

Inspira



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FROM MY HEART

Lila Fellows have made Great Progress. If you visit the Web site www.lilapoonawallaafoundation.com and click on ZENITH you will see the **update of the Achievements** of some of your Friends. This indeed brings great Happiness to me and to all the Trustees of the Foundation. The emphasis has undergone a change from Lila Poonawalla to Lila Poonawalla Foundation and now to LILA FELLOWS. This is how it should be. This is how I wanted it to be. My happiness lies in the fact that now an institution has been built which lies on the Foundation of Sincerity and commitment to contribute to the total development of deserving young Ladies.

I am even happier that the Foundation has also been able to inculcate **good human values in the young minds**. LF's are no longer only concerned with taking the Scholarships; slowly this is reversing. A few LF's have come **forward on their own initiative** to support the activities of the Foundation, so that its **goodness reaches many more**. Apart from the volunteers working for the Foundation **without any expectations**, and few others contributing in kind one of the LF's recently has **voluntarily donated Rs. 50,000** with encouragement from her Parents. She says in her own words **"I have started to earn and my Heart told me that I now must help another young girl like me, so that she too can achieve her dreams. This is only a small beginning from me."**

Many happy events happened like our 7th annual **Award Function** in August at Hotel Le Meridien. **Ms. Amrita Patel Chairman NDDB (National Dairy Development Board)** was our **Chief Guest**. She is a high Achiever but down to earth and has great concern for the women in the villages. She is a firm believer of Education but says, **"Education lies beyond the bounds of books and materialistic knowledge. Equip yourself with a strong insight as to what you can give to the nation and not what you will**



get from the nation." You can read more about what she said on our Foundation web site by clicking on **Leading Ladies**.

Next we had a **welcome tea Party** for our new Lila Fellows at Holiday Inn. They are tough but fun loving girls. We had a training workshop on **Personality Development** by **Ms. Cora Menezes, Director TACORA** (TA Center for Ongoing Relationship Analysis). For the first time we had **Dandiya Raas at Fili Villa** where we had a great time. I have **never enjoyed dancing** so much ever in my life. Some of the LF's also enjoyed watching the screening of some **Swedish Films** at the **Swedish Film Festival** to which the Foundation invited them as also the **Piano program** at the Mazda hall, where the **renowned Swedish pianist Ms. Roberta Swedien** performed. A large number of Girls came to see the hilarious play **'Man of La Mancha'** at Nehru Memorial hall. Not to be left out, the Trustees had a **get together at The Corinthian Club**, and the **Inspira Team** gave me a B'day treat at Vaishali. It was an enjoyable experience to eat Dosa and Wada and share coffee.

We are certainly planning our **New Year get together** and I look forward to a large participation. It will be one more opportunity for us to meet and for all LF's to network. For the **New Year** I wish you Happiness, Prosperity and Good health, which is God's Great gift to mankind and should never be taken for granted. Take care of yourself till we meet again. Loves -



LF's at the Dandiya Party with Ms. Poonawalla



Lila Poonawalla
Lila Poonawalla

Trustees get together

SHORT TAKES

The Lila Poonawalla Foundation in its 7th year is still growing like an eternal tree, a creditable attempt by certain strong willed, accomplished individuals with a mission. And adding a whole new dimension to the LPF, is our new trustee **Mrs. Uttara Dasgupta**. An opportunity to interview her revealed an intelligent and beautiful person within, beyond that lovely smile.



Mrs. Dasgupta was born in Cuttack, Orissa in a Bengali family. She did her M.A in Archaeology because of her fascination for this field and even topped the University of Calcutta and received a gold medal. But as Lady Luck would have it, life took a new turn and then there was no looking back. She took a giant leap from excavating ancient historic ruins to the world of finance & banking. She started as a probationary officer in Calcutta and rose from the ranks of a branch manager to the coveted position of Deputy General Manager, State Bank of India, which she currently holds. She is the first woman DGM in the module that began in 1981. After 30 years in banking, she feels that being in this service industry, she could and has been able to do more for the society. This has been one of her primary reasons for being in this industry apart from her love of meeting people. She has been involved in various types of banking- corporate banking, commercial banking, merchant banking etc. which she says are the various interesting facets of banking, but what appeals most to her is community service that comes with banking. As DGM of the western zone, she is the operational head for 7 districts covering 199 branches and presiding over 5 regional managers and 5,200 employees to be precise. *A tough job and a tough lady!* She travels once a week to the various SBI branches and since 72% of these are rural and semi-urban, she even visits the villages. She is actively involved in keeping the self-

help government policy and even intends to look into the watershed development in these villages to help solve their water problems.

