



**SHOOTING STARS  
FOUNDATION**

# NEWSLETTER

Educate | Empower | Enable

April – June 2023



## Mission and Vision

At Shooting Stars Foundation, we envision a future where all young people have equal access to the STEM knowledge and skills needed to achieve academic success, career success, upward mobility, and a lifetime of economic self-sufficiency for themselves, their families, and their communities.



## Quarter highlights

We are excited to share our new partnership with AAUW - AAUW generously approved our 2023 grant request for our fall hackathon - we are excited to get to work planning our first event.



We are excited to be continuing our partnership with IBM to run our IBM DATATHON once again in October!

SHOOTING STARS  
FOUNDATION

IBM Datathon



*Grant Received*

WE'RE PARTNERING AGAIN FOR IBM DATATHON

## Marching towards Our Vision

**725**

STEM scholars funded

**3100**

underrepresented students  
served since BOY 2021

**Join our Movement  
STEM FOR ALL**

# US Programs

## THE FUTURE OF AUTOMATION

On April 1st, SSF hosted Career Hub - Exploring The Future of Automation. SSF brought talented Mr. Brian D'Souza to Amgen to discuss the future in the field of automation and give us a glimpse of what tomorrow could look like in the career landscape. 60 participants attended the one hour session of presentation and Q+A and learned all about automation, AI, ChatGPT, and RPA. We are grateful to Brian for sharing his expertise with all of the attendees.

**CAREER HUB**  
LAUNCHPAD TO  
YOUR FUTURE

SHOOTING STARS  
FOUNDATION

SIGN UP BY USING  
THIS QR CODE:

SCAN ME

**AUTOMATION -  
THE FUTURE**

Explore careers with the expert: Mr.  
Brian D'Souza from AMGEN!

[link:https://bit.ly/FutureofAutomationSSF](https://bit.ly/FutureofAutomationSSF)

6-7 pm EST April 1, 2023

ON ZOOM

Brian D'Souza, AMGEN

# India Programs

## KLA ALL GIRLS HACKATHON

Shooting Stars Foundation organised 2023 Tech For Education and Inclusivity Hackathon – A TWO Day Hacking event where participants used data science resources to create solutions to different problems in an intensive, collaborative environment!

Our Hackathon took place on February 25th 9:30 AM IST – 5:30PM IST to February 26th 9:30 AM IST – 5:00PM IST inclusive of the valedictory ceremony – The Theme of the Hackathon was Tech For Education and Inclusivity Hackathon. In preparation for the event, professionals and tech mentors hosted sessions on How to win a Hackathon and discussions on their experiences in the tech industry.

### Guest Speakers

In the Women in Tech panel, participants had the opportunity to hear from female leaders firsthand about their experiences and what they could do to become future leaders as well. The Panelists are from KLA which includes Sravani Desu, Kowshika Rangasamy, Priyadarshini Kumar and Nani Narasimhan. They spoke to the participants about how maintaining a positive attitude and building on their skills will lead them to their professional passions. Our SSF Program Coordinator, Aysath Rukshana, kicked off the hackathon with tips and tricks on how to win a hackathon and gave a complete overview of the Tech For Education and Inclusivity Hackathon Guidebook.

Additionally Participants heard from Sudarshan Vasudevan from KLA who ran a session.

### Hackathon Challenge

During the Hackathon, participants were tasked with choosing a problem using the – Tech For Education and Inclusivity Theme and leverage their coding/programming skills to solve problems they see around.

### Significant Stats Related to the Event

- Registered Students – 120
- Final Participants – 55
- Teams Formed – 15
- 14 Final projects submitted
- Shooting Stars Team – 6
- KLA Mentors– 6
- KLA Volunteers – 17
- KLA Judges – 4
- KLA Panelists – 5
- Organizer Calls – 120
- Organizer Messages – 4500



# INDIA Programs

## STAR HACK ERA '23 – WOMEN ONLY HACKATHON

On April 1st, The Shooting Stars Foundation organised a 24-hour hacking event to inspire young girls to take an interest in STEM and make them curious to go deeper! Twenty-five out of several submissions were picked based on the several criteria that were called for the big day. In preparation for the event, professionals, tech mentors, and tech panelists hosted workshops on how to win a hackathon, etc. All the speakers shared tips and tricks for competing in and winning a hackathon.

