



NALANDA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

VEENA-UPENDRA SCHOLARSHIP

To provide scholarship support to 250 students to pursue higher education

A Design and Implementation of Scholarship Program

Proposal by: Youth Dreamers Foundation

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INTRODUCTION

Entire world is fighting with an enemy which, at this point, seems undefeatable. According to a United Nations University report, Corona Virus pandemic in India may push more than 100 million people deeper into poverty. In the struggle for the survival, the education of the children of these people will suffer due to an acute shortage of money to fund their school expenses. And whenever a family faces any economic crisis in India, the girl's education often becomes the first casualty. Currently, more than half of the female students drop-out after school and these numbers are bound to increase given the existing COVID situation.

Zehra, a student of Ayyub Girls School Patna is worried that she will be asked to withdraw her admission from the school because her father, who worked as a construction worker in Delhi, is not employed. According to Zehra, her family has always been against her attending the school and in case of crises, she will be asked to help with the household work. As the incomes of such families dry up, it is the girls who will be the first victims of it. This means that thousands of young girls are today at the brink of losing their only chance of creating a better future for themselves.

In this above context, we are looking to initiate a scholarship program, which can help needy students with limited financial access to pursue and complete their higher education. The scholarship is targeted at vulnerable students who have completed their XII standard in the year 2020 and is aimed to extend support until they graduate.

KEY BOUNDARY CONDITIONS

Following are key boundary conditions for first year of the scholarship program:

- The primary target of scholarship program are vulnerable students who have given their 12th board exams this year
- 75% to the total seats will be reserved for girls
- The program will be executed in Bihar state with a simple criterion to ensure that needy students are able to avail scholarships
- The target for the first year is to provide scholarships tentatively to 250 students or more contingent to utilization of 35 lacs of scholarship grants with scholarship grant max up to INR 35,000 per scholar

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM DESIGN

Alignment on the design of the scholarship program

In the first phase, YDF will work together with the Nalanda team to align on the specific aspects of the design of the scholarship program

Eligibility Criteria

Students who are pursuing regular courses (not correspondence or distance mode) from recognised educational institutions and not availing of any other scholarship scheme at the time of selection, would be eligible for consideration under this Scheme.

- Student's family income must not exceed 2.5 lacs per annum for all the sources
- Student must be a resident of Bihar

S. N.	Stream/Courses	Qualifying %age
I	Academic Courses (B. Com, B.Sc., B.A. etc)	70% in 12 th std



2	Professional Courses (B. Tech, MBBS, BDS, LLB etc)	70% in 12 th std
3	Vocational Courses (ITI/Diploma/Polytechnic etc)	70% in 12 th std

Number of seats

The number of seats for the first year tentatively can be 250 or more, contingent to utilization of 35 lacs of scholarship grants. 75% seats will be reserved for girls

Rate of scholarships and fund allocation

The cohort-wise fund allocation is tentative and is subject to change type of the applications received

Cohort	Time	Financial Support
Professional College	Maximum up to 5 years	Actual Fee above 35,000: <i>Fixed 35,000/-</i> Actual Fee below 35,000: <i>Reimbursed in Actuals</i>
Academic College	3 years	
Vocational College	2-3 years	

Duration of scholarships and its renewal

- For all the courses, scholarship must be renewed till the graduation level of that course maximum up to five years for certain cases
- The renewal must depend on promotion to the next class provided the scholar secures promotion to the next class/semester/year. If s/he fails to get promoted to the current class/semester/year examinations, the scholarship will be revoked

Outreach to students

This phase of the engagement will focus on ensuring effective outreach to students for the scholarship program.

In order to ensure effective outreach, YDF will carry out the following:

- Define and execute a strong online outreach strategy
- Engage and forge partnerships with various NGO partners, and academic institutions
 - Prioritise outreach in the already partnered Academic Institutions of Patna and Gaya
 - Partnerships with Bihar Development Collective NGO partners
 - Partnerships with NGOs which are working in communities of Bihar, we have database of over 50 such on-ground organizations via i-CAN
- Spread awareness over online communities to solicit applications from female students
- Candidates will be shared with an online link to fill up their applications suggesting their interest in availing the scholarship benefit
- Ensure students have access to the online application and address any challenges in reach or clarity of the application
- Build the internal systems to collect and validate the application data on our tech portal (still developing)

Due diligence and selection of the candidates

Once the target applications have been received, YDF will work on the following:

- Conduct background due diligence of the candidates to ensure authenticity of the candidates
- Conduct first level assessment based on the application data to define the first shortlist of the eligible students
- Solicit additional information from the shortlisted students to rate each student based on their need, vulnerability, talent, and merit. For example:



- Financial Need:
 - Family Income Range
 - Crisis in the family due to immediate loss of job, health issues, death, terminal illness etc.
 - Merit:
 - Previous class marks
 - Competitive exam
 - Vulnerability:
 - Marginalized communities: SC/ST/OBC/Minorities
 - Education history: 1st generation learner, 2nd generation learner etc.
 - Guardian’s Occupation: Hazardous occupations, Informal, Formal
 - Physical (or mental health) limitations
 - Location: rural, sub-urban, urban
 - Guardianship: Single parent, Orphan
 - Extra-curricular:
 - Sports
 - Arts, music, dance
- Based on the ratings, we will finalize the list of students who will be provided the scholarship
 - The selection of the students will be contingent to them securing admissions in any recognised academic institutions

Disbursal of scholarship grants

This phase of the engagement will focus on ensuring effective disbursal of the scholarship amount to students. In this phase, YDF will carry out the following activities:

- Create checklist for disbursal of funds including the required academic and financial documents necessary
- Transfer money into the bank accounts of the beneficiaries or institutions and collect scholarship grant receipts
- Ensure that the money has been received and has been spent appropriately by engaging with the students, families, and institutions

PROPOSED TIMELINES

Following is the tentative timelines for the overall engagement. The selection phase timelines can vary depending on the admission timelines of the candidates and hence can affect timelines of the subsequent phases.

Phase	From	To
Alignment phase	8 th Jun 2020	15 th Jun 2020
Outreach phase	15 th Jun 2020	15 th Aug 2020
Selection phase	15 th Aug 2020	5 th Sep 2020
Disbursal phase	5 th Sep 2020	30 th Oct 2020