Two Ghaziabad Stories -

1. **Amit**

The world of graphics has always enamored 27 year old Amit, for it gives him the liberty to be creative, helping him to temporarily forget the pain of being visually impaired! Despite his disability he can handle social pages proficiently, emerging as an extremely popular and valued team member in his organization.

Born in Delhi in a family of four, Amit was exposed to the struggles in life from a very tender age His father, who owned a small shop in the locality and his home maker mother could barely fend for him and his younger brother, who was also bedridden due to locomotor disability.

Despite meagre resources, Amit managed to finish Grade 12 from a Government School. Unable to pursue studies any further, Amit was left with no other option but to look for a job to support his family. Search for employment proved to be an arduous task, primarily because of his disability and also because of his limited communications skills and lack of confidence.

Amit was quick to realise that he had to polish his communication skills and etiquettes in order to find a job. He had heard of Sarthak, and approached one of the training centres for help. His sincerity impressed the trainers, who decided to take him in their fold. Amit proved to be a dedicated student from the very beginning. He not only polished his spoken English, but also his body language.

Today he is successfully employed with Prime Performance Solutions as a Social Media Marketing Executive, earning a decent salary of Rs. 9000 per month. His employer, recognizing his worth have revamped his workstation according to his needs, with accessible ramp for easy movement. His computer has the screen reader software installed to help him.

Amit has proved that one can overcome all obstacles with resolve and handwork. Today he is not only an independent and confident person, but is also able to take care of his family.

**2. Kajal**

Kajal is passionate about meeting new people and making friends with them. And nothing can come in way of her passion – not even her locomotor disability. Born with a semi-functional limb in Loni, Ghaziyabad in 1996, Kajal had the support of her family to help her sail through a rather difficult childhood. Her father a government employee, ensured that his child never felt disheartened due to her disability.

Kajal was always a bright student and finished her graduation from Jamia Miliya College, Delhi University. However, just when she was starting to give wings to her dreams, her mother passed away. This was big jolt to the whole family and to Kajal in particular. Her father therefore advised her to get a job to overcome her trauma.

Finding job was not easy for Kajal as she had no previous work experience and her disability also deterred several potential employers. It was at this time Kajal received a call from Sarthak Help Desk, which opened new avenues for young Kajal.

At the training centre, Kajal not only got an opportunity to polish her spoken English and her communications skills, but also improve her body language. The Exposure visits to several organisations also did her confidence a world of good. Kajal proved her worth in the training centre and was soon selected as a member of the Discipline Committee.

It is because of her training at Sarthak, that Kajal is today employed with Shyam Associates as a tele caller and is earning Rs. 8000 per month. She is a much respected and valued member of the organization. Kajal’s dream is to work in a big IT firm like RBS someday.

**Two Chennai Stories -**

**1. Bharath Kumar**

Bharath Kumar**,** an orthopedically handicapped person, has treaded on an unbeaten path to carve a niche for himself, despite being born with one leg. He has not only overcome his limited mobility but has also triumphed over the social stigma that plagued him throughout his childhood!

Born in 1992 in Chennai, in a lower middle class family of four, that comprised his father Raju who worked in a bank, mother Suguna, who was a home maker and a younger brother, Bharath had an extremely difficult childhood. His father who was the sole bread earner of the family could hardly meet the daily requirements of the family, leave alone getting proper treatment for Bharath.

In spite of all the hardships, Bharath still managed to complete 10th from SIET School. Though often ridiculed and harassed over his deformity by his classmates and teachers, Bharath did not allow the social stigma to deter him from following his dreams – to lend a helping hand to his ageing father by getting a job.

After completing his schooling, Bharath started looking for a job. It was not an easy task as he was orthopedically impaired and hardly had any skills. All his efforts went in vain as rejection was all that he got everywhere.

It was then that Bharath came in contact with a community mobiliser working for Sarthak. He visited the Sarthak Centre to enquire about the trainings offered there and ended up joining the ongoing batch of the orthopedically handicapped trainees. He enrolled himself for retail training.

During his training, Bharath worked upon his communications skills. His trainers were quick to see the potential in this young man and worked not only upon his communications skill, but also his soft skills and confidence. He was trained to appear for interviews, through mock drills and was lined up for several reputed organisations. Finally, Bharath got a job in Reliance Fresh as Sales Associate, drawing a salary of Rs. 9,500 per month.

Bharath feels fortunate to have got this job and is determined to put give his best to it. His hardwork and dedication has made him one of the popular employees. He is a content man now, as he is not only able to financially support his family, but also lead a dignified life! And One day he dreams to be an entrepreneur himself.

**2. Prakash**

For 24-year-old Prakash the best way to lead one’s life is to live it to its fullest. Optimism has been his strongest weapon, which nothing can shake - not even the ever eternal silence that has engulfed his life ever since his birth!

Born deaf to Chennai-based Prema Magesh, working as an Office Assistant and Padma, a home maker, Prakash came to terms with his physical deformity at a very early stage in his life. He realised that he had make a career for himself and be able to stand on his feet, in spite of the drawback.

His family that also includes his younger sister, was extremely supportive and backed him in all his decisions. A fairly decent student, Prakash finished Grade 12 from St. Louis Deaf School, Chennai, before he decided to look for a job. However, the real world was not as supportive and accepting of his physical impairment. The ever cheerful and positive Prakash had to go through a harrowing experience of facing rejection at every juncture.

Yet, his intense desire to overcome his physical barrier and be financially independent could not be deterred so easily. Prakash came to know of Sarthak Educational Trust. He decided to visit the Trust, in search of a job. However, after interacting with the trainers at the centre, he realised that he needed to fine-tune himself before looking for a job. He therefore enrolled himself for basic training in retailsocial skills classes. A quick learner as he was, Prakash was soon made a member of the Board Committee.

Sarthak not only trained Prakash but also helped him connect with potential employers. Prakash came in touch with one such organization, the Aiyappa Enterprises that showed inclination towards employing PwDs. And after a training of six months, Prakash today works with the organisation as a tailor, earning a decent income of Rs. 9000 per month.

He is one of the most popular employees and his cheerfulness is widely admired.