A close-up, low-angle shot of a person's legs and hands as they push a wheelchair. The person is wearing a light blue button-down shirt and dark trousers. The wheelchair has a black frame and a large, thin-spoked wheel. The background is a blurred industrial or warehouse setting with metal beams, pipes, and bright fluorescent lights.

**JOBS FOR DISABLED
IN COVID TIMES**

A YOUTH4 JOBS INITIATIVE

50
STORIES





“Disability need not be an obstacle to success.”

Stephen Hawking

JOBS FOR DISABLED IN COVID TIMES

A YOUTH4 JOBS INITIATIVES

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Youth4Jobs focuses on education and employment of persons with disabilities. It is powered by the fact that a job to one member of the family takes the entire family out of poverty in sustained manner.



One major effect of the pandemic has been how a lot of employers and enterprises have had to scale down their jobs and employees during this time.

All of us at Youth4Jobs take a lot of pride in the fact that we have provided 6000 jobs across the country during these testing times, creating sustainable livelihoods for those who have needed it the most.

FOUNDER SPEAK



Covid times have been very difficult times for youth with disabilities, especially those in villages of India with whom we work. Their parents who are marginal farmers or petty shopkeepers, lost their wages. They had to subsist on one meal or sometimes no food. IT WAS A HUNGER ISSUE. What was worse was they were "invisible". In this bleak scenario, the jobs we linked the disabled to, after trainings, truly transformed their lives. Parents blessed us everyday. Their "useless" child was now the sole breadwinner ! We give you a glimpse of this inspirational work through 50 real life stories - different disabilities, different geographies, different jobs.

To support youth with disabilities, we set up Karuna help lines in the poorest states, made sign language videos which got picked up by Ministers on their social media; and distributed food to over 10,000 families.

But we realized A JOB WAS A LIFELINE for the youth in Covid times

We launched Y4J Online, the first grassroot online trainings for jobs for less educated youth from rural areas. There were innumerable challenges – low bandwidth, phones were not smart, youth did not understand technology. And at any time 20% of our staff were directly or indirectly affected with Covid. New digital content had to be created. Sectors like retail, hospitality had stopped hiring. Our teams' 24x7 work was not in vain. The results were overwhelming. We scaled from 18 states to 32 states of India, including Jammu and Kashmir. We scanned new sectors and became the largest organization to give trained manpower with disability to the fastest growing e-commerce sector. We scanned clusters and medium and small scale industry with "each one, take one" campaign.

Such challenging work cannot be done alone. A big Thanks to youth with disabilities, their parents, NGOs, companies and governments who supported us . This is the first of a series which I hope will inspire many to join hands with us to create an inclusive India, an inclusive world.


Meera.shenoy@youth4jobs.org

STORY

1



Aizzaz Ahmed

Early Life

Aizzaz Ahmed from Jammu & Kashmir has faced a lot of ups and downs in life as a disabled person. He was diagnosed when he was 2 years old and the damage to his lower limbs changed the course of his life completely. Aizzaz comes from a humble background and the financial crunch didn't help when it came to his treatment. His father worked very hard to make ends meet and provide for the family. What Aizzaz's father earned as a labourer was barely enough to manage the basic necessities for the family of 5. While his parents struggled to accept his disability and come to terms with it, they tried to provide for him. Despite being bogged down by his disability, Aizzaz managed to complete his education. He completed his graduation at Jammu and got his Post Graduate degree through a distance education program from Bhopal University.

Disability and its Challenges

Aizzaz feels that his disability affects his life on an everyday basis, both physically and emotionally. He has seen hurdle after hurdle, and it has been anything but an easy journey. Right from something as basic as the school premises not being accessible to him, commuting being another challenge, Aizzaz has seen it all! Also, public transport was extremely unreliable in Baramulla District.

All of this made his life very difficult, but Aizzaz was undeterred by it. He focused on his academics and completed his education with a great score.

The situation in Kashmir with two consecutive lockdowns, the first after the dilution of Article 370 and the second after the pandemic badly impacted education for all children. For disabled

children, it has been even worse. Aizzaz says that there was a complete shutdown of internet services and other necessary utilities after the imposition of curfew. This built an emotional and psychological barrier between the people of Kashmir and the rest of India. While things were already not so rosy, Covid made it nothing short of a pandemonium.

His family didn't have any significant savings and that made him feel like a burden on them. The lack of opportunities and awareness in Jammu & Kashmir, doubled the impact of his disability. It was like a vicious cycle. Aizzaz might have found a job at another city despite his disability, but family responsibilities and his limitations made him want to stay back at J & K. Stigma and lack of awareness had ruled out any opportunities at Jammu and Kashmir. It was a very miserable situation to be stuck in.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Aizzaz got details about the online-training program from his friend. He enrolled in the program to improve his skills. His confidence levels spiked after attending the first session. He understood that being disabled was not a curse or burden, it just meant that he was differently abled. Our trainers are skilled at picking up and working on the candidates' strengths. The training helped Aizzaz face his challenges and conquer it.

Placement

Our team lined up several interviews for him at well-known organisations in Delhi but Aizzaz was very particular about finding a job at J&K. His technical knowledge and skills were honed by the online training sessions. This helped him secure a job as a cashier at a pharmaceutical



store, MAX Health Service in Baramulla District. He earns close to 96,000 INR annually and is grateful for steady income in these uncertain times. He is extremely happy that he is able to provide for his family and give them a better life. Aizzaz expressed his gratitude to the entire Y4J team that reaches out to people like him and paves the way for a better future.

We wish him and the people of Jammu & Kashmir long-lasting peace, happiness and prosperity!



Aizzaz Ahmed
Male . Jammu & Kashmir
Disability – Locomotor
Employer – Max Health Service
Salary per annum – 96,000



STORY

2



Ramachandran

Early Life

26-year-old Ramachandran belongs to a middle-class family in a small town at Thanjavur. Ramachandran was diagnosed with cerebral palsy as a child. His father is a farmer and his mother is a nursing assistant in a government hospital. Ramachandran also has a younger brother who is currently pursuing a degree in nursing.

Disability and its Challenges

When Ramachandran was born, he didn't let out a cry and the doctors suspected a disability in the congenital stage. The doctors informed his parents that he might have a disability later in life. When Ramachandran turned 3, he was diagnosed with Quadriplegic Cerebral Palsy, which meant that all 4 of his limbs were affected. His parents took him to a specialist, who informed them that treatment might work on him after he turned 8 years old.

Ramachandran's parents took excellent care of him and supported him in every way possible. His mother would carry him to primary school every single day. When Ramachandran turned 8 years old, based on the doctor's advice he underwent surgery for tendon release (relaxing nerves) in both his legs, which would help him walk independently. The surgery followed by a few months of physiotherapy helped him a great deal and he started walking without support.

After completing high school, Ramachandran wanted to pursue Genetic Engineering which was his passion. Upon discovering that there was not a lot of scope for this field in India, he decided to pursue a degree in Chemical Engineering instead. After graduation he was also placed during the campus hiring program.

Unfortunately he could not take up the job as the organisation was located in a remote area without facilities for travel, boarding or lodging. Then began his hunt for a job related to his field, but Ramachandran did not find anything. Out of desperation he joined a computer centre as a trainer for a meagre salary of INR 2000 a month.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Youth4Jobs was invited for a job fair at the Employment Office in Thanjavur. Ramachandran was a participant at this job fair as he was on the lookout for a job. After he expressed interest in the training program, our team briefed him about it and he enrolled for the 2-month classroom training at the Trichy centre.

Ramachandran was very enthusiastic and proactive during the training. He would also motivate the other candidates to participate during the sessions. Ramachandran was one of the lucky few who got an opportunity to train and get placed in the IT Sector through an arrangement that we had with the WinVinaya Foundation.

Placement

Though Ramachandran was a Chemical Engineer, he was very interested in joining the batch that trained candidates for the IT sector. On completion of the training, he was placed at DXC Technologies in Bangalore as an Associate – Professional Marketing Communications. Ramachandran now earns close to INR 3,60,000 a year.

Ramachandran has proved to be an exemplary employee and was recognised by his organisation for active participation in the CSR programme.



He was awarded, “Corporate Responsibility Champion” for the year 2019-2020.

Ramachandran is now a professional who loves learning new things, has great communication skills and manages his work very efficiently. His financial independence allows him to save for himself while also letting him provide for his family. He took the opportunity that was given to him and turned it around to his advantage! He even participates as a volunteer during Y4J's virtual meets and motivational sessions to encourage others like him. Ramachandran is a shining example of how hard work and perseverance will never let you down. We wish him the best and hope he will scale greater heights in the future, making us proud!

 Youth 4 Jobs

Ramachandran

Male . Tamil Nadu

Disability - Cerebral Palsy

Employer - DXC Technologies

Salary per annum -3, 60,000



STORY

3



Snehal Kumar
Rajubhai Patel

Early Life

21 year old Snehal Patel, comes from a farmer's household in Kheda district, Gujarat. He has a locomotor disability where both of his legs are small and bent since birth. The family of 5 survives on Snehal's father's income. His father is a farmer who owns about 20 vighas of land, where he harvests cotton, groundnut, rice and wheat.

Snehal got a good education and graduated from college, thanks to his supportive parents. He has a special interest in mathematics and has excellent communication skills.

Disability and its Challenges

Snehal has trouble walking and maintaining balance due to his legs being bent inwards. He does not need support to walk but leans forward slightly. His parents tried physiotherapy when he was younger, but that did not help in any way.

As a kid, his disability baffled him and he couldn't understand why other children treated him differently. Snehal's classmates hardly tried to make friends with him or include him during their play time as he couldn't run around and play with them. Break times especially bothered him very much as he would sit all by himself. The kids at school would question him about his disability and a depressed Snehal would sit there quietly, as he didn't know what to tell them. Our hearts go out to the little boy who must have struggled to come to terms with his disability.

Gradually as the years passed, life taught him that he would have to own his disability and succeed in life by focussing on his education.

Despite completing his graduation with a good percentile, Snehal struggled to find a job. A lot of employers wouldn't give him a job owing to his disability. He was from a small town and the pandemic brought in its own set of challenges. There were not many jobs in the market and even fewer ones that would take in a disabled person.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Snehal enrolled for our online training program in 2020 November. He used his smartphone to attend the sessions. Snehal attended every single session and was an active participant during all the activities. He loved solving puzzles during the sessions and encouraged all his batch mates to be regular and finish their assignments on time.

