

Education Builds the Future: From Waryness to Building One's Own Future

A look-around to a tiny, concrete-walled joint livingroom-kitchen-bedroom apartment. The reporter and interpreter take a seat on a bed in this one-room-house at Northern Delhi slum area. A 22-years-old woman boils milk with a gasburner. A cup of chai is offered to unusual guests from iLEAD. "What is your story?" we ask. "What impact did iLEAD have to your life and family?" Joti Verma takes a chair, sits down and begins to talk.

Taking the iLEAD-Training

Joti came to know about iLEAD through his father's friend, who recommend the institute being famous for its prowess: if one participates a training, one will get a good career. So she enrolled and from assistance of counselling she participated trade of marketing and sales.

In iLEAD she learned about customer care, how to handle a customer and a little bit in spoken English and computers, including its spreadsheet tools as well. She was trained in the hard work with the computer as well as on soft skills. Although, iLEAD is not everything about selling



Joti accompanied with her little sister in their minor, yet homely home.

and having soft skills towards customers, but it's also about building up self-image and to get to know oneself better.

So during the training formerly shy, wary girl eventually gained confidence in herself. She improved her communication skills little by little, but significantly during the training. These soft skills did not only help her self-esteem to built up, but she also learned how to meet anykind of job interview.

Feeling of Independency

Just after the three-month training Joti got employed to Indian Council for Scientific Research as office assistant and computer operator. Now she earns Rs. 7 500 in a month. A part of the salary she uses to her further education in Delhi University, while the rest is spent for buying clothes et cetera. Some of the money she saves as well as gives a part to her family. Before using the money, she asks her father's permission. Due to Joti's working her family's economical situation has got better.

The atmosphere in the workplace is very good and people are honest. Joti likes her work, especially computing, and she adds that the best is the net, while typing is a bit boring. Being employed plays an important aspect in her life. No wonder, as working gives Joti feeling of independency – and not only mentally, but practically as the month's pay day comes. She has earned her own salary. For the first time she is receiving money, she herself has worked for. After counting the salary on the pay day, one can only admit that being employed increases remarkably one's economical freedom and independency.

Future Plans and Moving Around the City

Besides working the weekdays, on weekends Joti proceeds her studies in Bachelor of Art via correspondence. She has passed already two years and now she is on her final year. Joti aims to do sales and marketing in the future as well, as her studies include political sciences, English and economics.

Visiting a place or another, moving on the streets – with someone. Always needing someone to accompany you. As Joti, before iLEAD she used to move on the streets always with someone. Although, during iLEAD she incrementally began to move on the streets by herself. Nowadays Joti goes to her workplace in New Delhi by herself. The job is twenty kilometers away and the journey takes one and a half hours and use of autoriksha, metro and bus altogether.

Influences and Community's Opinions

In the local community, some of them agree with Joti's working and encourages her. They mention to her that she is now more independent and self-sufficient. Meanwhile, some do think why should she work, when you are not allowed to work after getting married? Although, that is not what Joti has in mind – she wants to keep on working even after getting married. Her dream is to become self-reliant so that she doesn't have to depend on her husband or other people. She wants to stand on her own feet.

Of course standing in one's own feet doesn't need to mean forgetting the others close to you. At least it doesn't for Joti, as has some thoughts on forming a company of her own or doing social work, like what NGOs are doing. She thinks everybody should be educated – and so, education and aid for poor people is prominent to her. She even persuaded her little sister to go on her studies in the nursing course. Her little sister looks up to Joti and plans to participate the batch in iLEAD – also in marketing and sales.

The Person

Name: Joti Verman
Age: 22
City: Delhi
Family: Father, sister,
brother and her
Education until:
12th, 2nd year studies in
Bachelor of Art, Delhi
University



iLEAD-Training: Marketing and sales
iLEAD-Batch: Aug to Nov 2012
Employment: Indian Council for
Scientific Research
Assignment: Office assistant,
computer operator
Employed from: November 2012
Salary: Rs. 7 500

Chai has run out from a round steel cup. A half dozen of Joti's friends and community members have come to hear the conversation – and what she has to say. She is being listened and Joti has become a rolemodel to the community as well. Not only has she brought conversation on women's employment, but also she is showing with her own example, reaching for dream of being independent, gaining education and working in a field she likes to work.

" When you are in the training, give your full notice to that – because after the training you have to use those skills in your job!"

- Joti