

**Education Builds the Future:  
From driving a two-wheeler  
to repairing them  
in one's own company**

Bright sunlight warms minor streets in the city of Pune. Within one of its communities, odor of petrol senses to nose. Behind the corner two women are working on a two-wheeler and just opening its cover's screws. Not a long time and inner parts come to light and the engine's air-filter is uncovered. The two determined women, Sonal and Neeha, go on cleaning the filter. Is it easy as that to start a business in automobile repairing, where a woman worker is rareness?

**Why Not a Beautician?**

Sonal and Neeha's families were not very convenient hearing about their daughters' interest in to participate the automobiles training. So Sonal was recommended to take part in IT and Neeha to attend beautician course. It took a week for Sonal to assure her parents participating IT just wouldn't work, as her interest lies on automobiles. As well, Neeha wanted to choose automobiles out of curiosity – as women are not common in this field she wanted to satisfy her curiosity.

Now both of the families feel very happy and are proud of their daughters – the company owners in their very own repair workshop. Neeha's mother even adds she feels very proud of her daughter, as she is doing something different from the others. “She is brave” the mother says.



*Neeha working on a two-wheeler.*

**Nilesh Automobiles**

Neeha and Sonal took part in the same *iLEAD* batch, where they became friends. Just two months had passed after *iLEAD*, when Sonal formed the company by herself. Neeha had a bit of hesitation on forming business of her own, so she worked eight months in another company. Then she joined to Nilesh Automobiles as co-owner. Now Nilesh Automobiles is a eight-month-old business and the owners feel good from the work they're doing.

The company was named after Sonal's died brother. Nowadays, usually there are three to four customers in a day, which is nice the entrepreneurs think. Now they earn around Rs. 6 000 per month. All the earnings they share equally between each other. Both of them feel good they are earning the salary by their own work. Sonal also goes to another evening-work for three hours per day, where she receives Rs. 2 500 per month.

Both of the Nilesh Automobiles entrepreneurs give the salary to their families. Although, they do keep themselves a small part for minor expences of their own. Sonal uses the money to buy some cosmetics et cetera, while Neeha saves part of the money for the future to a bank. Both of them consult their mothers where to use the money, as the mothers think it's a good practise so the girls won't misuse the money.

**Independency in Schedules - When You Decide Them by Yourself**

Formerly Neeha was working in a sparepart showroom just after *iLEAD*. Now, after giving up her job she feels it was a good choice. The other job was too far away and the working hours were from 9 am to 6 pm for not-a-good salary. While at Nilesh Automobiles, time to time she has some time to concenrate on her final 12<sup>th</sup> grade examinations on the afternoons. Besides, “as enterpreuner one can

make up the schedule by yourself” Sonal adds.

The repair workshop is open about four hours per a day. Besides repairing two-wheelers and running the company, the both help their families in household-work before leaving to work in the morning.

### The best is automobiles

For both of the automobile girls working with two-wheelers is the best part of the job. As there are different challenges and items to be repaired, one learns a lot of new while repairing different kind of problems. Although, customers might be tricky and not always everyone is happy – but they have managed to handle such situations as well.

So far, repairing of the engine has been the hardest task to do. Though, the engine repairs they have done, the customers have been happy with the work they have done. As for Neeha and Sonal it doesn't matter whose two-wheeler they're working on, the repair workshop receives customers from both genders.

### From Being Afraid to Braveness

The most essential part for them in iLEAD the both mention Personality Development training. Besides, it was the iLEAD's aptitude test that supported Seena's view to go for automobiles.

During iLEAD Seena and Sonal gained empowerment within themselves to go on reaching their dreams and goals. "Before I was afraid of going out of the home freely", the both admit. "I was just sitting home" Sonal says. They say today they have let go of such state of afraidness and are now free and indepent to make their own decision. A state of mind, which both of them wish to keep in the future as well.

### From Mumbling to Acknowledgement in the community

How has the community responded to their business? Almost suprisingly, mainly appreciation is there. Even though, they are

## The Persons



	: name :	
Neeha Dinesh Vyas		Sonal Gautam Kate
21	: age :	20
Pune	: city :	Pune
single	: marriage :	single
12 <sup>th</sup>	: education until :	10 <sup>th</sup>

#### Family:

Father, mother and one sister	Father, mother and two brothers
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iLEAD-Training: Automobiles  
Batch: December 2011 - April 2012  
Employment: Company owners in Nilesh Automobiles  
Salary: Rs. 6 000 at total

doing work, where usually only men are there – or maybe just that might be the reason. During iLEAD people wondered to Neeha, why is she taking such a training in automobiles? Also some men teased Sonal about studying for the same work they're doing. Afterwards, all of those sceptics' attitudes have changed to acceptance. Neeha thinks this is because of they are able to see what they, two skillful women, have learned and can do with their competence.

**" Instead of just sitting at the home, come out of the house, take education and be self-dependent!"**

- Sonal and Neeha

message they liked to send to women just staying at their homes

## Capable to Do Anything!

Sonal feels that not only during *i*LEAD, but also running a company of her own has been a good school to her – teaching also some self-control and decision-making to her. Personality Development training indeed played an important role for these women during the *i*LEAD-training.

“Now I feel that also other women are looking up to us, thinking they are able to do the same!” Sonal states, and adds that she tells them they indeed are capable to do anything! Now they have a good opportunity themselves as well, as there is an *i*LEAD-centre nearby in the neighbourhood.

## Contemporary India

Their main concerns in contemporary Indian society are the trash lying everywhere and people's attitude towards throwing away their trashes. The big issues to be solved are child-labour and women education – as especially in some regions need to gain attitude of accepting women education. By now, these two young, honest, cheerful and independent women work for better society through their own example as being capable to do anything – even running one's own company in repairing two-wheelers!



*Sonal and Neeha with their mothers.*

What about after five years? What are these two cheerful, friendly entrepreneurs' thoughts on future? “There should be a big company”, Sonal thinks, “Now I do the work, but in future I should rest and the others should work.” Neeha wobbles her head for agreement and adds: “And we will employ mainly women – as there are not so many women in the field. We are as able to do this work!”