Snehal has told us how much he enjoyed attending these programs and that he was eager to join it as soon as he heard about it. We in turn are extremely proud to say that he has learnt a lot of new things during this training and is one of the best candidates of our program.

We would also like to thank him for his support and trust in Y4J; people like Snehal drive us to do what we do, and strive to do it even better!

Placement

With every hope about finding a job having vanished during the pandemic, Snehal's spirits lifted after the training. Snehal says that the call for an interview from TATA was the best moment of his day. We are sure that it won't come as a surprise that he aced his interview and was selected for the job. Snehal was extremely emotional about having found a job, when he had completely given up all hopes of finding one during the pandemic.

Snehal is extremely grateful to have found a job when a lot of people were losing theirs. Snehal currently works for TATA Motors and draws a salary close to 1,10,400 INR every year. He loves his organisation and his job profile which is that of a Computer Operator.



Youth4Jobs

Snehal Kumar Rajubhai Patel

Male . Gujarat

Disability - Locomotor

Employer - TATA Motors

Salary per annum - 1,10,400

STORY

4



Mandar Advankar

Early Life

30-year-old Mandar was born with a partial speech and hearing impairment in Thane, Maharashtra. To say that he has seen struggles up close right from a very young age, would be an understatement. Having lost his father as a young child, Mandar's mother single-handedly tried to give him an education. This must have been no easy feat as Mandar's mother also is speech and hearing impaired. Despite all hurdles Mandar managed to study up to class IX and clear all his examinations.

Unfortunately, his education came to an abrupt halt in class X when his mother was diagnosed with cancer. As much as he would have liked to continue studying, Mandar who was just a teenager couldn't focus on education while his mother was battling cancer. The youngster completely focussed on assisting his mother as she went about her treatment.

Disability and its Challenges

We all come from such a place of privilege where we cannot really imagine the burden that a young boy must have felt while taking care of his disabled, ill mother. That alone would have been enough to demotivate someone and bog them down, but not Mandar.

Mandar can hear sounds with the help of his hearing aid and also speak a little. He communicates with his mother using sign language and is extremely well-versed in Indian, Marathi and English sign language. Mandar found a job as a driver and his earnings helped him take care of the expenses incurred from his mother's treatment. Unfortunately, the pandemic struck and in the lockdown that ensued, Mandar lost his only source of income. He still kept the treatment going with whatever he had managed

to save over the years. Mandar was desperate to find another job as soon as he possibly could, so that his mother's treatment wouldn't come to a halt.

Mandar found another job through his friend as a warehouse associate with Amazon. At this time, when Mandar had to take some time off for a routine hospital visit with his mother, he lost his job due to a miscommunication with the interpreter who was in-charge. While Mandar explained that he was going to need time off, the interpreter misunderstood it to mean something else, marking him as on-duty on the rosters. As he wasn't present at work while being marked on-duty, it resulted in him getting laid off.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

At this point we're sure you are thinking whether Mandar will ever catch a break from all the obstacles and hurdles that seem to come at him non-stop. Well, he did! Thanks to Facebook, he came across a pamphlet that mentioned something about Jobs for the Hearing Impaired. Through this, he got in touch with an interpreter at Y4J Mumbai. Mandar requested him to help him find a job soon, so that his mother's treatment could continue without interruptions.

Placement

Our team promptly helped Mandar attend an interview drive with Flipkart for a Warehouse Associate. Mandar was instantly shortlisted, after which he also got selected for the position. This was a huge breakthrough for him as not many people were hiring during the pandemic. The icing on the cake was that he was asked to fill the position from the very next day.



The employers were also extremely accommodative of his requests for time-offs, owing to his mother's illness. He was promised days off and support in all possible ways. After about a week of Mandar joining work, the staff at Flipkart discovered that he was well versed in sign language, could hear, and lip read as well. They used his help and expertise to resolve issues and communicate with other speech and hearing-impaired staff. Mandar became the mediator and interpreter between disabled staff and the other staff at Flipkart.

Mandar's rapport with the staff at Flipkart was so good, that every time he had to schedule an appointment for his mother at the hospital, the staff would adjust that day as his weekly off, thus saving him a lot of leaves. Mandar absolutely loves his job at Flipkart and is thrilled to be part of a supportive environment. His peers and supervisors motivate him to work while being supportive of his responsibilities as a son.

These stories firmly help us believe that there are happy endings after all!



Youth 4 Jobs

Mandar Advankar

Male . Maharashtra

Disability - Speech & Hearing Impaired

Employer - Flipkart

Salary per annum - 1,92,600

“The only disability in life is a bad attitude.”

- Scott Hamilton

STORY

5



Jeganathan L

Early Life

Jeganathan is all of 26 years old and comes from a farmer's family in a small town in Vellore, Tamil Nadu. His mother manages the household and he has 2 married sisters who live at their marital homes. Jeganathan comes from a financially poor background. His father's income from farming was barely enough to make ends meet for the family of 5. While the family had to scrimp and save to even buy basic necessities, education was out of the question. Jeganathan's parents still managed to give him an education up to class XII.

After school, he did not want to burden his parents with the expenses of a higher education. Jeganathan joined a small manufacturing industry near his house and worked as a daily wage labourer in the loading section. He wanted to contribute to the family and reduce his father's financial burden.

Disability and its Challenges

Jeganathan was born with a speech and hearing impairment, which went undiagnosed till he turned 2 years old. His father's attitude towards him changed as soon as he discovered his son's disability. The stigma around disability caused Jeganathan's relatives to shun the family. This in turn incited his father who thought he was a curse to the family and harassed him. Jeganathan's mother and sisters were his guardian angels who were extremely supportive. They offered him all the solace that he never got from his father.

Jeganathan studied in a special school and made a lot of friends while at school. But, every time there was a gathering in the household, his cousins neglected him.

It was only after he started working that his

father softened up to him and understood him. Jeganathan used his earnings to help his father with his sisters' wedding expenses. Jeganathan got married to a girl who was also speech and hearing impaired. The stigma and ignorance around disability kicked in again amongst his colleagues at work. They would tell Jeganathan that his child would be born disabled too. This struck so much terror in Jeganathan's heart that he would fervently pray to the almighty for a child who was not disabled.

Jeganathan lost his job during the pandemic. When there was a complete lockdown in the country, jobs were not the biggest priority and disabled people were in the most vulnerable state. He wanted to find another job as soon as possible, so that his family wouldn't suffer but could not manage to.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Jeganathan found out about Y4J through a social media platform. He contacted our team in Chennai and they helped him enrol for the online training program. Jeganathan was an active participant during all the sessions. He was a bit unsure about himself and was battling negativity. His biggest regret is that he won't hear his child's voice when she calls him daddy! Our team gave him ample counselling sessions and helped him get over his traumas.

Jeganathan was very keen to find a job immediately after training owing to his family's financial situation.

Placement

As luck would have it, Jeganathan was selected for a job at Anusham Industries as soon as he completed training. He works at Anusham



Anushagam

AUTOMOTIVE INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED

PLOT NO B-64, SIPCOT INDUSTRIAL PARK
RUNGATTUKOTTAI, SRIPERUMBUDUR,
ANCHEEPURAM, TAMIL NADU - 602 105, INDIA



Industries now with a few other candidates from our training sessions. He is an extremely sincere worker, who is also very composed and co-operative. Jeganathan helps his father with farming in addition to supporting him financially. His wife gave birth to a perfect baby girl with no disabilities.

All the relatives who shunned him are now in awe and respect him for how he turned his life around despite his disability. Success is such a game changer. Jeganathan lives with his wife and beautiful baby girl who will one day grow up and make him as proud as he made us!



Youth 4 Jobs

Jeganathan L

Male . Tamil Nadu

Disability - Speech & Hearing Impaired

Employer - Anusham Industries Chennai

Salary per annum - 1,77,000

“Disability is a matter of perception. If you can do just one thing well, you’re needed by someone.”

- Martina Navratilova

STORY

6



Priya Pundir

Early Life

Priya Pundir is 25 years old, belongs to Dehradun and is affected by cerebral palsy. Her household has five members, including her parents and 2 siblings. Priya's father practices Eastern medicine while her mother is a homemaker. Priya is a trainee from the first batch at our Dehradun Centre.

Disability and its Challenges

Priya's parents left no stone unturned to try and reverse her condition. Her father, being a medical practitioner himself, tried a lot of treatments but to no avail. They finally accepted that they couldn't do anything except equip their daughter with a solid education which would help her be independent later in life. Priya was sent to the best schools and colleges. However, she has some very unpleasant memories of how the other kids in school used to make fun of her slurred speech.

Priya managed to complete high school despite the odds and even finished her graduation after that, but she was not able to find a job. She supplemented her bachelor's degree with computer related courses in the hopes of finding a job. Though she'd get calls for interviews, none of them came through after the employers saw her in person. As she got older her condition got worse, completely restricting her movements. Despite all this, one thing that kept Priya going was her positivity. She kept attending interviews and contacting NGO's to find job opportunities.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Priya came to know about Youth4Jobs through another NGO in Dehradun. She immediately got in touch with the centre manager and enrolled for the first batch at the Dehradun centre. On the first day of her training, she accidentally broke a

glass due to her poor motor skills. Priya got really nervous and broke into tears as she explained to the puzzled staff about why she was crying. It took a great deal of effort and counselling to help Priya build her confidence and look at herself as someone worthy.

Gradually her self-esteem got better and her personality changed completely. Very soon, Priya became the star performer of the batch. She was always cheerful and very polite with everybody. The other candidates and even the trainers were amazed by how much positivity she exuded. Priya herself acknowledged the positive changes in her and how much her skills had improved after training. She felt that the training helped her become goal oriented and motivated.

After completing the training, she attended many interviews but unfortunately wasn't selected. When negativity slowly started creeping in, she would visit the centre again to brush up on her skills. The centre became the safe harbour that she tethered herself to, every time the storms of the outside world threatened to tear her life apart.

Priya has always wanted to help others like herself and help society in any way she can. When things got difficult during the pandemic, Priya along with her family donated food, grocery and medicines to an NGO called Umang in Dehradun. She is an active member of various disability groups and regularly attends the meetings. She has also helped our team organise community meetings at her house for other people in her area with disabilities.



VI VISHAL MEGA MART™

ENTRY

STORE HOURS

SALE





Placement

After training, Priya attended an interview at Vishal Mega Mart where the store manager expressed his concerns in hiring her, owing to her motor skills. Priya's confidence finally won him over and she convinced the manager to give her a chance. The same store manager now can't stop gushing about how hard working she is and how she has earned a reputation for being a wonderful employee in just a few months. She works as a Retail Trainee and earns about 1,08,000 INR annually.

