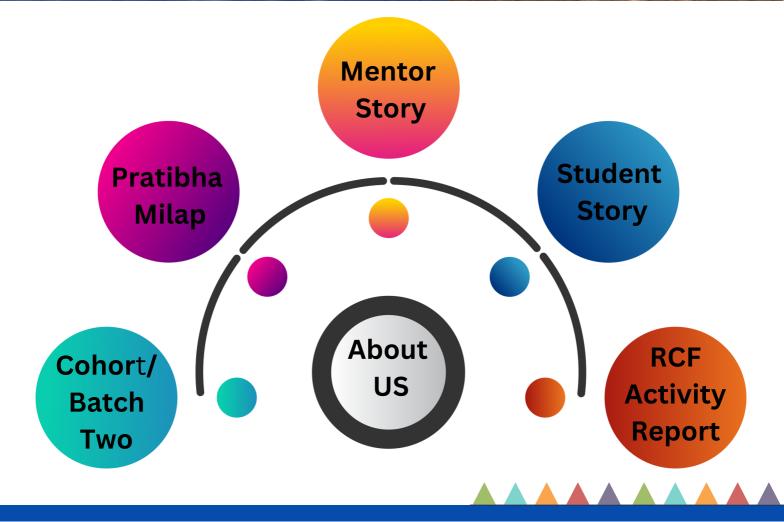




# October 2023 Volume



## **ABOUT US**



### RAJALAKSHMI CHILDREN FOUNDATION

Rajalakshmi Children Foundation, established in early 2013, is a non-profit organization working for the health, education and overall development of underprivileged children. We are primarily working with government schools, where most of the children come from economically and socially disadvantaged families.



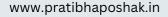
### **PRATIBHA POSHAK**

Pratibha Poshak is a talent search-nurture project initiated by Rajalakshmi Children Foundation. We identify exceptionally talented young kids from severely underprivileged and remote rural areas and urban slums in India, and amplify their potential by connecting them in peer cohorts with creative teachers and caring mentors across the globe.





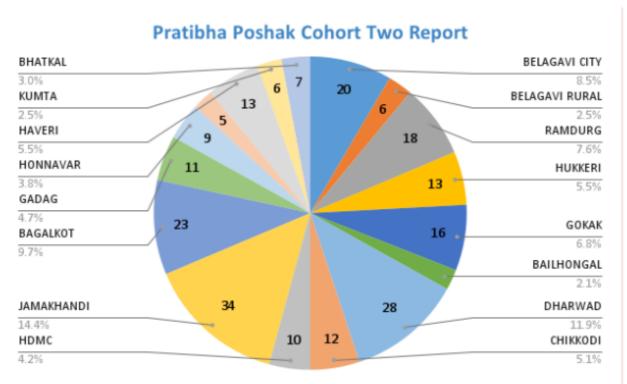
Nurturing Talent-At the Bottom of the Pyramid





We have successfully launched Cohort Two of the Pratibha Poshak program. This year, we've selected 236 bright students from locations including Belagavi City & Rural, Ramdurg, Hukkeri, Gokak, Bailhongal, Dharwad, Chikkodi, HDMC, Jamakhandi, Bagalkot, Gadag, Honnavar, Ankola, Haveri, Kumta, and Bhatkal.

Thanks to your support, we're able to set our sights on an even more ambitious goal for the upcoming year. We plan to extend our reach to additional educational districts like Sirsi and Vijaypura. Our aim is to start the selection process for the next cohort as soon as the NMMS results are out.



www.pratibhaposhak.in



Throughout the months of September and October, our **Pratibha Milap** events brought together students from various regions, fostering an inspiring and enlightening experience for all involved. On 3rd September, a total of 45 students hailing from Belgaum Urban and Rural areas, Kittur, Khanapur, and Bailhongal participated in a day filled with exploration. They visited the Commando Training Centre and the MLIRC Museum, engaging in invigorating group discussions and brainstorming sessions. The 10th of September witnessed an even larger gathering, with 80 students from Gokak, Hukkeri, Mudalagi, and Ramdurg converging for an equally enriching experience at the same venue. The activities of these events brought students together in a spirit of learning and enjoyment. Furthermore, on 17th October, 43 students from Hubli, Dharwad, Navalgund, and Kundagol joined us at Deshpande Skilling, Hubli, for yet another impactful Pratibha Milap session. The highlight of this event was a session on Organic Farming led by Shri Sangappa Kori and an engaging experiential learning workshop facilitated by Col. V.C. Prakash. These events not only provided valuable educational insights but also allowed students from diverse backgrounds to connect, learn, and enjoy the shared experience.