A woman of substance, she has always balanced her career and home well with the help of a very supportive family. She believes that a good upbringing for her children was as necessary as her dedication to her job. She was also involved with Soroptomist at Calcutta, an organization recognized by the UN, in giving paramedical training to young girls. She is constantly toying with new ideas beneficial for her industry and its customers and bringing in new technology to open gates to richer avenues. She believes that competition is crucial for extracting the best out of an individual and so is recognition of excellence.

Apart from her schedule, she takes interest in gardening, reading, travelling to unwind from her work tensions. She loves trying new things and is a total sport with her kids whether its skiing, white water rafting or 'sand tobogganing'. One of those rare women, with a zest for life and a love for people who has handled the worst of situations, with utmost ease. We're sure she will inspire all of us Lila fellows with the sheer strength of her character and with her message to us ***"You have the world at your feet. Nothing can stop you from achieving what you wish if you put your mind to it"***.

-Sadhavi Salunke & Samata Sabala.



A DAY THAT WAS...

Time has flown and we are into the 7th year of the Lila Poonawalla Foundation scholarship awards. The Lila Family now has 205 "Lila fellows" (as they are fondly called). There has been an increase in the overseas scholarship by 10 and local by 22, informed **Mrs. Lila Poonawalla**, chairperson of the foundation while addressing the trustees, the Lila fellows, the awardees and their parents. The chief guest for the function was **Dr. Amrita Patel**, chairperson of the National Dairy Development Board who was also our Leading Lady for *Inspira*, vol.4.

Mrs. Poonawalla also introduced the trustees; **Mrs. Shernaz Edibam** (principal of St. Mary's School, Pune), **Mrs. Surabhi Nag** (MD of K.K. Nag Foundation), **Mrs. Vasantha Ramaswamy** (a Mechanical Engineer who was ex-joint-director with the DRDO), **Mrs. Uttara Dasgupta**, (DGM State Bank of India, Pune), **Mr. Parshuram Daate**, (a C.A. who manages the finances of the foundation) and finally **Firoz Poonawalla** (is a successful businessman who has the first ISO 2000 certified rose farm)

After the brief introduction, she extended a warm welcome to the chief guest, the trustees and the participants after which the lighting of the traditional diyas took place.

Lila fellows Rashmi Dave, Ranjana Parashar, Snehal Mahamuni, Varshali, and Manjusha congratulated all the awardees and mentioned that they were proud to be Lila fellows of an excellent foundation which gave them opportunities to enhance their personality. They feel that the foundation makes them proud to be a woman. Mrs. Surabhi Nag gave the background of the foundation.

Mrs. Vasantha Ramaswamy gave the feedback on Lila Fellows who have made it big. Divya Rajaram, Mukta Phatak, Mithali Gujar, Shalakra Sankpal, Shweta Lolage, Madhurima Pawar to name a few. Mr. Firoz Poonawalla then felicitated ex-trustee of LPF, **Mrs. E. Matthews** with a bouquet.

'Inspira', the quarterly newsletter was released at the hands of the chief guest Dr. Amrita Patel. Rajani Panchang then on behalf of the team gave a brief history of the newsletter. She said that the newsletter was started in August 2000 to inspire and motivate young girls. It is also a medium to connect Lila Fellows, share creativity, experience and achievements.

Mrs. Shernaz Edibam introduced the chief guest as gracious, dedicated, brilliant, sensitive epitome of an Indian woman. Academically, a Doctor of Science from the University of Kanpur, she was conferred the Padmabhushan by the Govt. Of India. She is a trustee of WWF, IIFT and health services.

Mr. Poonawalla then requested the chief guest to share her thoughts on the New Millennium Woman.

Dr. Patel began by saying that she was happy to be there amidst many intelligent and talented young women. She said that we are privileged to have good education and upbringing. These privileges should cause a realization for responsibility for society and to make our country a better place to live in. She enlightened us about the conditions and hardships faced by a common woman in the rural areas. She also felt that young girls should concern themselves with the hardships faced by these women. Her belief is that with our education and upbringing we have the ability to become that vital agent to change their lives. Spending few years of one's life for a social mission can make a difference. What is required according to her is a small beginning and a large amount of commitment and dedication. Her deep conviction is that the problem of ensuring a secure future for our people lies in a dimension more fundamental than immediate economic gain or prosperity of a few. Mrs. Poonawalla then felicitated her with flowers and Dr. Patel reciprocated by giving her flowers too. The chief guest also felicitated all the trustees with bouquets of their choices.