Priya's unwavering confidence and positivity ultimately helped her reach her destination. We wish her happiness and success in all her endeavours!



Priya Pundir
Female . Uttarakhand
Disability - Cerebral Palsy
Employer - Vishal Mega Mart
Salary per annum - 1,08,000

“A child is only as disabled as their environment and the beliefs of the people around them.”

- Bala Pillai (DPT, PCS)

STORY

7



Shashank Kamath

Early Life

Shashank hails from Belgaum District, Karnataka. His late father ran a hotel in Belgaum. In 2004, the hotel had to be shut down after his father's demise. His elder brother is married and settled in Germany and Shashank's mother is a housewife.

Overcoming the challenges of losing his father, the financial commitments, and his own physical limitations, Shashank completed his high school and Diploma in Computer Science at Belgaum.

Disability and its Challenges

Shashank has multiple physical disabilities. Muscular dystrophy is a condition which makes the muscles progressively weaker thereby affecting the whole body, eventually making the person immobile. Shashank is wheelchair bound and must live with restricted motor skills limiting his hand and leg movement. This limitation means that every day he can work and do his activities only for about 3-4 hours. The rest of his day is spent lying on the bed. He needs the constant support of a caregiver for his everyday needs from maintaining personal hygiene to eating.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Shashank's uncle referred him to Youth4Jobs. His disability meant he needed an escort to help him move around and this prevented him from taking up regular jobs. Understanding his physical limitations and the need for one-on-one online training to equip him for job opportunities, Youth4Jobs conducted video calling & remote desktop sharing sessions to assess him. They found that even with limited hand movement and mobility, he was smart and creative. This helped him bag a job with Dobby Ads in Bangalore as a static outdoor advertisement designer for

supermarket products. The first wave of Covid took away his job in March 2020 as his employer had to downsize.

Shashank's disability doesn't allow him to move his hand too much – the maximum he can do is lift his wrist a little bit. This means he manages to use the mouse, but using the keyboard is a challenge. He makes up for this by using onscreen keyboard software. It is a lot of strain on his hands and so his typing speed takes a hit.

Because of this limitation, Shashank prefers a designing job with limited or no deadlines/targets. The Y4J trainer understood the progressive nature of Shashank's disability and the need to evaluate and train him on Assistive Technology (AT) tools. As part of AT training & evaluation various technology-based tools and solutions were tried - head control system, camera mouse, motion/movement control system (Aditi/Kavi-Mindtree foundation), Windows onscreen keyboard with mouse over, speech to text (STT) on speech recognition, etc.

Y4J evaluated and assessed Shashank, to understand his abilities and identified feasible technological solutions to train him more effectively. Voice and speech for instance, was identified as an advantage and he was trained on Windows speech recognition technology & a couple of other tools. Multiple AT tools & solutions were identified keeping in mind the progressive nature of his physical limitations and long-term sustainability (with the worst-case scenario being him losing his wrists).

An adjustable bed and a custom-made table were also suggested by the trainer so that Shashank could have the resources to work



from a sleeping position which would be ideal for him. For writing based jobs, Shashank was asked to use Dragon Dictate – a dictating software. For creative jobs, he could continue using the existing technologies, i.e., the mouse with onscreen keyboard and learning built in Microsoft speech recognition.

Our trainer connected with Shashank one-on-one via virtual platforms such as WhatsApp, Skype, voice calls and remote desktop sharing tools. Shashank has progressed well in these online training sessions and got a good hold on the AT tools suggested to him.

Placement

With his newly-developed skills Shashank got on-the-job training from his ex-employer for 2 months. Unfortunately, that too ended due to the second wave of COVID in 2021. We tried linking him to a work from home Photoshop designing job through Mr. Ritesh Shetty, MD, Sun ITes Company but Ritesh's entire family tested Covid positive and recovered. Ritesh himself was infected during this second wave and had to be hospitalized.

On following up he reverted that it would take a month or two for him to resume his business operations. Our team is trying for other alternative creative designing jobs for Shashank, full-time or part time WFH, with flexibility & non target based roles. Our team has also recommended him to up-skill himself with the latest technology and solutions by continuing to train on the AT tools.

We hope things look up for Shashank and wish him the best!

 Youth 4 Jobs

Shashank Kamath

Male . Karnataka

Disability - Multiple Dystrophy

Employer - Dobby Ads

Mode of Employment - Work from Home

Salary per annum - 1,20,000





Jharana Mallick

Early Life

26-year-old Jharana Mallick was born in Orissa. She has a blood disorder called Thalassemia. Jharana comes from a middle-class family who are very supportive of her. She has two brothers, one pursuing a graduate degree and the other in Class XII.

Jharana's mother is an employee of the government working in the Home Department at Orissa and her father helps her with her foundation.

Jharana has completed her graduation despite all the curveballs life has thrown at her.

Disability and its Challenges

Due to lack of awareness about Thalassemia, she wasn't given proper treatment for a long time. Every time Jharana turned pale, her parents used to rush her to the hospital, but no one in the hospital figured out her problem. This was a regular affair, where her parents would admit her in the hospital every 3 months for a blood transfusion.

When she was about 3 years old, a doctor recommended that her parents take her to Delhi for better treatment as they couldn't figure out what the problem was and why it kept recurring. It was only after they went to Delhi in 1997 and met a doctor there that Jharana's parents realised that she had a rare blood disease called Thalassemia.

Jharana and her parents had to travel to Delhi every 3 months for check-ups and blood transfusion. Normally as humans we go through ups and downs in life; Jharana on the other hand, has seen trauma, pain and depression.

There was a gap of nearly 3 years in her education as she couldn't attend school regularly. Commuting to school and writing exams was a whole other challenge. After every exam, her oxygen levels used to drop, her blood pressure would go down and stress would skyrocket! Despite that, she'd appear for another exam the next day.

When she finished her education and came to Delhi for work, Covid hit! In her condition, stepping out for work would have been extremely risky and dangerous, so she had to quit. Jharana requested our team for a job profile that would allow her to work from home. The effects of the virus on someone with thalassemia would have been disastrous.

After a point, she had to give up her dream of working for a reputed organisation and go back home as she just did not want to take a risk during these uncertain times!

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Jharana expressed her gratitude to our team for giving her a platform and boosting her confidence. She used to be very inhibited in the beginning, but gradually mingled with the others and participated actively during all the sessions. Jharana enjoyed the training process and found the sessions very informative. She told us about how she was very shy earlier due to her lack of confidence and how our training helped her develop self-confidence and build social skills.

Jharana always wanted to help other people who were suffering like her, and did just that.



Placement

After training, she was placed at Cogent E Services. The situation in the country wasn't conducive for a person with disability to travel to work every day. After being employed at the organisation for a bit, she quit her job to start her own trust in Orissa called, 'Institutions of Thalassemia and Disable Warrior Trust' in 2019, to help others suffering from the disorder.

Jharana won a National Award recently and has made us extremely proud. We wish her great health and happiness!



Jharana Mallick

Female . Odisha

Disability - Thalassemia

Employer - Institutions Of Thalassemia & Disabled Warriors Trust

Salary per annum - NA

“When you have a disability,
knowing that you are not defined by
it is the sweetest feeling.”

- Anne Wafula Strike

STORY

9



Pynjoplang Khongjoh

Early Life

Pynjoplang Khongjoh, a boy with a hearing and speech impairment belongs to a remote village called Nongthymmai in Meghalaya's Ribhoi district. Farming is the main occupation of the people here. His parents are farmers too; if they have excess produce, they sell it at the market. This is the family's main source of income. Pynjoplang has 4 sisters and an older brother.

His older brother is also speech and hearing impaired. Pynjoplang's sister went to a government school in the village, but he and his brother could not secure admissions at the same school. They had to travel to a special school in Tura, which was pretty far.

Disability and its Challenges

The commute to and from the special school in Tura was a challenge in itself. But the brothers had no other option. The family was financially weak, so Pynjoplang had to discontinue his education after Higher Secondary.

He wanted to start earning and support his family but finding a job posed many challenges. Everywhere he went seeking a job, he was rejected because of his disability. Employers considered it a loss to employ a person with disability. Some even went so far as to call it a waste of time and a loss to the company's reputation. This really hurt Pynjoplang and he was very disheartened. He used to worry about his family's financial condition and how to provide for them, as both sons were disabled. The thought of never finding a job and being a burden on his family caused him many sleepless nights.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

The pandemic in 2020 brought everything to a standstill. Thanks to Facebook, Pynjoplang discovered the free online training sessions offered by Y4J. He saw a post and got in touch with our team to enquire. He thought equipping himself would be the best thing to do, during a time of crisis and enrolled immediately.

His hopes went up again after attending the sessions, and he was confident about fulfilling his dreams. He also interacted with other like-minded people, exchanged ideas and

made friends. He expressed his gratitude for the opportunity provided and hoped to start providing for his family soon. He told our team that he would love to work for KFC or Reliance Trends.

Placement

On completion of the training program, he was impatient to find a job. But the situation had completely changed during the lockdown. All the companies were facing an economic crisis, across all sectors. People were losing jobs and a lot of organisations were shut down or continuing with the bare-minimum resources.

Finding jobs for people with disabilities was an even bigger challenge. Hiring had come to a halt, but our team relentlessly continued their pursuit. Pynjoplang attended interviews in a few organisations, before he finally got selected for KFC.

He was over the moon at being placed at KFC. He is thrilled to be able to provide for his parents and siblings and not be a burden. He saves a part of his salary to send home every month and hopes to support them even better with time.

These success stories during testing times are what keeps us going!



Pynjoplang Khongjoh
Male . Meghalaya
Disability - Speech & Hearing Impaired
Employer -KFC Indore
Salary per annum - 1,08,000

STORY

10



Gujjari Priyanka

Early Life

Hailing from Karwan in Hyderabad, Priyanka was born with a locomotor disability. She did not let this dishearten her in any way. Priyanka has a younger sister and comes from a poor financial background. Both her parents are daily wage workers.

She suffers from cerebral palsy, which makes hand eye coordination very difficult.

Disability and its Challenges

An epilepsy triggered Priyanka's cerebral palsy, owing to which she cannot hold anything in her left hand. It also manifests while speaking, causing her to stammer. Her mother has been extremely supportive of her from when she was a child, as no one used to speak to her. If she asked questions or doubts during lessons, the teacher would ignore her and move on.