# **MENTOR STORY**

Aruna Pawase, a retired professor from Yale University's Department of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry, has left an indelible mark both in the academic realm and through her philanthropic endeavors. Born in the quaint town of Belgaum in Southern India, Aruna's academic journey was marked by excellence. Graduating with top honors in Chemistry in May 1977, she clinched the first rank and was recognized as the second-best girl in the college's annual magazine. Her pursuit of knowledge led her to attain a master's degree with the second rank in July 1979, marking the beginning of her impactful academic career. For three decades, Aruna imparted her knowledge by teaching various undergraduate laboratory courses at Yale University. Her dedication extended beyond the classroom, reflected in her numerous published research papers, showcasing her expertise in the field of molecular biophysics and biochemistry.



Beyond academia, Aruna's heart lies in philanthropy. She became a guiding mentor at the **Rajalakshmi Children Foundation**, where her engaging sessions with children have earned her immense love and respect. Her commitment goes beyond teaching, as she passionately raised funds to rebuild school infrastructure and provide essential learning equipment to schools in Belagavi and its neighboring areas, empowering young minds with the tools for a better education.Presently, Aruna's focus is on establishing a Marathi Batch of 'Pratibha Poshak' with the support of the Rajalakshmi Children Foundation. This initiative aims to uplift and empower children through educational programs, ensuring access to quality learning opportunities for the youth. Her dedication to both education and philanthropy serves as a testament to the transformative impact an individual can have on society. Through her tireless efforts, Aruna continues to shape and brighten the futures of many, leaving an enduring legacy of kindness, knowledge, and empowerment.

# **STUDENT STORY**

At RCF, our commitment to nurturing talent through the Pratibha Poshak program has brought us stories of resilience and determination. Among these inspiring narratives is that of Deeksha M Hegde, a student from GHS Allanki, Honavar school, situated in the picturesque yet challenging coastal areas of Uttar Kannada.

Life in the coastal regions presents unique challenges, with many houses being low-lying and grappling with poor internet connectivity. In addition, heavy rains often disrupt the already sporadic supply of electricity for extended periods. Despite these formidable challenges, Deeksha, a tenacious student with a thirst for knowledge, goes to great lengths to ensure she never misses a class.



When faced with the frustration of fluctuating network signals, Deeksha takes an unconventional approach. Undeterred by the obstacles, she climbs a tree in front of her house, creating a makeshift classroom where she can comfortably attend online classes. Her dedication to overcoming adversity speaks volumes about her commitment to education. Deeksha harbors ambitious dreams for her future. Though she hasn't finalized her plans post-PUC (Pre-University Course), she expresses a strong inclination towards pursuing a career in medicine or life sciences. Her ultimate goal is to make her parents proud through her educational achievements. Deeksha raises a crucial question: "Why should children from Uttar Kannada suffer? Can't someone ensure that we have a steady and stable internet connection, allowing us to make the most of the wonderful opportunities that Pratibha Poshak has given us? As we celebrate her resilience, let her story ignite a call for improved infrastructure and equal educational opportunities. Together, we can pave the way for every aspiring student to overcome challenges and reach for the stars.



In the village of Gudas, a small school with big dreams is witnessing the fruition of its aspirations, thanks to the collaborative efforts of RCF and Amazon. The RCF Learning Labs, generously supported by Amazon, have become a beacon of hope for the students of this close-knit community.

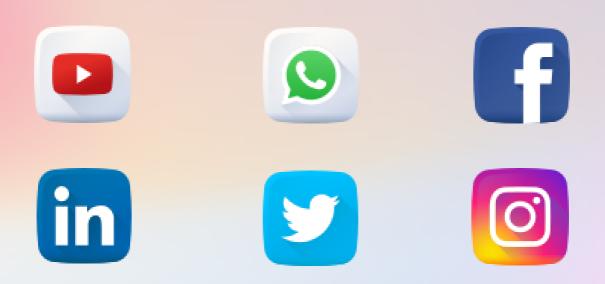
Recently, two bright minds from Gudas triumphed in the Pratibha Poshak selection test, earning themselves the key to a world of knowledge—a brand new tablet for online classes. The entire village, echoing with pride, has rallied behind these young achievers, exemplifying the unwavering support of the community.

A hoarding in the heart of Gudas proudly heralds the success story of these students, symbolizing not just academic triumphs but also the spirit of collective encouragement that defines this small village with a big heart.



OUR SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS





Would you like to be a part of a movement that provides every child with the opportunity to excel? You can join us as a teacher, mentor, volunteer, or intern at Pratibha Poshak and lend a helping hand in nurturing under-resourced children to help them achieve their goals. Donations to RCF are tax-exempted under Section 80G.

Website:www.pratibhaposhak.in Website:www.rajalakshmifoundation.in Email:contact@rajalakshmifoundation.in Mobile:+91 944-900-7550 Address:Project Pratibha Poshak RCF Sadhana Mandir Sector No. 8, Anjaneya Nagar (near Datta Mandir) Belagavi – 590016, Karnataka, India