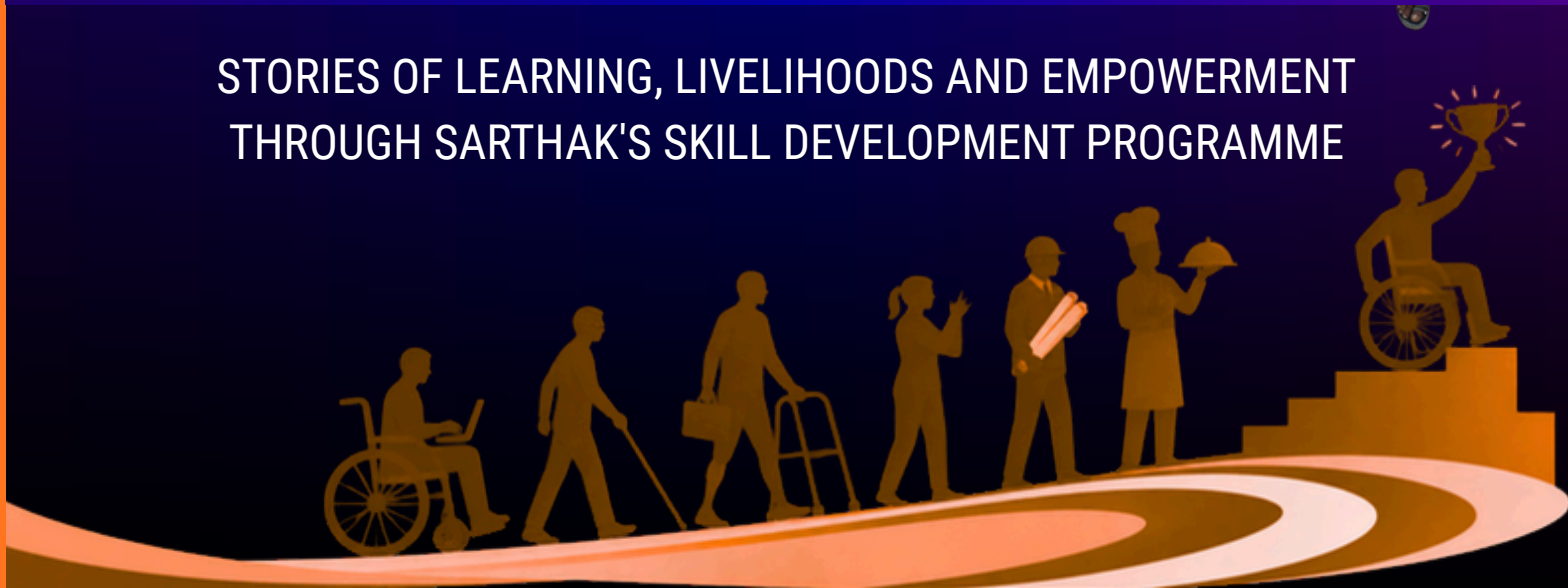
sarthak®
EDUCATIONAL TRUST
Empowering the differently abled

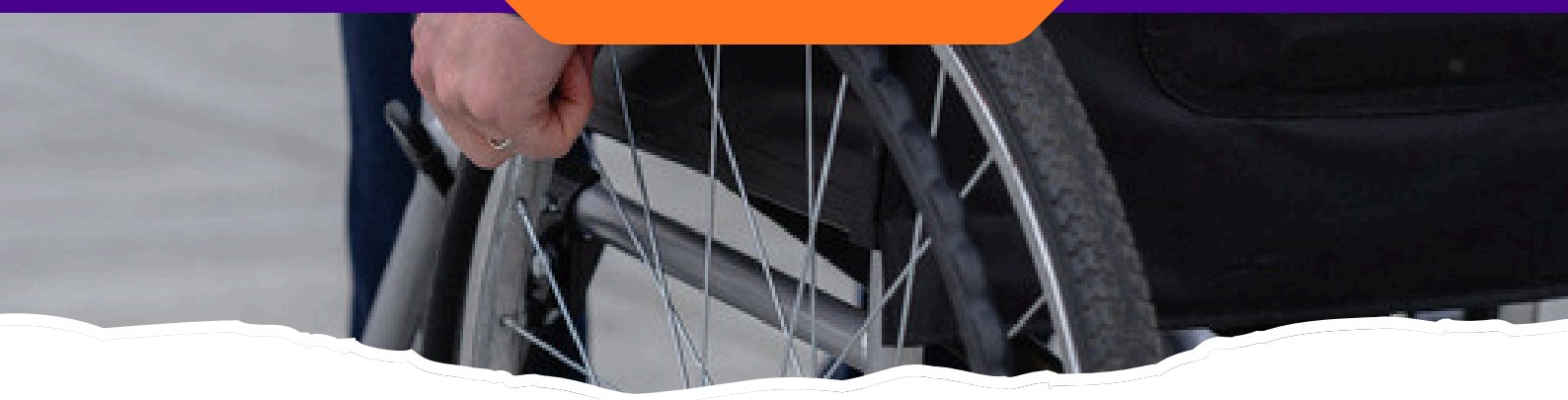
TALENT DESERVES OPPORTUNITY

20 JOURNEYS FROM SKILLS TO INDEPENDENCE



STORIES OF LEARNING, LIVELIHOODS AND EMPOWERMENT
THROUGH SARTHAK'S SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME





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PREFACE

TALENT IS EVERYWHERE. OPPORTUNITY MUST BE, TOO.