She hardly had any friends as a child. It was only when she reached middle school that the other kids stopped being mean, and started talking to her. Priyanka attended a few interviews at call centres after she completed her education. But as she used to stammer while speaking, she ended up getting rejected every time.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

A cousin of Priyanka's told her about Y4J's WISE Online Training. She got in touch with our team and registered for the training. She loved the training sessions where she understood the concept of various online tools. She also loved the fact that she was given individual attention; after all those years of neglect during her school years, this was a welcome change.

Priyanka's interaction with her peers was full of confidence, comfort and a sense of freedom! The module on work readiness changed her mindset regarding a job. She attended many

mock interviews which were conducted keeping real interviews as a benchmark. She even had opportunities to interact with potential employers many times.

Placement

Priyanka worked really hard during her training sessions with extreme determination and grit. She had vowed to herself that she would get placed exactly where she had faced rejections; at a call centre!

She took great efforts to practice her voice modulations and requested our team to set up interviews at call centres. Our team did just that and after a few initial hiccups, she was selected for Rockwell Industries Pvt Ltd at Hyderabad as a Tele caller. She was asked to join work on the same day. She currently earns INR 1,20,000 a year and is very happy to have achieved her goal! Priyanka's parents are over the moon with their daughter's new avatar; happy, cheerful and confident. Priyanka's grit and determination are something that we are very proud of and we wish her the best to scale greater heights in the future.



STORY

11



Deepak

Early Life

Deepak is a candidate from Moodabidre in Dakshina Kannada District. His disability first surfaced when he was in nursery. He slowly started losing his vision, which after a point made even crossing the road a challenge. Deepak had to drop out of school because it was unsafe for him to walk to school with his disability.

Deepak came from a very humble background. His father was a labourer who worked for daily wages and his mother was a cook at a government school. With 4 children to feed and provide for, money was always short in Deepak's household.

Disability and its Challenges

Deepak had always wanted to pursue his education despite dropping out of school as a child. He was almost 13 years old when he was given admission at a school for the visually impaired in Mangalore. As Deepak did not have any of his certificates, he was admitted to Class I, when he should have been in Class VIII or IX.

Imagine having to study in a classroom where all the other children are at least 7 years younger! Deepak persisted and studied in the school for 6 years. He was almost 20 years old when he got to Class VII. The other kids bullied and made fun of him as he was the oldest and the tallest kid in the class. Out of embarrassment, Deepak lost interest and dropped out of school.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Our team got in touch with Deepak through the disability welfare department to brief him about the training program. Deepak enrolled for the training right away and was very happy to be part of a program with other candidates of his age.

After completion of the training, our team scheduled a placement interview for Deepak with Berry's Food Processing. He was selected as a General Worker with a salary of INR 6000 a month with 2 meals every day. Deepak was thrilled with his new job and the independence that came with it.

Placement

Deepak was always fascinated by cars, so when

an opportunity at a car wash presented itself he couldn't let it go! Through a classmate from his Y4J training days who worked in the city, Deepak got to know about a car wash company in the mall which needed employees. With his newfound confidence, he applied for the job and got it. This car wash company paid him almost double the amount of what he was earning plus incentives. Deepak attributed it all to Y4J's training and how it gave him the confidence to dream. His dream was to save enough money to buy a second hand bus and make money by leasing the vehicle.

After a few months, we came to know about how Deepak's dreams had gotten even bigger! He had joined a new car wash company in Mangalore for a better pay with flexible timings and weekly days off.

Since the lockdown this year after the second wave, he was without a job or pay for a long time. It gives us immense pride to say that Deepak used all his savings to start a small grocery shop in his village. With the travel industry taking the biggest hit in the pandemic, Deepak hopes that his new venture will bear fruit. He wants to diversify his savings so that when the time is ripe and the travel industry swings back into action, he'll ultimately have the support to buy the bus and fulfil his dream! We hope all of Deepak's dreams come true and wish him the best!







STORY

12



Piyush Vijayvergiya

Early Life

This is the story of 26-year-old Piyush Vijayvargiya, who was diagnosed with polio at the tender age of 6 months. He had to undergo a surgery on both of his legs before he even turned 2 years old. The surgery was unsuccessful, and it meant a lifetime sentence of moving about in a wheelchair for Piyush. He would be unable to walk or stand without support. The trauma that he and his parents must have gone through is unimaginable.

Piyush comes from Bhilwara district in Rajasthan. His father is an employee in a private firm and his earnings are not very significant. Though this income was barely enough to cover the household expenditure, Piyush's father gave his family the best that he could manage. Piyush remembers how his father's forehead used to crinkle up in worry. Despite being burdened with debts, his father made sure to give him an education; at a post graduate level no less!

Disability and its Challenges

Piyush's ears and teeth suddenly started bleeding when he turned 6 years old. On his doctor's advice, his parents took him to Ahmedabad where he was diagnosed with a blood disorder called Haemophilia. This meant that his blood was not clotting like it was supposed to. His parents did all they could to take care of him.

It was ok for a while, but while writing his Class XII exams, he had heavy internal bleeding in both his elbows, due to which he couldn't even hold his pen properly, forget writing. He managed to get through his exams and pass with a good score.

Piyush was working at a government hospital as a computer operator before completing his

master's degree. The 20 months that he worked there are what he describes as the real struggles in his life. Commuting to and from work was a huge challenge. From reaching the bus stop to boarding and finding a space to sit or stand in the bus, it was a nightmare due to the infrastructure which was not friendly for a person with a disability.

Piyush successfully completed his master's degree while simultaneously preparing for competitive exams. He did not get selected for over 5 years which was a huge cause of disappointment. But yet again, he didn't let this bog him down and decided to fight the situation. All Piyush wanted was to support his father financially but his disability kept coming in the way of progress.

Journey With Youth4Jobs

Little did he know that his life was about to change dramatically, exactly the way he wanted it!

Piyush was very interested in joining the corporate sector after his master's. While randomly checking the messages on a group, he happened to see a pamphlet from the Y4J Foundation. He got in touch with our team. After he was briefed about the training program, he enrolled right away. Because the sessions were focussed on improving skills and preparedness for the job, he knew it would be helpful.

The stories of other people in the training changed his views and made him more enthusiastic and positive about finding a job and turning his life around.

Placement

After the training, our team called him and



asked him to get his resume ready to schedule an interview at Accenture. After multiple rounds of interviews, he was placed at Accenture. This reaffirmed his strong belief that continuous efforts in the right direction guarantees success. He works as a Customer Service Associate at Accenture and earns close to INR 2,31,996 annually. He has been working from home during the pandemic. Such stories bring us a great deal of joy, we wish only the best for Piyush!



Youth 4 Jobs

Piyush Vijayvergiya

Male . Rajasthan

Disability -Polio

Employer -Accenture

Mode of Employment - Work from Home

Salary per annum - 2,31,996

“Disability is not a brave struggle or ‘courage in the face of adversity’

Disability is an art. It’s an ingenious way to live.”

- Neil Marcus

STORY

13



Karun K

Early Life

Hailing from a small village called Palakkad, in Kerala, 28 year old Karun always had big dreams for his future. His small family comprises 5 members, Karun, his 2 sisters, father and mother. Karun's Father Swaminathan, is an astrologer by profession. He was not very popular, but he worked hard to make ends meet. Karun's mother, Omana is a housewife.

Karun was aware of his family's limitations from his early teens. His father had huge debts to pay off and struggled to make sure that his children got a good education. Understanding the struggles and sacrifices of the family, all three siblings passed their higher secondary education with great scores.

Disability and its Challenges

Being differently abled is always a challenge, especially in a third world nation like India. Despite drastic improvements in health care systems and social awareness schemes and policies, the situation of differently abled people remains deplorable, especially among the rural and lower income groups.

The situation is no different in Kerala. Despite having the highest literacy rates and one of the most efficient health care systems in the nation, differently abled children and their families are subject to multiple deprivations and limited opportunities throughout their lives.

Speech and hearing-impaired Karun could not manage to make many friends at school, as he was always seen as an outsider. His classmates always maintained a distance and to some extent the teachers promoted their behaviour too. His father always encouraged him to create his own identity, every time Karun came home

disheartened. Those words fuelled Karun's aspirations.

Karun's family remained unfazed despite the social marginalization and physical neglect. Karun's father never restricted Karun from following his dreams, even though inequality was very evident. A lot of organisations rejected Karun because of his disability.

Karun was disappointed every time he was not selected as he felt he was not being given a chance to showcase his skills. He started to doubt himself and let negativity engulf him.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Karun joined training in September, 2019 at the Kochi Y4J centre. As it was a residential program, he adjusted to the training program quickly. Meeting his peers and hearing success stories of many famous people who did not surrender to their limitations inspired Karun immensely. The training helped Karun regain all his lost confidence. Every time he felt demotivated, a voice inside his head would push him to do better!

An introvert by nature, Karun gradually started to develop his social skills. He was very active during training and interaction, and started sharing his views and ideas whenever an opportunity presented itself. The training became the stepping stone for Karun to kick start his career. From constantly doubting and judging himself, over imagining what negatives the interviewer would spot in him, Karun became confident about his capabilities.

Placement

After classroom training, Karun attended a



SAPNA
Purchase
S.V.
NOV
2017



few interviews. He even went to Mumbai for company training. It was a trust called the Deeds Public Charity Trust. It was an organization that worked towards the upliftment and emancipation of hearing-impaired people. But he could not continue there as the accommodation did not have basic facilities.

Full of confidence that he could find a job in the government sector, Karun returned to Kerala. He applied at the local employment centre in Palakkad after which an interview was scheduled in a couple of weeks' time. Needless to say, he aced the interview. Karun was selected as an assistant LD Clerk in Gramin Dak Sevak (Rural postal service) through a quota for the disabled. He joined work as a temporary staff member, but will soon be made permanent. Karun is convinced that joining Youth4Jobs changed his and his family's life for good. He is no longer bothered by what society says behind his back. We are proud of Karun and his achievements and wish him the best.



Karun K
Male . Kerala
Disability - Speech & Hearing Impaired
Employer - Gramin Dak Sevak
Salary per annum - 1,32,000

“No pessimist ever discovered the secret of the stars, or sailed to an uncharted land, or opened a new doorway for the human spirit.”

