

MARGA SCHULZE SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME FOR HIGHER EDUCATION OF GIRLS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT



Empowerment through Education

**Report
2007-10**

Dedicated to



Mrs. Marga Schulze

Born on : 08-03-1921 Expired on : 05-02-2010

Thanks to the Mission and a Visionary



It is with great pride that the UDIS Forum is presenting this report about the **Marga Schulze Scholarship Scheme (MASS)**, which is benefitting hundreds of girls with visual impairment in India. Though I know Dr. Schulze since 1982, I interacted with him closely when he visited India in 1989 and I was moved by his vision on empowering girls with visual impairment. His life is a great source of inspiration to me personally as he is a symbol of determination and courage. For a person with visual impairment to become a Judge at the Federal Court of Germany is not an easy task but Dr. Schulze made it. He dreams of the welfare of persons with visual impairment in general and girls in particular. He believes that education of girls with visual impairment would transform their families and bring prosperity to their generations.

The Scholarship is administered through CBM, one of the greatest organizations serving persons with disabilities in the world. I am privileged to be associated with this great Mission since 1980, when it introduced the concept of integrated education for blind children, which was first of its kind in India, at the Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya, Coimbatore, through the initiative of Sri T.S. Avinashilingam, Vidyalaya's Founder-Director. CBM is instrumental in activating the UDIS Forum too, which is a network of parents, persons with disabilities, professionals, and voluntary organisations aimed at empowering persons with disabilities through employment opportunities. The Marga Schulze Scholarship Programme is one of the flagship activities of the UDIS Forum, and the achievement of the girls through higher education, as you see in this report, is motivating us to work hard to help more girls with visual impairment.

We take this opportunity to profoundly thank Dr. Schulze and Mrs. Marga Schulze for their vision in establishing the Marga Schulze Foundation to help visually impaired girls in Africa and Asia pursue higher education, and giving an opportunity to the UDIS Forum to serve as a bridge to help hundreds of visually impaired girls in South India. We sincerely thank Dr. Allen Foster, President, CBM, and friends at the CBM Head Office, Germany who are taking services for persons with disabilities to the nook and corner of the world. Our special gratitudes are due to Mrs. Gunawathy Fernandez, Regional Director, South Asia Regional Office (South), and all staff of the regional office for guiding us in the smooth implementation of the higher education project and also the multifarious activities of the UDIS Forum.

The staff of the UDIS Forum deserve special thanks as their untiring and selfless work is the key to the success of the UDIS Forum network concept.



M.N.G. Mani

President, UDIS Forum



Dr. Hans – Eugen Schulze is a retired Judge of the Federal Courts of Germany and a man of repute. Dr. Schulze lost his vision during his early childhood but his sheer determination and will power helped him reach great heights. He started his career as a court clerk,

simultaneously getting trained in English and French. He then graduated from Grammar School and became a Braille teacher for war-blinded people. He worked as a teacher for a few years and then took up to pursuing law and held the high position of Judge in the German Federal Court of Appeals.

Since 1961 he has been working on a voluntary basis for the Christian Blind Mission (CBM). There he is a consultant for juridical questions as well as for issues regarding scholastic and professional education for blind people. Since 2002 he has been an honorary member of the Mission's Council (supervisory board of the CBM).

Realising the difficulties blind women encounter to come up in life, he created a foundation by name, “Marga-Schulze Foundation” (Marga his wife) in 1996 and started supporting adult blind girls in Africa and Asia to pursue higher education. The objective of the scholarship is to enable blind women to live independently and later to help people like them in their respective regions / countries. This scheme is regulated through the CBM, which is one of the leading international organisations working for the welfare of persons with disabilities.



CBM is an international Christian development organisation, committed to improving the quality of life of persons with disabilities in

the poorest countries of the world. CBM works with partner organisations to support persons with disabilities in the developing world to access affordable and comprehensive health care and rehabilitation programmes, quality education programs and livelihood opportunities. CBM's vision is of an inclusive world in which all persons with disabilities enjoy their human rights and achieve their full potential.

CBM's aim is to serve persons with visual impairment as well as people with other disabilities in developing countries—regardless of their nationality, sex, or religion. The history of CBM goes back to 1908, when the organisation was founded by the German Pastor Ernst Jakob Christoffel. Since then, CBM has become one of the leading professional organisations for people with disabilities worldwide. Currently, CBM supports over 1000 projects in over 100 countries.

The overall aims of CBM's work are to:

- Support CBM's partners to deliver services in cooperation with disabled people's interest groups,
- Give people with disability the support they need,
- Promote their inclusion, and
- Raise awareness of their needs.

To achieve these aims, CBM cooperates with global institutions and contributes to international campaigns. CBM has been recognised as a professional organisation for people with disabilities by the World Health Organization and obtained roster consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.



The **UDIS (You and the Disabled) Forum**, Coimbatore, which is a network of parents, persons with disabilities, professionals and voluntary organisations, facilitating employment and empowerment opportunities for persons with disabilities took responsibility for implementing the MASS scheme in South India whereas the **All India Confederation of the Blind (AICB)** is responsible for North India.

Broad Guidelines

The prime objective of the scholarship scheme is not just helping the blind girls to pursue higher education, but to motivate and create a mindset among them to help their needy peers in the society to lead a dignified life. Selection of visually impaired girls for the award of the scholarship is based on stringent measures and every effort is taken to make sure that the beneficiaries are deserving candidates by merit. For selecting the candidates, benchmarks in the areas such as attendance, consistent academic performance etc., have been laid out. In addition, skills in the areas of information technology, orientation and mobility, and braille, are also taken into consideration in selection.

As per the scheme, a student of the graduate level will receive a merit scholarship of Rs. 12,000/- per annum and the amount of scholarship for students pursuing Bachelor of Education Course (B.Ed.) and post-graduate level are Rs. 15,000/- and Rs. 18,000/- respectively.

