

THE FOUNDATION POST

Q3, 2018

PRANAV



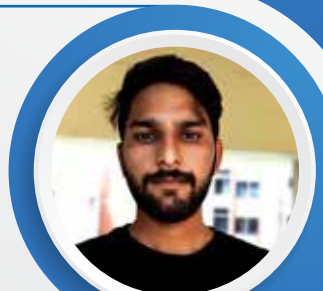
VAISHALI



NARENDRAN



MEHUL



KIRITHIGAA



THE RIPPLE EFFECT

How the foundation alumni are spreading change

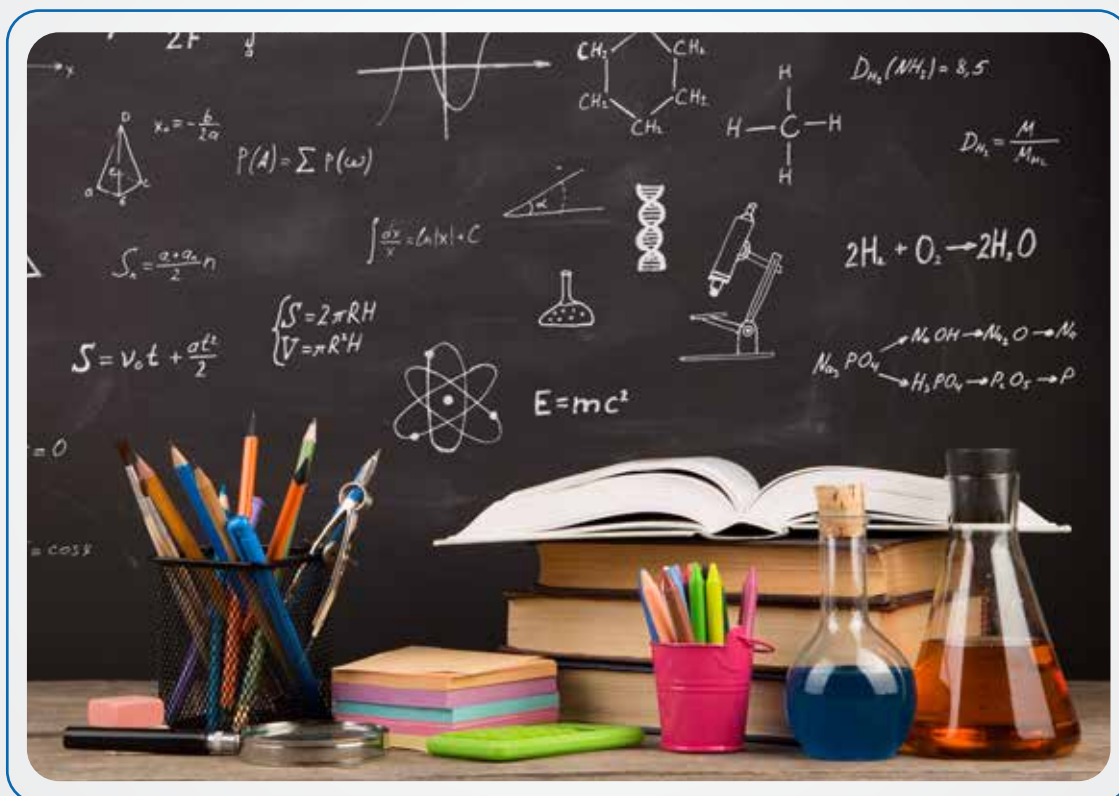
EDITORIAL

At the Shiv Nadar Foundation, we believe in the transformational power of education. However, transformation is rarely an instant process. Our model of creative philanthropy centers on institution building. We create institutions that are built to last, investing heavily in infrastructure, processes, knowledge, and people. It has been our endeavor to create ecosystems of discovery and encourage the development of leadership skills across all our institutions. We believe in the promotion of the scientific temperament, a culture that values excellence and above all, a strong sense of ethics and social responsibility.



