

## Renisha\_Loonker\_5th

His report card had a big red F on it. As a 12-year-old from a low-income family, education was the only hope for a better future for this boy. This little boy was my dad and he later ended up becoming the salutatorian of his class in college. This is typically the story of multiple families, where education was the only thing that could help them change their life and their family's life.

“Education is the most powerful weapon that we can use to change the world.”- said Nelson Mandela. But sadly, not all children have access to education. The number of unschooled children in the US alone is estimated at more than 2 million. Imagine how many people in the world don't have access to basic education!

North-South Foundation helps children both in the US and in India. They offer scholarships to underprivileged kids in India who do not have funds to enroll in college. NSF also offers workshops and contests to kids in the US. As part of NSF's efforts to ensure academic success, students compete in multiple contests year-round. They ensure that all students have access to various learning methods and resources. The platform provides learning beyond what is taught in school.

I believe that NSF has the power to bridge the learning gaps even more. NSF should be able to reach out to people around the world. We can have more student-led initiatives where we collect funds that can provide books to students, and resources to teachers in the US, India and around the world.

We can also create an online forum for children who need homework help and don't have access to expensive tutors. In this forum, kids can post questions and other students can respond and explain the concept. It will be a forum where kids can get help and offer help and this gives them a chance to enhance their learning either way.

When a student leads a fundraising initiative in the US or tutors on the NSF platform virtually, NSF can provide Volunteer hours or even Presidential medals for this service. This will be a huge incentive for more students to join.

In conclusion, I have learnt a lot by attending various sessions and competitions organized by NSF and I believe that these additions will magnify the reach and boost the efforts toward NSF's goal of Equity in Education.