

## Success Stories of Sarthak Alumni

### Talking from the heart

**Somen**

**Disability- HI**

**Location- Delhi**

**Organisation- Flipkart**



He looks at the person he speaks to with great attention. And then answers patiently, smiling a smile that lights up his face. It is only sometimes that he hands over a pen and paper to the person he is speaking to. Only, when he can't lip read a few words. Somen lost his hearing at 18, thanks to a wrong treatment.

Already riddled with financial paucity that was the last thing the Chatterjee family which then lived in Lucknow, could have dealt with. And yet, there was nothing that could be done than fighting what faced them.

His father worked as a small time mechanic and mother worked as a cook, while trying to manage a five year old daughter. With deafness hitting Somen, just when he could have taken his family to the next level, the hurt was deep. But so was his determination to not give up, his mother encouraging him.

Somen moved to Delhi for better medical attention and hoping to find some kind of work. Luckily for him, he heard of Sarthak from a neighbour who had got trained and found a job. It was just the bright ray of hope that the young man was praying for. Putting his frustration and anger aside, he decided to plunge into the course. Besides the skill of lip reading, he also learnt dealing with people, basic courtesies, job skills and more.

And then, on a beautiful morning, he remembers being picked by Flipkart as a delivery boy in a recruitment process organised by Sarthak. "Our lives turned around, the day I got the news that Somen had got a job. It has been two years since he has been working and I haven't gone to cook at anyone's house ever since, as my son insists that I be with home and spend time with his sister" says Reena, Somen's mother, breaking down.

Of course, Somen still faces challenges at work. For example, he has been bitten by dogs that often get suspicious with someone carrying big packets with them, or when he has to ask someone to write what they are trying to say. "But challenges are around everyone. I think of the things that are right", he smiles, his radiant smile.