The general guidelines of the Scheme are as follows:

1. The students can contact the UDIS Forum or the All India Confederation of the Blind for any guidance regarding courses to be selected, colleges in the vicinity etc., if needed.
2. The students, after getting admission in the colleges of their choices, should write to the UDIS Forum/All India Confederation of the Blind for an application for the scholarship. The application form can also be downloaded from the websites www.davo.in and www.aicb.org.in
3. The students who have secured a minimum of 60% of marks at the plus 2 / junior college will be considered for scholarship under the “graduation” category and the minimum eligibility for scholarship in the case of B.Ed. and post-graduate courses is 55% in the qualifying examinations.
4. The filled in application, with the recommendation of the Principal of the College where the student is admitted should be sent to the Administrative Office of the UDIS Forum / All India Confederation of the Blind latest by 20th August of the academic year. Applications sent without the signature of the Principal of the college concerned will be considered incomplete.
5. The students may, if necessary, be called for an interview in a centrally located place for selection to award scholarship. Besides scrutinizing certificates, the Braille reading and writing skills, orientation and mobility and communication skills will also be tested for awarding scholarship.
6. The number of scholarships to be given every year will be decided on the basis of available resources.
7. Within one month from the date of selection for the scholarship, 60% of the scholarship amount will be released in favour of the student through a cheque / demand draft, forwarded to the Principal of the concerned college. Therefore, the students should open a bank account. In case the student wants the amount to be sent in favour of the institution where studying, and not in her name, a written authorization should be sent to the UDIS Forum/All India Confederation of the Blind. The remaining 40% will be released during the second half of the academic year.
8. The students are free to stay in hostels not attached to the College. However, these hostels should be either run by organisations of/for the disabled or those, which are safe and also provide assistance to persons with blindness.
9. The student should show at least 55% academic performance and more than 80% attendance record every year for the continuation of the scholarship. The progress of the student should be intimated to UDIS Forum / All India Confederation of the Blind each year in the prescribed format through the Principal of the concerned college. Scholarship will be discontinued in case the student is not showing the desired academic performance and attendance.
10. The UDIS Forum / All India Confederation of the Blind representatives will visit the colleges from time-to-time to discuss with the authorities concerned to enquire about the progress of the students. Parents will also be contacted regularly.
11. The students will be invited from time-to-time, especially during vacation, for skills development programmes such as training in information and communication technology, communication skills, use of assistive devices, etc.
12. The students are encouraged to take part in co-curricular activities of the college too. Awards and prizes when won by the student concerned may be informed to the UDIS Forum / All India Confederation of the Blind for documentation purposes.

Beneficiaries

The lists below provide details of the students benefitted by the scholarship since 2007 in South India through UDIS Forum.

From 2007 – 2010 (3 Years)

S.No.	Name of The Student	Course	Name of The Institution	State
1	Eleeza Souza	I B.A. (HENGs)	Jyothi Nivas College, Bangalore	Karnataka
2	Sheeba Bai, A	II B.B.M.	St. Philomena's College, Mysore	Karnataka
3	Asha, S	III B.A. (HEE)	DVS College of Arts & science, Shimoga	Karnataka
4	Jayanthi, P	III B.A. (English)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
5	Baby, K	III B.A. (English)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
6	Kemil Fernando, L	III B.A. (English)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
7	Maheswari, K	III B.A. (English)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
8	Poongothai, M	III B.A. (Tamil)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
9	Nalayiram, R	III B.A. (Tamil)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
10	Kavitha, S	III B.A. (Tamil)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
11	Ponmari, A.K	III B.A. (Tamil)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
12	Thamaraiselvi, B	III B.A. (Tamil)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
13	Sutha, L	III B.A. (Tamil)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
14	Jothimani, J	III B.A. (Tamil)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
15	Tamilselvi, R	III B.A. (Tamil)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
16	Jeevamani, C	III B.A. (Tamil)	Govt. Arts College, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
17	Anthony Selvi, B	III B.A. (English)	Ethiraj College for Women, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
18	Kalaivani, C	III B.A. (Tamil)	Madras Christian College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
19	Anusha, S.T	II M.A. (English)	Stella Maris College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
20	Deepa, S	III B.A. (Tamil)	Sri Meenakshi Govt. College for Women, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
21	Nithya, R	III B.A. (Tamil)	Sri Meenakshi Govt. College for Women, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
22	Senthamil Selvi, A	I M.A. (History)	Kandaswamy Naidu Women's College, Cuddalore	Tamil Nadu

From 2007 – 2009 (2 Years)

S.No.	Name of The Student	Course	Name of The Institution	State
1	Farhana Banu	II B.A. (HENGs)	Jyothi Nivas College, Bangalore	Karnataka
2	Anurin Lawrence Souza	II DTT	Sri Ramana Maharishi Academy for the Blind, Bangalore	Karnataka
3	Vigneswari, K.V	II B.A. (English)	Presidency College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
4	Mariyaselvam, M	II B.A. (Tamil)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
5	Amy Mary Sudhana, C	III B.A. (English)	Meenakshi College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
6	Vedavalli, B	III B.A. (English)	Madras Christian College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
7	Shanmugasundari, K	III B.A. (English)	Holy Cross College, Trichy	Tamil Nadu
8	Paul Arasakumari, R	III B.A. (Tamil)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
9	Anjum Khan, M	II M.A. (English)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
10	Arulmari, M	II M.A. (Tamil)	Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
11	Pavun, V	II M.A. (History)	Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
12	Misha Vincent, V	III B.A. (English)	St. Xavier's College for Women, Aluva	Kerala

From 2008 – 2010 (2 Years)

S.No.	Name of The Student	Course	Name of The Institution	State
1	Suthamani, M	II B.A. (Tamil)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
2	Bavani, P	II B.A. (Tamil)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
3	Subashakthi, M	II B.A. (English)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
4	Dhanalakshmi, R	II B.A. (English)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
5	Akilandeswari, M	II B.A. (English)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
6	Uma Maheswari, S	II M.A. (English)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
7	Sivasankari, E	II B.A. (Tamil)	Govt. Arts College, Dharmapuri	Tamil Nadu
8	Niveditha, A	II B.A. (English)	Presidency College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
9	Thenmozhi, E	II B.A. (Politics)	Presidency College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
10	Vidhya, P	II B.A. (Tamil)	Presidency College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
11	Uma Maheswari, S	II B.A. (History)	Quaid-E-Millath Govt. College for Women, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
12	Beno Zephine, N.L	II B.A. (English)	Stella Maris College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu

