

Report of Ragaveni

I am Ragaveni. I am 17 years old. I am doing my 12th Grade. I am from Kuthukalvalsai which is located in Tenkasi District. My village is a rural area where I don't have enough facilities for education 7 years ago. My mother died which was a crisis I did not expect in my life. My father is a coolie worker; so, he was unable to offer a good education for me. I got an opportunity to join LIFT with the help of Mr. Alphonse, Retired Headmaster for my higher studies. It is a great blessing in my life as well as for my family. I am in LIFT for the last 7 years.

After entering into LIFT my life totally changed. I got an opportunity to study in CBSE (Central Board of Secondary Education) English Medium School. It would be difficult to fully express the great moments I experienced there. In the beginning I was afraid because my background was totally different in my native place. In the beginning I felt so difficult but eventually it became a great platform for me to rise up in life. It taught me how to work hard. I could speak and write in English right now. **The life at LIFT boosted me to do my best in the studies with the guidance and support of college students.**

I have a smiling face all the time. I felt depressed because the demise of my mother was a big loss in my life. During my difficult time, LIFT and professional counseling helped me lead a happy and normal life again. I am very grateful to our LIFT.

LIFT is a place where I gained a lot without too much pain. For my academic progress, **I got the "BEST" in everything like the best schools, best teaching and guidance, and best facilities and infrastructure. Leadership Trainings which is takes place in the month of May every year provided me opportunities to become a courageous person.** It brought out my hidden talents like dancing and drawing.

As LIFT is a family, I got opportunities to get new relationships with new people even though we are from different backgrounds. The memorable events for me were the visits of our friends from USA. It was like festival moments at that time. When I think about it I have no words to describe it. I use to tell my school classmates about their visits. They felt jealous of me.

This relationship within LIFT and with friends from Chicago made me feel healthy and an integrated person.

I have also developed my communication skills. Through the tablets provided by LIFT, I got a great opportunity to continue my studies during Covid. When I think about my LIFT, I feel like a blessed and special person to get this opportunity.

I attended online class in the last year for my academic learning. At present, I feel motivated and I am becoming a creative person. I recreated myself through attending leadership training on 'NEW LEADERSHIP' (15 days Program) which is conducted by Miss. Rita Mary, Psychotherapist.

ARTWORK brought out and released my emotions. I am becoming aware of the society and the problems, and my role in changing the society, etc. During the discussion time, I am presenting and discussing my opinions boldly without hesitation. **I am able to change my weakness into strength--Fear into Courage.**

I am working out on my extra – curricular activities which include artwork. I will reuse the things which I have at home in a creative way. I will continue to improve my boldness through my active participation all the time.

In my future, I would like to become a Professor, Dr. Ragaveni, Ph.D. in Commerce, in the university. I have vision to bring out the best from persons who are poor by providing them with quality education as LIFT provides me now.

"LIFT IS A LAUNCHING PAD FROM WHERE MY LIFE IS LIFTED UP" THANK YOU!...