We realise that what we have set out to do is a journey that requires time and patience. Creating change agents is one of the desired outcomes of all our efforts. The Shiv Nadar Foundation institutions are designed to create a steady stream of individuals, who will inspire, empower and lead their communities towards a better tomorrow. Most of the Foundation's institutions are less than a decade old and therefore, the potential of our efforts was only available in theory.

However, we are now at a stage where several batches of students have graduated from our institutions and have stepped out into the larger world either for work or to pursue their higher education. While some have already started making their mark, others are beginning to consider the role they would like to play to improve not only their lives but of several others. SSN Institutions, which is the oldest of the Foundation's initiatives, offers a true window into the impact of our efforts and the spiraling effect that can be created through our alumni.



'In this issue, we profile a select alumni of the Foundation's institutions, to share their journey of becoming change agents of tomorrow.

A circular portrait of Kirithigaa K, a young woman with long dark hair, smiling. She is wearing a dark top and a necklace. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people in a social setting.

KIRITHIGAA K

“Where I am today stems directly from my experiences at Shiv Nadar University.”

Kirithigaa K is a member of the founding batch of Shiv Nadar University. She was born and raised in a navy family, living in a series of coastal cities across India as she grew up. Joining Shiv Nadar University was a leap of faith for her as it was the first year of the University’s existence. But she was inspired by the founding vision. “I loved the idea of trying to create the equivalent of an Ivy League college in India.” During her four years at the University, she discovered her passion for education. Kirithigaa now works with the Central Square Foundation, on a project that is aimed at reforming the education scenario in Bihar. Her experiences at the University have given her both consciousness of her social responsibilities and the ability to address problems in a structured manner.





Her work at CSF; therefore, is a natural progression in her journey to make a difference in the education system in the country. While many have expressed frustration with the state of education in India, she points out that there has been genuine progress. Subsequent to the passage of the Right to Education Act, access to education has seen a dramatic increase. The majority of children in the country now have access to a school. The next logical step is to improve the quality of education, through measures such as technology interventions, teacher training, and professional administrative support. These are also the areas that Kirithigaa is currently making a contribution towards.



What would she tell parents to help them understand the transformational value of education? “Education will help your child make sense of the world,” she says



PRANAV SRIDHAR

“We are looking at innovations that can have a game changing impact across the developmental sector.”

Originally from Tamil Nadu, Pranav Sridhar was born and brought up in Kolkata. He developed an interest in public speaking while in school. At Shiv Nadar University, he appreciated the exposure to a wide variety of disciplines, the quality and commitment of the faculty, and the philanthropic and social values that the University stands for. In his fourth year, he went as an exchange student to Duke University, Kunshan, where he developed an interest in global health issues. Since graduation, he has been working in organisations that specialize in the use of technology to accelerate development. For the last two years, he has worked with the Institute for Transformative Technologies, which is working to improve global health, increase access to electricity, and promote digital inclusion, amongst much else.





One of his projects was in the area of sanitation, where installed toilets have often fallen into disuse due to issues around waste management. He and his team have helped to develop an organic solution that converts human waste into compost. Another initiative he is proud of is a proprietary solar mini-grid, which provides electricity to extremely remote villages in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.



His attitude and approach reflect the collaborative spirit of the developmental sector. Techniques and products developed by his team are now being adopted by organisations such as the Gates and Rockefeller Foundations. What technologies does he prefer focusing on? “Anything that delivers results,” he says.



MEHUL KUMAR

“I’m going to help one or two boys and girls to get through college.”

Born and brought up with six siblings in the small village of Janikalan, near the city of Meerut in Uttar Pradesh, Mehul Kumar is a bright, soft spoken young man from a humble background. Currently a third year engineering student at National Institute of Technology (NIT), he is a member of the founding batch of VidyaGyan. Not many were aware of VidyaGyan when it was established in 2009. However, his father encouraged him to take the entrance test, which Mehul successfully cleared. VidyaGyan was a transformational experience for him. When asked what first struck him when he came to VidyaGyan, he says. “Everything.” Before joining VidyaGyan, Mehul did not have an understanding in the field of engineering or computer science.