13	Bhuvaneswari, M	II B.A. (Tamil)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
14	Rani, B	II B.A. (Tamil)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
15	Niroja, J	II B.A. (Tamil)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
16	Parasakthi, P	II B.A. (History)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
17	Dhanam, R	I M.A. (Tamil)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
18	Kavitha, M	II M.A. (Tamil)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
19	Sangeetha, S	II M.A. (Music)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
20	Little Flower, A	II M.A. (Tamil)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
21	Divya, R	II B.A. (English)	Sri Sarada College for Women, Salem	Tamil Nadu
22	Narayana Vadivu, S	II B.A. (Tamil)	Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
23	Rama, A	II B.A. (Tamil)	Sri Meenakshi Govt. College for Women, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
24	Ponmalar, R	II M.A. (Tamil)	S.T Hindu College, Nagercoil	Tamil Nadu
25	Nakkal Jayamma	II B.A. (HPP)	Vivekananda Govt. Degree College, Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
26	Bhagyalaxmi, P	II B.A. (HPP)	Vivekananda Govt. Degree College, Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
27	Saritha, M	II B.A. (HTP)	Nizam College, Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
28	Pallavi, S.J	II B.A. (HEE)	DVS College of Arts & Science, Shimoga	Karnataka

From 2007 – 2008 (1 Year)

S.No.	Name of The Student	Course	Name of The Institution	State
1	Kameshwari, R	I B.A. (History)	Holy Cross College, Trichy	Tamil Nadu
2	Vijayalakshmi, K	I B.A. (Tamil)	Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
3	Deepa, M	I B.A. (Tamil)	Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
4	Shenbagavalli, P	I B.A. (Tamil)	Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
5	Mari, P	II M.A. (Tamil)	Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
6	Rani, P	II M.A. (Tamil)	Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
7	Sasikala, P	I B.A. (English)	Presidency College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
8	Rajakumari, S	I B.A. (English)	Presidency College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
9	Kalaivani, R	I B.A. (English)	Presidency College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
10	Radha, M	I B.A. (English)	Presidency College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
11	Vijayalakshmi, C	I B.A. (English)	Presidency College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
12	Pappakani, P	I B.A. (English)	NMS SVN College, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
13	Annalakshmi, K	I B.A. (English)	NMS SVN College, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
14	Parasakthi, N	I B.A. (English)	NMS SVN College, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
15	Murugeswari, M	II B.A. (History)	NMS SVN College, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
16	Asaikani, D	II M.A. (History)	NMS SVN College, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
17	Mariammal, L	II M.A. (History)	NMS SVN College, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
18	Radha, P	II B.A. (English)	Senthamil College, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
19	Mahalakshmi, G	II B.A. (English)	Senthamil College, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
20	Sumathi, R	III B.A. (History)	Yadava College, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
21	Sumitha, K	II B.A. (Tamil)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
22	Mariammarlin, A	II B.A. (English)	Stella Maris College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
23	Sheela, P	III B.A. (English)	L N G College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
24	Palaniammal, R	B.Ed. (Spl. Edn)	NIVH Regional Centre, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
25	Joice Issabella, A	B.Ed.	CSI Bishop Appasamy College of Education, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
26	Roothmani, L	III B.A. (HET)	Loyala College, Vijayawada	Andhra Pradesh

From 2008 – 2009 (1 Year)

S.No.	Name of The Student	Course	Name of The Institution	State
1	Ammu, P	I B.A. (English)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
2	Angaleswari, S	I B.A. (English)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
3	Maheswari, R	I B.A. (English)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
4	Mariyal, P	I B.A. (English)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
5	Muthumari, S	I B.A. (History)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
6	Rajathi, A	I B.A. (Tamil)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
7	Sangeetha, S	I B.A. (History)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
8	Shylaja, S	I M.A. (History)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu

9	Kavitha, V	I M.A. (Tamil)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
10	Sopana, S	II M.A. (Tamil)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
11	Antony Sesumary, S	II M.A. (Tamil)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
12	Devi, G	II M.A. (English)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
13	Nirmaladevi, R	II M.A. (Tamil)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
14	Thilagavathi, B	II M.A. (Tamil)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
15	Krishnaveni, V	II M.A. (Tamil)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
16	Subitha, R	I B.A. (English)	Presidency College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
17	Panjayi, R	I B.A. (English)	Quaid-E-Millath Govt. College for Women, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
18	Subharani, T	I B.A. (English)	Quaid-E-Millath Govt. College for Women, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
19	Arockia Vijayakumari, S	I B.A. (Tamil)	Quaid-E-Millath Govt. College for Women, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
20	Geetha, M	II M.A. (Tamil)	University of Madras, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
21	Vanitha, T	II M.A. (Tamil)	Chellammal Women's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
22	Pushpa, R	II M.A. (Tamil)	Chellammal Women's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
23	Sasikala, K	I B.A. (Tamil)	Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
24	Guru Eswari, M	I B.A. (Tamil)	Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
25	Antony Arokia Kanmani, A	I B.A. (Tamil)	Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
26	Kavitha, P	I B.A. (Tamil)	Sri Meenakshi Govt. College for Women, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
27	Manimegalai, N	I B.A. (Tamil)	Periyar Arts College, Cuddalore	Tamil Nadu
28	Priya Mahalakshmi, V	I B.A. (English)	Thiagarajar College, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
29	Nirmala, V	I B.A. (History)	Govt. Arts College, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
30	Alagu Rani, R	B.Ed.	Nazareth College of Education for Women, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
31	Rani, P	B.Ed.	St. Gonsalo College of Education, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
32	Maragadam, S	B.Ed.	St. Gonsalo College of Education, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
33	Vennila, R	B.Ed.	Annai Saraswathi College of Education, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
34	Vijaya, K	B.Ed.	Annai Saraswathi College of Education, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
35	Vijayalaxmi, M	B.Ed.	St. Stephen's College of Education, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
36	Backialakshmi, U	B.Ed.	St. Stephen's College of Education, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
37	Valli, N	B.Ed.	St. Stephen's College of Education, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
38	Mallika, S	B.Ed.	St. Stephen's College of Education, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
39	Amutha, M	B.Ed.	St. Stephen's College of Education, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
40	Mariammal, L	B.Ed.	Raj College of Education, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
41	Mahalakshmi, A	B.Ed.	Raj College of Education, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
42	Punitha, C	B.Ed.	Raj College of Education, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
43	Vimaladevi, S	B.Ed.	Raj College of Education, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
44	Velankanni, A	B.Ed.	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
45	Sindhu, K	B.Ed.	S.T. Hindu College of Education, Nagercoil	Tamil Nadu
46	Jeraldine Margaret, J	B.Ed.	Mariamman College of Education, Trichy	Tamil Nadu
47	Sharmila, A	B.L.	Government Law College, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
48	Jilu, A	II M.A. (Politics)	University College, Thiruvananthapuram	Kerala
49	Sushama, E	II M.A. (Philo)	University of Calicut, Calicut	Kerala
50	Saritha, G	I B.A. (HTP)	Nizam College, Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
51	Triveni, V	I B.A. (Telugu)	University College for Women, Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
52	Suvarna, G	B.Ed.	Panineeeya Maha Vidyalaya College of Edn., Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
53	Rasulbee Shaik	B.Ed.	IASE, Osmania University, Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh

From 2009 – 2010 (1 Year)

S.No.	Name of The Student	Course	Name of The Institution	State
1	Mahalakshmi, V	I B.A. (Tamil)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
2	Hemavathi, S	I B.A. (Tamil)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
3	Jeyalakshmi, S	I B.A. (Tamil)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
4	Sneha, N	I B.A. (English)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
5	Vani, M	I B.A. (English)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
6	Fathima Sajidha, R	I B.A. (English)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
7	Nivethitha, T	I B.A. (English)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
8	Stella Mary, S	I B.A. (Music)	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
9	Athilakshmi, S	I B.A. (History)	C.B.M. College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu

S.No.	Name of The Student	Course	Name of The Institution	State
10	Jansi Rani, K	I B.A. (English)	Ethiraj College for Women, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
11	Suganya, P	I B.A. (English)	Quaid-E-Millat Govt. College for Women, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
12	Poongodi, R	I B.A. (English)	Quaid-E-Millat Govt. College for Women, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
13	Rebekka, M	I B.A. (English)	Quaid-E-Millat Govt. College for Women, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
14	Mala, A	I B.A. (English)	Quaid-E-Millat Govt. College for Women, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
15	Shyamala, K	I B.A. (English)	Quaid-E-Millat Govt. College for Women, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
16	Kannaki, R	I B.A. (English)	Quaid-E-Millat Govt. College for Women, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
17	Selvi, A	I B.A. (English)	Quaid-E-Millat Govt. College for Women, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
18	Chitra, T	I B.A. (Tamil)	Quaid-E-Millat Govt. College for Women, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
19	Kalaiyarasi, R	I B.A. (Tamil)	Quaid-E-Millat Govt. College for Women, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
20	Sakthi Nandini, P	I B.A. (English)	Stella Maris College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
21	Sailakshmi, P	I B.A. (English)	A.M. Jain College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
22	Kalpana, K	I B.A. (Tamil)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
23	Dharani, S	I B.A. (Tamil)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
24	Chitra, K	I M.A. (Tamil)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
25	Vasanth, V	I M.A. (Tamil)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
26	Leelavathi, K.L	I M.A. (Tamil)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
27	Sangeetha, S	I M.A. (Tamil)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
28	Veeralakshmi, R	I M.A. (Tamil)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
29	Mariammal, R	I M.A. (Tamil)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
30	Anbarasi, G	I M.A. (History)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
31	Bhavani, A	I B.A. (History)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
32	Sumathi, P	I B.A. (History)	Queen Mary's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
33	Anitha, K	I B.A. (English)	Presidency College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
34	Nathiya, N	I B.A. (Tamil)	Presidency College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
35	Kalaiaarasi, S	I B.A. (Tamil)	Presidency College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
36	Rani, G	I B.A. (Tamil)	Chellammal Women's College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
37	Nithya, S	I B.A. (English)	Voorhees College of Arts, Vellore	Tamil Nadu
38	Vijayalakshmi, P	I B.A. (English)	NMS SVN College, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
39	Vithya, V	I B.A. (English)	NMS SVN College, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
40	Mariammal, T	I B.A. (English)	Kunthavai Naachiyar Govt. Arts College for Women, Tanjore	Tamil Nadu
41	Pounthai, P	I B.A. (Tamil)	Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
42	Vasanthi, S	I B.A. (Tamil)	Sri Meenakshi Govt. College for Women, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
43	Anitha, R	B.Ed.	Govt. College of Education for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
44	Ramalakshmi, S	B.Ed.	Govt. College of Education for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
45	Nagalakshmi, K	B.Ed.	Govt. College of Education for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
46	Thahira Beevi, B	B.Ed.	Govt. College of Education for Women, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
47	Kaladevi, B	B.Ed.	NKT National College of Education for Women, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
48	Karthigai Selvi, S	B.Ed.	NMS SVN College, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
49	Uma Rani, N	B.Ed.	Kapi Women's College of Education, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
50	Sakunthala Devi, S	B.Ed.	Assefa College of Education, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
51	Renuga, R	B.Ed.	St. Stephen's College of Education for Women, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
52	Jeyalakshmi, M	B.Ed.	St. Stephen's College of Education for Women, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
53	Anandhi, K	B.Ed.	Raj College of Education, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
54	Priya, R	B.Ed.	Sourashtra Teacher's College, Madurai Dt.	Tamil Nadu
55	Sudha, D	B.Ed.	Grace College of Education, Kanyakumari Dt.	Tamil Nadu
56	Latha, D	B.Ed.	Grace College of Education, Kanyakumari Dt.	Tamil Nadu
57	Manjula, R	B.Ed.	JJ College of Education, Trichy	Tamil Nadu
58	Krishnaveni, M	B.Ed.	Mariamman College of Education, Trichy	Tamil Nadu
59	Thangamari, A	B.Ed.	Dr. G.U Pope College of Education, Thoothukudi	Tamil Nadu
60	Summaiya Khan	I PUC	Mount Caramel Pre University College, Bangalore	Karnataka
61	Mahalakshmi, M	I PUC	Jyothi Composite PU College, Bangalore	Karnataka
62	Sunitha Dutto	I PUC	Jyothi Composite PU College, Bangalore	Karnataka
63	Mary Agnes	I PUC	Jyothi Composite PU College, Bangalore	Karnataka
64	Latha, P. M	I PUC	St. Anne's Pre University College for Girls. Bangalore	Karnataka
65	Peddina Kameswari	I B.A. (Telugu)	O.U. College for Women, Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh

Meet the Empowered Girls

Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire

- William Butler Yeats

The Marga Schulze Scholarship Programme has lit the lives of many. Here are a few examples of it:



Jothimani, a very energetic girl pursuing her post graduation in Tamil, hails from a poor family from Namakkal District, Tamil Nadu. Jothimani was born with low vision and it gradually led to total blindness and eight years of treatment proved futile as her vision could not be restored. Her mother Rita Mary had to face a lot of difficulties in order to send her to a special school. She has been working hard to take care of Jothimani and three of her siblings. But none of these problems have ever hindered Jothimani from studying well as she came out with flying colours in her higher secondary examinations. The scholarship has been a blessing in disguise for the intelligent Jothimani for it has supported her higher education for the last three years and continuing to do so this year also. She too has proven worthy of the scholarship by scoring well and has also proved her mettle in extracurricular activities such as debate and essay writing for which she has won many awards and accolades. She was given an Achiever's award early this year by the District Collector of Namakkal. She and her ever supportive mother convey their gratitude to the Marga Schulze Foundation with moist eyes.