### Guest Speakers

We also hosted a Women in Tech panel, where our students were given the opportunity to hear from female leaders firsthand about their experiences and what they could do to become future leaders. The panelists included Jessica James (Tech Specialist, Cognizant), Rohini Krishnan (Associate Director – HR, Cognizant), Radha Ponram (Senior Manager – Projects, Cognizant), Pearlin Selvaraj (Architect – Technology, Cognizant), and Nivethika Vasudevan (Lead Technology Specialist, Cognizant).

## HACKATHON IMPACT

- 80% of participants report increased expertise in programming.
- 97% of participants would attend another SSF Hackathon.
- 99% of participants would recommend this hackathon to a friend.
- 99% of participants will go on to pursue higher-level education in STEM.

We are happy to report that the event was a great success. 24 teams successfully built and presented their projects to a panel of judges. With the guidance of about 18 tech mentors who were available throughout the 24-hour period, the girls were able to make tremendous progress with their projects.

Significant stats related to the event below:

- Registered Participants - 210+
- Selected Students - 100
- No. of teams participated - 24 teams
- Y's Club Volunteers - 30
- SSF Team - 6
- COGNIZANT Mentors -18
- Judges - 5 (Cognizant)

Highlights from the participants:

"One thing I learned from this hackathon was that I'm more interested in coding now than before and want to explore it more." - Sharon Jennifer J. D., Hackathon Participant

"I got new exposure. I got an opportunity to interact with the cognizant mentors in person" -Dhanashree R., Hackathon Participant

"The event was well organized. Coordinators of the team were awesome. Assistance provided by mentors is helpful". Kiruthika T. N., Hackathon Participant



**SHOOTING STARS  
FOUNDATION**

# INDIA Programs

## GENESYS - YOUNG WOMEN TECH SUMMIT

On April 8th, The Shooting Stars Foundation organised a Genesys-Young Women Tech Summit. 38 female students and 2 working professionals have participated in the event. Participants had the opportunity to learn new concepts from the industry experts, and also know how to manage their careers well. Over 8 sessions were hosted during the period of the event. Over 70 students from 10 different colleges around the city registered for the event.

The event started with a warm Welcome Note by Vijay Krishna. Plenty of sessions were hosted which includes Emerging Technologies by Sagaya Anita and Lavanya, Career Management by Suresh Venkata, Artificial Intelligence in Genesys by Ram Sundar and Pavan B., Virtualization & Containerization by Gopi Kumar and Srikrishnan,. Growth Mindset by Bharath Reddy, Non-Tech roles in IT industry by Sheela Sridharan, The Power of Decision-Making by Ayyanar and much more. Thanks to all the amazing Tech Mentors who answered every question and helped the students during their 1:1 mentorship sessions.

### Significant Stats Related to the Event

- Registered Students – 80
- Selected Students – 50
- Final Participants – 40
- Shooting Stars Team – 6
- Genesys Mentors and Volunteers – 20

## SESSION IMPACT

- 92% of participants report increased knowledge in the latest trends of Artificial Intelligence.
- 98.3% of participants would attend other SSF seminars
- 95.7% of participants will go on to pursue a career in Technology



## HUGE THANKS TO ACCORD SOFTWARE AND VARDHMAN PHARMA

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Accord Software and Vardhaman Pharma for their valuable support in our mission to end the cycle of generational poverty through STEM education. This is the outcome of our dedicated board members' tireless efforts.



**SHOOTING STARS  
FOUNDATION**

# INDIA Scholar

## GCT REGIONAL SCHOLAR ENGAGEMENT

On April 1st, Shooting Stars Foundation hosted a regional meet held at Government College of Technology, Coimbatore to engage with existing and alumni scholars to take an interest in guiding their junior scholars, and to know their opinions on the training they attend here.

26 participants from GCT attended the meet.

The whole get together event was divided into 2 sessions – Ice breaker and Formal discussion.

