A Journey Towards Academic Achievement Through the NFSC Fellowship

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For 33 year Rahul Kumar **(name changed),** the NFSC Scheme has been an important source of support in his pursuit of academic excellence and research advancement. His experience highlights the role of targeted fellowship assistance in reducing financial barriers, promoting inclusive access to higher education and enabling scholars to contribute to the nation through research and knowledge creation.

Rahul Kumar, a resident of Janjgir-Champa district in Chhattisgarh, is pursuing his Ph.D. with the aspiration of becoming an outstanding researcher and contributing to the holistic progress of the nation.

Coming from a Below Poverty Line (BPL) family, he faced significant financial constraints and a lack of resources that made it difficult to pursue advanced research. His academic journey was further affected by challenges arising from misleading information and institutional practices, including the imposition of regulations outside the University Grants Commission (UGC) framework.

A significant turning point came in July 2023, when he began receiving assistance under the National Fellowship for Scheduled Caste Students (NFSC) Scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The fellowship provided financial assistance, including fellowship support and House Rent Allowance (HRA), amounting to ₹45,700. This support offered much-needed financial stability and helped address the challenges that had been hindering his pursuit of research.



The assistance, which he describes as far beyond his expectations, enabled him to focus more effectively on his doctoral studies and research goals. The financial support helped ease resource-related constraints and provided him with greater scope to pursue his academic work with dedication. It addressed several of the difficulties that had previously come in the way of undertaking quality research.

The fellowship has added immense value to his research and personal life. With financial barriers eased, Mr. Kumar has been able to continue working towards his Ph.D. and strengthen his academic pursuits. His journey reflects how timely educational assistance can help scholars from economically weaker backgrounds continue higher studies and work towards their aspirations.

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