

## Case study — Travel Grants

For Dr Yagnamurthy Sreekanth, a Lecturer at the Department of Educational Measurement and Evaluation, National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), New Delhi, the 24<sup>th</sup> of July 2007 would be forever etched in his memory. It was on that day that he received a letter from the Institut Penyelidikan Pendidikan Tinggi Negara (IPPTN), a premier institute of Higher Education research located in Penang, Malaysia. It informed him that his abstract titled “Knowledge Divide” had been selected for presentation at the Global Higher Education Forum, scheduled to be held in November 2007 in Kuala Lumpur.

The forum brought together higher education leaders, scholars, policy makers and administrators to reflect, analyse and discuss different issues, and explore policies to improve the future provision of quality and relevant higher education across the globe. The event promised an exciting opportunity to Dr Sreekanth to interact with the intelligentsia in the field of higher education, besides sharing his concerns on the subject with them.

However, neither NCERT nor IPPTN were providing any financial assistance for attending the event. Faced with the dilemma of giving this opportunity a miss, Dr Sreekanth approached the Trust in July with an application for a travel grant. For the Trust, the month of July 2007 was when its own Higher Education Cell commenced operations. Consequently, the Trust sanctioned a sum of Rs20,000 towards Dr Sreekanth’s international airfare.

Whilst thanking the Trust for its support upon his return, Dr Sreekanth submitted a short report on the event, his presentation and discussions, during which he observed that India, with an increase in private stakeholders in the field of education, attempts to provide the best possible infrastructure and other quality teaching – learning inputs, vis-à-vis other countries.