

The Omkar Mane Story

From a remote village to a CA in an MNC

CONTENT

Executive Summary

My Roots

From Village School to College in Mumbai

The Challenges

GEF Support & Mentorship

Looking Forward

Executive Summary

GEF alumnus Omkar Mane lost his father at a young age. He did his schooling and junior college in his village, with Marathi as the medium of instruction. He is now a qualified Chartered Accountant (CA), working in a Multinational Corporation (MNC) in Mumbai. Read about his journey of transformation in his own words.

My Roots

"I was born and brought up at Kurchumb, a small village in Lanja, Ratnagiri. I grew up in a joint family of 11 members. The family was supported by my father who used to work in Mumbai, and my uncle who used to work in a small book binding press, and also do some farming to take care of the household needs."

"I lost my father when I was 8 years old, and that was a turning point for myself and our joint family. It meant loss of my father's income, and the entire responsibility of supporting the joint family had to be borne by my uncle."



Omkar at his village home with his mother, aunt, and uncle

From Village School to College in Mumbai

"Upto 10th standard I studied at Jagannath Gangaram Pednekar High School, a Marathi medium school in Talawade, a neighbouring village. I was a good student and was consistently at the top of my class. Having experienced financial hardships, I was passionately driven by an aspiration to get a good education, so that I could earn enough to be well-settled, and improve the lives of my mother and my family."



*Omkar's school - Jagannath Gangaram
Pednekar High School, Talawade*

"Having topped my school in 10th standard with over 90% marks, my teachers advised me to opt for higher studies in the Science stream. However, right from school, I had been interested in finance and banking related topics, and in my mind I was clear about a career in the field of Commerce. That clarity led me to join the Commerce stream in my Junior College. While in Junior College, I came to know about the highly coveted Chartered Accountancy program. The hope of getting a better education that could lead to Chartered Accountancy, became my trigger to move to Mumbai after 12th standard, and join Kelkar College, Mulund for the Bachelor in Accounting and Finance program."

The Challenges

"In retrospect, moving to Mumbai was a bold move, and I don't think I had really deeply considered all the implications of the decision. Aspiring to be a Chartered Accountant was one thing, but I don't think I was fully confident about my chances, considering the difficulty level and passing rate. And then there were challenges related to moving to a totally new environment. All my education until 12th was in Marathi medium, and the sudden change to English as the medium of instruction, posed a huge challenge. My rural background stood out in stark comparison with my peers who were mainly from Mumbai, and had a much better financial standing."

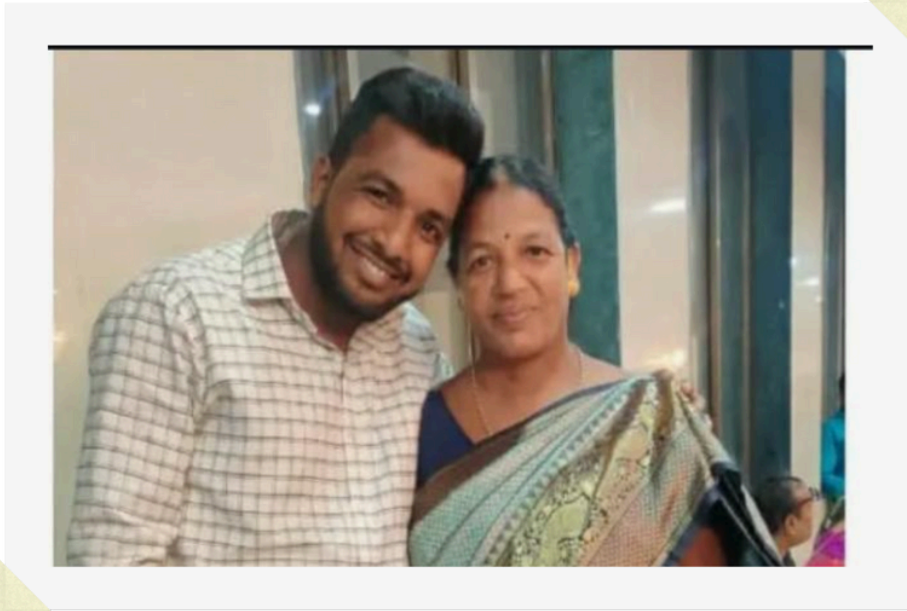
“I gave myself a year to see if I could cope. I also started working part-time in a logistics company to meet a part of my financial needs. I realized that Chartered Accountancy was a difficult proposition, considering the high fees, and the cost of coaching classes. Fortunately for me, one of my relatives introduced me to GEF at the right time.”

GEF Support & Mentorship

“GEF not only paid for all my educational expenses from the 2nd year of college till completion of my CA, but more importantly GEF provided me the right career guidance and motivation. Due to my financial condition, my original plan was to first complete my graduation as a security net for myself, and then pursue Chartered Accountancy. However Pradeep Sir (Dr.Pradeep Waychal), my mentor at GEF advised me and gave me the confidence that I could do both, my graduation and Chartered Accountancy, simultaneously. Although it was extremely challenging, with a lot of hard work and persistence, and priceless support and encouragement from Pradeep Sir and GEF, I am now a CA. There were lows and failures in this journey, but the guidance that I received from my mentors at such times, helped me to analyze what went wrong, and overcome these situations. Other educational and awareness sessions conducted by GEF, along with informal activities such as treks, picnics, and social work, helped me in developing my overall personality.”



*Omkar at his mentor Pradeep Sir's home -
(clockwise) fellow GEF students Sanskruti Jadhav
and Prathamesh Lohar, & Mrs.Sandhya Waychal*



Chartered Accountant Omkar Mane ... Making his mother proud

Looking forward

"Thanks to GEF, I am now a CA working in a global MNC. I am extremely satisfied that I am now financially stable, and am able to fulfil the needs of my family. I also deeply realize how education acts as a fundamental differentiator - the respect and recognition that I now receive, has been possible only because of education. I hope to help other students like me achieve their dreams, the way GEF and its supporters have helped me to come so far."



Omkar at his workplace ... Looking ahead to a bright future

Omkar's message to fellow DREAMERS

"Don't underestimate yourself. Have faith in yourself. Push your limits to fly high, but do not forget your roots, and the people behind your success. It is because of them that you have become who you are ..."

Make a difference to someone. And to yourself

DONATE ■ VOLUNTEER



<https://www.gurujifoundation.in/get-involved>

Contact Us

For further information, please reach out to us:

-  **Email** : info@gurujifoundation.in
pradeep.waychal@gurujifoundation.in
-  **Website** : www.gurujifoundation.in
-  **Phone** : +91 9820431482
-  **Regd Office** : 17 GANADHISH, VEER SAVARKAR SOCIETY, SAHAKARNAGAR 2, PUNE - 411 030
-  **Head Office** : B 1902 JASMINE TOWERS VASANTVIHAR THANE WEST 400 610