



From Financial Hardship to Academic Excellence: How the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Supported Dr. Paramananda Naik's Journey in Anthropology

प्रविष्टि तिथि: 21 AUG 2026 5:26PM by PIB Delhi

For students from socially and economically marginalized communities, limited financial resources and restricted academic exposure can create significant barriers to pursuing advanced education and research. Timely fellowship support can enable aspiring scholars to continue their studies, undertake meaningful research and build careers in higher education.

Demonstrating the transformative role of educational assistance, **Dr. Paramananda Naik**, a 35-year-old scholar belonging to the **Scheduled Caste (PANO) community**, overcame financial and social barriers to complete his Ph.D. in Anthropology and become an Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at Utkal University, Bhubaneswar.

Coming from a socially and economically marginalized background, Dr. Naik faced considerable financial hardship while pursuing higher education. Limited economic resources made it difficult for him to meet expenses related to books, accommodation, field visits, research activities and other requirements of his doctoral studies.

As a second-generation learner from his community, he also encountered social and educational barriers, including limited academic exposure and restricted access to quality higher education and research opportunities. Despite these challenges, he remained determined to pursue advanced studies and establish himself as a teacher and researcher in Anthropology.

With strong family support and personal determination, Dr. Naik continued his academic journey with the aspiration of contributing to society through teaching, research and the study of Anthropology.

SUCCESS STORY

RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP (SC)

FROM FINANCIAL HARDSHIP TO ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

DR. PARAMANANDA NAIK'S JOURNEY IN ANTHROPOLOGY

Age: 35 | SC (PANO)

Assistant Professor,
Department of Anthropology,
Utkal University



CHALLENGES
Financial hardship, limited academic exposure and social barriers during higher education and research.

FELLOWSHIP INTERVENTION
Support covered academic expenses, fieldwork and research, enabling full focus on his Ph.D.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
Completed a Ph.D. in Anthropology and became an Assistant Professor at Utkal University.

IMPACT
Greater economic stability, family support, teaching, research and student mentoring.

FELLOWSHIP SUPPORT

- ₹16,000 per month
- UGC-RGNF-SC

DR. PARAMANANDA NAIK
Ph.D. in Anthropology
Support Period: 2016–2019

FROM FINANCIAL HARDSHIP TO ACADEMIC EMPOWERMENT
Fellowship support transformed aspiration into academic achievement.

SUPPORTING EDUCATION. | ADVANCING RESEARCH. | EMPOWERING LIVES.

A turning point came when Dr. Naik received assistance under the **Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for Scheduled Caste Students**. Under the UGC-RGNF-SC, he received financial support of **₹16,000 per month from 2016 to 2019**.

The fellowship provided crucial assistance for his academic expenses, fieldwork, research activities and overall educational development. By reducing financial stress, it enabled him to focus fully on his doctoral research and higher studies.

With the support of the fellowship, Dr. Naik successfully completed his **Ph.D. in Anthropology**. His academic journey subsequently led him to secure a regular position as an **Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at Utkal University, Bhubaneswar**.

Today, he is actively engaged in teaching, research and mentoring students while contributing to academic and social development. His professional progress has brought significant economic stability and strengthened his ability to support his family.

The fellowship played an important role in Dr. Naik's educational, professional and socio-economic advancement. It not only supported the completion of his doctoral research but also created a strong foundation for his career in higher education.

According to Dr. Naik, 'The fellowship reduced my financial stress and enabled me to focus fully on my research and higher studies. It helped me complete my Ph.D. and build a career as a teacher and researcher in Anthropology.'

Dr. Paramananda Naik's journey highlights how timely financial assistance can help students from marginalized communities overcome structural barriers and fulfil their academic aspirations. From facing financial hardship during higher education to serving as an Assistant Professor, his story reflects determination, the value of family support and the empowering role of educational fellowships in creating pathways to academic and professional success.

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