



I am a dreamer and achiever as well as believe in myself and aspire to fly higher with deeply grounded roots since ever.

However, there are crossroads to decide and choose. Where your surrounding seems absolutely favorable but a turmoil of internal conflicts keeps on churning within you. It was 12th grade, the year of the immense pressure of studies. Though there was a balance between studies, extra-curriculum activities, and leadership roles but more worrying and challenging was the question “Where after 12th?” “What after 12th?”

It was the year 2018-19 (my 12th Grade), the importance of board examinations was overwhelming and surmounting over my all senses. The chief determining factor at that time was to get access to my dream institute for further studies. Though I was enthusiastic to be in the final year of my schooling, there was fear of

uncertainties lying ahead and scaring me to death each second. I didn't even know if I was going to continue my higher education due to the dwindling financial conditions of my family.

It was July 2018, our class teacher had asked us to pen down our plan of action after the 12th. I was certain about my goals and aspirations but shaken about the ways to reach there. "How to pursue the course of my choice and subjects of my interests?" Luckily, things were in my court in terms of studies but something crucial was missing from the map- the financial assistance and future guidance to remain on the track to my dreams. That was the beginning to excavate options to let my education go unhindered and smoothly- The journey to Vahani scholarship.

Vahani Scholarship is not merely an organization supporting financially rather it is a family. The essence of unconditional support and collectivism grasped my attention and continues to retain the central point of my learning till day.

The distinct idea of holistic development and comprehensive growth of a person that Vahani believes in makes it stand out from everything. The atmosphere under Vahani's umbrella nurtures you, showers support, encourages, provides platforms for creativity, and stands with you through all thick and thin.

More importantly, what a person needs is someone on her/his side while choosing an off-beat career option or making difficult life decisions. And Vahani showed me that vision. Even without a second thought, I fell in the orbit of the Vahani family and wished dearly to be a part of it. So I am now.

'Our dreams are the reflection and symbols of our freedom, independence, and happiness.' Each forwarding step towards them is a miracle, so was Vahani to me. At the moment, the result of the final selection for the Vahani Scholarship was conveyed to me, I was dumbstruck for a while. I did not know how to respond, whom to thank first and how to express the intense and overpowering emotional outbreak I had.

The image of being a Vahani family member was almost unreal and hard to believe at first. I felt like I had invisible wings to take a long stride in the open sky of opportunities. Moreover, the thought that my family would not have to add another debt to their account to let me pursue my dreams was hardest to digest and happiest to feel.

My first actual interaction with the Vahani Family happened in July 2019, it was not a lecture, session, or class rather it was a family reunion. I was amazed to experience those welcoming vibes from each person, those broad smiles, I did not feel like I was meeting them for the first time.

Surprisingly, I spoke (which was a difficult task for me back then), performed on the stage (with a group), and interacted with people from different fields and areas of interest. Now, these are my habits and I have the confidence to exercise them everywhere and with anyone. The seed of which was sown at Vahani. The range of programs, events, interactive sessions, career guidance, internship experiences, and workshops at Vahani round the sharp edges and

provide holistic development and comprehensive growth to each individual in a personalized and creative manner.

I see myself as an aspiring 'Public Policy Formation' contributor. Honestly, Vahani is in my blood now, I reflect its virtues, my values are inherited from it, and my actions depict the learnings I have acquired from it. No matter where I go and what I choose to do, Vahani will accompany me all the time and will act as a guiding force.