

Name	Rajkumar M	Pannaikadu Boys Town	Sponsor		
Institution	Government Polytechnic College				
Location	Madurai		Accommodation	Hostel	
Course	Diploma in Mechanical Engineering		3 years		
Start	01 July 2014	End	30 June 2017	Year	3



Our Apprentices continue to study their syllabus of theoretical and practical subjects into their third year, living in campus hostels, local digs or for some travelling daily from their or a relative's home. Their Apprentice Officer continues to maintain regular contact, monitoring progress, welfare and attendance and liaising with faculty members. In sixth semester most courses set projects for students to undertake in small groups. For our Apprentices, project expenses are covered by additional sponsorship payments. Lastly come final exams and campus interviews, leading to work experience and substantive employment. Sponsorship ends with this course. Some elect to continue their studies while working, by correspondence or part time courses, generally gaining exemption from the first year of formal courses. This further study will be self or family funded, or with a student loan.

Rajkumar (name changed) got off to an excellent start at Polytechnic, in his first five semesters achieving 82%, 85%, 84%, 79% and 77% respectively. Currently for 6th semester he's studying:

Automotive Engineering, theory & lab.
 Strength of Materials, theory & lab.
 Computer Integrated Manufacturing Systems
 Power Loss Control, lab.
 Student Project, lab.

He uses his free lap top provided by Government, for work on Power Loss Control. His Tutor rates him a "good student and working well." For the practical project his team of 5 spent four hours weekly over two months, designing an automatic side-stand for a motor cycle; it worked well and he's happy with the result, but it hasn't been assessed yet. Yesterday he had his first campus interview, with Brakes of India, a manufacturer in Chennai of hydraulic brakes for vehicles and motor-cycles. He is No 3 out of ten students chosen for one year of on-the-job training earning Rs 10,000 monthly, from which two will be

offered substantive positions with regular increments. The interview was in English, he was well prepared for the expected questions and there were no tricky questions. Wisely he'll attend more campus interviews and then compare offers; he still has his hopes on TVS, the Madurai-based Indian conglomerate with automotive interests. Once settled into a job he intends to study by correspondence course for Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering. This Diploma would exempt him 1st year, leaving 3 to complete and it would vastly enhance his CV.

At home his family circumstances remain largely unchanged, except that his elder sister completed her Diploma of Nursing course and is now working in Dindigul, while younger sister living with Aunty in Virudhunagar is doing very well at school as she prepares for her Secondary School Leaving Certificate exams. Big Brother will be well placed to help with her further education expenses.

Meanwhile and with the end of his journey to become educated and get a good job now in sight, Rajkumar is very aware of the support he has received from his Sponsors, although he has had no contact. He sends his grateful thanks to his Rotary Club Friends for helping him to change his life; knowing that someone cares has been a considerable boost to his wellbeing and self esteem. Without his Sponsors this couldn't have happened.



Interviewed and Written by: Terry Quadling, Volunteer

1st February 2017