

# Avasar Scholarship Program- A Case Study

***“Ability is nothing without opportunity.”***

Avasar- Opportunity Foundation Trust is a small organisation based out of Bangalore that drives girls' education and digital literacy in India. The organisation was founded by Mr. Anand Chaturvedi and Mr. Sriram SN in 2012 and it's with their sheer hard work and determination that Avasar continues to do excellent work today.

In Mr. Anand's words, *“It's not just about education and results life goes beyond school, many graduates don't have jobs, therefore it's about ability and employability.”* One of the most effective and successful projects of Avasar is the **Avasar Scholarship Program.**

The Avasar Scholarship Program takes care of the needs of girls after their 10<sup>th</sup> standard until their graduation and employment whose families face financial hardship. The economic and social hurdles that these girls face in pursuing their ambitions is what Avasar tries to combat through its activities.

The scholarship program currently funds 42 students as of 2017 and the number continues to grow. The total cost of funding each girl comes up to 30,000 per year which includes 4 sets of clothes, their fees i.e. 2 years of PUC and 3-4 years at the Graduate level, books, stationery, bus pass for 5 years, and a daily allowance of Rs. 50/- per day for a minimum of 200 days, a year. The budget allocation comes up to a total of Rs. 1,80,000 per girl.

In June 2018, 2 girls under the scholarship program graduated and were ready to navigate the

real world. Kusuma and Devika have completed their graduation and will now work at Expeditors for 6 months as interns.

*“We thought the scholarship was only a matter of 3 or 6 months, but Avasar supported our children for 5 years... We give our children a pair of new clothes on Diwali and Ugadi, but Anand Sir and his wife gave my daughter support every month, they took care of her like God...”- Kusuma's mother on Graduation Day (Translated from Kannada)*

Devika is the daughter of a tailor in Bengaluru and has received her degree in B.Com. She was inducted through the Avasar Scholarship program in 2013 and after 5 years she has finally graduated and says that she is very excited. She found out about Avasar through her brother's teacher at school. She joined with 5 other girls.

*“Avasar motivated me. Before Avasar I was not confident. I couldn't speak English, now I feel more confident.... My mother works very hard, I want to help her.” (sic) – Devika*

The journey of Avasar is a long one and seeing the number of girls accepted into the program in 2018 alone, one understands how important Avasar's long-standing belief, *“Ability is nothing without opportunity.”*

