

IDIA's HARVEST

(2014-2015)

Five years ago, when we walked into a government school in the quaint himalayan town of Pelling, we dreamt a dream: that kids whose parents were farmers, store keepers, clerks and bus drivers could also make it to the finest law schools in the country. And reach the top echelons of the legal profession. Colleagues thought us mad! And predicted that the project was doomed to fail. They warned us of creating lofty expectations in the minds of poor kids and failing them. Of the fact that even if we got them into the top law schools, they would suffer endlessly in an elitist alien environment. Of how we proved them all wrong. How these kids not only got into law school, but went on to survive them, thanks to their tenacity. Of how they took a while, but found their footing eventually. Of how they went on to represent their universities in international competitions in Hong Kong and Budapest.

Year after year, our modest success continues. This year too, several of our scholars cracked CLAT to make it to the National Law Universities.

And yet we know that this is just the beginning. That we have many more miles to go...with or without sleep. But certainly with dreams. Plenty of them! For unless we dream and unless we imagine, can we ever hope to match the magic of the universe? Can we ever hope to create a miracle?

And with that rhapsodic message, we bring you the inspiring profiles of our scholars who are likely to make the National Law Universities this year.



But first a bit of background about



The Increasing Diversity by Increasing Access to Legal Education (IDIA) project is a nationwide movement that aims to empower underprivileged and marginalised communities in India by transforming students from such communities into world-class lawyers and community leaders. It runs on the backbone of student volunteers spread through the length and breadth of India.

IDIA identifies underprivileged students with an aptitude for law and trains them for law entrance exams over a 2-3 year period. In 4 years, more than 50 students trained by IDIA have gained admission to leading law schools.

IDIA not only enables access to legal education, it also fosters diversity at the leading law schools and enriches the very process of legal education.

With several scholars surpassing our expectations and proving their mettle in law schools, IDIA is faced with the enormous challenge of raising sufficient support over the next few years to sustain the movement, and to escalate our impact to a larger set of beneficiaries.

We solicit the support of generous individuals and organisations that are committed towards fostering an inclusive society where the underprivileged are empowered through legal education.

BANK DETAILS

Name of the Bank: Canara Bank

Bank Branch Address:

'Avani Arcade', L-1135,

17th cross, 80 feet Road,

Sector - 7, HSR Layout,

Bangalore - 560102

Phone: +91 87224 16666 +91 97393 63947

Name of the Trust: IDIA Charitable Trust

Account Number: 2673101012389

IFSC Code: CNRB0002673

Account Type: Savings Bank Account

SWIFT Code: CNRBINBBLFD

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PROFILES OF OUR SUCCESSFUL IDIA SCHOLARS (2014-15):

1. Yamuna Menon



Yamuna Menon, a student of Bhavans Vidya Mandir, is from the small coastal town of Tripunithura, on the outskirts of Kochi, Kerala. Her father works as a bank agent and her mother is a librarian, earning a combined paltry amount of Rs 12,000 a month.

Despite these adverse financial circumstances, Yamuna's parents left no stone unturned to ensure she got a good education. And Yamuna never ever let them down. Burning the midnight oil since early childhood, she outperformed in school, ending her tenure there with a whopping 95.8% in her Higher Secondary School examinations.

She also went on to secure the Kerala State Rank of 2 in the International Informatics Olympiad and received the Children Science Congress Archimedes Award.

However, Yamuna is not just a studious girl winning continuous laurels in her studies. She is

also a well rounded personality, actively participating in several extra curricular and co-curricular activities in school, including singing and sports. Her natural leadership skills saw her being elected as the school head girl.

Yamuna was inspired to take up the study of law after meeting an advocate, who inspired her with his notions of justice and social empowerment. She then began her preparations for the extremely challenging and competitive CLAT exam, the door keeper to the premier National law schools in the country. Her hard work, grit and determination paid off. She aced the CLAT exam and scored an All India Rank of 28, guaranteeing her admission into the National Law School of India University, Bangalore, widely considered as the best law school in India. This makes her the second scholar in IDIA history to do so. We have very high hopes for Yamuna, and have no doubt that she will go on to become an iconic lawyer and leader.

