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Samiksha Foundation Scholarships Program (SFSP) 9-Post event Newsletter



Samiksha Foundation hosted its 9th Annual Scholarships Program in recognition and support of students post treatment and recovered from cancer, providing financial assistance for their continued education.

Founder Sandhya Sharad welcomed attendees, students and parents, special guests, medical professionals, and the extended Samiksha family. Gratitude was extended to hospitals with the Samiksha Learning Centres, St. John's, Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health, and Sri Shankara Cancer Hospital for their support. Online participants and key contributors were also acknowledged.

The program featured an inspiring Scholarships Award Ceremony, interactive activities for students and families, and speeches highlighting Samiksha's mission of empowerment and healing through education.



Senior Advisor Ms. Vijaya Nanjundeswaran showcased visuals of the team's work, emphasizing the Foundation's ethos of resilience, togetherness, moving ahead with unflagging optimism and humanity. The team's dedication over 15 years has transformed the lives of over 15,000 children, embodying the motto: "Knowledge empowers, happiness heals."

Education Lead Valli Narasimha reiterated that since 2018, the "Looking Ahead" initiative has been central to the Foundation's mission, focusing on reintegrating children into school post-treatment. To further this goal, the Samiksha Foundation Scholarships Program was established to empower survivors to pursue their education with passion and resilience. So far more than Rs.78 lakhs have been disbursed as scholarships.



Samiksha Foundation, established in 2009 is a Creative Learning Initiative for children affected by cancer and their caregivers, aiming to increase the Happiness Quotient of the children.

We believe that knowledge empowers, and happiness heals,
Our Motto- The pursuit of knowledge is key to their pursuit of Happiness



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Profile of this year's awardees

Class / Course	No. of Students
8	6
9	4
10	10
I PUC	6
II PUC	7
Diploma	5
BCom	14
BA	5
BSc	2
BCA	2
BBA	1
BSc (Hotel Mgt)	1
BSc (Medical Lab Technology)	1
Engineering	5
Paramedical	2
Nursing (GNM)	4
Total	75

This edition of the Scholarships Program disbursed Rs. 13, 29,600 to 75 of the 77 shortlisted students, including Rs. 3, 77,500 directly to institutions for specialized courses like nursing, paramedical, hotel management and engineering. This milestone brought the total scholarships awarded from 20 in 2018 to 515 this year, and overall 525 scholarships including the period before the SFSP was started, easing financial burdens and opening pathways to brighter futures.

An audio visual presentation highlighted Samiksha Foundation's impact, reaching out to over 14,543 children (till December 2024) benefiting from its ecosystem since 2009. Valli Narasimha reiterated to all the students part of the Samiksha learning program, in school or college, as well as those who are undergoing treatment, to make use of the remote learning program that the Foundation offers. The digital learning platform is very robust and each one of the students who accesses, gets a unique login credential, allowing them to space out their own learning at their level and at their own comfort.

The event reaffirmed the Foundation's commitment to ensuring '*Leave no child behind*'.

Keynote speaker Aditya Sharad emphasized the importance of curiosity and lifelong learning and praised students' resilience and dedication. He encouraged the students to be very proud of everything that they have achieved and know that the team at Samiksha Foundation is very proud of them because they kept learning even when going through the treatment of cancer. They 'kept learning with Samiksha, and kept learning after Samiksha'- after they went back from hospital, they went back to school, college and higher studies. He emphasized that there will be something to learn and there will always be something that they don't know. 'Make sure that you are able to learn new things and when you discover something you don't know, find out', using all the resources, digital content, teacher connect available and accessible.



Special guest Ms. Anamika Chakraborty shared her personal journey battling cancer and praised Samiksha's work. She empathized with students' struggles, highlighting the importance of finding learning opportunities in adversity, encouraging the students to share their knowledge to support others and commended parents for their courage in ensuring their children's education. She reflected on the mind-body connection and the importance of gratitude, emphasizing that life's challenges can be opportunities for growth and positivity.

Ms. Nivedita Shirwatkar, a Samiksha Foundation teacher shared her valuable insights of her journey as a teacher with the Foundation. She brought out the difference of working in a school environment vis-à-vis a hospital one. She explained her approach of contributing towards theme based learning sessions so that children in hospitals can enjoy participating in creative activities, have fun and games and study at the same time.



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Mr. Abdul Aziz, a long-time supporter and care giver presented the UDID (Unique Disability Identity) card program- a central government initiative, under the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment and explained its benefits. UDID aims to create a National Database for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) to encourage transparency, efficiency and ease of delivering the government benefits to the person with disabilities, ensuring uniformity.

Ms. Lavanya, a Samiksha Foundation Learning Centre alumna and previous recipient of the Samiksha Foundation Scholarships, was felicitated with the Alumni Award.



The event concluded with a captivating magic show, group photos, mementos for students, vote of thanks by our teacher Sharada KG and a lunch for all, leaving attendees inspired and united in their mission to support education and healing. We were honoured to have esteemed guests, donors, current awardees and their caregivers as well as representatives from partner hospitals join us for this momentous occasion. This achievement would not have been possible without everyone's unwavering support and dedication to our cause.

The event was streamed live via YouTube for a wider audience of supporters, donors and patrons. For those who missed the event or would like to relive the highlights, live stream recording is available [here](#).

As part of our endeavour to reach as many beneficiaries as possible, Samiksha Foundation-Caring for Children with cancer Trust is raising funds for Capacity building for Project Expansion and Program Implementation. We appreciate your consideration to support Samiksha Foundation-Caring for Children with cancer.

Education Program	Annual running cost - 1 learning centre- Rs. 11 lakh - 4 learning centres- Rs.44 lakhs	Inclusive of teachers' salaries and In person teaching
Centre of Excellence, Koramangala	Annual running cost - Rs. 6 lakh	Inclusive of Capacity Building, rent, maintenance

You can support our cause through:

[Our donate page on our website](#)

[Our campaign page on Give.do](#)

[Our project page on Benevity causes](#), our Benevity ID is 356-5700069795431_edb4

Let us work together to Make a Difference in the lives of these children...

To know more about us, click on the links: [Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

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