(Jothimani, J., I M.A. Tamil, Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore)



Eleeza Souza hails from a farmer's family. She was brought to Jyothi Seva Home for the Blind Children, Bangalore at the age of three and like all the other girls of the home, been trained in dance, singing and computers. Her sister, who is also a recipient of the scholarship, has completed her studies and works as a teacher in the same Home. Eleeza is a very confident person and has clear ideas regarding her future. She aims to work for a multinational company as she has taken a strong liking for computers. She feels that there needs to be more awareness about disability among people which will in turn create a conducive environment for persons with disabilities. She will strive to achieve this awareness in her institution before the completion of her studies.

*(Eleeza Souza, I B.A. HENGs
Jyothi Nivas College, Bangalore)*



Sunitha Dutto was deserted by her parents at a tender age of two and was brought from Kolkata to Jyothi Seva Home for the Blind Children, Bangalore. A very bright Sunitha took an avid interest in studies from her young age and has been consistently scoring well in her examinations. Trained in classical dance, singing and piano, she strives to achieve great heights in her life. She comes across as a confident young girl and she attributes her confidence to the education being provided to her, which is invariably due to the Marga Schulze Scholarship. She is pursuing her Pre university degree in Commerce. She expresses her sincere gratitude to the Schulze Foundation.

*(Sunitha Dutto, I PUC
Jyothi Composite P.U. College, Bangalore)*



Anthony Selvi has been making her scholastic journey with confidence and strength. Being a person with low vision, she found it very difficult to follow classes in a regular school after which she was admitted in a special school. Her father being a mason found it difficult to support her education until the scholarship scheme came as a boon in her life. She has been excelling in academics as well as sports and has won many awards. Her talents have been acknowledged not only in India but also internationally. She was conferred with the International Wisdom Award for the Visually Challenged in the year 2006 and was honoured by her college with the Best Student Award for 2009. The Louis Braille Organisation, Chennai has awarded her the Best Visually Challenged Student for the year 2006. The list of awards goes on as Anthony Selvi has excelled in many fields. As a person who always aims to reach the sky, her dream is to become a Civil Servant and serve the society. She agonizes about the problems faced by persons with disabilities in securing employment and wishes to change the perception of employers towards them. The scholarship has helped her in studies as well as extracurricular activities and thereby motivated her to achieve more.

*(Anthony Selvi, B., III B.A. English
Ethiraj College for Women, Chennai)*



Veeralakshmi is a highly spirited person from a very pathetic family background. Her parents are daily wage workers and she has a sister and two brothers who are also visually impaired. Her elder brother is music professional while her younger brother has a Bachelor's degree in Education. Veeralakshmi aims to become a teacher for the visually challenged students and make them strive hard to become successful and independent in their lives. She is very thankful for the Marga Schulze Scholarship which has brought light into her life as she strongly believes that education is the first step towards empowerment. She has saved a portion of the scholarship to start an association for the welfare of persons with disabilities.

*(Veeralakshmi, R., I M.A. Tamil
Queen Mary's College, Chennai)*



Maheswari has been receiving the scholarship for the past four years. Hailing from a middle class family, she is doing her Masters degree in English Literature. This girl has an innovative idea of building an accessible library for persons with disabilities. She says all the difficulties that she faced during her scholastic period have been a motivating factor behind this idea. She wants all visually impaired students in future to overcome these kinds of problems by providing a hassle free environment for reading. She also strongly pointed out that the scholarship has always been a motivating factor for her academic excellence.

*(Maheswari, K., I M.A. English
Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore)*



Sneha is a very brilliant student. Having scored 92% in her higher secondary education, she is now pursuing her under graduation in English. Her aim is to become a lecturer. During her school days itself, Sneha completed her junior diploma in Abacus, learnt to play the keyboard and has also learnt classical music. She wants all the persons with visual impairment to lead their lives independently. She firmly says that her role as a teacher will definitely focus on it. She also insists that every visually impaired person should learn Braille which will be very useful to them in so many ways. The scholarship has helped her pursue her degree without any financial hassle and she expresses her gratitude to everybody involved in this programme.

(Sneha, N., I B.A. English, Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore)



Bhagyalaxmi, hailing from a poor family of Nalgonda district in Andhra Pradesh, is 23 year old visually challenged girl, who has always scored higher marks in her school days, though she had studied in Govt schools only all through. Her father who was a petty shop keeper died in the year 2002. The girl has two brothers and two sisters. Out of them, the elder brother is married and does small business in her village. He extends some support to his widowed mother. Another brother is a daily wage worker in Hyderabad. While one of the two elder sisters is married and settled in the village, the other sister is also blind and unmarried. The latter has completed her education and is working as Junior Assistant in a government department. Inspired by her, Bhagyalaxmi also wants to pursue higher education and become independent. She is learning computers and music in private institutions nearby. She will also get coaching for appearing in other competitive exams. The scholarship money provides for all these extra curricular activities and also for purchasing cassettes, walkman and Braille books. She is motivated by the generosity of the donor and has a determination to help the disadvantaged and the destitute.

*(Bhagyalaxmi, P., II B.A. HPP
Vivekananda Govt. Degree College, Hyderabad)*



Farhana has been receiving the scholarship for the past four years. She has guided other girls with visual impairment to apply for the same. She has been staying in Jyothi Seva Home for the Blind Children for the last few years and her father works as a tailor for the same Home. A very industrious Farhana, aspires to work in a multinational company, so that she would be able to earn well and help as many people as she can. She has a beautiful voice and has been trained in choir singing. She has been very consistent in her studies and attributes it to the scholarship that she has been receiving.

*(Farhana, E., II B.A.
Jyothi Nivas College, Bangalore)*



"I may not have vision in my eyes but definitely I have a vision to become an IAS officer" says **Beno Zephine**, who has a string of laurels conferred on her on various occasions for a score of breathtaking achievements. She is a good orator and an excellent writer. She has bagged the first prize in an English elocution competition conducted by the Cancer Institute on the occasion of the World Cancer Day among the remaining 124 sighted students. She has stood first at the National Braille Competition conducted by the National Institute for the Visually Handicapped (NIVH), in 2006. In the same year, a Special Order was passed by the Government of Tamil Nadu when she stood firm in her representation that the visually impaired students should have equal recognition in all fields like the sighted students. She was the State topper in the higher secondary exams. In 2008 she attended the **Global Young Leaders' Conference** held at Washington D.C and the expense for the entire trip was sponsored by the Government of Tamil Nadu. The MASS scholarship inculcates an interest in the minds of the visually impaired students to scale greater heights, says Beno.