2. Arvind Kumar



Hailing from the small village of Maitriwara in the Jalore district of Rajasthan, Arvind recently finished his schooling from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya in Jalore. His parents are farmers by profession; however,

during the non-cropping season, his father works as a labourer and earns around a meagre Rs. 100 – 150 per day to sustain the family.

Owing to his family's lack of financial resources, Aravind also helps out with household work and holds tuition classes for his neighbours' children in his free time. Despite these trying circumstances, Arvind's performance in the CLAT 2015 is a testimony to the resilience of his spirit and determination. He secured an All India category rank of 116, which has led him to secure an admission into National Law University, Jodhpur. If he pursues life in the law school in the same manner, there is no doubt that he will excel and transcend his adverse circumstances, elevating both himself and his family out of poverty. If his existing commitment to his community is any indication, he is already well on his way towards making a difference within it.

3. Manash Mondal



Daring to dream beyond the ordinary despite his humble background, Manash from Dibrugarh, Assam, is one of the most motivated and focused IDIA trainees from the IDIA North-East chapter. He

has exhibited sincerity and potential, the most important qualities expected of any IDIA scholar.

He lost his father at a very early age and his mother, a homemaker, struggles to make ends meet with him and his younger brother, who is in class X, with a meager income of Rs. 4000 a month. Although his parents have a relatively humble educational background, Manash has expressed a great desire in taking up law as a career and making his mother proud. He has shown a great zeal towards cracking CLAT and pursuing law. His sincerity towards his academ-

-ics is reflected in the way he balanced his studies for his Class XII examinations with his CLAT preparations over the last one year. As a result of his diligence and dedication, Manash has secured an All India Category Rank of 195 in CLAT 2015 and thereby, secured admissions in Hidayatullah National Law University, Raipur.

Manash's dream of pursuing law is born from a desire to become an IAS officer and serve society. His exceptional dedication will ensure a trailblazing career for this bright boy who is all set to use his education to change society for the better.

4. Lakesh Meena



It is NUJS next, for our resolute scholar, Lakesh Meena, with a CLAT AIR 5 in PWD category. He comes from a humble background, where in, his mother is a Home Maker and father is a Farmer with an

annual income of around Rs. 50,000/-. He was a student of Netraheen Vikas Sansthan, Jodhpur, a hindi medium Institute for the Blind. Despite not knowing English very well and struggling with logical reasoning as it was mostly taught by writing on the black board and generally tackling various challenges that came on account of being blind, and financially unstable, he has gone on to do wonderfully well in CLAT. His is a perfect example to show that self-study along with determination and right attitude can bring brilliant results.

Lakesh takes a keen interest in Science, Computers and other technical subjects and likes to stay updated about all new innovations that science gifts to humanity. He is also keenly interested in politics and keeps himself aware of the latest political developments. He perceives law as a way to help the society, something he felt, engineering lacked. He spends his leisure time playing games.

5. Anil Bhadu



Anil Bhadu, has successfully managed to crack the Common Law Admission Test, 2015 this year and secure an All India Rank of 42, which has qualified him for taking admission in National Law school of India

University, Bangalore. It is only the first time since IDIA's inception in 2011 that as many as two of our scholars have managed to achieve such a stellar performance in the same academic year, the other being Yamuna Menon.

Anil grew up amidst adverse financial circumstances in Bikaner. His father is a truck driver and a part-time farmer, and earns about Rs 5000 per month. His family lacks even most of the bare necessities of living. Still, this never deterred Anil from excelling in his studies and steadfastly proceeding towards his dream of becoming a successful legal professional. Throughout his student life, he has been highly motivated and has an excellent academic record.

It is after his stellar performance in CLAT 2015 that he got in touch with the IDIA Rajasthan Team and in a very short span of time, his amount of dedication and resolve in becoming a part of one of the premier National Law University in the country has left every single team member considerably impressed.

IDIA Charitable Trust
Second Floor, Jubilee Building
45, Museum Road
Bangalore - 560025

Phone: +91 80 42197924
Email: info@idialaw.com

www.idialaw.com⁶