

Komal Nandkumar Khopade (Lila Fellow-2012)

Komal Khopade considers herself a fortunate beneficiary of the Lila Poonawalla Foundation. Komal has been born and brought up in Pune. She completed her SSC from Renuka Swaroop School and her HSC from Huzurpaga Jr College. She has done her BSc in Electronics and has recently completed her MSc in Electronic Science from Pune University.

Komal stays with her mother, elder brother and sister in law and a younger brother who is also pursuing his education. She also has an elder sister who is married. Komal's father was a government servant, but she lost him very tragically due to a severe back problem which no one could correctly diagnose and provide treatment for. This was one of the most testing times for her and her family. But they all stood by and supported each other. Her brother had just completed his Master's. Komal was still studying. Her mother really gathered herself and her family and tied them through this tough time. She would make tiffin for girls and contribute to the family as they were now living off small savings only.

Komal had a plan in mind. She wanted to complete her Masters but finances were tough. Her younger brother still had to complete his education. At this crucial time, Komal came across the LPF scholarship and applied for it. The day she got the call from the Foundation telling her they would support her financially for her MSc, that day will always be one of the happiest ones for Komal. Soon after she got the scholarship, she took admission in Pune University for MSc in Electronic Science. Komal was overwhelmed with the milestones she was crossing in her life.

Getting the scholarship made Komal more responsible and she focused on her studies and topped both years. But LPF had not just given her the financial aid she needed, it had also given her the drive and focus in life. Komal also took part enthusiastically in all Foundation activities and benefitted greatly by the various workshops Lila Mom organized including grooming, self defense, interview skills, body language etc. Komal feels LPF is her extended family and every personal touch made by Lila Mom like sending hand-made birthday cards, makes Komal feel blessed to have her support and guidance.

Komal has completed her Masters in Electronics from Pune University. And recently she has been selected as Sales Tax Inspector as she feels securing a government job is the best for her future as well as for her family. Komal has many aspirations for herself and wants to do a lot for her family. She also wants to stay in touch with the Foundation and Lila Mom throughout her life as she owes a lot of her success to them.