Skills can open doors. Access to learning, practice and opportunity helps people take the next step. This collection brings together twenty journeys from Sarthak Educational Trust's Skill Development Programme. The individuals featured here come from different parts of India, with varied backgrounds, ambitions and support needs. Some moved into formal employment; others chose entrepreneurship, advanced in their careers or began helping others build their skills.

What connects these journeys is a commitment to keep learning and the value of relevant training, career guidance, an encouraging environment and employers willing to recognise ability. Communication, digital literacy, workplace preparation and job-specific skills helped many of the individuals featured here move closer to their goals. Families, trainers, employers and communities also played an important part.

These are not stories of charity. They are stories of talent, effort and opportunity. Each individual is at the centre of their journey; Sarthak's role is to help create pathways through which skills can be strengthened and aspirations can find direction.

May these stories encourage more people to pursue their goals, more employers to widen access and more institutions to invest in inclusive skill development. Talent is everywhere. Opportunity must be, too.



CONFIDENCE, ONE SKILL AT A TIME





Abhishek R.

Data Management Executive, Chennai Rice

Abhishek R., 29, from Vysarpadi in Chennai, was born with a 50% intellectual disability. He often needed extra time and repeated explanations to understand new tasks, and found complex instructions and conversations difficult. With patience and support from his family and teachers, he completed school and went on to earn a Bachelor of Commerce degree from Madras University.

Despite his qualification, entering the workplace was challenging. Interviews made him nervous, and he found it difficult to explain his knowledge or follow unfamiliar, multi-step tasks. He enrolled in Sarthak's three-month training programme at the Chennai Centre, where learning was structured around his needs and pace.

Through simple exercises and repeated practice, Abhishek worked on everyday English, communication and workplace interaction. He also developed practical computer skills, including spreadsheet navigation and accurate data entry. Sessions on listening, workplace etiquette, posture and professional conduct helped him prepare for a work environment. Trainers encouraged him to break tasks into manageable steps and gradually take more initiative.

Over time, he began greeting others, starting conversations and completing assigned tasks with greater confidence. With support from Sarthak's placement team, he secured a full-time position as a Data Management Executive at Chennai Rice. Today, he contributes to the income of his family of three. His progress reflects how structured learning and an opportunity to demonstrate ability can support confidence and greater independence.

TURNING LEARNING INTO ENTERPRISE





Anshu Aich

Entrepreneur | Own clothing and garment store, Panchrakhi

Anshu Aich, 20, from Bardhaman, West Bengal, lives with a locomotor disability affecting both legs. Mobility barriers and inaccessible public spaces made everyday movement difficult. Social isolation and low expectations from others also affected his confidence, and he often preferred to remain away from the spotlight. Yet he remained focused on his education, completing Class 10 with an A grade and Class 12 with 83% under the West Bengal Board.

After school, Anshu wanted to translate his academic ability into a livelihood. He felt he needed practical exposure, market-relevant skills and career guidance to take the next step. He enrolled in the three-month skill development programme at Sarthak's Kolkata Training Centre.

The training introduced him to digital tools, professional software and communication platforms. It helped him connect what he had learned academically with practical tasks and workplace expectations. The supportive learning environment also gave him space to build confidence and consider different ways of earning a livelihood.

After completing the programme, Anshu chose an entrepreneurial path rather than waiting for a conventional job opportunity. He opened a retail clothing and garment store in Panchrakhi. He now manages stock, interacts with customers and oversees the day-to-day running of the business. Anshu's journey shows that skill development can support more than one route to work. With practical exposure and the confidence to take initiative, he has begun building a livelihood on his own terms.

BUILDING A CAREER ON HIS OWN TERMS

Chirag

Associate CRE, Amazon



Chirag, 25, from Bharuch, Gujarat, has a 60% locomotor disability following a severe injury to his left arm when he was one year old. At school, he experienced bullying, discrimination and isolation. He nevertheless continued his education, completing a Bachelor of Computer Applications with the ambition of working in the information technology sector.

Chirag's transition from education to employment was not straightforward. He felt that recruiters sometimes noticed his physical limitation before considering his qualifications. He completed a one-year internship at Pascripe and received an offer of full-time work, but the workplace was too far from home for the daily commute to be manageable. The experience brought home how important accessible transport and workplace arrangements are.

Determined to strengthen his prospects, Chirag joined Sarthak's Ahmedabad Centre for a three-month training programme in ITES – CRM Domestic Voice. He worked on communication, soft skills and interview preparation, and learned more about corporate recruitment and how to search and apply for vacancies independently.