- Helen Keller

STORY

14



Shibdas Porey

Early Life

As someone who was born with a disability in one of his legs, 29 year old Shibdas Porey has seen a lot of disappointment, misery, and frustrations in life. He lives in a small village, which is 90 kms away from Kolkata, in the district of Howrah. Shibdas has an older brother who works in a small shop. His father is a daily wage labourer and his mother takes care of the household. The income in the household hardly amounts to 5000 INR a month, which is barely enough to provide for a family of 4.

Disability and its Challenges

Shibdas could not pursue his education beyond class VIII, as the household's income barely covered the basic expenses. He had a 60% disability in his left leg and went to many hospitals to get it treated. From the Government Hospital at Howrah to spending close to 20 days in a hospital at Vellore for treatment, he had seen it all.

After completing his final examinations for Class VIII, he started working in a tiny cycle garage, doing odd jobs for a meagre salary of INR 2500 a month. He used to deliver newspapers at people's doorsteps to earn some extra cash. He worked very hard to be of some help to his struggling family and to provide a better life for them.

His only aim was to find a better job as early as he possibly could, so that he could improve his family's standard of living. The rat race makes it difficult for everyone coming from poor economic backgrounds to find a job; imagine how difficult it must have been for a person with a disability who hadn't completed his education. Shibdas was struggling to find a job of his liking, but he was resolute in pursuing his goal and let nothing get in his way or deter him. Instead of cribbing and whining about how life was unfair, he took it in his stride and kept at it!

Journey with Youth4Jobs

It was through social media that Shibdas came to know about Y4J's Online Training Program. He got in touch with our team and expressed interest in the 21-day training program. Shibdas

was very enthusiastic during these sessions and displayed great energy. He was extremely regular and didn't miss even one session. Unlike a lot of other candidates who attended these sessions from the comfort of their homes, Shibdas attended these sessions from the cycle garage that he was working at.

Placement

Shibdas had just one condition about where he wanted to work. He wanted to ensure that his workplace was close to his house, so he would not have to commute. If he were to find a job in Kolkata or some other place that's far away, the everyday journey to and from the workplace would have been very difficult for him.

On the completion of training, Shibdas was placed at Dey Industrial Corporation as a Machine Operator. His workplace is not very far from his hometown and he earns INR 1,44,000 every year.

Shibdas is also pursuing his incomplete education and plans to appear for his board exams very soon.

We hope he aces his exams, like he has conquered every other challenge that came his way. Our team wishes him the best!



Shibdas Porey
Male . West Bengal
Disability – Locomotor
Employer – Dey Industrial Corporation
Salary per annum – 1,44,000

STORY

15



Marieswari Kandan

Early Life

Marieswari from is Madurai 23 years old and was born to farmers. She was born with a locomotor disability. Marieswari belongs to a family of 5. She has two younger sisters and the entire household survives on an annual income of 25000 INR, which hardly amounts to 2000 rupees a month. Despite this, her parents have been very keen to give Marieswari and her sisters an education, so they can be independent in the future. Being the oldest child in the family, Marieswari also shouldered the additional responsibility of providing for her family after she completed her education.

Her relationship with her sisters was pretty strained due to her disability. Marieswari finally decided that her disability was her destiny. She was also aware that only an education would help her and this motivated her to complete her post-graduation.

Disability and its Challenges

Marieswari's early life was mostly one challenge after another. She focussed on her education in the hopes of finding a good job, which would ultimately ease out all her troubles. People around her, including her friends and relatives constantly gossiped about her disability. With great determination and grit she completed her schooling, graduation and even her post-graduation. She was extremely hopeful about finding a job after her studies. But her disability got in the way again and all the potential employers refused to hire her. No one directly mentioned disability as a reason for rejection. The fact that Marieswari did very well in the interviews and still didn't manage to secure a job, was testament to it.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Marieswari enrolled herself for our online training program. She was a very active participant during these sessions and learned how to set goals and achieve them. Marieswari wanted to make drastic changes to her life, so

that her sisters did not have to see the troubles that she did. She wanted to show them that where there is hope, anything is possible. These sessions helped her build confidence and gave her that much needed hope.

Placement

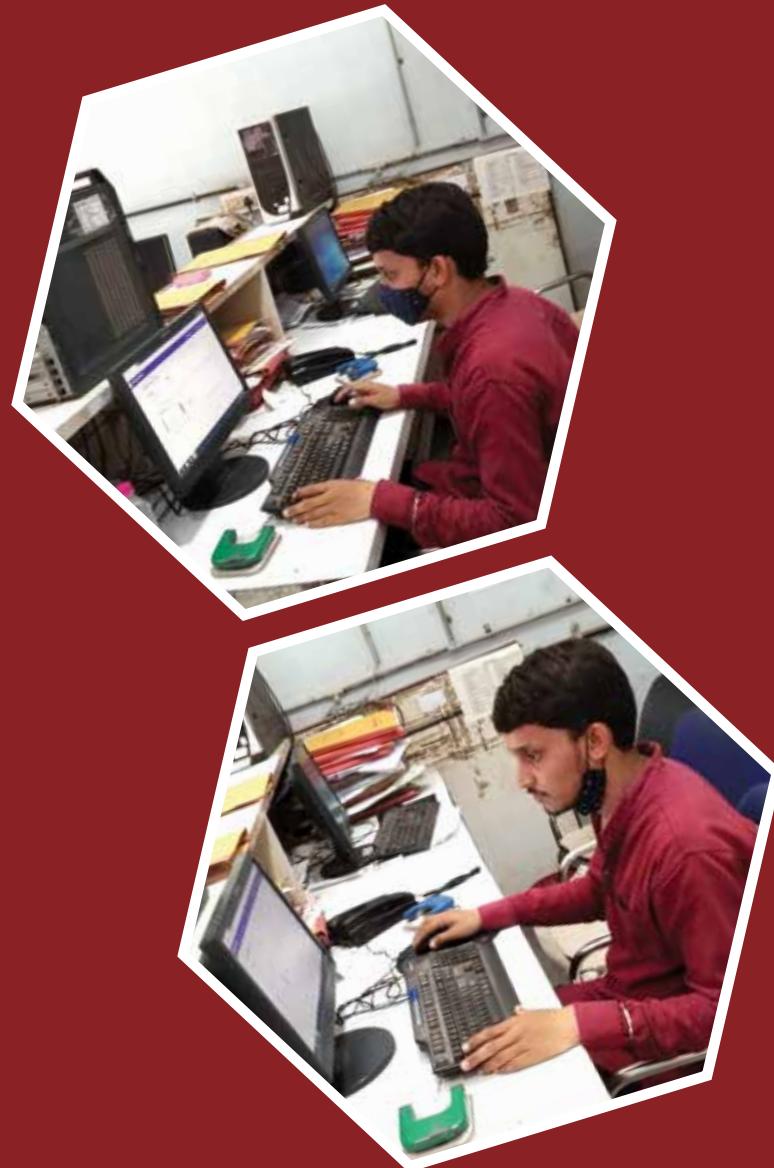
At the end of the training, Marieswari got an opportunity to appear for an interview at TAFE. What impressed her the most about this opportunity was that the organisation focussed on employing people with disabilities. They did not discriminate and provided an inclusive environment. Having seen a lot of rejections due to her disability, this came as a pleasant surprise to her.

Marieswari is a whole new person now; she exudes confidence and knows that she can achieve anything if she puts her heart and soul into it. She earns about INR 94,800 annually, which is a big leap from what the family used to survive on earlier. The organisation has also offered her a transport facility to and from the office, which makes the daily commute a breeze! Marieswari is now a single, independent woman who takes care of her family and we couldn't be more proud of her. The team at Y4J wishes her the best.



STORY

16



Ashokbhai
Kuvarji Thakor

Early Life

22-year old Ashok Thakur is a candidate from our online training program. He is from Patan district in Gujarat and has a locomotor disability that affects 75% of his mobility.

Ashok comes from a family of 5; his father, mother and two siblings. Ashok's sister is married and lives with her in-laws, while his brother is studying. His father Kunvar bhai is a 58 year old daily wager and the sole bread-winner of the family. Ashok finished his schooling and could not study any further as his father's income stopped.

Disability and its Challenges

At the age of 18, Ashok met with an accident that unfortunately changed the course of his life. He was traveling by train when he lost a leg due to an accident, leading to a 75% disability. His parents tried their best to somehow help him recover, but it all went in vain. the financial hardships did not make it any easier when it came to treatments. The family has faced a ton of difficulties trying to salvage the disability but could not manage to. Ashok's mother especially could not even manage to look at him without crying her eyes out, out of concern for her boy! Ashok struggled to perform even basic tasks after the accident, but his family stood by him like a rock and supported him with his everyday activities.

Ashok's parents were heartbroken after his accident. Their son, at the brink of a career and marriage, had met with a devastating accident and it really affected them. Despite that, they were an incredible source of support to him and did not let his disability bog him down. Ashok's father especially gave him plenty of emotional

support. Ashok's life completely changed after the incident. It took him a long time to accept his disability and come to terms with not walking, running or playing like he used to. It must have taken him a great deal of courage and grit to accept life the way it was and look for the way forward.

He feels incredibly lucky to have had parents who supported him and stood by him, encouraging him and giving him hope that he can start his life all over again.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Our team got in touch with Ashok during the lockdown with information about training. Ashok was briefed about the foundation, what the training entailed and how it would help him. He was really impressed with the training details and the online training facility.

The training helped him develop his spoken English and knowledge of retail, computers, life skills and soft skills. During the spoken English training sessions, he learnt how to introduce himself and updated his vocabulary skills. The Retail training sessions helped him understand the difference between a mall, a supermarket, a special store, and a regular store. These training sessions on the whole helped him improve his confidence levels.

Ashok was skeptical about finding a job before training, as he was not a graduate and his disability kind of bogged him down. But he was desperate to find a job as his family had run out of money due to expenses incurred from the treatment. The COVID pandemic crushed whatever little hope he had left too! The training at Y4J gave him some much-needed hope that he would find something soon.



Placement

Hope came in the form of a job opening at Nirma Limited, for which Ashok seemed like a perfect fit. A trainer from Y4J spoke to the employer about Ashok after which he appeared for an interview and was selected for the role.

Ashok now works for Nirma Company as a computer operator and programming assistant. He earns 1,02,000 annually and is absolutely happy with his job, as he loves computers.