Mrs. Dasgupta then announced the scholarships. Mrs. Nag shared her thoughts and thanked Mr. and Mrs. Poonawalla on behalf of the trustees. Mrs. Edibam presented a bouquet to both of them.

Finally, Mr. Daate expressed sincere thanks on behalf of the foundation for the support given by everybody.

- Lubainah Vapra



Dr. Amrita Patel being welcomed by Mr. Feroz Poonawalla at the 7th Award Function

KIRAN CHOUDHARY

-the efficient woman with the 'positive moves' has arrived...



Backed with an MBA degree in Human Resources from PUMBA (Pune University) after graduating in Commerce, I started my career in January 2000 with a consulting firm in Pune. My next career move brought me to Mumbai a year later. I am currently associated with Positive Moves. They are engaged in Business Process Outsourcing and high-ended Recruitment.

Actively involved with recruitment, one has to be a people's person. Being a good listener, understanding the other person's point of view, his/her apprehensions and then actually making him/her comfortable is the first step in successful interaction.

One must acquire business acumen over the time. Understanding how the systems and procedures actually function in an industry is important. Having an eye for detail and an urge for learning is the key. One must be prepared mentally for all the pressures and stress that come as a package deal. As the work is very demanding strict deadlines must be adhered to. Efficiency to the core is a must. Working within recruitment for more than two years has made tremendous value addition to my knowledge and understanding of the business and industry. Every day I learn new things that were hitherto unknown to me. I have now crossed over the initial fear I had when I started my career.

My future plan of career growth is to specialize in Recruitment with a corporate organization.

Great going buddy! Heres wishing you the very best!!!

EVE'S VOICE

Ashwini dixit (Lila Fellow 2000) is trying to make her own tiny world in USA...

Filled with enthusiasm and hardwork and support from her family and teachers in transforming her energy in a constructive way, is Ashwini. She secured the first rank at her center in English at the SSC exam. She chose a diploma in Mechanical engineering at Government Polytechnic, Pune. She also learnt a lot of organizational skills by participating in cultural events, sports events and youth festivals. After finishing D.M.E., she joined College of engineering and technology at Jalgaon for Bachelors in Production engineering. Due to her professors' full support, she successfully presented a state level research paper and received the Critics Award. She also presented a national level research paper on "Alternate sources of energy" and received the second prize along with the special Judge's award.

Ashwini returned to her hometown with a B.E with distinction. To remain in touch with education, she joined D.Y. Patil College of engg. as a lecturer in mechanical engg. She adds, "I had to try hard to get the equal opportunity, prove myself and survive in this men's world".

Her parents encouraged her to face every challenge. She decided to study abroad. Getting admission for M.S was not very difficult due to the good credentials, but finance was a problem. She chose University of Nebraska Lincoln for her MS (industrial and management systems engg) as the course they offered was

versatile. She could get a loan for tuition fees. Other expenses were taken care of by the L.P.F Scholarship and it proved beneficial from the beginning. The award function was the most memorable one. It made her feel proud of herself and gave her confidence and courage - "Some people make the world more beautiful by just being in it", she thought.

She enjoys being a part of the Lila family. When she was in US, the mails and phone calls with Lila aunty and Maya aunty and also other Lila fellows made her feel at ease in a foreign land. Today when Ashwini thinks of those stressful days, she feels proud to be associated with the Lila Family.

Along with learning and managing household work, she makes time for reading, listening to Indian music and hiking. At present along with her M.S she has also started working for "Association of India's Development" to help people back home, and hopes to do something for LPF too. She shares lines of her favourite poem with us-

*"The woods are lovely dark and deep
But I have promises to keep
And miles to go before I sleep
And miles to go before I sleep."*





With the New Year we thought of a very innovative interview-of our very own, spontaneous, talented and quick-witted and mischievous editor, **Uzma Kazi.**

1. Something about your childhood and college...

I did my schooling from Crescent school and Mt. Carmel Convent school, my BA in English from St. Mira's College (where I stood first and also won

several intra and inter collegiate poetry recitation and paper reading contests, debates and elocution, organized and participated in plays, exhibitions and other events). I did my MA from the dept. of English, University of Pune where I secured the second rank. I have had a great childhood and youth full of fun and learning (occasional hiccups notwithstanding ☺)

2. Why did you choose English Literature?

More than the literature, the language fascinates me.