The programme helped him approach the job search with greater confidence. He began identifying openings, submitting applications and navigating selection rounds on his own. His persistence led to a position as an Associate CRE at Amazon, with a decent annual package. For Chirag, the role is an important step towards financial independence and professional growth. He continues to aspire to develop his technical capabilities and move towards core software and IT roles.

FINDING CONFIDENCE TO TAKE THE LEAD





Ealant

Team Leader, Veeba Foods Service

Ealant, 19, from Alwar, Rajasthan, lives with a locomotor disability that affects his mobility. Walking long distances, climbing stairs and standing for extended periods can be painful and tiring. These everyday challenges sometimes affected his confidence and left him uncertain about what the future might hold. After completing Class 12, he was unsure which career path would be suitable and how he could enter the workforce.

Ealant joined Sarthak's skill development and employment training programme at the Jaipur Centre. The training gave him an opportunity to identify his strengths and develop practical workplace capabilities. He worked on communication, interpersonal skills and workplace readiness, and received exposure to the IT Enabled Services sector, particularly CRM Domestic Voice and customer relationship management.

The programme also introduced him to the employment process: finding suitable vacancies, understanding job requirements, preparing for interviews and presenting his abilities to employers. With practice and encouragement, he began taking greater responsibility for his job search rather than relying entirely on others to identify opportunities.

Ealant independently explored vacancies and participated in the recruitment process. He secured a position as a Team Leader at Veeba Foods Service.

The role marks a significant step from uncertainty after school to taking on professional responsibility. Ealant's experience highlights the value of combining practical skills with career guidance, while recognising that accessible workplaces and suitable arrangements remain important to sustained employment.

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A NEW BEGINNING AFTER REPEATED REJECTIONS





Moti Kumar

Community Mobilizer-cum-Helpdesk Executive, Sarthak

An accident severely affected Moti Kumar's left hand and changed the course of life he had imagined. Growing up in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, he had to adapt to everyday tasks that required the use of both hands. Teasing and hurtful comments sometimes affected his confidence, but his family and friends continued to encourage him.

Moti completed his intermediate education. Although he wanted to study further, financial constraints made that difficult. His father worked as a farmer, and Moti wanted to contribute to the family's needs. When he began looking for work, he faced repeated rejection. Some employers cited his disability; others felt he lacked the required skills.

A call from Sarthak Educational Trust introduced him to its free skill development and employment support programme. At the Prayagraj Centre, he worked on communication, computer knowledge, typing speed, interview preparation, workplace behaviour and teamwork. He also received practical exposure to the Retail sector and the Customer Sales Associate role. The training helped him prepare for interviews and rebuild confidence after earlier setbacks.

After completing the programme, Moti attended an interview at Sarthak. This time, he was able to demonstrate his preparation and was selected as a Community Mobilizer-cum-Helpdesk Executive.

The opportunity has given Moti a new sense of direction. He is proud to be working, contributing to his family and taking steps towards greater independence. His journey also brings his experience full circle: the organisation that supported his training became his workplace.

TAKING THE INITIATIVE TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE





Nilam Kunawr Chundawat

Working at a cosmetic shop near home

Nilam Kunawr Chundawat, 21, from Rajasthan, completed Class 12 but was unsure how to move towards employment. A locomotor disability affecting one hand made some daily activities more demanding. She also felt hesitant when speaking with unfamiliar people and lacked confidence in professional settings. Preparing a résumé, attending interviews and presenting her abilities to employers seemed difficult without guidance.

Nilam found a pathway forward through Sarthak Educational Trust and enrolled in its three-month training programme at the Jaipur Centre. The programme focused on professional and workplace skills, including communication, interpersonal interaction and confidence-building. Through regular practice and encouragement, she became more comfortable expressing her thoughts, participating in activities and preparing for employment.

Completing the programme was an important milestone, but Nilam's next step was equally significant. Rather than waiting for someone else to find a job for her, she began looking for suitable opportunities independently. She identified a vacancy at a cosmetic shop close to her home. The location mattered because it made commuting more manageable and helped her balance work with her daily routine.

Nilam secured the job and now her income enables her to contribute to her family's financial needs while supporting her own aspirations.

Her journey is a reminder that progress can take many forms. For Nilam, the most important change was moving from uncertainty to taking the initiative, making a choice and finding work that fits her circumstances.

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FINDING HER VOICE AT WORK





Prerna Sachdeva

Receptionist, Karan Hotel

Prerna Sachdeva, 21, from Rajasthan, has been hard of hearing since birth. Communication barriers often made everyday interactions difficult. She sometimes found it hard to follow conversations or express herself comfortably, and not everyone made the effort to communicate clearly. These experiences could leave her feeling unheard, but she remained determined to develop useful skills and build an independent future.