We are happy to report that the scholars felt motivated to improve themselves, felt heard about their valuable opinions, and received much exposure. This has also contributed in networking with their senior scholars who are now present in different realms in their career. The scholars felt refreshed to be a part of an informal and fun event and they would like to attend many more such interactive and engaging events.

Highlights from the participants:

“Would love more sessions like this. It was fun!” – Anand, CSE, GCT.

“It's really a good time. Thanks for arranging!” – Priya Dharshini, EEE, GCT.



## SCHOLAR VOLUNTEERING

Over 50+ scholars have volunteered for 700+ hours. Through that, We were able to reach 5000+ corporates thanks to the effort of our scholar volunteers. Our volunteers also helped us run the training programs effectively. It is because of our dedicated volunteers that we are able to run such vast operations with limited full time employees.



**SHOOTING STARS  
FOUNDATION**

# INDIA Scholar

## SCHOLAR TRAINING - MILT

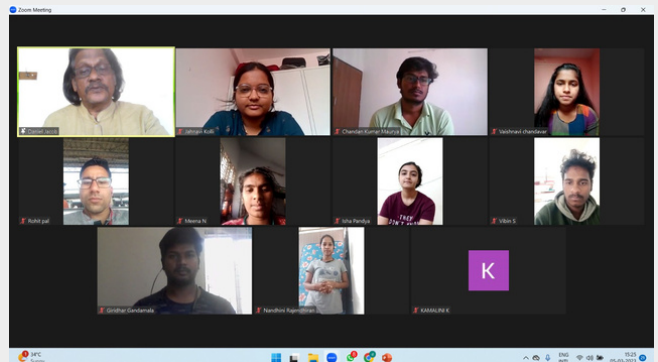
This is a world's top International leadership training program named MILT – PEAK PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP with proven results. Program is conducted by Mr. Daniel who has 20+ years of experience with proven training methods.

The program helps the students to develop Leadership qualities, Inner confidence, Self-esteem, and positive thinking and approach life in a holistic way. It helps the students to see live results session by session in their presentation skills and speaking skills. More than 200+ students of SSF of our students took this session and many students have got placed in big MNC companies.

Highlights from the participants :-

"MILT Peak Performance Workshop was not just a public speaking course, but it was a holistic leadership training, that helped me realise my leadership skills and grow in spiritual dimension of life. The principles that I learnt in the workshop are helping me living a happy and peaceful life. I would like to thank SSF for giving me this opportunity to attend such an excellent workshop." ~ Kritika Kumari, SSF Scholar & Training Participant

MILT training program was a very refreshing and useful program I have ever attended .This has tremendously improved my communication skills.and my confidence levels and leadership qualities has skyrocketed” ~ Aswathi , SSF Scholar & Training participant



## TRAINING - HELLO ENGLISH

Hello English is an app based training where Students learn basics of English – written / spoken / reading – via a App Based Program that is gamified. This app is for non-English speakers who are trying to learn the language quickly in their native language. The trainings consists of 475 interactive lessons and games associated with reading, writing, speaking, and listening.



**Hello English**  
Learn English



**SHOOTING STARS  
FOUNDATION**

# Spotlights

## Program Participant Spotlight

Cesar took part in our first partnership camp with EAH Low Income Housing and having enjoyed the web design camp, was eager to sign up for the business and entrepreneurship in tech program as well. He is now pursuing his computer science degree at Contra Costa Community College. He hopes that with hard work and continued support from EAH and SSF, he will transfer to UC Berkeley where he plans to specialize in data science or cybersecurity. We are so proud of Cesar and in partnership with EAH, he is on the path to receiving on of Shooting Stars' pioneering US college scholarships!

"The 2 camps with SSF heavily influenced my major in college to take Computer science. The camps gave me a comprehensive exposure to what is possible in the tech world and where I can get to."



*Featuring Cesar*

**PAST WEB DESIGN CAMP PARTICIPANT**

## Youth Officer & Volunteer Spotlight

This quarter we are excited to introduce and spotlight our 2023 Shooting Stars Youth Officer and Volunteer! We are grateful for thier leadership and passion for serving others!