His education and overall experience at VidyaGyan gave him the confidence of aiming for greater goals and his teachers guided him on how he could work towards achieving the same. One of his formative experiences was when he travelled alone to the USA, for the Lehigh Summer Program on Global Entrepreneurship in August 2014, selected from 200 competing candidates. Not only did this trip give him confidence, he dazzled everyone with his dancing skills, winning Best Performer on Talent Night. Mehul is completely invested in his education in Computer Science, and finds Java particularly interesting. While he had originally planned for a career in aeronautical engineering, he is now considering other options as well. Like most students at his age, he is aiming for a career that offers a fine balance between job satisfaction and financial success.



While he is working towards securing a bright future for himself, he is also conscious of the gift of education that he has received and wants to pass on the same to a few others. Over the next few years, he plans to support a select bright children from his village to help them complete their higher education. “I’ll help them get through college,” he says



NARENDRAN MOHANA SUNDARAM

“We were very natural.
No one wasted time on posing.”

Narendran Mohana Sundaram’s family has been residents of Chennai for over a hundred years. A bright student in school, he had several options to choose from for his higher education. He joined the SSN Institutions to pursue his undergraduate degree in engineering, despite the fact that it was a relatively new institution. Narendran credits the background of the promoters, and the HCL connect as the driving factors of his decision. He remembers how the promoters interacted with the students on a regular basis and how that became an immense learning experience for him during his time at SSN. After graduating from SSN in 1999, Narendran spent over a decade working with HCL. This was also the time when both HCL and the global IT industry were shifting focus from hardware to software.



His education and subsequent years at HCL, prepared Narendran to always think ahead of the curve and continuously work towards investing in learning about new technologies. Not surprisingly then, while the subject of data analytics has attracted widespread interest only recently, Narendran has been working as a data analyst for close to 20 years now. He has led teams in different countries across the world, including the US, Mexico and India. After several years in other parts of the world, Narendran recently decided to move back to India and pursue a career here. In a short time he has emerged as a strong leader in his organization that works in the area of bringing a more human touch to the traditional business of mortgage. Narendran attributes this success to his learnings at HCL. He also sees a strong philosophical connect between SSN and HCL. “My personality, my character, my values were formed there,” he says,



“In both SSN and HCL, it was a culture of taking ownership, of doing. We were very natural. No one wasted time on posing.”



VAISHALI DHARIWAL

“Dream big, never stop believing in it, and working for it.”

Vaishali Dhariwal was born and raised in the village of Saidpur Jaskolee near Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh. Much of this region remains in urgent need of development, but Vaishali’s talents were too great to ignore. She was one of only 100 girls out of 30,000 applicants to clear the two-step admission process at VidyaGyan. Throughout her seven years at VidyaGyan, she performed exceptionally well, both in academics and sports. She also featured twice in the national Top 30 of the CBSE Writing Series. Vaishali used her time and success at VidyaGyan to influence a positive change in the larger community in her village. “By talking to people back in my village about the importance of education, both for girls and boys, and showing them by example what education can do, I hope to make a difference in the society,” she said.





During her years at VidyaGyan, Vaishali developed a strong interest in justice. She is a firm believer in the need for creating a more transparent and reliable political environment in the country and therefore decided to pursue her higher education in this field. Vaishali earned a scholarship at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where she is now pursuing her undergraduate studies in Political Science and Legal Studies.



Vaishali invests a great amount in reading and researching about issues facing our society and how individuals can contribute towards making a difference. Talking about the one area that our society needs to focus on more, she says “Being a product of education myself, I would definitely say education.” According to her, the quality of primary education in India is in a need of serious overhaul and is what prevents people from shining. “That’s the base for the rest of the education,” she says.

SSN

SSN STUDENTS WIN AT SMART INDIA HACKATHON 2018

Two teams from SSN College of Engineering (SSN) were declared the winners and first-runners up respectively, at the The Smart India Hackathon 2018 as part of the hardware edition. Hosted in Chandigarh, this was the second win in a row at the world's biggest hackathon, which is conducted by the Ministry of Human Resource and Development.



This year, 3 teams from SSN were selected to participate in the Grand Finale of the Smart India Hackathon 2018. Of the participating teams one has won the first prize of Rs. 1,00,000 and another took home the second prize of Rs. 75,000. These teams were mentored by the SSN faculty which helped them secure the winning spots.