Prerna came across information about Sarthak Educational Trust on Facebook and enrolled in the three-month training programme at its West Delhi Centre. She worked on computer skills, English communication and soft skills, while learning how to interact with customers and manage customer-service situations. The programme also covered professional behaviour, patience and workplace expectations.

Through structured learning and practice, Prerna became more confident in approaching communication and workplace tasks. The training helped her recognise her strengths and prepare for professional responsibilities. She then attended an interview at Karan Hotel in Chamroda, Rajasthan.

Prerna was selected as a receptionist. The role gave her an opportunity to use the skills she had developed and take a step towards financial independence. She continues to hold an ambition beyond her current employment: she dreams of becoming a teacher.

Her journey is not simply about finding a job. It is about being able to participate, communicate and pursue future goals. With the right preparation and a workplace willing to provide an opportunity, Prerna is building her professional identity while keeping her longer-term aspiration alive.

CONFIDENCE OPENS A NEW CHAPTER





Reana Shri

Telecaller, MGlobal Innovative Company

Reana Shri, from Chennai, experienced a major change in her health after a serious illness and was later diagnosed with a chronic neurological condition. Pain, muscle weakness and low energy made walking, standing for long periods and concentrating on lessons difficult. She completed her intermediate education, but financial constraints meant she could not continue to higher studies. She began looking for work so she could support herself and her family.

The job search brought its own challenges. Reana sometimes found it difficult to understand interview questions and respond confidently, and repeated rejections affected her outlook. She enrolled in Sarthak's skill development programme at the Chennai Centre, where she gradually became more comfortable participating in discussions and activities.

With trainer support, she strengthened her communication and computer skills, prepared for interviews and learned about workplace ethics. She also received exposure to ITES, including the CRM voice process and the responsibilities of a telecaller. Regular practice helped her speak with greater confidence and understand what employers expected.

After completing the training, Reana interviewed with MGlobal Innovative Company. This time, she was able to apply what she had learned and was selected as a Telecaller, with a decent annual package.

The job brought happiness to Reana and her family and gave her a new sense of possibility. She continues to build her skills and confidence, carrying forward the belief that she can learn, contribute and take greater control of her future.

A STEP TOWARDS FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE

Sana Parveen

Team Member, Restaurant Brands Asia Limited



Sana Parveen, 30, is a married woman with a hearing impairment. Conversations often require extra effort, and she uses lip-reading and written notes to understand others. She completed her intermediate education and hoped to continue studying, but financial difficulties and family responsibilities led her to look for work. Finding a suitable opportunity was challenging, and communication barriers during recruitment sometimes resulted in rejection.

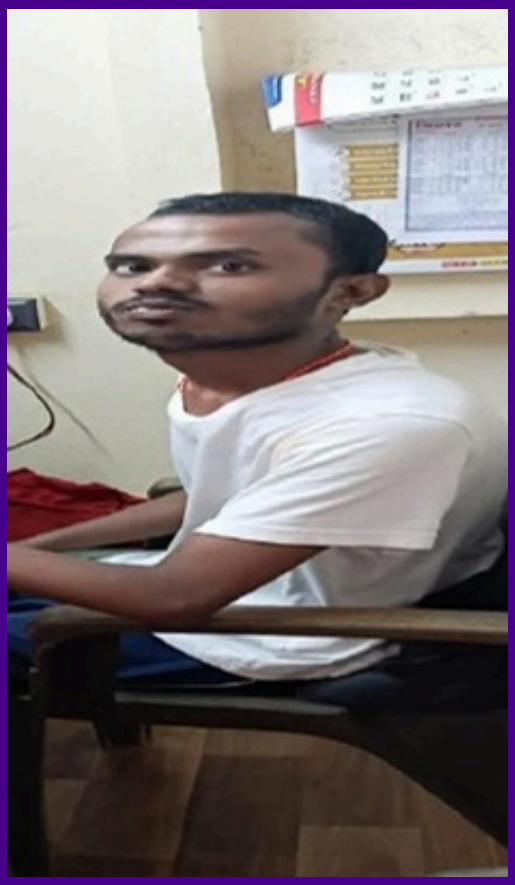
Sana remained determined to contribute to her household and become financially independent. Her husband encouraged her to continue pursuing employment. A friend told her about Sarthak Educational Trust's skill development and employment support, and Sana enrolled at the Thane Centre.

During the programme, she prepared for workplace responsibilities by strengthening communication, teamwork and problem-solving skills. She also learned about professional behaviour, interview preparation and the recruitment process. The training gave her an opportunity to understand employer expectations and approach job opportunities with greater confidence.

After completing the programme, Sana attended an interview with Restaurant Brands Asia Limited and was selected as a Team Member.

The job is an important milestone in her journey. It provides an opportunity to earn her own income, contribute to family expenses and gain professional experience. For Sana, employment is also a platform for continued learning and growth. Her experience underlines the importance of communication-friendly recruitment and workplaces where people with hearing impairments can demonstrate their capabilities.

