

Summary of Independent Impact Assessment Study Conducted Year 2025-26

Programme – Reliance Foundation Scholarships

Impact Evaluation of the Reliance Foundation Scholarship Programme



Impact Study Agency – Athena Infonomics India Private Limited

Background

The Reliance Foundation Scholarships, launched in 2020–21, built on the Dhirubhai Ambani Scholarships (DAS) legacy to expand access to higher education in India. RF has been supporting 5,100 students annually, including 5,000 meritorious undergraduate students from underprivileged sections of society.

Objectives

- Assess the effectiveness and inclusivity in supporting high-potential scholars; and
- Identify ways to improve program design, implementation, and engagement.

Key Findings

- For every ₹1 invested in RF scholarships, ₹4.4 of social value is created - demonstrating strong returns in education, employability, and long-term societal impact.
- With 93% of scholars from EWS backgrounds and 24% being first-generation learners, the programme is enabling high-value career outcomes- as reflected in strong alumni placement in engineering and IT sectors with an average CTC of ₹25 lakh p.a.

Reach & Financial Impact

- 92% of scholars perceived the selection process as fair, merit-based, and nationally competitive, reinforcing RF Scholarship's credibility within India's scholarship ecosystem.
- 82% of scholars received funds on time, with the scholarship amount covering an average of 49% of total academic expenses.

Academic & Professional Outcomes

92% reported increased confidence and motivation upon selection; 87% reported enhanced self-esteem and a stronger sense of responsibility. Graduated scholars are working in top companies.

Engagement & Mentoring

- 87% of scholars actively engaged with RF Scholarships' engagement platform, participating in expert-led sessions on career guidance, soft skills, and technical domains, etc.
- More than 80% of scholars reported improved academic focus, leadership, communication, and time management skills — reflecting the tangible impact of RF Scholarships' structured engagement opportunities, including industry expert interactions, webinars, and sessions on CV building and professional development.
- 43% of mentees reported improved academic performance and career clarity; 36% noted enhanced communication skills.
- 78% of scholars shared learnings with peers or siblings, and 49% engaged in volunteering — reflecting strong social spillover effects.

Brand & Ecosystem Value

RF Scholarships are perceived favourably over other scholarships due to its combination of meaningful financial support, student engagement and networking opportunities, merit-based recognition, and a rigorous, transparent selection process under strong institutional oversight - enhancing its credibility, value, and confidence-building impact among scholars.