



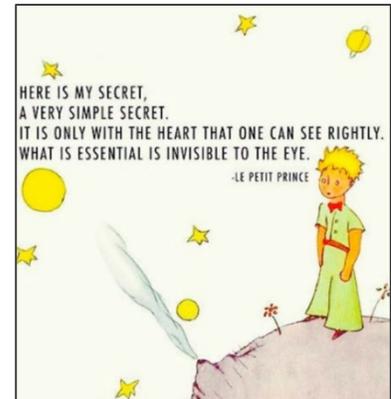
THE ASEEMA CHARITABLE TRUST – TRANSFORMING LIVES

“Data are just summaries of thousands of stories.” – Author Dan Heath

“Data” is a watchword in the nonprofit sector. While student test scores prove Aseema’s success, sometimes data obscures individuals and what is essential about them.

THE LITTLE PRINCE

The Little Prince observed that “grown-ups like numbers. When you tell them about a new friend, they never ask questions about what really matters. They never ask: ‘What does his voice sound like?’ ‘What games does he like best?’ ‘Does he collect butterflies?’” Sometimes, as the Little Prince famously said, “it is only with the heart that one can see rightly. What is essential is invisible to the eye.”



NANDINI

Meet Nandini. Nandini and her family illuminate Aseema’s transformative effect in a way that a spreadsheet never could. She was born into a family of three girls and a caring but concerned father who does electrical work when he can find it. Nandini said they “belong to a very marginalized area. We are from a slum area.”

Nandini recently completed Aseema’s full 10-year program with a start at Pali Chimbai Municipal School in Mumbai. She is poised and articulate in English, which is not her native language but is the language of instruction in Aseema’s Mumbai schools.

Nandini took a board exam that Indian students take after the equivalent of 10th grade.



Nandini scored a remarkable 96.2%, earning her the top spot among all Aseema students in 2025 and an equally remarkable second place among all students within Mumbai’s municipal school system.

At Aseema, Nandini excelled not only at academics, but in sports and art as well. Nandini won a district-level prize in judo. Aseema worked hard to get her father’s permission for her to compete in sports. She praised Aseema’s engagement with families. Nandini explained that it is not so common for girls in India to participate in sports. To her, it has potential use for self-

defense. In India, she said, as in many countries, there is a prevailing mindset that favors advancement of boys. Her father, she clarified, is part of a first generation to back his daughters in seeking a better life.

Nandini's elder sister Anjali blazed the trail. Anjali attended Aseema and is now working toward her undergraduate degree in banking and insurance with an eye to obtaining an MBA. Nandini's teachers ignited her aspiration to a career in law because of her skills in public speaking and argument. When she announced her interest to her father, Nandini successfully asked for his trust, telling him: "I'll make you proud of it."

Nandini also won a prize for her work in the advanced art program, Room 13, where especially talented students delve into specific artists' lives and styles. This is where Nandini developed a special appreciation for Henri Matisse and Jamini Roy.

Nandini is now in junior college, the equivalent of 11th and 12th grade, at the prestigious St. Xavier College in Mumbai, the alma mater of Aseema co-founder and former lawyer Dilbur Parakh, whom Nandini calls her role model.



St. Xavier's College

Attending St. Xavier's involves a challenging schedule. Nandini is part of an Aseema alumni pilot program focusing on enhancement of skills that help with college admissions and the job market – English, computers, resume writing, interviewing. After attending in the morning, Nandini heads to college – a one-hour commute each way by train and bus. Nandini said she feels comfortable academically at St. Xavier's, crediting Aseema's broad curriculum and emphasis on critical thinking.

Aseema is transforming Nandini's entire family.

Nandini offered the following message to potential supporters of Friends of Aseema: "If you are supporting Aseema, you are supporting **thousands of children.**"

Learn more and help by donating easily and quickly here: www.friendsofaseema.org.

The official registration and financial information of Friends of Aseema, Inc., may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.