BUILDING SKILLS FOR A MORE INDEPENDENT FUTURE





Saurabh Kumar

Data Operator, Shiv CSC Center

Saurabh Kumar, 23, from Basdeopur in Bihar's Munger district, lives with cerebral palsy, which affects movement, muscle control, posture and balance. Tasks such as walking and tying shoelaces require additional effort. At school, writing by hand was tiring, and inaccessible infrastructure – including the absence of ramps, adaptive seating and accessible restrooms – made participation more difficult. Despite these barriers, he completed Class 12 with the support of his family.

After school, Saurabh wanted to become financially self-reliant, but inaccessible transport and employer assumptions made the search for work difficult. Through community outreach, he learned about Sarthak Educational Trust and enrolled at its Global Resource Centre.

The course initially challenged him because it involved speaking and communication. With structured practice, soft-skills training and encouragement from trainers, he worked on vocal delivery and confidence. He also developed his understanding of digital tools and computer-based work. Learning alongside other trainees helped him recognise his abilities and prepare for professional responsibilities.

After completing the programme, Saurabh secured a position as a Data Operator at Shiv CSC Center. He plans to pursue higher education through distance learning and hopes to guide other young persons with disabilities in Munger and nearby districts by sharing his experience.

His next goals include continued learning and encouraging more accessible infrastructure and inclusive hiring.

TURNING EDUCATION INTO EMPLOYMENT





Soni Kumari

Customer Care Executive, Axiant Solution

Soni Kumari, 26, is a graduate from Begusarai, Bihar. She lives with a locomotor disability affecting one leg. During school and college, moving around campus and climbing stairs required extra effort. She also encountered hurtful comments from some classmates and relatives who questioned what she could achieve. Soni remained committed to her education and, after graduating, began looking for work that would help her support her family.

Finding suitable employment was not easy. She learned about Sarthak Educational Trust through a newspaper and then explored the organisation online. Interested in its employment-oriented training, she enrolled in the three-month ITES CRM Voice course at the Ghaziabad Centre.

The programme introduced her to customer relationship management and voice-based customer service. She developed an understanding of communication, handling customer queries and interacting professionally. The training helped her build on her educational foundation and prepare for the expectations of a customer-care role.

After completing the course, Soni secured a position as a Customer Care Executive at Axiant Solution. The job has given her a regular source of income and an opportunity to contribute to her family's needs.

For Soni, this achievement is also a response to the assumptions she encountered along the way. Her progress shows why the focus must be on a person's skills and potential, while education providers and employers work to make workplaces and opportunities more accessible.

BUILDING A BUSINESS, BUILDING INDEPENDENCE





Tuskar

Entrepreneur | Grocery shop owner, Hooghly, West Bengal

Living with thalassemia, a congenital blood condition requiring continuous medical care, Tuskar faced health-related demands from an early age. He also experienced financial difficulties, social stigma and prejudice. After completing Class 12 through the West Bengal Board, he remained focused on his goal of becoming financially independent and building a stable future.

Tuskar enrolled in Sarthak Educational Trust's three-month Skill Development Training Programme in CRM Domestic Non-Voice (IT/ITES) at the Kolkata Centre. The programme helped him strengthen communication and customer-relations skills, digital literacy and problem-solving. He also gained an understanding of business discipline and management. The learning experience gave him practical skills and greater confidence to make decisions about his livelihood.

After the training, Tuskar chose entrepreneurship. Rather than waiting for a conventional employment opportunity, he started his own grocery shop in Hooghly, West Bengal. He now runs the business and serves customers in his community.

The shop has become a source of livelihood and a way for Tuskar to contribute to his family. His experience also challenges assumptions about what people living with long-term health conditions can do when they have access to relevant skills and the chance to apply them.

Reflecting on the change, Tuskar describes the training as a source of confidence as well as practical learning. He says he is no longer defined by the need for sympathy, but by the work he does as an entrepreneur serving his community.

MAKING HOSPITALITY MORE INCLUSIVE

Monica Singh

Guest Service Associate – Front Office,
Pullman & Novotel New Delhi Aerocity





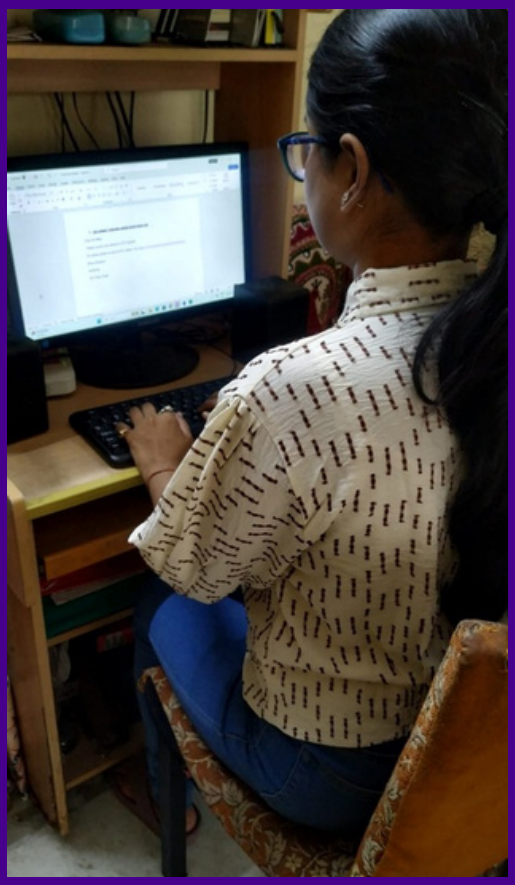
For Monica Singh of Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, visual impairment has been part of life, but it has not limited her interest in professional growth. Through Sarthak's Training Programme, she developed computer skills and learned to use screen-reading software such as JAWS and NVDA. These tools enabled her to browse the internet, manage data and work with digital applications more independently.

