

Success Stories of Sarthak Alumni

Sarthak Pride!
Jyoti
Disability- OH
Location- Lucknow
Organisation- 101



Would her seniors like her work, would she make friends easily, would she be able to speak well? These were the only worries 31-year-old Jyoti Singh had when she joined her first job at the 108 emergency call centre in Lucknow.

All the other challenges she had learnt to fight since she was born. A mother of two, Jyoti has not had any sensation on her waist down 20 days after she was born.

But every morning when she wakes up at 3 am to head to her shift from 5 am to 1pm, it is only excitement she feels about heading out to work. Her children aged 14 and 10; help her with small chores like getting her water ready for bath, putting her clothes for the day. While her mother

readies her tiffin, her father drops her in a scooter, every day.

“I want to think of what is right in my life”, she smiles.

Married at 18, Jyoti is currently fighting a divorce with her husband of 15 years. The couple lived in a setup; her parents had made for them, a floor above their own. “It didn’t work out for a host of reasons. Nothing is more important than self respect for me. I want to now focus on my children and make them proud of their mother. I have parents and an elder brother who have always encouraged me and of course God who has shown me the right path and been so kind,” she says.

For so much more could have gone wrong, she says.

On a pleasant October night when her mother, Uma Rani Thakur, gave birth to second child, at home, the family was overjoyed. “We already had an elder son and the family was finally complete,” says the mother.

Everything was perfect except a small abscess on the baby’s lower back. Following the tradition of not stepping out of the home for the first five days, the first thing the parents decided to do was take their daughter to a hospital on the sixth day. The naming ceremony was to happen after they returned from the hospital.

“The doctor told them, I had to undergo a surgery and the chances of survival were thin even after that. If I lived, I would lose sensation down the waist, lose eyesight, lose my mind or have my head grow constantly. Thankfully I only lost sensation down the waist”, shares Jyoti.

Jyoti was all of 20 days when she had her first surgery and the Thakur family never knew the milestones most parents did. Instead they dealt with other challenges.

From dealing with a child who had no control on her bladder to a burn accident that further disfigured her foot as a six month old, the parents saw this and more.

But they were sure they did all they could for their little girl. Jyoti in turn was slowly growing into a patient young girl who learnt to find her happiness in small things around her.

Not only did she manage to complete her schooling but also went on to do her BA and then did a course with Sarthak that helped her get a job.

“Till you experience pain you don’t know the value of joy. It has been a challenging journey but with my training at Sarthak that helped me with a job, I finally feel complete and independent.”

