

## **‘Ayyalasomayajula Lalitha’ Scholarship Fund**

The ‘Ayyalasomayajula Lalitha’ Scholarship Fund (“the Scholarship Fund”) seeks to provide financial aid to deserving women students from a less privileged background pursuing full-time post-graduate programs at Plaksha University.

Mrs. Ayyalasomayajula Lalitha was India’s first female to become a professional engineer. Throughout her career, she was a champion for women in engineering, granting interviews with magazines and newspapers about the value of women in STEM careers and encouraging women to attend conferences and enroll in school.

This scholarship fund is instituted and initially supported by the A.T.E. Chandra Foundation (ATECF) . ATECF manages the philanthropic capital of Archana & Amit Chandra and A.T.E.. The Foundation works closely with leading Indian and global players in the social sector space in pursuing its objectives of creating a more equitable, inclusive and sustainable society

### **Suggested Scholarship Terms**

- a) The Scholarship Fund will be totally administered by Plaksha University
- b) It will be open to deserving women students pursuing full-time postgraduate studies at Plaksha University, on an annual basis, and will be subject to a well-defined eligibility and selection process.
- c) ATECF desires that the recipients of the scholarships be morally obliged to pay the value of the principal back to the fund so as to make the fund sustainable and enable future women change makers at Plaksha to benefit from the same fund. The suggested terms are:
  - Repayment should begin from the 3rd month of employment
  - Repayment should be completed in 48 equal instalments, based on the value of the scholarship amount
  - If the Scholar has a repayment issue, she can approach Plaksha for adjustment in the payment schedule
  - Scholars will be encouraged to go beyond their commitment so that more women like them can benefit from the Fund. Over time, some of them may be involved in mentoring programs as well as selection of Scholars so as to build equity in the program.

### **Scholarship Support and Eligibility Criteria**

- d) In order to be eligible for receiving support from the Scholarship Fund, the student must –
  - Be a citizen of India
  - Be a woman student
  - Be a full-time post- graduate programs at Plaksha University
  - Complete the financial aid application
  - Clearly demonstrate to Plaksha her/ her family's financial need for this scholarship

- Plaksha could additionally consider weightage for applicants from diverse socio-economic backgrounds and tier 2,3,4 towns