

*Enable a Young Woman in India to Realize Her
University Dreams & Change the Course of Her Life*

RAJALAKSHMI

Candidate for Bachelors of Arts - English

Loyola College of Arts & Sciences, Vettavalam, Tamil Nadu, India



Rajalakshmi sees herself becoming a teacher in five years' time. She is passionate about education, especially working with socially ostracized children, and plans to major in English with a concentration in Education.

Rajalakshmi's mother has not been a part of her life. She has an older brother who completed a training program and is now on the job hunt. Her father works as a night security guard, earning a meager salary, but has always been supportive of her in her education. They live in Pondicherry.

He suffers from a serious skin disease, which leads to a great deal of stigma and discrimination from throughout the village. Even their own relatives do not associate with her or her father anymore either, for fear they too will contract the disease, even though they explain that it is not contagious. She says that it is

her father who constantly tells her and her brother that only education will end the cycle of poverty for them and the family. He also regularly advises them to settle somewhere outside the village, in a city or town, so that they can escape the cycle of stigma and prejudice that they have been forced to endure.

For just \$25/month, you can make Rajalakshmi's university dreams a reality!

Rajalakshmi is 1 of 21 young women who were selected to receive a Visions scholarship this year, provided funding can be secured...which is why we need you! Through the Visions Youth Guidance & Support Program, she received support with college applications, career counseling, interviews, English-language training, field visits, scholarship / financial aid assistance, and more. She now needs only minor financial assistance for tuition and living expenses to be able to realize her university dreams. Please become a sponsor by setting up a recurring contribution of just \$25/month, and we'll keep you informed of her progress over the next 1 year.