Youth 4 Jobs

Ashokbhai Kuvarji Thakor

Male . Gujarat

Disability – Locomotor

Employer – Nirma Limited

Salary per annum – 1,02,000



STORY

17



Dhurki Srinivas

Early Life

Srinivas is from Adilabad district and lives with his parents and younger brother. He has a locomotor disability. His parents were farmers and worked really hard to support the family. They struggled to make ends meet, put food on the table, and give their sons a good education. But, they somehow pulled it off! They have now stopped working due to old age and other ailments. Srinivas' younger brother is pursuing his bachelor's degree now.

Disability and its Challenges

Srinivas has graduated with a bachelor's degree in commerce. Because his parents were not very well-off, he had to entirely depend on scholarships to complete his education. Throughout his education, he studied in government aided schools and colleges. He also managed to find schools and colleges with hostels.

Srinivas was less worried about his disability and more focused on supporting his parents financially. Even while he was studying he used to work part time and send the money he earned from these jobs home.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Srinivas came to know about the WISE Training Program through a web search. He was very eager to join and enrolled for the program immediately. During these sessions, he was an extremely active participant. Srinivas was a very regular student and was one of the top students in his batch. He was to help his peers with their assignments and the trainers were very fond of him too. He was excited to complete his training and was eagerly looking forward to joining work soon after the completion of training.

After these training sessions, he was introduced to a higher level of reading material comprehension skills. After that, he was trained to face interviewers and improve his skills on cracking online assessments. The initial days were a bit of struggle for him, where he didn't get selected in a couple of organisations that he applied to. Srinivas did not let that pull him down. He knew how much effort he had put in and was supremely confident about cracking one of the upcoming interviews.

Placement

All his hard work and patience finally paid off in the end. Srinivas was placed at Cognizant Technology Solutions, in Hyderabad where he works as a Process Executive – Voice. He earns a handsome salary of 2,49,996 INR a year. He is extremely happy to be working from home during this time.

Srinivas expressed his gratitude to the team and told us how useful the training is to people with disabilities. He very strongly felt that the training helped him find a career and is grateful for the vision that the organization has towards eradicating unemployment amongst disabled youth. Above all, he is happy to be independent and an earning member of the household who can provide for his family and enable his parents to put up their feet and relax after all their years of hard work!

Our wish for Srinivas is for him to scale greater heights and make us proud! We wish him the best.



Dhurki Srinivas

Male . Telangana

Disability – Locomotor

Employer – Cognizant Technology Solutions

Mode of Employment – Work from Home

Salary per annum – 2,49,996



Nitin Gote

Early Life

This is the story of 27-year-old Nitin Gote who hails from Washim, Maharashtra. Nitin belongs to a middle-class family; his father is a farmer and his mother takes care of the household. Nitin also has three married sisters. Tragedy struck very early on in Nitin's life in the form of a negligent doctor. When he was about 2 years old, he was taken to a local clinic as he was running a temperature. The doctor gave Nitin an injection, half an hour after which Nitin developed black spots on his entire body. His terrified parents rushed him back to the same clinic. The doctor realised that he had given Nitin an injection that was past its expiry date.

The doctor offered money in exchange for his massive goof-up, but Nitin's parents did not take it. They wanted proper treatment for their son. The doctor gave them some random medicine and sent them back home. This kind of negligence would have warranted a severe action or maybe even a lawsuit against the doctor in a city, amongst the privileged. The reality in small towns is very different.

Nitin was very aware of how much his parents struggled to make him self-sufficient. From selling a part of the land that they owned to toiling in the field, ensuring that his education didn't take a hit in any way, his parents were extremely supportive. With their support, Nitin completed his graduation and started preparing for civil service exams by enrolling himself at study circle lessons. Nitin wanted to show his parents how grateful he was, by finding a good job.

Disability and its Challenges

Nitin's growth was affected due to the doctor's improper treatment. As he grew up, the veins

in his body didn't function normally. His bones were visible as there was very less mass. Nitin's condition was a cause of extreme sorrow to his parents.

His father, after selling his land and working on the fields all day, every day, still made sure his son got an education. Nitin could not walk, so his father would carry him on his shoulders to school every day. In return, Nitin made sure he didn't disappoint his father. He did extremely well at school and was liked by everyone.

Throughout his life, he balanced education and treatment simultaneously. Nitin has undergone many surgeries but none of them showed significant progress. When Nitin was in class X, a doctor at Aurangabad Ghati Hospital recommended that he amputate a leg and a hand that were damaged. The doctor told him that retaining it would risk his life. Nitin's parents appealed to the doctor and requested him not to amputate his hand, as that would make Nitin's life more difficult than it already was. The doctor agreed on the condition that they would take proper precautions to nurse the damaged hand. Nitin's parents took very good care of his hand and nursed it because of which he got to retain both his hands.

Nitin appeared for various civil service exams and was finally selected for training at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research at Chennai. This training lasted for 2 years, and Nitin got a stipend of INR 5100 plus all other facilities.

After the training Nitin came home for a period of 3 months, after which he was supposed to appear for an exam at Chennai. He would have been a permanent employee after clearing this

स्थापना 2005



अनामप्रेम



THE HILLBROOK
CAMEL





exam, but unfortunately the pandemic struck!

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Nearly 6 months after the pandemic and its catastrophic effects, Nitin had been sitting at home with nothing to do. He was desperate to learn something new. Nitin's friend told him about Youth4Job's online training and placement and Nitin enrolled immediately. Nitin was a bright student and attended all the sessions with great enthusiasm. He was very active and shared his experience, so others would be inspired. Nitin was very thankful for this opportunity to train during the pandemic.

Placement

Once the lockdown ended, our team from Ahmednagar got in touch with Nitin about a job opportunity at Anamprem. Nitin attended the interview after which he was selected for the role of a clerk. He earns close to 60,000 INR every month and is very happy to be working. The administrator at Anamprem is very impressed with Nitin and his style of work. Nitin's fighter spirit and belief in himself is what helped him overcome every single obstacle in his life. His parents are extremely proud of him. Nitin wants to be an inspiration to others who don't believe in themselves. We are certain that he will succeed and do very well in life, no matter where he goes!



Nitin Gote

Male . Maharashtra

Disability – Locomotor

Employer – Anamprem

Salary per annum – 60,000

“As a disabled man, let my life be a reflection of the endless amount of ability that exists in each and everyone of us”

-Robert M. Hensel

STORY

19



Karthik S

Early Life

34-year-old Karthik hails from a tiny village at Namakkal, Tamil Nadu. He was affected by polio as a child and as a result of that, he has a locomotor disability. Karthik's family includes his father who passed away a couple of years ago, his mother and married older sister. His father passed away due to deteriorating health conditions after which his mother had to work odd jobs in the farms nearby for daily wages to support the family. Karthik was keen to find a job and relieve his mother of her burdens.

Disability and its Challenges

Karthik was barely 3 years old when he was affected by polio, due to which both his legs didn't function properly. At the insistence of his relatives, his parents took him to multiple hospitals for corrective surgery. The doctors did not have any hopes about his recovery but his parents persisted nevertheless. They even tried Ayurveda but it was of no use. After a point, they decided to accept the disability and give Karthik an education of his choice and equip him for his future.

Karthik went to school at his village after which he also finished his graduation and post-graduation. He wanted education to be an armour against his disability. Karthik was an extrovert who made plenty of friends and all of them were extremely supportive of him.

It was Karthik's dream to find a job in government services. He spent almost 3 years preparing for government examinations after his post-graduation. Karthik's unemployment however took a toll on the family's financial condition. He had to take up a job to help his family survive. Through a friend, he found an opportunity at an organisation in Chennai and joined work as a Marketing Executive. After having worked here for 3 years, he had to quit and go back to his village following his father's demise and his own health issues

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Our team used the database from the District Employment Office of Namakkal to identify youth with disabilities and their employment

status. They procured Karthik's details and got in touch with him to brief him about the online training and placement program. Karthik was super enthusiastic and immediately expressed interest in enrolling for it.

He showed great interest in learning something new and was an active participant during the sessions. Karthik also motivated his batch mates to attend the training regularly and would even call them up and remind them to join the session if they were late. Despite being a postgraduate, he did not miss even a single session. He expressed interest in the e-commerce and BPO sector, so our team hoped to find a vacancy for him in the same field..

Placement

A job vacancy opened up at Kolors Healthcare Pvt Ltd, which is a leading company in the healthcare sector at Hyderabad. Our team scheduled a virtual interview for Karthik with 6 other youths. The organisation was impressed with Karthik's previous experience in customer support and shortlisted him for the role. Karthik started work at the beginning of this year with a salary of INR 1,80,000 and other perks like free food and accommodation. Karthik is very happy to be independent while also taking care of his mother. We wish him all the success and happiness!



Karthik S

Male . Tamil Nadu

Disability – Locomotor

Employer – Kolors Health Care India Pvt Ltd

Salary per annum – 1,80,000

STORY

20



Pradip Devkar

Early Life

Pradip Devkar is one of those people that didn't let his disability define him. Pradip was born with a locomotor disability due to which one of his legs is slightly tilted. He is all of 30 years old and lives with his mother in Nashik, Maharashtra. This is the story of how he succeeded despite all the curveballs life kept throwing at him.

Pradip was in high school when his father passed away. His mother struggled to put food on the table and make ends meet. He has three brothers who live separately. To help his mother provide for the family Pradip took up a job to ease her burden. Pradip did not let this deter him from pursuing an education. He knew how important an education was for better job prospects.

Pradip started working in a local sabzi mandi (vegetable market) as someone who loads and unloads the vegetables. This is work that involves a lot of heavy lifting and hard work. This hardly helped him earn 4000-6000 INR a month. Pradip simultaneously kept his education going, and managed to complete his graduation from a college full-time.

Disability and its Challenges

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected many of us in different ways, but the poor and marginalised have had it way worse than any of us can really comprehend. During the government-imposed lockdown, a lot of establishments in Nashik had to shut down. This hit Pradip and his family very hard as he lost his livelihood. He was under heavy debt from all sides; rent, medical expenses and whatever he had borrowed from his friends. The banks refused to give him a loan as he had no fixed salary every month. Times were so bad, that the family didn't even make enough to buy essentials.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

To provide for his family, Pradip started working with a street vendor. However, he was putting himself and his mother at a risk. There was always a fear of getting infected as he came in contact with multiple people every day. He started looking out for a different job, and got to know through his friend that there was a job opportunity. This is when Pradip contacted a member from the Y4J team and let him know

how eager he was to join a safer, more secure job. The member got him an opportunity to visit and attend an interview at United Spirits Limited (Diageo) after he submitted all the relevant documents.

