

## **Apurwa Gundarkar**

“The biggest asset for me is my Education”, says Apurwa Gundarkar. Everyone knows that hard times make you more capable of dealing with everything life throws your way. When you go through bad times, you know who your friends really are. When you come across tough times, you learn from them and find out where your strength and support really comes from. Apurwa has always followed what her father said, “Do good to others and good will happen with you”.

Apurwa is a Pune-girl who began her education in Pune from Mount Carmel Convent High School. Her parents had always encouraged her to work hard and live an honest life. It was their support and trust which helped her to realize her dream.

She pursued her Electrical Engineering from J.S.C.O.E, Pune and aspired to pursue Masters Degree from USA. But due to economic difficulties she could not find her way out. One fine morning she found Lila Poonawalla Foundation which in joint collaboration with Hartford University, USA announced special scholarships for female engineering students to pursue Masters Degree in engineering and she was the lucky one to fulfill all the criteria set by the foundation. As quoted by our Late. Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam “A turning point is required in every life”, this opportunity turned her life completely.

Apurwa says “It was by Lila Mom’s grace I was able to fulfill my dream. She has been kind like a mom and strict like dad when needed and now it’s my turn to make my Mom feel proud by being a responsible daughter and showing gratitude by helping my fellow LPF sisters”.

Completing her Masters from Hartford University, she gained confidence and improved her communication skills on global basis. Currently Apurwa is learning few software tools and targeting to see herself as a senior Electrical Engineer in the coming year. She also wishes to enhance her experience and knowledge for a few years and inculcate it in India.

When she applied to study Masters in Electrical Engineering at University Of Hartford, she was aware that she would be challenged to expand her mind. The university stressed on practical exposure and gave her hands on experience in designing her own circuits, building them practically, testing and running them successfully. She had learnt about the software related to electrical and electronic and recommends such software in our Indian education system too which will definitely help our country’s development. She maintained a high GPA to get Graduate Assistantship and Teacher Assistantship. She also got an opportunity to work under the department of Chairperson. The highlight of her academic experience was when she was selected as an Instructor and taught three batches of undergraduate students an electronic design tool called Quartus. That gave confidence which boosted her spirit to face complex challenges.

Apurwa gave all this credit to Lila Mom as just because of her she is where she is and ready to take off on an exciting flight.