



From Financial Hardship to Doctoral Achievement: Manika Mandal's Journey through Higher Education

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Financial constraints can make the pursuit of higher education and academic research particularly difficult. For scholars from economically disadvantaged families, fellowship assistance can provide the stability and resources required to continue research and realise long-term academic aspirations.

Demonstrating the impact of support under the National Fellowship for Scheduled Caste Students (NFSC) Scheme, Smt. Manika Mandal, a 33-year-old scholar from South 24 Parganas district in West Bengal, successfully completed her Ph.D. despite financial hardship and limited educational resources. Her journey reflects the role of fellowship support in enabling scholars to overcome economic and social barriers in higher education.

Before receiving assistance under the NFSC Scheme, Manika faced serious financial difficulties that affected her higher studies and educational research. Her family experienced financial instability and struggled to meet education-related expenses, making it challenging for her to continue advanced studies and sustain her research activities.

Economic hardship and limited access to academic resources created additional educational and social barriers. The expenses associated with doctoral research placed further pressure on the family, while inadequate resources made it difficult for Manika to pursue her academic goals with certainty and continuity.

Despite these challenges, Manika remained committed to completing her Ph.D. Her aspiration was not limited to earning a doctoral degree; she also wished to contribute to society through education and use her academic journey as a means of creating a positive impact.

In April 2017, Manika began receiving fellowship assistance under the NFSC Scheme. She availed fellowship support amounting to approximately Rs. 20 lakh. The assistance supported her Ph.D. studies and research work while helping address the financial difficulties and shortage of educational resources that had previously affected her progress.

SUCCESS STORY

NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP FOR SCHEDULED CASTE STUDENTS (NFSC)

**FROM FINANCIAL
HARDSHIP TO
DOCTORAL
ACHIEVEMENT**

SMT. MANIKA MANDAL

**33 YEARS | WEST BENGAL
SOUTH 24 PARGANAS**

**NFSC SUPPORT**

- Fellowship began: April 2017
- Support availed: Approx. Rs. 20 lakh
- Ph.D. studies and research support



**Ministry of
Social Justice and
Empowerment**
Government of India

**CHALLENGE**
Financial hardship and limited resources affected higher studies and research.

**FELLOWSHIP SUPPORT**
NFSC assistance supported her Ph.D. studies, research work and academic goals.

**ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT**
Successfully completed her Ph.D. despite economic and social barriers.

**ASPIRATION**
To contribute to society through education and knowledge.

“ NFSC support enabled Manika Mandal to overcome financial barriers and successfully complete her Ph.D. ”

OPPORTUNITY. | EDUCATION. | ACHIEVEMENT.

The fellowship eased the burden of research-related and education-related expenditure on her family. It provided the financial stability needed to continue her doctoral work and enabled her to remain focused on her long-term academic objectives.

With sustained support under the NFSC Scheme, Manika was able to overcome the barriers that had constrained her higher education and successfully complete her Ph.D. The achievement marked the fulfilment of a major personal and academic goal that had once appeared difficult because of her family's financial circumstances.

At present, Manika is a Ph.D. graduate and her academic accomplishment demonstrates how timely fellowship assistance can help scholars from financially constrained backgrounds pursue advanced education, complete research and move closer to contributing to society through learning and knowledge.

Manika's journey highlights the role of the NFSC Scheme in expanding access to higher education and supporting the academic advancement of Scheduled Caste scholars. Her success stands as an example of determination strengthened by institutional support and educational opportunity.

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