3. What does LPF scholarship mean to you?

I was curious to know whether I stood among the 'scholars' of Pune City. LPF scholarship has revealed that I do. Of course the LPF family (which I am proud to belong to) means a lot to me-the innumerable opportunities to learn and grow and to hone my skills through the programmes arranged for us.

4. You are a rank holder at the post-graduate level at the University. Were you always a brilliant student? What significance did the University award have for you?

I wouldn't say I have been a brilliant student, but yes, a bright and a mischievous one! Securing the second rank at the university at MA is a big achievement but then achievements come and go, like my other prizes at elocution and debates. It only means I could have done better...

5. As a Muslim girl, were you always inclined to have a dynamic career as the one you have now, or do you think you would be bogged down by the conservative societal values?

Honestly, I have always been a happy-go-lucky child, just living for the moment. A career per se, I had never planned. As for 'conservative', it's up to each individual to redefine it as 'preservative' as she/he deems fit and structure one's living accordingly. It's all a matter of perception. Plus I've been quite a rebel. So I am sure I would have fought my way up. And as a burkha-clad girl who likes to observe purdah I would say, **'badaa badai na kare bade na bole bol, heera mukh se na bole ke lakho hai mera mol!'**

6. Who has played the most supportive role in your life to let you evolve into the responsible, dynamic, cheerful and social person that you are?

My success is not mine alone. My teachers, friends and my family-especially my best friends- my mum and my sister Nahid aapaa(she has helped with a lot of Inspira work) have been my greatest inspiration and support and above all Allah(SHT) who has bestowed me with the talents that are recognized as unique.

7. What position does your family stand at in your life?

My family is my elixir.

8. Something about the low points in your life... beginning with your childhood, youth, student life and now as a professional.
The loss of a close friend at 21 is still with me. Other than that I have had the most enviable life anyone could have. As for the low points, let them remain 'low'. No regrets. I have lived my life giant size ☺)

9. Teaching professionally for more than a year now, how has the whole experience been? Being a literature person you started your career as a teacher at ILS Law College and now at H.V.Desai College too... Did you ever feel out of place?

Aaah! What could be a better combination than love for language and love for talking! The experience has been thoroughly thrilling. I kick-start each day with a fresh zest and energy that I like to ignite my students with. And when they do... YIPPI! I go crazy! I love bright faces, working with myriad thinking forces, debating over issues...

10. You have a dainty and petite stature. Do your students take you seriously? How do you handle boys 2-3 times your size?

They do. I look up at them. They look down at me! ☺ Just kidding. We look up at each other with respect.

11. You juggle with responsibilities between home, 2 colleges and Inspira. How do you manage it?

Versatility, thy name is Uzma.. ☺ Allah (SHT) helps me.

12. What is it that urges you to hold on and keep going?

My insatiable lust for living.

13. How has your experience been with Inspira? Your best experiences and your worst...

I relished the interactions with those I came across. Being the editor on the team I enjoy the spectrum--the stress, the fun, the Works, the fire works ☺ !!!

14. Do you consider Editorship of Inspira as a professional responsibility and achievement? How beneficial has your formal education in literature been in your role as the editor of 'Inspira'?

Certainly. It has helped me understand issues in better light, be more analytical, critical and objective which I bring to my work as editor.

15. What are your plans in the near future... both professional and personal?

I wish to specialize further in language learning and teaching. In my personal life I plan to develop my hobbies of preparing handicrafts, reading, writing, cooking and tailoring besides evolving into a more refined individual. And one who features among this kind -**'khud hi ko kar buland itna ke har takdeer se pehle khuda bande se puche bataa teri raza kya hai'**.

16. What is it that you look forward to in any organization?

Total identification of the individuals with the purpose, building indefatigable teams, a drive to excel and to add one's best drop to the ocean of human service.

17. What I would like to share with the Lila Fellows:

Hey guys, MAKE YOUR MARK! You need not leave this world 'unwept, unhonoured and unsung'.

LEADING LADY



In nature, a diamond occurs as a mere stone. It gains its brilliance only when somebody identifies it, picks it up, cuts and polishes it. Our team met up with one such person who has been celestially gifted to chisel the "extraordinaire" from the ordinary is Sabira Merchant, the "Queen"-Maker! Rajani Panchang presents a few excerpts of the tete-a-tete.

How did you decide to take up the profession of training young girls for beauty pageants, especially in their speech and diction?

I came from a very traditional family, where none of my relatives, except my father spoke English. I was always in love with the language and read a lot. I always participated in elocutions, speeches, recitations and plays. In all this I spent hours rehearsing in front of the mirror, wanting to be the best in the way I presented myself. There was a day when my teacher would not select me for the elocution competition. She had not heard me and I wanted to be given a chance. And so I insisted "Teacher please, give me a chance, once." When she did, I went all out to impress and win.

