

# Bosch India Foundation

*Sitting in a classroom at the age of 19 was not easy for Hari Prasad who had left school 6yrs ago. But he held on remembering the words of his trainer Mr.Sunil. “You can single handedly help your family out of poverty when you get a job after the 3month automobile repair program. Hang on; the benefits will be far greater than the effort you take”.*

*Born in a Paniya tribal family of Wayanad, North Kerala, there had been no salaried or steady income earning member in Hari Prasad’s family.*

*Paniya means worker. Paniyas, the leading tribes of Wayanad, have historically been bonded agricultural labourers. Being agricultural labourers also meant seasonal work and 3-4 months in a year with no work. Hari’s father was sick. The family sustained itself on the erratic wages of less than 15,000 per year earned by his mother and brother who were labourers.*



*Home was far into the thick forest of Wayanad where he lived with others of his tribe. Going to school had not been easy with the distance he had to travel daily. He dropped off after he failed in the 8<sup>th</sup> standard and joined his brother as a labourer*

*As a school dropout, Hari had never considered training of any kind as regular training institutes required matriculation and also charged for courses. Near the town bus stand, a Don Bosco Technical School supported by **Bosch India Foundation** offered free 3 month programmes in Automobile Repair for school drop-outs living below poverty line. Mr. Sunil spotted Hari in the market and enrolled him.*



*He enjoyed the practical, hands-on learning in the automobile lab. He was proud of his knowledge of two stroke and four stroke engines, the air system, carburetor, transmission, suspension, auto electricals and troubleshooting.*

*He also learnt calculations and the use different tools such as the torque wrench, filler gauge, clam wrench, installer clutch, and socket spanner.*

*Now, the program was almost over, and Mr.Sunil informed him that he already had a job at one of the automobile service stations in town. For 6 months he would be a trainee earning Rs.3500 p.m. If he did well he would*

*be hired at a higher salary of Rs.5500. That should take care of some of the problems at home.*

Currently programs across 10 locations in India, supported by **Bosch India Foundation**, train 420 youth in a year in 2 & 4 wheeler service and repair. This includes a rural program in tractor repair.

About 147 batches of over 5400 underprivileged persons are trained in 25 trades through the various initiatives of **Bosch India Foundation** to fulfill its vision of ‘**Enabling Lives and Livelihood through Education and Technology**’.

[Bosch India Foundation](http://www.boschindiafoundation.org)