs have been established with an investment of about Rs.1.5 Crores. Unlike many Corporates who just donate computers to schools, Avasar has established full-fledged computer lab with UPS, Projector and a facilitator / trainer to keep the facility running.



This benefits about 15000 Children in 16 Schools. Apart from supporting the Scholarship Programs as elaborated above, the CSR program also funds establishing and running Avasar Learning Centers at identified Government Higher Primary Schools to provide Digital Literacy to young underprivileged children.

A 20-seater state of the art computer lab at Seegahalli Government Higher Primary School and a 15 Seater Computer Lab at Belthur

Colony, Kadugodi were dedicated to communities on March 18, 2016. An Avasar Leadership Academy was also opened to provide a program called LEAP – Learning Employment Ability Program at Kadugodi, Bangalore.

To know more about Avasar or to be engaged and support the initiatives, please visit write to info@avasar.ngo. Web: <http://www.avasar.ngo>



5th Joy of Giving - Report

Friday, June 16, 2017 10:04 AM



On Saturday, 3rd June we had our 5th Joy of Giving Event on the Occasion of Start of the new academic year. A group of 24 Avasar Scholarship Recipients received a Back to School Hamper along with the first disbursement of Scholarship Amount of Rs.10,000 each.

The event was graced by the presence of Seegahalli Gram panchayat President and Chairperson Smt. Savita Suresh Babu. Active Volunteers, Supporters and Staff of Avasar made the event successful.

Guest Speaker Shri. Rajamane, an Industrialist and an Enthusiastic Philanthropist in our neighborhood, stressed upon the students to take advantage of the opportunity provided by Avasar and to stay focused on their studies and work towards developing into a asset to the Society and Community.

The entire function was orchestrated by Batch I (2013) Pavani and her team guided by Malavika Chaturvedi, Program manager at Avasar.