I sincerely believe that one should never give up without a chance. Convince the other person into giving you that one opportunity and nothing can stop you.

It was in 1978 when I was doing the play, "A Street Car Named Desire" in a hall in the basement of this college in Bombay. I was playing the role of a little girl who is handicapped and restricted to the wheel chair. This was when I was already a mother of three! I got well into the cast because of my small height. Somebody from Doordarshan spotted me. After the show they approached me as they found me very "comfortable and interactive" with the audience. They offered me to conduct such an interactive show for their primetime slot and that is how I conceived and conceptualized "What's the Good Word". Then the Femina Miss India organizers approached me to give the girls some tips. This was how my passion for language and perfection landed me into beauty pageants.

You conduct personality development workshops, training programs on etiquette, speech and diction, overall grooming, etc. What kind of people approach you for these services and how inclined is the society in 'learning' the art of 'lifestyle'?

I conduct such training programs, of varied duration and specialization for women and men. Young boys have suddenly become aware of their looks, talks and walk. It is surprising as well as heartening to see the dedication and efforts that they put in which at times surpass that displayed by girls. I also conduct corporate training programs, where the company itself initiates and pays for the overall grooming of their employees. Even executives graduated from business schools show interest in learning professional etiquette and positive body language.

The society has realized that spending time and money in such learning programs is like making investments that multiply to become assets for a lifetime.

Do you use the same routine methodology to groom girls or you employ a unique technique for each of them? How do you identify the potentials in each girl?

There are some basics which are common for all- the way you cast a look, the way you stand high, your walk, everything. But there are certain things, which are god-gifted and cannot be changed. For example, someone has a good figure, a good height, good hair, good voice, a good smile or beautiful eyes. Similarly there could be drawbacks too. These are places where the stronger assets need to be enhanced. This should be done in such a way that the weaknesses get hidden and subdued. Recognition of the right potential is important and next is the effort to strengthen it.

What do you look for in every girl that could make her promising?
Attitude! The right attitude is all that matters. One thing that I tell the



girls is to stand straight and high and gather all the attitude they have and tell themselves that "I am the best". Something like 'so what if you are Helen of Troy? 'I am Venus!' For when she has the confidence that she has everything best possible in her, she has already won half the battle.

What are the negative and positive traits that the Indian girls have that hamper or help their chances to win against the beauties of the world?

The main problem with our girls I believe is vocabulary and language. This is one field where they require maximum training and grooming. Otherwise they do not lack confidence. They are the luckiest girls in matter of family support unlike non-Indian girls who are usually unaccompanied by near ones. We cannot compete with them in terms of height and bone-structure, which is natural to them.

Which are your most precious achievements you cherish as?

It brings you great pride when these girls go abroad...gel with a completely new environment and stand at par with so many other beauties from all over the world! Each one has been good in her own way. But my own personal favourites are Lara and Yukta who did brilliantly. Watching these girls from home being telecast the whole world over gives total satisfaction.

Any memorable performances of your association with the theatre... Your experience with the Pune audiences.....

Oh! The journey has been long and enjoyable. My love for theatre was very early and deep. I have been associated with the Bombay theatre and worked with some good directors and actors like Alec Padamsee. Quite a few of my plays like the "Rummy Game" and 'The Street Car Named Desire' earned overwhelming response.

Recently I performed the "Rummy Game" in Pune where the audiences are connoisseurs. I have enjoyed performing in Pune, especially at Tilak Smarak Mandir!

What is the message you would give young aspiring girls?

Girls should be highly aware of the fact that they can get what they want by judiciously using one particular trait that God gifted only to women- their CHARM! Women have the capacity to spread their charm and sweetly and peacefully retrieve what others would find difficult to gain. 'Sweet persuasion' is a secret to many a successful and harmonious relationships in all setups. Never portray that you are weak and cannot do something. For example at home in-laws and your husband could get angry when you cannot balance between career and home. So then they start opposing your career. Use your charm there. Manage your time, get up a bit early, do all that is expected from you at home and be all ready to go for work. They have no reason to stop you. They will be charmed by your concern for home.

If there is a clash over ideas and thoughts, holding on tenaciously to female pride would prove to be fatal. Accept the follies pointed out by your partner and work on them. He is going to be charmed by the value you gave his words. He will then also start looking into his own mistakes before he finds shortcomings in you.