Monica had already built experience in the BPO sector, working with organisations including Daikin and Amazon and progressing to the role of Team Leader. She later joined Pullman & Novotel New Delhi Aerocity, part of the Accor Group, as a Guest Service Associate – Front Office. She became the first visually impaired candidate in that hotel unit to take up a Front Office position.

The transition brought practical challenges. The large premises required orientation, and some front-office software was not fully accessible through her screen readers. With support from Sarthak and the hotel's HR team, she received workplace orientation and explored alternative ways to use the software, including specialised shortcut keys.

Her experience demonstrates how assistive technology, workplace adjustments and supportive teams can help widen access to roles that may not traditionally have been considered for visually impaired employees.

ADAPTING, LEARNING AND MOVING FORWARD





Sushmita Dutta

Customer Service Executive,
Saarathee Private Limited | Work from home

Born and raised in Kolkata, Sushmita Dutta has lived with visual impairment since childhood. She underwent several eye surgeries early in life and completed her B.Com using sighted methods. During college, however, her vision deteriorated due to glaucoma. Following treatment and a break to focus on her health, she began adapting to changing vision and exploring ways to continue learning.

With encouragement from her family, Sushmita completed a basic computer course using screen-reader technology. At the National Institute for the Locomotor Disabilities (NILD), she also undertook an Independent Living Skills Course, learning Braille, cooking, sewing, mobility with a white cane and wardrobe management. These skills supported greater independence in daily life.

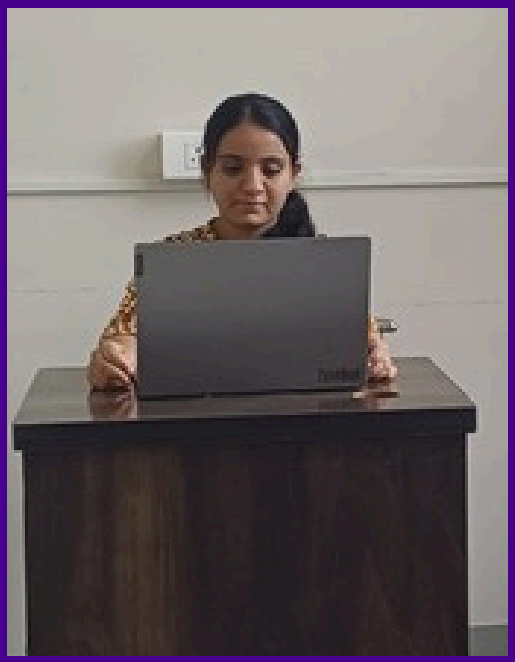
Determined to return to work, she joined Sarthak's Visual Impairment Training Programme. She developed digital literacy, communication, soft skills and interview preparation, while strengthening her use of assistive technology. The flexibility of online training enabled her to participate from home.

Sushmita secured a work-from-home position as a Customer Service Executive with Saarathee Private Limited. She learned to handle customer conversations with patience and became more confident using Zoom, Google Meet and Microsoft Teams with NVDA and JAWS.

She hopes to combine her finance education, digital skills and understanding of accessibility in her future career, and to support others through what she has learned.

FROM LEARNER TO MENTOR





Apeksha Arjunsingh Chauhan

Trainer, Sarthak Educational Trust, Pune

Apeksha Arjunsingh Chauhan from Latur, Maharashtra, was affected by polio during childhood, which permanently weakened both her legs. She faced physical barriers and hurtful comments at school, but continued her education and completed post-graduation. Seeing her parents manage financial challenges strengthened her determination to become independent and support her family.

After her studies, Apeksha applied to several companies but often found that employers focused on her disability rather than her qualifications. She continued taking tuition classes from home while looking for a suitable opportunity. Through an online search, she learned about Sarthak Educational Trust and enrolled at the Pune Centre.

The training strengthened her communication, computer, teamwork, professional and interview skills. She also received specialised exposure to the ITES CRM Voice Process. Alongside job preparation, the programme helped her rebuild confidence and recognise the value of her own abilities.

Apeksha later saw a vacancy for a Trainer at Sarthak's Pune Centre. Teaching had long been her passion, so she applied and attended the interview. She was selected for the role, with a decent annual package.