(**Beno Zephine, N.L.**, II B.A. English
Stella Maris College, Chennai)



M. Saritha is from a poor farmer's family of Nalgonda district. She has two elder sisters, both married and one younger brother studying 10th Standard. She has studied in government institutions all along. She is studying office automation course in computer and has purchased some books for her studies using the scholarship amount. She is very thankful to the donor and wants to follow his example when she settles in life.

(**Saritha, M.**, II B.A. HPP
Nizam College, Hyderabad)



Mary Agnes, deserted by her parents at the age of two, was brought up by the kind hearts of the Jyothi Seva Ashram, Bangalore. She comes across as a quiet yet strong personality. She has been trained in choir singing and her soothing voice never fails to melt one's heart. She is also proficient in computers and aspires to work for a multinational company. If not for the scholarship she would have to depend on the donations of other philanthropists. She is extremely happy over receiving this scholarship as she can fare well in her academics without having to worry about her tuition fees.

(**Mary Agnes, I PUC**
Jyothi Composite PU College, Bangalore)



Latha, P.M. : A very quiet and reserved person, it takes quite a while for Latha to start interacting with people. But once she starts talking, she surprises the audience with her bold opinions and ideas. She aspires to be a Civil Servant and has already started preparing for the competitive exams. Coming from a middle class background, Latha has seen a lot of prejudices towards her from the people of her own village. They do not allow her to move freely in the house thinking that she might fall down somewhere, not understanding that she has been trained in mobility. They also do not understand the importance of education. This has enraged Latha and that is the reason she wants to get into Administration, so that she can be instrumental in bringing changes in the attitudes of people. Her parents are very supportive and have been with her throughout the struggle and made things easy for her. The scholarship programme has restored her confidence in education and she wants to prove her potential to the world.

(**Latha, P.M.**, I PUC
St. Anne's PU College for Girls, Bangalore)

I am only one, still I am one. I can not do everything, still I can do something.
I will not refuse to do the something I can do.

- Helen Keller

Voice of Confidence



It is a privilege to be a beneficiary of MASS scholarship. This is a benediction bequeathed by a great visionary, Dr. Schulze and facilitated by the UDIS Forum. It has illuminated the lamp of anticipation in my living, which was so far engulfed with ample gloom. I was so far rummaging my destiny in the dark and now I have grabbed the pivot of triumph. MASS has proved a key to the paradise of academic fulfilments. It has availed me with the boon of integrated education system, which has augmented my life with quality education and social amenities. UDIS Forum has been my benefactor and availed me with laptop which has overwhelmed my life with ample of advantages. It had made life easier and comfortable. I wonder, what is the ordeal of the students who aspire and yearn to take flights in academic progress? But I was denied the same due to lack of monetary aid. It is hard to believe that there are many of us who are not fortunate enough to taste the fruits of higher studies and eventually which is consequential of desolation and depending on others. Hence MASS is a windfall, otherwise a blessing to the visually impaired students who intend to climb the ladder of accomplishment to attain the pinnacle of excellence and I believe I will be one among the fortunate to reach this effects of distinction.

(Anjum Khan, M., completed her M.A., in English and currently pursuing her doctorate in Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore)



At the tender age of 2, I lost my sight, due to the surgery performed to remove a brain tumour. The tumour was successfully removed but in the process of doing so, the tumour had completely pressed the optic nerves resulting in the loss of sight. I did my schooling in Shimoga. I came to know about the scholarship through one of my seniors at the college. The scholarship was the ray of hope in my life as my family was struggling to send me to the college and I can assure that once I get into a decent job I will work for the cause of the visually impaired girls like me. Thanks to the visionary Dr. Schulze, now I use the scholarship money to scan the textbooks and read them through the computers.

*(Pallavi, S.J., II B.A. English
DVS Arts and Science College, Shimoga)*



My father works in the merchant navy and I am the only person in the family with a visual impairment, low vision. Up to my 10th grade I studied in a regular school and used to read the printed book with the aid of magnifiers. In my higher secondary course I studied Business Maths and Accountancy in a school for the blind. Since I felt that I can afford my education, though I was eligible for award of scholarship, I wished somebody else to become a beneficiary. However the UDIS Forum sanctioned me the scholarship because of my good marks. Further the computer training using the JAWS software offered was of great help. I salute Dr. Schulze, CBM and the UDIS Forum for helping so many visually impaired girls pursue higher education.

*(Kemil Fernando, K., III B.A. English
Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore)*



I lost my vision immediately a week after my birth due to unknown reasons. I studied up to higher secondary in special schools. Later I joined the Avinashilingam University for my higher studies in English, which was the best thing to happen in my life. Hostel life in the University is a gift as each of the visually impaired girls is paired with sighted peers who assist in all walks of hostel life. The MASS scholarship is a motivating factor for the visually impaired girls to maintain a good percentage of marks since the eligibility for the scheme warrant a student to have at least 55% of marks in all the semesters. Further, buying a laptop for personal use is beyond the reach of many of the visually impaired girls. Thanks to the MASS programme, now I am preparing all my class notes and taking the examinations using the laptop. Training offered in Orientation & Mobility contributed a lot towards gaining self confidence. I wish the UDIS Forum to offer skill training programmes in Personality development and communication skills too, as I wish to become a teacher at the university level.

*(Baby, K., III B.A. English
Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore)*

Voice of Confidence...



My life that was once considered ill fated has now become complete and meaningful; I am enjoying my education, thanks to the MASS scholarship. Now I have enough confidence to lead a self supportive and dignified life more than an average citizen. While seeking admission for I PUC many in the college suspected that whether I could be able to learn accountancy. But I proved myself by scoring hundred percent in accountancy in the semester examinations
(**Sheeba Bai**, II B.B.M., St. Philomena's College, Mysore)



Higher education, though the dream of most of the visually impaired girls becomes an unrealized dream for many of us due to the poor economic status but for the MASS scholarship. After High School most of the visually impaired girls opt for skill training in various avenues, which may fetch a job with a meagre salary. But the MASS scholarship has certainly given a new dimension and meaning to the lives of the visually impaired girls.