Girl, uninterrupted

DEVAYANI SHAHANE
Times News Network

RAJANI Panchang is a young girl inching closer to fulfilling her dreams. She will be heading shortly to the Geological Oceanography Division at the National Institute of Oceanography, Dona Paula, Goa.

She is the only lady geologist selected as a Project Scientist Trainee on a CSIR project called BENFAN. Naturally, she cannot contain her excitement at the thought of the experience and field work that will involve cruises on the ocean, coring, drilling and sampling. Says she, "When I applied for the post, I was told point blank that they were not even considering lady geologists. But this did not dishearten me, and I clinched it. I will be working on the palaeoclimatic aspect of the project, which at the end of four years gets me a PhD in Oceanography".

Her choice of geology at the bachelors and masters levels had undoubtedly been unconventional. "There were a couple of girls studying geology, but I was the only one who stuck around. Geology has its tentacles spread in all aspects of life".

Her academic life took her on treks and expeditions, keeping her close to nature. "Sometimes, people just pick a rock and throw it away nonchalantly. From my perspective, each rock weaves a different story when I look at it through the microscope."

Her next area of specialisation was equally unorthodox - marine geology. Born into a supportive family has helped, as also the fact that she is a Lila Poonawalla Fellow (LPF). "I got scholarship

when I was in my second year, where I was working on a dissertation thesis entitled *Geology of the Western Coastal Tract*, between Adhe and Dabhol, in district Ratnagiri," she explains. The scholarship, besides easing the financial burden, also helped in her overall personality development.

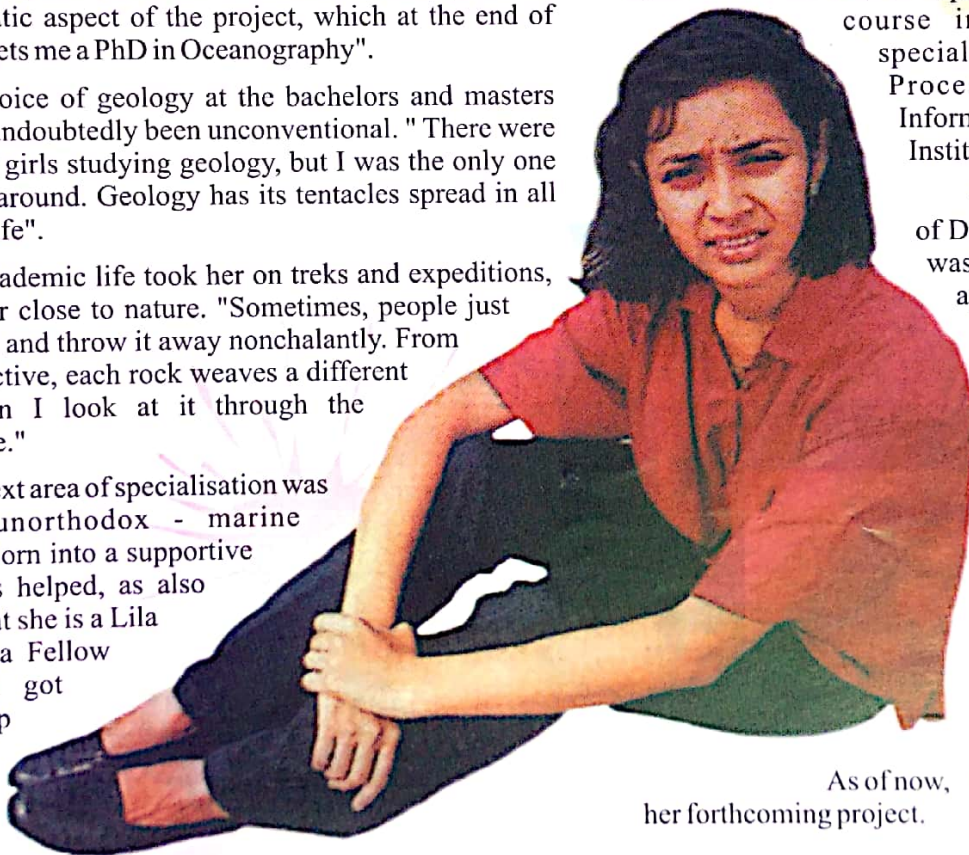
Based on the same work, she presented a research paper at a National Convention of the Association of Hydrologists of India in Aurangabad, in 2002. "It was my first experience amongst stalwarts in the specialised field. I was the youngest speaker and the least experienced. But still I went on to win the Best Paper Presentation Award for a Young Scientist," Rajani tells us.