Today, Apeksha trains and mentors other Persons with Disabilities, helping them build confidence, develop workplace skills and prepare for careers. Her journey has come full circle: the skills and guidance she received are now part of what she offers others. She has moved from being a learner in the programme to helping others find their path.

THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE





Anand Kumar

Operation Theatre Assistant,
Shri Murlidhar Memorial Nursing Home

Anand Kumar grew up in Patna in a family facing financial hardship. Polio during childhood weakened his left leg, and the loss of his father added to the family's challenges. Seeing his mother's struggle, Anand considered leaving his studies to work, but his family encouraged him to continue. He completed his graduation and began looking for a job so he could contribute to the household.

The search brought repeated rejections. Some employers felt he lacked the required skills, while others overlooked his abilities because of his disability. The setbacks affected his confidence, but he continued to look for an opportunity.

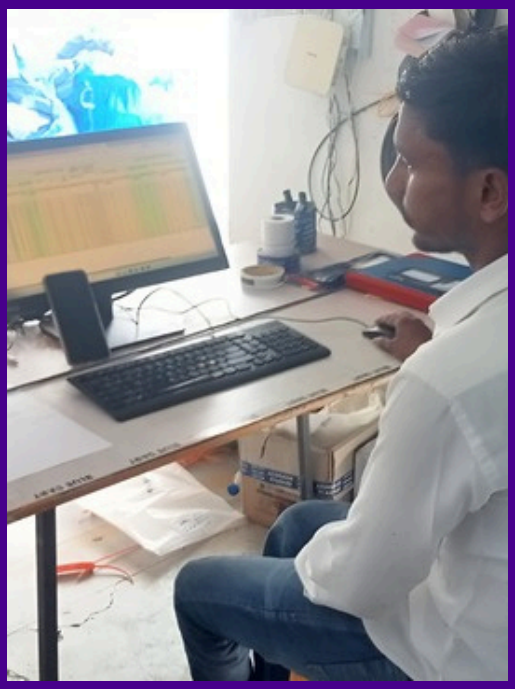
Anand enrolled in Sarthak Educational Trust's skill development and employment support programme at the Patna Centre. During training, he worked on communication, basic computer skills, workplace etiquette and interview preparation. Interacting with fellow trainees and receiving regular guidance helped him become more comfortable speaking with others and presenting himself in a professional setting.

Before completing the programme, Anand received an interview opportunity at Shri Murlidhar Memorial Nursing Home. He applied what he had learned and was selected as an Operation Theatre Assistant.

The offer marked the beginning of a new chapter. Anand was proud to have secured work and to be able to support his family. His experience reflects the value of combining practical preparation with timely access to an employer willing to assess a candidate on his skills and readiness.

TAKING THE NEXT STEP IN HIS CAREER





Fedaul Islam

Associate, Blue Dart

Fedaul Islam from Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh, has a locomotor disability after polio weakened his right leg. He faced teasing while growing up, but his parents encouraged him to focus on education and self-reliance. Despite financial limitations, he completed a Bachelor of Arts degree.

After graduation, Fedaul wanted a stable job that would help support his family. He faced repeated rejections, sometimes because he lacked professional skills and sometimes because employers focused on his disability. He eventually found work in the e-commerce sector and remained in the role for three years, but his salary was not enough to improve his family's financial situation. He continued looking for a way to progress.

A call from Sarthak Educational Trust introduced him to its free skill development and employment support programme. He enrolled at the Banaras Centre, where he strengthened communication, computer and interview skills. He also received industry-focused training in IT/ITES, particularly the CRM Voice Process. Practical sessions and guidance helped him prepare for better opportunities.

After completing the programme, Fedaul interviewed with Blue Dart and was selected as an Associate. The move represented more than a higher salary: it was a chance to build on his previous experience and improve his prospects.

Fedaul sees the programme as a turning point that helped him gain confidence and take the next step in his career while continuing to support his family.

TURNING TECHNICAL EDUCATION INTO OPPORTUNITY

Jannarapu Vemana

Engineer – HDO, FirstMeridian Global Services





Jannarapu Vemana from Karimnagar, Telangana, has lived with a 45% intellectual disability since birth. He often needed additional time to understand new information and learn unfamiliar tasks. His parents and teachers supported him with patience, explanations and encouragement. With their help, he completed a B.Tech degree, an achievement that strengthened his ambition to build a professional career.

Finding a suitable job after graduation proved difficult. Some companies rejected him because of limited workplace skills, while interviews could be challenging when questions were complex or needed to be understood quickly. He continued applying through online portals, but repeated rejections affected his confidence.

