



Empowerment Through Education The Zubin Foundation Announces Scholarship Awards for 2020/21

Hong Kong, 19 October 2020 – The Zubin Foundation, a registered charity dedicated to improving the lives of Hong Kong’s marginalised ethnic minorities, announced the winners of **The Zubin Foundation Scholarships** today. There were twelve winners for the **Ethnic Minority Women & Girls Scholarship** and a sole winner for the coveted four-year **Guv-Zubin Full Tuition Scholarship**.

Low Rate of Ethnic Minorities Pursuing Higher Education Degrees

Concerning tertiary education opportunities, the ethnic minority (EM) community in Hong Kong suffers disproportionately. According to the data presented in the 2016 *Hong Kong Poverty Situation Report on Ethnic Minorities*, when it comes to pursuing higher education degrees, South Asians aged 18-24 (28.1%) have lower rates in comparison to the general population in the same age group (46.6%)¹. A good education can open doors for the empowerment of a disadvantaged community. In contrast, the lack of such opportunity hinders the ability of even the most capable individuals to shed the social disadvantages that inhibit their potential.

Multifarious Difficulties Facing Ethnic Minority Women & Girls

For aspiring EM women and girl students, these issues are further compounded by the pressures incurred by traditional gender roles that suggest a woman is incapable of achieving success in academics or at workplace, or that such a situation would be improper. Amidst the economic downturn of a global pandemic, women are increasingly (and mistakenly) viewed as financial “burdens” to their families. Sanitary products, living expenses and school fees are viewed as potential deficits by those unable or unwilling to recognise the promise we see in these young girls. Moreover, instances of forced or arranged marriage (where families hope to relieve their “burden”), when girls are pressured (or even coerced) into dropping out of school, stymie any opportunity towards educational empowerment.

The Zubin Foundation Scholarships

Opportunity Bank, an initiative of The Zubin Foundation, connects ethnic minorities with resources and opportunities – ranging from jobs, trainings, healthcare support to scholarships. As education is paramount to empowerment, it is the mission of ours to strive for equity in access to opportunities for educational attainment. We hope this will enhance employment opportunities, reduce poverty, and result to bring in upward mobility. Thus, The Zubin Foundation supports talented young women in their academic pursuits, which shall benefit their own future, of their families, of their communities – and of Hong Kong.

“Education is the foremost tool in uplifting a marginalised community. Moreover, a strong and accessible education in challenging circumstances sharpens powerful – and otherwise neglected – young minds with the capability to positively impact our city. Therefore, at The Zubin Foundation, we strive to

¹ Hong Kong Poverty Situation Report on Ethnic Minorities (2016). <https://www.statistics.gov.hk/pub/B9XX0004E2016XXE0100.pdf>



*empower ethnic minority youth in Hong Kong through such means, for the benefit of all.” said **Shalini Mahtani**, Founder and CEO of The Zubin Foundation.*

*“It has been a privilege to meet such amazing young candidates for our scholarships. We have aspiring pilots, doctors, scientists, teachers – all wanting to be world-changers! It’s just incredible.” said **Catherine Husted**, Chairperson, The Zubin Foundation Scholarship Committee.*

*“The Zubin Foundation is an incredible organization that is tirelessly working to help support this minority group through the unique challenges they face. I’m grateful to have been able to participate in the scholarship interview panel, which was a thought-provoking experience. All of the candidates demonstrated their desire to succeed, educate themselves, and fight through all the odds that life has thrown at them. They are all an inspiration to me.” said **Jafar Amin**, EVP, Regional President and Head of Corporate & Investment Banking - Wells Fargo Asia Pacific.*

*“This has been really amazing. It has been a great learning experience where we got to understand the problems people face in Hong Kong. I’m looking forwards to working with The Zubin Foundation to make Hong Kong better in future.” commented **Ravi Dillon**, Co-founder, Guv-Dillon Foundation.*

Ethnic Minority Women & Girls Scholarship

Diamond Sponsor: Wells Fargo

Gold Sponsors: Ms Catherine Husted, Dr Shahneela Faruqui and Zetta Consultants

The Ethnic Minority Women & Girls Scholarship, awarded to twelve students this year, is valued at HK\$20,000 and will be directed towards alleviating the learning expenses of Year 1 girls attending tertiary education institutes in Hong Kong.

Guv-Zubin Full Tuition Scholarship

The Guv-Zubin Full Tuition Scholarship is a highly coveted 4-year, need-based scholarship, awarded to a single individual. It is for ethnic minorities starting an undergraduate degree at any of the eight UGC-funded universities. The scholarship is named in honour of two ethnic minority males, Guv and Zubin, who passed away in tragic circumstances.

Please join us in congratulating the following promising young students:

Ethnic Minority Women & Girls Scholarship

Name	School	Programme
Alinairram	HKU SPACE Community College	Associate of Social Sciences
Alysha Bibi	The University of Hong Kong	Bachelor of Journalism
Asra Sainju	The University of Hong Kong	Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences
Hameed Fatima Hasna	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Higher Diploma Electronic and Information Engineering
Kanwal Shehzadi	UOW College Hong Kong	Associate of Arts in English For Professional Communication
Maria	UOW College Hong Kong	Associate of Social Science



Naila	HKU SPACE Community College	Associate of Biomedical Sciences
Sadaf-Riaz	UOW College Hong Kong	Associate of Business Administration in Global Logistics and Supply Chain Management
Mohammad Shamsa Bibi	City University of Hong Kong	Bachelor of Law
Sharnasree Datta	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Bachelor of Business Administration
Sidra Kousar	UOW College Hong Kong	Associate of Business Administration in Human Resources Management
Zaman Madeeha	Caritas Bianchi College of Careers	Higher Diploma in Pharmaceutical Dispensing

Guv-Zubin Ethnic Minority Full Tuition Scholarship

Name	School	Programme
Komal Bibi	The Education University of Hong Kong	Bachelor of Education (Honours) (Early Childhood Education)

For those interested in the greater good of Hong Kong, those who believe that academic merit should be rewarded regardless of socioeconomic circumstance, and that equity in education is of utmost importance to the development of our future doctors, scientists, public servants, and leaders – if you are considering contributing to The Zubin Foundation’s scholarship initiatives for the 2021/22 school year, please contact Shalini Mahtani, Founder and CEO, The Zubin Foundation at mummy@zubinfoundation.org.

For more information about the scholarships, please refer to The Zubin Foundation’s website at www.zubinfoundation.org.

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About The Zubin Foundation

The Zubin Foundation is a think tank and registered charity in Hong Kong (IR 91/12344), named after Zubin Mahtani Gidumal. We aim at improving the lives of Hong Kong’s marginalised ethnic minorities by providing opportunities and reducing suffering. We do this by conducting research, implementing projects, and influencing public policy.

The Zubin Foundation relies on donations from individuals, corporations and foundations to fund its work. For more information, please visit: www.zubinfoundation.org