(**Jayanthi, P.**, III B.A. English
Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore)

Perception of the Parents

- The MASS scholarship is a great respite for my family. With my son studying 8th grade and my daughter doing her college studies, with our scant income we can never afford both their education. Without the MASS scholarship my kid's education would have been in despair.

(**Mr. P.P. Vincent**, F/o. **Misha Vincent**
III B.A. English, St. Xavier's College for Women
Aluva, Kerala)

- Once I thought my child happens to be curse of God and I am punished in this way but I know God loves and cares for everybody. As a poor parent, I don't know how to express my real feelings. My child has got many prizes and awards, speaks interestingly, and with good language, she has got many friends and attitudes of high standards. She manages well when it comes to studies. She is using cassettes and also operates computer in her friend's place. Her teachers, friends and we parents including neighbours like and appreciate my child. I am proud and thankful to the scholarship.

(**Mr. Abdul Kareem Sait**, F/o. **Sheeba Bai**
II B.B.M., St. Philomena's College, Mysore)

- Some used to give money, but not many would come forward to offer help for education. Short term benefits like food and clothing are offered by many, but the effort of the MASS scholarship to offer a lifetime help is certainly a motivating factor for the visually impaired girls. It is fine if the

program can include visually impaired boys also as many of the boys are also struggling to make the ends meet due to their poverty.

(**Mr. Charles**, F/o. **Beno Zephine**, N.L
I B.A. English, Stella Maris College, Chennai)

- MASS programme is a motivating factor for the visually impaired girls to sustain their interest in studies and certainly it is a morale booster to achieve the set goals in life. The benchmark of maintaining 60% to become eligible for the scholarship is the key factor for showing academic potential. Due to her sharp mobility skills Pallavi was not perceived as a visually impaired by many in her college. The scholarship will support a long way towards achieving the ambition of Pallavi, to become an IAS officer. My heartfelt thanks to all those who made this possible.

(**Mr. Srikanth**, F/o. **Pallavi**, S.J., II B.A. English,
DVS Arts and Science College, Shimoga)

- For my daughter, a lot of good things have happened because of the scholarship. In fact the attitude of the society has also changed to a considerable extent due to the scholarship. According to me the MASS scholarship is a God's gift to the visually impaired girls like my child, who can never dream of higher education due to their poor economic status.

(**Mrs. Indira**, M/o. **Priya Mahalakshmi**, V
I B.A. English, Thiagarajar College, Madurai)

Teacher's Perception

As far as my knowledge goes, higher education is an unrealized dream for many girls with visual impairment, due to obvious reasons. Experience reveals that poor economic status is the prime reason for visually impaired girls not venturing into higher education. Dr. Schulze is a visionary who foresaw higher education as the ultimate mechanism for the visually impaired girls to lead a meaningful life. The scholarship offered is certainly a boon to the girls with visual impairment and has shown a direction in their lives. Further, a cornerstone of the scheme is the Information and Communication Technology training, which is the basis for the development of self confidence of the visually impaired girls. In addition to the skills training offered in Braille, Orientation & Mobility, training in the areas of Home Management and Daily Living skills can also be offered, especially during the summer vacation. Marriage counselling and problems pertinent to women are also a few other focus areas where training might be facilitated for the blind girls. To understand the intricacies of visual impairment, parents of the visually impaired girls may also be invited for such training programmes.

(Dr. Premavathy Vijayan

Professor and Head, Department of Special Education, Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore)

I appreciate your kind gesture of extending financial aid to five of our visually impaired students. The monetary help by UDIS Forum proves to be timely help to these students who come from very poor family background. The scholarship amount will be useful to pay their boarding charges in the hostel and to meet their other expenses like buying Braille books and materials for making teaching aids. On behalf of these students, I thank Dr. Schulze and UDIS Forum for their humanitarian help.

(Dr. Mary Lily Pushpam

Principal, Government College of Education for Women, Coimbatore)

Educational institutions like us always had a vision that more and more organizations should extend financial aid to the visually challenged girls and MASS programme has proved to be one of those. This scholarship is undoubtedly a high motivational factor in improving the academic skills of these girls. The girls are striving hard to achieve great heights in their lives.

(Dr. Kalyani Mathivanan

*Head of the Department, Department of English
Ethiraj College for Women, Chennai)*

I consider this scholarship as the only source for these girls to complete their studies who are from a very poor economic background. The girls work hard towards their studies because of the motivation given by this scholarship. This scholarship has improved the accessibility to many things for these girls and one best example for that is the free laptop provided to these girls. I extend my gratitude to Dr. Schulze for this great service rendered by him.

(Sister Sara

*Jyothi Seva Home for the
Blind Children, Bangalore)*

Higher education is a dream of any human being and it means a lot for the visually impaired girls as it directly contributes to the independence and self confidence of the disadvantaged group. The economic status of the families of the visually impaired is a major hindering factor towards acquiring higher education by the girls. Nations across the globe are making a lot of efforts to offer education for all and the MASS scholarship is a programme which has the distinction of a novel approach in the process of selection and offering scholarship to the girls with visual impairment. Let the vision of Dr. Schulze be realized through the efforts of the visually impaired girls aspiring for higher education.

(Dr. Victoria Naomi

Lecturer, Department of Special Education, Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore)

These voices motivate us to work hard to assist many !

Other activities under MASS programme

Leadership and Technology Training

Besides providing scholarship, skill development programmes on specific areas were also organised for blind girls from time to time. The UDIS Forum conducted training activities on Information and Communication Technology, Orientation and Mobility and Braille for 14 visually impaired girls from 1 October to 21 December 2007 at the Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore. A similar training programme for the students of the Chennai region was conducted by the Forum at the IT training centre of the Keelottivakkam Grama Sangha for the Disabled, Keelottivakkam, Kanchipuram district from 19 to 28 November 2007 in which 17 visually impaired girls participated.

Further, to augment the scholarship, deserving blind girls were also entitled for receiving laptops through the scheme. In order to ensure optimum utilisation, an evaluation of the IT skills of the students was conducted and those students who

showed proficiency in using computers independently were provided laptops. The laptops had screen reader software which will enable the visually impaired girls to go to regular classrooms like any other student and become independent, as they can take notes on their own, prepare term papers, and also use laptops for taking examinations. A total of 12 girls undergoing higher education courses in various institutes were provided with laptops, for the year 2007-2008. The laptops were awarded to the visually impaired girls on 5 May 2008 on the occasion of 106th year birthday celebrations of Dr. T.S. Avinashilingam, Founder-Chancellor of the Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore, who was instrumental to commence integrated education programmes for children with visual impairment at the Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya and at the Avinashilingam Education Trust institutions, with the support of the Christoffel Blinden Mission and the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment in 1980. The function to



award laptops to the students was presided over by Sri T.K. Shanmuganandam, Chancellor of the University, who also distributed laptops to 12 blind girls. Sri V.K. Lakshmanan, Ex-MLA delivered a special lecture on the contributions of the Founder-Chancellor for the cause of education and national development.