RAJAN

Rajan and Saras have spearheaded our 2023 Career Hub series including Exploring the Metaverse as a career and The Future of Automation. Rajan and Saras have led speaker recruitment and training, seminar organization, and helped with attendee recruitment and engagement as well. We are so grateful to have passionate and driven youth officers and adult volunteers!

## Corporate Qoute

“

We are very happy to organise this hackathon and very happy to work with young minds full of energy . The students were full of energy and enthusiasm.

—KLA Hackathon Organiser

”



**SHOOTING STARS  
FOUNDATION**



# Placement Highlights



## PLACEMENT SCHOLARS

Government College of Technology,  
Coimbatore Placed at **VERSA DRIVES PRIVATE LIMITED, COIMBATORE** as a Hardware engineer trainee .

He Says,  
in ssf and my donar helped not only financial side.. and same as develop my skills with many training sessions... verymuch thankful to provide scholarship for me.

Saran



## PLACEMENT SCHOLARS

Dayananda Sagar College of Engineering,  
Bangalore Placed at **Meinhardt Group EPCM India, Bangalore** as a Design Engineer .

He Says,  
I Feel Happy to be part SSF Family,who continuously supported me to pursue my education.Thank you -Latha Akka, Venkatnath uncle,Manjula Ma'am,Mariel Akka for motivating me to achieve my dream goal.

Mahesh D



## PLACEMENT SCHOLARS

National Institute of technology Sikkim Placed at **Deloitte Bangalore** as a Analyst - Deloitte USI Consulting .

She Says,  
The whole SSF family supported me financially as well as mentally to pay my fees, different training to enhance my skills and that time to time motivation by my donor is most helpful in my journey.

Meenakshi



## PLACEMENT SCHOLARS

IIT BHU VARANASI Placed at **Kpit technologies, pune** as a Associate software engineer

She Says,  
Ssf helped me a lot in this journey of 4 year of b.tech(specifically from 2 yr). Whether it's about my college fee or about various trainings like MILT or aptitude training or personal mentorship. My donar has guided me and motivated me in this journey.

Renuka



# Upcoming Events and Programs

Program	Location	Dates
Chess Camp	Online	May 14 - August 14, 2023
Girls Tech Immersion - 1	Online	June 12 - June 30, 2023
Sustainability	Online	June 12 - June 17, 2023
Girls Tech Immersion - 2	Online	June 26 - July 14, 2023
EAH Housing - Mobile App Design	Hybrid	July 10 - July 26, 2023
Girls Tech Immersion - 3	Online	July 10 - July 28, 2023
Amgen - Bioinformatics	Hybrid	July 17- July 21, 2023
EAH Housing - Game design	Hybrid	July 24- July 28, 2023
Amgen - Entrep and Mobile App design	In Person	July 24- July 28, 2023
All India Women ONLY Hackathon'23	Online	August 05- August 06, 2023





# PARTNER WITH SSF



@shootingstarsorg



@shootingstarsfoundationorg



@shooting\_stars-foundation-inc



@support@starsfoundation.org



## Volunteer with SSF

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give - Winston Churchill

**Transform your mentoring hours into a matching grant to sponsor college students and double the impact !**



### Mentoring Impact!

"My NTT Data mentors' guidance on presentation skills in the last round helped me bag my placement at Maruti"  
-Subash,SSF Scholar,CIT,Coimbatore

"I jumped with joy when my mentee said she landed her dream job"  
- Mentor (Netscout)



**Register Today : <https://bit.ly/volunteer-ssf>**



## All India Hackathon '23

PAN-INDIA Women ONLY Hackathon with 1000+ Participants

August 5th, 2023 - August 6th, 2023  
(A 24-hours continuous online hacking event)

**BE CONSIDERED FOR INTERNSHIP/PLACEMENT BY TOP COMPANIES**

Prior Coding Experience required.



CYBER SECURITY



AI/ML



DATASCIENCE

ASPIRE

INNOVATE

BUILD



**EXCITING PRIZES FOR WINNERS**

EXCITING PANELS AND KEYNOTES

MENTORED BY INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS

REGISTER TODAY  
<https://www.starhacks.org/all-india-hackathon>