Rajani was also the youngest candidate and only Indi an female representative at an eight-week course in Remote Sensing with specialisation in Digital Image Processing and Geographical Information Systems at the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing.

"I was elated when the Head of Department there told me that I was chosen out of 38 other applicants on the basis of a very competent resume. It proved to be a great learning experience and a wonderful opportunity to live amongst people with diverse cultures from different parts of the globe."

Her extra-curricular interests are diverse too - she is a Bharatnatyam dance and a writer (she has written poetry, compiled as Rajanigandha)

As of now, she is busy getting ready for her forthcoming project.



All for nature

Rupa Chapalgaonkar
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THIS lady certainly achieves what she aspires. Manjusha Gupte's love for the environment had won her an Endowment Scholarship from the Lila Poonawalla Foundation (LPF) for the year 1997-98. Today she is all set to get a Ph.D. in the same.

It was her urge to pursue a course in environmental policy with political science as her major subject, that led Manjusha to secure a scholarship from the foundation. Today, Manjusha is busy working on her thesis that speaks of community forestry in India.

Basically, political science student, Manjusha is an avid environment lover. Who isn't fascinated by the environment? But, there are very few who actually want to go ahead, study it and implement what has been learnt practically. "I guess this urge to give back something to the nature forced me to study it in depth" recalls Manjusha. For us environment may be just another word, for her it's a valuable thing that one cannot afford to lose. "I have been always interested even in the smallest aspect and creature in the environment. This may be because of frequent nature and adventure camps that I participated in, since years" she assesses. After finishing her post graduation in Political Science at JNU, Manjusha decided that she had to do something related to her area of interest-Environment.

"There is a dearth of interdisciplinary courses in India. I was basically a political science student and also wanted to do something related to environment. So applying outside India was an obvious choice" she reveals.

So off she went to Purdue University, USA to pursue her goal. Initially, sponsorship was indeed difficult to get and after scanning through many financial institutions, help from Lila Poonawalla Foundation came in as a sigh of relief for her. "Usually, it's the engineering, medical and computer faculty

students that manage to get loans. In my case, institutions were skeptical of sponsoring for an unusual course, which is a sorry thing", she complains. With LPF it was the other way around. LPF was impressed with Manjusha's aspirations and trusted her will to do something different.

After going to Purdue there was no looking back, as besides studying, she has assisted several researches and even took up teaching. Living in the US has in fact strengthened Manjusha's belief to return back to India apply her research here. "The US and World Bank has been pouring money into environment related activities in India. India has some brilliant environmental policies, but only on paper. I think if actually implemented, they'll do wonders to the environment" explains Manjusha.

She eagerly awaits for the day when she completes her Ph.D. and returns to her country and her supportive family. "My family and LPF have been a great support. LPF is one such foundation that has stayed with me throughout. Not many foundations do that, once they get over with the funding, LPF has a personal touch to it" tells Manjusha.

Not only India, but Pune too looks forward to young and dedicated environment savvy youths like Manjusha. Guess with youngsters like her taking the initiative to save the environment from further annihilation, the environment scene will not be as gloomy as is projected by many.



The Indian Express

Sept. 2002.

"When the project report had to be submitted I happened to see that there are hardly any studies done on this topic. I took the help of Anil Awachat," says this girl who also got the Lila Poonawalla scholarship for the course. She went ahead with the research which required long hours in the red light area.

"Though they face innumerable problems when in their prime, they face a lot of problems in their middle age". After 10 years in the business they may suffer physical illness which in turn will affect their psychological status.

"One has to understand the bearing of social relationships on their coping mechanism," says Sadhavi who did a detailed analysis on the social status, addiction, acceptance from the family, psychological status number of children, economic factors affecting psychological status through interviews with the ladies.

"It was difficult initially. But since I continued going there they slowly opened up," says Sadhavi who wants to take up more studies on them.

Atta going girl!

HER GRIT and determination to do something different has seen Sadhavi Salunkhe a field supervisor with the Karve Institute of social sciences, do a project for her Masters in Social work on the psychological study of aged, female commercial sex workers.



*The film "Show me Love" screened at
The Swedish Film Festival*

Down Memory Lane... SNIPPETS



*Ms. Cora Menezes with LF's at Hotel Pancharatna,
for the "Transactional Analysis Programme"*



*Kudos to
LF Shalaka Sankpal
who donated Rs. 50,000
to the LPF*



*The New Awardees at the tea party (Aug. 2002)
at Holiday Inn*



*Prerna, Rahul and Pallavee enjoying a meal together
with Mr. & Mrs. Poonawalla in London*



*'We want more'
LF's at the Dandia Party at Fili Villa*



Play "Man of La Mancha"



Ms. Roberta Swedien playing the piano at the Mazda Hall

NAME OF THE BOOK : MEIN KAMPF

AUTHOR : ADOLF HITLER.

