From Economic Challenges To Research Aspirations

A Success Story Under NFSC Scheme With Financial Assistance of ₹ 24 Lakh

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The NFSC Scheme reflects the Government of India's commitment to supporting eligible students in higher education and research, reducing financial barriers and enabling them to work towards their aspirations and contribute to an inclusive, knowledge-driven and developed India.

At 40, Mahendra Kumar **(name changed),** a resident of Udaipur, Rajasthan, has pursued his academic aspirations with support under the National Fellowship for Scheduled Caste Students (NFSC) Scheme.

His journey highlights the importance of financial assistance in enabling scholars to overcome economic barriers and work towards academic excellence and national development.

Before receiving support under the scheme, Mahendra faced economic difficulties that created challenges in pursuing his educational goals. Despite these constraints, he remained committed to higher education and aspired to contribute to the country's development by conducting high-quality research. Financial barriers can make doctoral studies challenging by placing pressure on scholars and limiting their ability to focus fully on research.

For Mahendra, pursuing a Ph.D. was an important step towards advancing his academic goals and contributing to the country's research and knowledge base. The financial assistance available through the NFSC Scheme offered support to continue his academic journey and address expenses associated with doctoral studies.

Beginning in December 2020, Mahendra received assistance under the NFSC Scheme in the form of fellowship support, House Rent Allowance (HRA) and contingency grants. The total assistance availed by him amounted to ₹ 24 Lakh. This support helped him pursue his Ph.D. and work towards his academic objectives with reduced financial pressure.



Mahendra reported that the fellowship fully supported him in pursuing his doctoral studies and academic goals. The assistance helped address economic challenges and enabled him to devote greater attention to his research and academic responsibilities. The combination of fellowship, HRA and contingency support contributed to making his research journey more manageable.

Following the support, Mahendra describes the changes in his academic, professional and personal life as positive. Although he reported no change in income, he considers the overall impact of the fellowship beneficial. The assistance has supported his continued commitment to research and his aspiration to contribute to national development through high-quality academic work.

Mahendra Kumar's journey demonstrates the role of targeted financial assistance in helping scholars pursue advanced education despite economic challenges.

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