Placement

Pradip currently works at United Spirits Limited (Diageo) and he has been with them since October 2020. He is a Storekeeper and draws close to INR 1,80,804 annually. He is responsible for keeping a check on the stock and creating unloading reports.

Pradip at work

His mother is ecstatic to see him work for a renowned company with a comfortable package that follows all safety protocols. Pradip is proud of his growth too; from a helper at a sabzi mandi to where he is now is commendable indeed! It was his grit and determination to never give up on his education that brought him this far. We wish him the best and hope he scales greater heights and makes us proud, as he does now!



Pradip Devkar
Male . Maharashtra
Disability - Locomotor
Employer - Diageo (United Spirits Limited)
Salary per annum - 1,80,804

STORY

21



Divya Anil Kumar
Thakkar

Early Life

Divya who is all of 22 years old was born with a speech and hearing impairment in Ahmedabad. Her parents came from a poor economic background. Her father runs a shop selling milk and milk products. The household also includes her mom and her younger brother who is in high school. Divya's parents were very concerned about how she would cope as a disabled person in society. Due to financial constraints, Divya had to stop studying after class X and start looking for a job to support her family. She wanted to contribute to the household expenses and reduce her father's burden.

Disability and its Challenges

As a speech and hearing-impaired girl, Divya faced a lot of challenges, disappointments, misery and frustration. Imagine being a young child and not being able to comprehend why other children treat you differently. Divya could not play, talk or express her feelings like other kids her age. Her childhood was extremely lonely as other children in the school didn't bother striking a friendship with her. To top it all, Divya could not even talk her heart out to her family or relatives as nobody knew sign language.

After completing primary school, she went to a school for children with special needs. Here she found many others like her and that gave her a sense of inclusion. She was able to make friends at last and express her feelings. It was still a challenge at the household where Divya's parents struggled to help her understand homework and household chores.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Divya came to know about Youth4Jobs through a WhatsApp group to which she belonged. The message was about Y4J training and job placements. She called the interpreter and was briefed about the program. Divya was very hopeful about finding a job when she joined

the training program. Our team found her to be extremely sincere, mature and sharp during the training sessions.

Placement

An opportunity opened up at Amazon and our team got in touch with Divya to appear for the interview. Unfortunately tragedy struck in the form of her grandfather's demise the day after she joined work. Divya was traumatized by the event and had to be hospitalised for 4 days.

According to Amazon's policy, a new joiner needs to come in to work for 4 days continuously before they can be confirmed as an employee of Amazon. Divya was heartbroken when we communicated this to her. She got ready to join right away, so our team spoke to the HR at Amazon, and explained the circumstances. After multiple interactions and counselling sessions, the HR thankfully obliged and let Divya join work.

Divya was issued her appointment letter and she currently works at the Amazon Sorting Centre. She earns 1,66,128 a year and is thoroughly enjoying her work.



Divya Anil Kumar Thakkar

Female . Gujarat

Disability - Speech & Hearing Impaired

Employer - Amazon

Salary per annum - 1,66,128

STORY

22



Safwana

Early Life

Safwana is a ball of energy and belongs to a remote village in Karnataka. Though she is disabled and has no mobility in her legs, she has an attitude that more than makes up for her physical limitations.

Safwana comes from a lower-middle class family, where her father runs a scrap business while her mother manages the household. Despite having 3 children and not a lot of money, her parents never compromised on the children's education. Safwana has completed her bachelor's degree in commerce and is currently pursuing her master's degree through distance education.

Disability and its Challenges

Safwana faced a lot of trouble and inconvenience while attending school and college. Her legs were deformed and extremely weak, because of which she was confined to using a walker inside the house and a wheelchair outside.

Travel was a nightmare with the facilities not being very inclusive or disabled friendly. Safwana persisted and completed high school and her under graduation despite all the challenges. She aspires to get into Public Services or Civil Services and is also simultaneously preparing for the examinations.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Safwana wanted to help her father and support her family financially. She felt that she owed her family and had a lot of responsibilities. This set her off in the pursuit of a good job with a decent pay. Safwana also knew that she would have to equip herself and hone her skills to find a job of her liking.

When an opportunity from Youth4Jobs presented itself in the form of a mobilisation camp for the online training program, she grabbed it! Safwana enrolled in the third batch for online training at Sullia taluk in Dakshina Kannada.

Safwana told our team that she had no idea how much the training would benefit her when she enrolled for it. All she wanted was to gain some insight into job skills and interviews. She didn't expect that the training would change her outlook and make her bold and confident. She specially thanks the staff who would patiently answer all her questions without an iota of impatience.

Placement

After her training, Safwana was placed at Vindhya Infotech in Bangalore as a Customer Support Executive. She works for the Videocon DTH process at the organisation and earns INR 96,000 a year.

This turned out to be just the break that Safwana was waiting for. She was very happy to have got an opportunity that let her attend a training from the comforts of her house. In addition to building skills, she was also presented with an opportunity to work from home. Coming from a small village, without many avenues for the disabled, she considers herself extremely lucky to have found a job without the hassle of travel.



STORY

23



Sanju M

Early Life

Chamarajanagar is a small town near Mysore, 25 year old Sanju hails from here. Sanju has a hearing and speech impairment. His father is a farmer and his step mother manages the household. Sanju has had trouble hearing and speaking from his childhood. His parents were very distressed when they discovered his disability when Sanju was about 2 years old.

Sanju went to a school for special children till Class X. After this he quit formal education and joined an ITI (Industrial Training Institute). He completed a course at the ITI, which landed him a job at ISSL CPG as a fitter.

Despite many hurdles, Sanju managed to complete his schooling and join an ITI. It was during the second year at the ITI, that he met Jyothi. She understood him and gave him all the love that he had missed out on. Sanju fell in love with Jyothi and the two are happily married now.

Disability and its Challenges

Sanju has faced a lot of challenges from a very young age. His mother, who constantly worried about his future, used to carry him for 3 kms so he could have speech therapy. His mother was a daily wage labourer and she spent all her hard-earned money on Sanju's therapy.

When Sanju contracted typhoid, she did not have enough money for his treatment. His mother borrowed money from her brother for the treatment. After the treatment ended, Sanju's uncle threatened his mother to either repay the money or pay interest for the amount borrowed. Sanju's mother, who already worked hard, had to work even harder to pay interest to her brother.

All this stress took a toll on her health; she threw up blood and was rushed to the hospital. She was diagnosed with cancer at an advanced stage, and the doctors told the family that she didn't have a lot of time left.

The doctors gave up all hopes of recovering her, but prescribed expensive medicines that would keep her afloat for a while. Sanju's mother barely survived for a few weeks on those medicines. She passed away when he was 7 years old, taking away all the comfort she had offered him over the years.

Sanju's father remarried after his mother passed away. His step mother was extremely mean to him, she would spank him and ill-treat him. Sanju's father, who was aware of this, enrolled him in a school with a hostel. During a school trip, when Sanju asked his father for some money, his step mother intervened and denied him the money. While everybody else in the class went for the picnic, Sanju sat all alone in the hostel.

Fast forward to many years later, Sanju faced a lot of difficulties while communicating with his colleagues at work. His manager would yell at him and treat him badly. There was an incident where Sanju wanted some time off to attend a birthday party. He completed his work well within the stipulated time, but was still denied time off from work. Sanju still persevered and managed to work there for 2 years.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Covid wreaked havoc with the local economy and Sanju had to deal with a job loss. He had to grapple with this sudden change and did not even have money to pay the house rent. It was during this time of despair that Sanju's friend

A **TATA** and **TESCO** Enterprise

star





introduced him to Y4J's online training program. Sanju enrolled himself immediately, with the hopes that it would increase his prospects of finding a job soon.

Sanju enrolled in the basic English course for written communication during his training. He can now communicate with everyone by writing, thanks to support from our trainers.

Placement

Sanju found a new job in January 2021. He was appointed as a Support Executive at Star Hypermarkets in Bengaluru with an annual income of INR 1,69,488.

An emboldened Sanju was all set to move to the city with his wife. He has been working for over 3 months now and earns a stable income every month. Sanju and wife live in a room for rent at Bangalore while managing expenses of the household and also saving for the future.

We wish Sanju all the happiness life has to offer!

