

From Humble Beginnings to a Historic 9A's: The Triumph of Thisula Thiwanka (KSP No.-503)

To witness the fruits of true dedication, I recently visited the home of our scholarship student, Thisula Thiwanka. Meeting this bright young man and his family was a deeply moving experience that highlighted how resilience can smash any socio-economic barrier.



Entering Thiwanka's household, I discovered the beautiful, silent sacrifices behind his flawless academic score. His father is a hardworking three-wheel driver, and his mother works as a regular employee at Freelan Company (pvt) Ltd. Despite severe financial hardships, they never once whispered the word "impossible" to their children.

Thiwanka recalled his journey from Grade 6, where skeptics warned that scholarship winners often fail O/Ls. Defying them all, he climbed from 3rd in class to the absolute top. When the workload became crushing, he shifted his study hours from 1:00 AM to 6:00 AM. "Whenever I woke up at 1:00 AM, my mother would wake up too, bringing me hot coffee and biscuits," Thiwanka shared emotionally. "Even when I begged her to sleep, she refused, saying she couldn't rest while her son was sweating for his future." His father,

despite a meager income, always ensured Thiwanka's favorite food and study books were ready, even if it meant borrowing money.

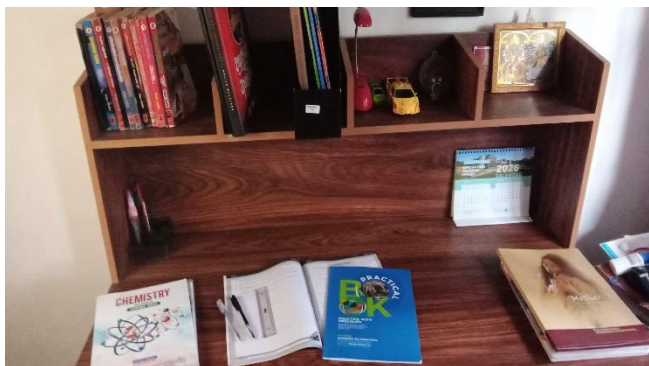
With tears of gratitude, the family expressed what the Karlsruhe Scholarship Programme has meant to them over the past six years. Thiwanka candidly told me that without this scholarship, his life would have been confined strictly to the boundaries of his village.

"Karlsruhe didn't just give me pens, books, clothes, and shoes that my parents couldn't annually afford. They fed me when times were tough," he said. He fondly remembered the nourishing Kurakkan Kenda (finger millet porridge) in the mornings, the lunches, and the evening tea provided during Karlsruhe o classes. Moreover, the annual field trips gave him his life's first boat ride to Nagadeepa and opened his eyes to the beautiful heritage of Sri Lanka—places his parents could never afford to show him. He praised the tireless, unified, and flawless organization of our staff and the Most Venerable Thero.

"I know I owe everything to Karlsruhe and my family. The only way I can repay this debt is by doing justice to your money, time, and effort," Thiwanka told me with shining eyes.

Thisula Thiwanka has chosen the Physical Science (Maths) Stream for his Advanced Levels. His eyes are now firmly locked on his next target: securing 3 A's and entering the Faculty of Engineering at the University. Knowing his iron will, I left his home completely certain that this young pioneer will make us proud yet again.





- Tesheema Chammi -