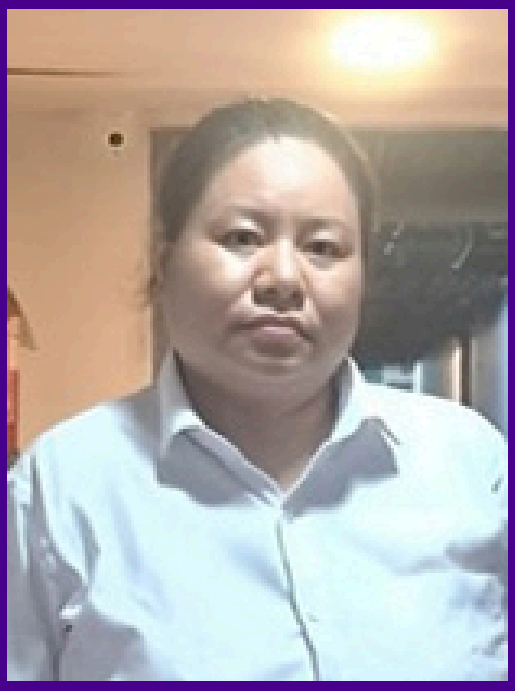
Vemana learned about Sarthak Educational Trust while searching for employment and enrolled at its Hyderabad Centre. The training helped him strengthen communication, computer skills, workplace ethics and professional behaviour. He also learned about the ITES sector and the CRM Domestic Voice Process. Regular sessions and interview guidance helped him prepare to explain his abilities and respond with greater confidence.

After completing the programme, he interviewed with FirstMeridian Global Services Private Limited and was selected as an Engineer – HDO.

For Vemana and his family, the offer was a proud milestone after a difficult job search. He has taken an important step towards financial independence and hopes to use his experience to support his family and continue building his professional capabilities.

COMMUNICATION, CONFIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT





Agongmei Thaimei

F&B Service Steward, Novotel Guwahati GS Road

Agongmei Thaimei from Imphal West, Manipur, was born deaf. Communication was difficult for her family in her early years, so they worked together to understand one another. Agongmei used basic signs and written notes to express her needs, and gradually taught family members signs they could use with her. At school, after several institutions turned her away, she joined a school for deaf children and learned sign language.

After completing her Secondary School Certificate, financial constraints made further education difficult. She began looking for work, but employers often rejected her without giving her a fair opportunity. Interviews were especially challenging when sign language support was unavailable.

Her father learned about Sarthak Educational Trust and enrolled her in the programme at the Guwahati Centre. During training, Agongmei strengthened her use of sign language and developed computer, typing, workplace ethics and interview skills. She also received practical exposure to the Retail sector and Store Operations. The programme helped her approach employment with greater confidence.

After completing the training, she interviewed at Novotel Guwahati GS Road and was selected as an F&B Service Steward.

The job was a proud milestone for Agongmei and her family. It offered a first step towards financial independence and professional participation. Her experience also highlights why accessible communication, including sign language support, matters throughout education, recruitment and the workplace.

A NEW DIRECTION AFTER GRADUATION





Antaryami Sahoo

Accountant, Sanjibani Motors

Antaryami Sahoo from Bhubaneswar, Odisha, acquired a permanent physical disability affecting his left leg after a road accident. Walking for long periods became painful, and hurtful comments from others sometimes affected his confidence. His parents continued to encourage him, and their support helped him regain confidence and continue his education. Although financial pressures once made him consider leaving his studies to work on the family farm, he completed his graduation.

After college, Antaryami attended several interviews but faced repeated rejection. Some employers focused on his disability; others felt he lacked the required skills. He continued helping his father on the farm while searching for work. After marriage, his responsibilities increased and strengthened his determination to find stable employment.

He learned about Sarthak Educational Trust online and enrolled in the skill development programme at the Bhubaneswar Centre. Initially shy, he gradually became more confident through training in communication, teamwork, workplace ethics, computer knowledge and interview preparation. He also received exposure to the ITES sector and CRM Domestic Voice Process.

After completing the programme, Antaryami interviewed with Sanjibani Motors and secured a position as an Accountant. The job brought renewed confidence and an opportunity to provide greater support to his family.

His journey shows how relevant skills, preparation and an employer willing to consider ability can help turn a prolonged job search into a new professional beginning.

OPPORTUNITY MAKES SKILLS VISIBLE.

The twenty journeys in this collection take different routes. Some lead to corporate workplaces, some to small businesses and some to roles in which individuals now support others. Each is personal, shaped by the learner's goals, circumstances, family, training experience and the opportunities available. Together, they show that there is no single pathway to independence.

Skill development matters when learning is connected to real choices and practical opportunities. Communication, digital literacy, job-specific training and workplace preparation can help people pursue their goals. So can accessible transport, inclusive recruitment, assistive technology, reasonable adjustments and employers who are willing to recognise potential. The stories here make clear that responsibility for inclusion does not rest with an individual alone; it is shared by institutions, families, employers and communities.

For Sarthak, these stories are both a record of progress and a reminder of the work that continues. Every learner brings different strengths and ambitions. Our task is to help create pathways in which those strengths can grow, be recognised and contribute.

Talent deserves opportunity – not as a slogan, but as a commitment reflected in access to learning, dignified work, entrepreneurship and the freedom to shape one's own future.