PUBLISHER : JAICO PUBLISHING HOUSE.

PRICE : 135:00/-

"Cruelty impresses, people want to be afraid of something. They want someone to whom they can submit with a shudder, the masses need that. They need something to dread..."

The philosophy manifested itself in the brutality and terror Hitler unleashed during his reign of power.

MEIN KAMPF (My Struggle) is perhaps the only notable work written by Adolph Hitler, in two volumes in 1924. Hitler was arrested when he took out a mass demonstration in favour of national unity for the formation of a socialist German state. He was tried by the People's Court in Munich and subsequently, imprisoned for 13 months where he wrote the first volume. The second after he was released.

Hitler began to serve his sentence of detention in the Fortress of Landsberg Am Lech, on April 1st 1924, following the verdict of the Munich people's court of that time. Here he decided to devote two volumes to a description not only of the aims of his movement but also its development. He says "there is more to be learned from this than from any purely doctrinaire treatise."

MEIN KAMPF' has also given him the opportunity of describing his own development in so far as such a description is necessary to the understanding of the first as well as the second volume and to destroy the legendary fabrication which the Jewish Press have circulated about him.

MEIN KAMPF' is an historical document, which bears the imprints of its own time. The first volume, 'A RETROSPECT' gives us an insight into the childhood of Hitler his years of study and suffering in Vienna, political reflection, race and power. Whereas in the second volume 'THE NATIONAL SOCIALIST

MOVEMENT', the author takes you into a time when there were conflicts with red forces, Hitler's struggle for his party, the problem of the trade unions and the right to self-defense. Hitler as a boy had inborn talent for speaking which began to develop and took shape during strenuous arguments that he used to have with his comrades. With the popular history of the France-German war of 1870-71, he became more and more enthusiastic about everything that was in any way connected with war or military affairs.

He had obvious talent for drawing and wanted to become an artist, but his father flatly refused, as he wanted his son to become an official of the government. At the age of 16, losing his parents was the turning point of his life. He says- "It hardened me and enabled me to be as tough as I now am. I am grateful that I was thrown into a world of misery and poverty and thus came to know the people for whom I was afterwards to fight."

On 3rd August 1914, Hitler requested King Ludwig III to allow to serve in a Bavarian regiment during the first world war finally the young volunteer had become an old soldier. Hitler was highly influenced by two people who were apparently the main architects of his mental aberration. One was Dr. Leopold Pötsch, who taught him German political history, and the other was Dr. Jory Lanz Van Liebenfels, a defrocked monk who founded the temple of the New Order, and whose theories stated that 'the world belonged to the fair skinned and the superior Aryan race and all other's belonged to sub-human culture'.

MEIN KAMPF will give you an insight into one of the greatest evil geniuses of this century; his political ideals, his beliefs and motivation, and his struggle to consolidate Germany into the one great nation, and a Nazi-third Reich. The man in a short stature will go down in the history of the world as an insatiable tyrant. All those who lived through the holocaust will shudder to think that such a man was ever born, and fervently wish that such a history would never repeat itself.

SUNETRA CHAPHALKAR.

YOUR'S TRULY

On behalf of the team I welcome the New scholars to the Lila Family. It was great interacting with the bright and enthusiastic lot at the tea party at Holiday Inn. We are happy to have Samata Sabala as Inspira correspondent. Some of us had the pleasure of meeting Ms. Sabira Merchant at Mumbai. We would like to thank the foundation for arranging the trip for us and also for the various programmes like the TA session by Ms. Menezes, the films at the Swedish Film Festival, the play and the Piano recital. The most exciting was the Dandiya Party where we just let our hair down. "Once more", we chorus.

We have more reasons to celebrate. Our dear Mrs. Poonawalla was a special invitee at the



The Inspira Team at the Tea Party Aug. 2002

swearing-in-ceremony of our president, Mr. Abdul Kalam and also on Radio Mirchi. Listening to her on the radio was truly a treat. Thank-you ma'am for the song you dedicated to us LF's.

The media interviewed LF's Manjusha Gupte, Sadhavi Salunke and Rajani Panchang. WOW! Our women are doing swell! By the way guys, this is only the beginning. Watch out for more hot news from the hot and happening LILA FAMILY!

Till then, have a stupendous NEW YEAR!!!

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