Dr. Saroja Prabhakaran, Vice-Chancellor of the University offered felicitations. Dr. M.N.G. Mani, President of the UDIS Forum and also the Advisor of CBM delivered an address on the work of CBM and described the future plans of the Marga-Schulze Scholarship Scheme for empowering more girls with visual impairment.

Following is the detailed list of blind girls who received the laptops:

S.No.	Name of the Student	Institute
1	Anjum Khan, M	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
2	Farhana Banu, E	Jyothi Nivas College, Bangalore, Karnataka
3	Misha Vincent, V	St. Xavier's College for Women, Aluva, Kerala
4	Maheswari, K	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
5	Nalayiram, R	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
6	Anusha, S.T	Meenakshi College for Women, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
7	Kemil Fernando, L	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
8	Baby, K	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
9	Amy Mary Sudhana, C	Meenakshi College for Women, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
10	Ponmari, A.K	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
11	Thamaraiselvi, B	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
12	Anthony Selvi, B	Ethiraj College for Women, Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Evaluation of Computer Skills

Evaluation of computer skills for girls with visual impairment who are in receipt of MASS scholarship was conducted on 26 February 2009 at the Department of Special Education, Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore. 15 scholarship recipients from South India attended the skill test. Mrs. Usha from CBM SARO(S) evaluated the skills of the girls.

Another Computer Evaluation Test was conducted for the recipients of the scholarship on 10 & 11 November 2009 at the Department of Special Education, Avinashilingam University for Women.



Mrs. Usha from CBM, Bangalore and Mr. Ram Prabhu from AES Technologies evaluated the skill. 23 scholarship recipients from South India attended the test.

For the year 2009-10, the Laptop distribution programme was held on 4 May 2010 at the UDIS Forum Administrative Office. Mrs. Gunawathy

Fernandez, Regional Director, CBM SARO(S) presented the Laptops to the visually impaired students. Dr. M.N.G. Mani, President, UDIS Forum and Mr. L. Sivasamy, Assistant Director, District Employment Office, Coimbatore were also present on the occasion and motivated the students to be role models to other girls in their community.

Following is the list of blind girls who received laptops for the academic year 2009-10.

S.No.	Name of the Student	Name of the Institute
1	Latha, P.M	St. Anne's Pre University College for Girls, Bangalore
2	Sunitha Dutto	Jyothi Composite PU College, Bangalore
3	Eleeze Souza	Jyothi Nivas College, Bangalore
4	Sneha, N	Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore
5	Beno Zephine, N.L	Stella Maris College, Chennai
6	Pallavi, S.J	DVS College of Arts and Science, Shimoga
7	Sheeba Bai, A	St. Philomena's College, Mysore



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Our Gratitudes to the following institutions:

- A.M Jain College, Chennai
- Annai Saraswathi College of Education, Chennai
- Assefa College of Education, Madurai
- Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore
- CBM Arts and Science College, Coimbatore
- Chellammal Women's College, Chennai
- CSI Bishop Appasamy College, Coimbatore
- Dr. G.U. Pope College of Education, Tuticorin
- DVS College of Arts and Science, Shimoga
- Ethiraj College for Women, Chennai
- Goodwill Foundation of India, Chennai
- Government Arts College, Coimbatore
- Government Arts College, Dharmapuri
- Govt. College of Education for Women, Coimbatore
- Government Law College, Coimbatore
- Grace College of Education, Kanyakumari Dt.
- Holy Cross College, Trichy
- IASE, Osmania University, Hyderabad
- Indian Association for the Blind, Madurai
- JJ College of Education, Trichy
- Jyothi Composite PU College, Bangalore
- Jyothi Nivas College, Bangalore
- Jyothi Seva Home for the Blind Children, Bangalore
- Kandaswamy Naidu Women's College, Cuddalore
- Kapi Women's College of Education, Madurai
- Keelottivakkam Grama Sangam
- Kunthavai Naachiyar Government Arts College for Women, Tanjore
- LNG College, Chennai
- Lotus Blind Welfare Trust of India, Chennai
- Loyola College, Hyderabad
- Madras Christian College, Chennai
- Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai
- Mariamman College of Education, Trichy
- Meenakshi College for Women, Chennai
- Mount Caramel Pre University College, Bangalore
- National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Chennai
- Nazareth College of Education for Women, Chennai
- Nizam College, Hyderabad
- N.K.T. National College of Education for Women, Chennai
- NMS SVN College, Madurai
- O.U. College for Women, Hyderabad
- Panineeya Maha Vidyalaya College of Education, Hyderabad
- Periyar Arts College, Cuddalore
- Presidency College, Chennai
- Quaid-E-Millat Government College for Women, Chennai
- Queen Mary's College, Chennai
- Raj College of Education, Madurai
- S.T. Hindu College, Nagercoil
- Senthamil College, Madurai
- Sourashtra Teacher's College, Madurai Dt.
- Sri Meenakshi Government College for Women, Madurai
- Sri Ramana Maharishi Academy for the Blind, Bangalore
- St. Anne's Pre University College for Girls, Bangalore
- St. Gonsalo College of Education, Chennai
- St. Philomena's College, Mysore
- St. Stephen's College of Education for Women, Madurai
- St. Xavier's College for Women, Aluva
- Stella Mari's College, Chennai
- Tamil Nadu Association for the Blind, Chennai
- Thiagarajar College, Madurai
- University College, Thiruvananthapuram
- University of Calicut, Calicut
- University of Madras, Chennai
- Vinayaga College of Education (Vel's University), Chennai
- Vivekananda Government Degree College, Hyderabad
- Voorhees College of Arts, Vellore
- Yadava College, Madurai

For further details:



UDIS Forum Administrative Office

18/17, Thadagam Road, Luna Nagar
Coimbatore 641 025, Tamil Nadu

Phone : 0422-2402327

Fax : 0422-2402723

E-mail : udisforum3@gmail.com

Website: www.davo.in