

## Success Story

Dr. Thimmaiah hails from a poor agricultural family. He was born in a remote village, a God forsaken place (Kuntebommanahalli), which did not have any of the modern amenities like electricity and public transport. The illiterate parents with their little earnings from the dry land somehow managed to support him to complete the elementary education. The financial condition of the parents was such that they had no option except to send him to Siddaganga Kshethra for beyond Elementary School, where he received free food, free lodging and free education. If Siddaganga Kshethra were not to be there, his education would have stopped at his early age itself. During those draught years, Sri. Sri. Shivakumara Swamiji was there as a ray of hope for all the students coming from poor farming families regardless of caste, creed and religion. Siddaganga Mutt was a boon to poor students. The serene atmosphere of Siddaganga Mutt inspired Thimmaiah and other thousands of poor students to pursue their education with a challenging spirit. In addition to class-room lessons, after every day evening prayer, Swamiji used to give an illuminating speech to thousands of students delineating the moral values of life such as ethics, respect for elders, honesty, sincerity and human integrity. Swamiji's speech was thought provoking and it impacted tremendously on the will-power of Thimmaiah. With the constant support of Swamiji, after completing his B.Sc., degree of the Mysore University obtaining High First Class, Thimmaiah moved to Manasagangotri, University of Mysore for M.Sc degree in Chemistry. After completing his Master's degree, he pursued his Ph.D degree in Chemistry at the University of Mysore. While working for his Ph.D degree, he was appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry, Manasagangotri, Mysore. In 1983, Dr. Thimmaiah came to Bowman Gray School of Medicine, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, USA, as Postdoctoral Fellow. He moved to the University of Texas at El Paso, Texas and subsequently, he moved to St Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis Tennessee to work in the field of Drug Metabolism and Multidrug Resistance in Cancer Chemotherapy. He established a long-term collaboration with St Jude (MOU) and returned to the University of Mysore where he worked as Associate and Full Professor. During his stay at the Mysore University, he was able to build a sophisticated cancer research center supported by all the funding agencies of Government of India such as DST, DBT, ICMR, DAE, CSIR, and UGC. Dr. Thimmaiah was coming to St Jude during the summer holidays of Mysore University for 18 years. He has published more than 150 research papers in highly rated journals. Sixteen students have taken the Ph.D degree under his supervision. He has three Patents and a number of scientific awards to his credit. He has served as a member of the Executive Committee of the Indian Association for Cancer Research, India for 3 years. He has delivered a number of keynote Addresses and invited lectures in many Universities here in US and in India. Dr. Thimmaiah is currently serving as a Board of Trustee in D. Banumiah's Educational Institutions, Mysore.

**Dr. Thimmaiah says "If Siddaganga Kshethra were not be there, I could not have continued my education at all."**