SHIV NADAR SCHOOL

Shiv Nadar School, Noida, had the honor of hosting Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore, Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports, today. Col. Rathore, a former professional shooter who has won several medals (including an Olympic Silver medal and a Commonwealth Gold medal), addressed grade 12 students and spoke about the importance of right attitude and following one's passion. He also met and encouraged our young sports achievers.



SHIV NADAR SCHOOL

Shiv Nadar School Noida won the Best Delegation Trophy for a Small Delegation, at the WIMUN (World Federation of UN Associations MUN CONFERENCE) held in Agra



SHIV NADAR UNIVERSITY

CONVOCATION CEREMONY

Shiv Nadar University celebrated its fourth Convocation Ceremony on 19 May, 2018 at the campus. The University awarded 16 Ph.D.s, 85 Masters and 446 Undergraduate degrees to its students with a total of 547 students from various streams including Engineering, Natural Sciences, Humanities, Social Sciences, Business and Arts graduating from the University. It began with a commencement address by Prof. Ronald J. Daniels, President - Johns Hopkins University. The students were addressed by Sir Timothy John Berners-Lee, inventor of the World Wide Web (www) who attended the event as a special guest. The two guests congratulated the fresh graduates on their success & recognized the University's effort to inculcate holistic learning required to succeed in the careers of the 21st century.





KIRAN NADAR MUSEUM OF ART

PART II OF THE EXHIBITION VIVAN SUNDARAM

A Retrospective: Fifty Years Step Inside And You Are No Longer A Stranger



KIRAN NADAR MUSEUM OF ART

IMAGINARIUM 2018

IMAGINE. EXPRESS. EVOLVE

A creative adventure in drawing, painting and self - expression. KNMA in association with the Indian Army has invited 50 students from 4 different schools of Baramulla, Kashmir, who are eager to express themselves artistically. The idea of this camp is to expose students to modern and contemporary art, starting from sketching to a collaborative art project in the end.

SHIKSHA

SHIKSHA INITIATIVE PROGRAM IN JAIL

Education is one of the most powerful instrument that empowers them to comprehend their social, political and cultural environment better and respond to it appropriately. According to UNESCO - Global Education Monitoring Report, 781 million adults in the world lack minimum literacy skills globally. Out of these 781 million people, India has the highest rate of illiteracy with 264 million adults unable to read and write. A significant concern for a country with booming population and a growing economy.



SHIKSHA Initiative is working to address this problem through a profound intervention among the Adult illiterate through its SHIKSHA+ program. SHIKSHA+ expanded its operation in District Jail, Gautam Buddha Nagar. In phase 1, 81 inmates have been identified as illiterate of the age group: 18-23 years. To teach these inmates, 9 literate inmates were selected on the volunteer basis and imparted training for two days. Training was done on digital content delivery based on ICT. Digital content, hardware and stationery required for the smooth operation of the program was provided by SHIKSHA Initiative. The Program was formally launched in the presence of superintendent jailer, deputy jailer, officials from Shiv Nadar University and SHIKSHA Initiative.



ABOUT SHIV NADAR FOUNDATION

- Shiv Nadar Foundation was established in 1994 by Shiv Nadar, Founder, HCL - a US \$8.5 billion leading global enterprise.
- The Foundation is committed to the creation of a more equitable, merit-based society by empowering individuals through transformational education.
- The Foundation pursues the philosophy of 'Creative Philanthropy', which envisages creation of institutions that continue to impact future generations for many centuries to come.
- Total number of students and alumni – 26,575.
- Total investment – INR 51,153 Million (USD \$786 Million)

K-12 EDUCATION



2009

Leadership Academy for meritorious rural underprivileged children



2012

Chain of urban K-12 schools to create lifelong learners

HIGHER EDUCATION



1996

Ranked amongst India's top engineering colleges



2011

Student-centric, multi-disciplinary & research-oriented university

MASS INTERVENTION



2012

Technology-based educational intervention envisioning the eradication of illiteracy



2010

Building awareness and propagating modern and contemporary Indian art



SHIV NADAR FOUNDATION

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