Youth 4 Jobs

Sanju M

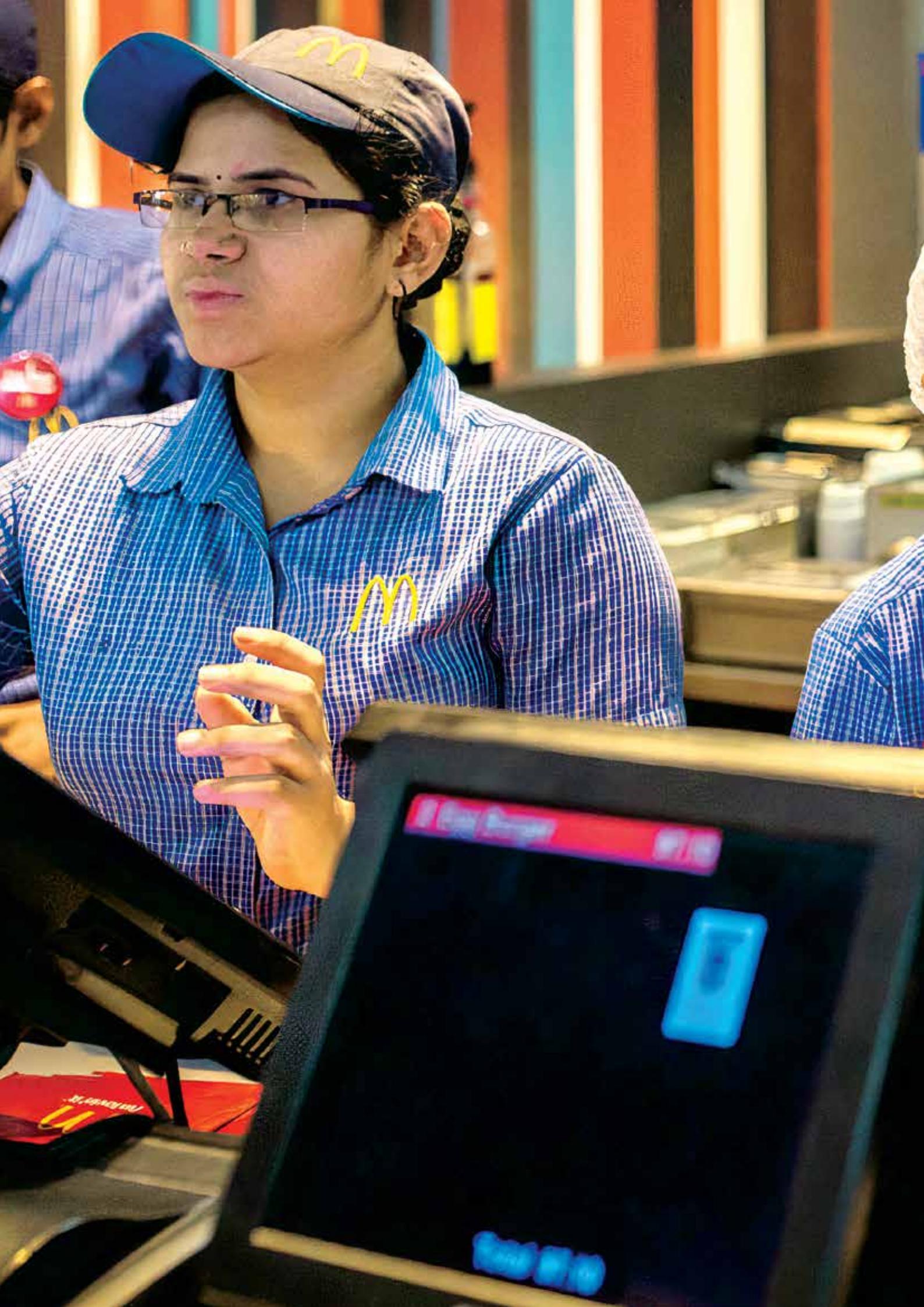
Male . Karnataka

Disability - Speech & Hearing Impaired

Employer - Star Bazaar

Salary per annum - 1,69,488







STORY

24



Mariyammal C

Early Life

Mariyammal is 21 years old and lives in Thattampatti village, Pudukkottai. Mariyammal comes from a financially poor background; her father is a daily wage labourer and her mother runs the household. She has an unemployed older brother who is seeking a job. Mariyammal has a locomotor disability which affected both her hands. She finds it difficult to lift objects. Mariyammal wanted to help her father and support the family, so she started looking for a job after her graduation.

Disability and its Challenges

A polio attack caused disability in both her hands. Mariyammal's disability caused her parents a lot of anxiety during the initial stages, all the more so because she was a girl. They used to take her to hospital after hospital hoping for a corrective surgery to set it right. None of the doctors gave them any hope, in addition to which they also told Mariyammal's parents that she would find it difficult to manage even day-to-day activities. Her parents lost all hopes of recovery and gave up after Mariyammal turned 3 years old.

Mariyammal studied in a government aided school in her village. She wanted to pursue a degree in nursing after high school but due to immobility in her hands, she was denied an admission at the nursing college. She took her relatives' advice and completed a diploma in teacher education. She wanted to pursue a bachelor's degree in English but her family's financial condition put an abrupt halt to her dreams. Mariyammal still persisted and completed the course over long distance earning. The responsibility of supporting the household squarely fell on her as her brother couldn't manage to find a job.

None of the jobs she applied to were close to her village and that ended up being another major disadvantage.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Mariyammal attended the job fair at Pudukkottai that was organised by the District Administration. Our team also happened to be a part of the fair and this is where they identified her as a potential candidate for the training

program. After being shortlisted, Mariyammal enrolled for the 31st batch at the Trichy centre.

She was an active participant during the training sessions. Mariyammal was under a lot of pressure to find a job as she was the only member in the household with an earning potential.

Placement

Luckily for Mariyammal, job opportunities opened up at Rising Star Mobiles Pvt Ltd at Sri City in Nellore. This organisation had a massive amount of female employees and was an extremely safe place to work. Mariyammal's parents, especially her father, needed some counselling and convincing before he got comfortable with the idea of her working far away from home. When our team explained how safe the place was and how many women were already working there, he let go of his fears. Mariyammal was also steadfast and insistent about taking up the job. Among the 4 youth that appeared for the interview, Mariyammal was the only one to get selected. She earns close to INR 1,33,440 annually and sends almost all her earnings home as she also gets food and accommodation free of cost at her workplace.

We are happy to see Mariyammal emerge into a strong, independent woman who can take care of herself and her family. We wish her the best and all the success and happiness in life!



Mariyammal C

Male . Tamil Nadu

Disability – Locomotor

Employer – Rising Stars Mobiles India Pvt Ltd

Salary per annum – 1,33,440

STORY

25



Bikku Kumar

Early Life

Bikku Kumar is an energetic 24-year-old man from Khagaul, which is 15 kms from Patna. He lost his father at the age of 10, which was very traumatic for the family. Bikku's father was the primary and only source of income for the household, and they suffered after his demise. After his father's passing away, Bikku's mother took up the reins of the household. She managed to raise 3 children without any support. Bikku's mother took up farming as her main occupation, but because this income was seasonal and dependent on the harvest, she took up other jobs as well. She is also a panditain who conducts pujas and marriages for the people in the village.

Bikku has a locomotor disability and stays with his mother and 3 brothers. To support his mother, Bikku and his older brother started earning once they were adults.

Disability and its Challenges

Bikku is extremely kind and humble. He always wanted to help people who were suffering. During the lockdown in 2020, he went out of his way to help the poor in his locality. Bikku bought fresh blankets and masks, to distribute among the needy.

Bikku has completed his intermediate education. He was an average student and though he wanted to pursue his studies further, he couldn't due to the financial crisis that the family was in. His major aim in life was to earn well and bring his family out of their financial struggle.

As is the case in most of the small towns and villages, he was mocked, ridiculed and called names for his disability by his neighbours and the society.

He didn't let that affect his confidence; he wanted to show everyone what he was capable of. After he completed schooling, he tried to appear for

many job interviews, but was invariably rejected due to his disability. This really caused a lot of heartbreak, as all he wanted was a chance to prove what he was capable of.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Bikku's neighbour told him about Y4J's online training program. He called the team and enquired about the program. After screening, he was selected and was admitted for the 19th batch in Patna for the 21-day program. Bikku was very interested in the retail sector. He was extremely attentive during the sessions and was also very regular. He didn't miss a single session.

All his hard work eventually paid off.

Placement

On completion of training, he joined a local garment shop in his village called, "Ma Sharada Readymade Garments". He works as a salesman and earns about 84000 INR annually. Bikku now helps his family and also manages to save some money for himself. He considers this job a stepping stone for any future jobs that might come his way. We wish him all the success!



Bikku Kumar

Male . Bihar

Disability - Locomotor

Employer - Maa Sharada Readymade Garments

Salary per annum - 1,33,440



Golla Shakunthala

Early Life

Shakunthala hails from a remote village in the Medak district of Telangana. She lost her father at a young age, and her mother was the sole breadwinner of the family. Shakunthala's mother worked for daily wages; the family was not financially stable. With her meagre earnings, Shakunthala's mother raised 4 girls, 3 of whom are married.

Shakunthala's mother did not discriminate and raised her exactly like she raised her other 3 daughters. Her mother also promised to be supportive of her throughout her life and stuck to her words. Shakunthala has completed her SSC, Intermediate and Graduate levels of education from Government aided schools and colleges, on scholarships.

Disability and its Challenges

Despite being a bundle of talent, Shakunthala was engulfed in negativity. She was a pessimist, and saw a very bleak future. Which was full of gloom and despair. She used to be depressed and was a bundle of nerves every single time she had to attend an interview. She really did want to be independent and support her mother, but her self-confidence was at an all-time low.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Shakunthala enrolled for our online training program. It was during this training that she understood her strengths, weaknesses and most importantly, how to overcome challenges. The best part of training was the life changing examples, which helped boost her morale. After training, she became a whole new confident person, all together. Shakunthala was extremely active during training and developed many new skills. She says that these sessions helped her

develop self-confidence, enhance her skills and learn a lot of new things.

Placement

Shakunthala was placed at Ducere Technologies Pvt Ltd, Hyderabad as an Operator on completion of her training. She later got a better offer close to her village, which she chose to take up.

Shakunthala currently works as a lecturer at Sreevani Junior College, in Medak. She teaches Telugu to Intermediate, 1st and 2nd year students. She earns INR 1,50,780 and currently works from home. We wish Shakunthala all the happiness in the world!



Youth4Jobs

Golla Shakunthala

Female . Telangana

Disability - Locomotor

Employer - Ducere Technologies Pvt Ltd

Mode of Employment - Work from Home

Salary per annum - 1,50,780



Sachin Chorghe

Early Life

This is the story of 35-year-old Sachin Chorghe, who is hearing and speech impaired. Sachin was born and raised in Pune, predominantly by his mother and has a younger brother who is also hearing and speech impaired. After his father's demise when Sachin was very young, his mother single-handedly raised not one but two disabled boys. Despite being a single mother, she did a commendable job, managing household chores, two vulnerable children, and her work outside. Sachin's education unfortunately came to a halt in Class X. Sachin wanted to pursue his education, but he couldn't owing to his mother's age and their financial condition. Later, he got married and is a father to two adorable children. The family of six, runs on his brother's earnings. Sachin's brother works in a pizza shop and his earnings, though helpful, are not enough to provide for a big family. Sachin's hunt for a job began here.

Disability and its Challenges

Sachin and his brother were educated in a school for special kids where they both learned sign language. Sachin's mother found it very challenging to communicate with her sons, so the boys took it upon themselves to teach her sign language through writing and signing. Today Sachin's mother can converse very well using sign language.

Sachin had a lot of friends at school and at the hostel where he stayed after school hours. But every time he went to his neighbourhood during the holidays, he felt very left-out. He stayed home with his mother for most of his vacations and hardly stepped out to play, as the children in the neighbourhood wouldn't include him due to challenges in communicating.

While it is understandable that children may not have felt any empathy due to their emotional maturity, Sachin also had to deal with family members and cousins who didn't talk to him or his brother. They were embarrassed and found it very strange that the boys used sign language to communicate in public.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Sachin started desperately looking out for a job during the COVID 19 pandemic, as it looked like his brother's job was at stake. Sachin was the only member who could provide for his family's everyday expenses and for his young children whose education would have come to a standstill without money. His friend told him about Youth4Jobs after which Sachin contacted our team about wanting a job.

Placement

Our team helped Sachin secure an interview with Instakart Vashre (Flipkart Small Appliances). In addition to this they guided him to the interview venue and helped with interpretation. Flipkart had strict safety protocols in place during the interview which included setting up the Arogya Setu app. Our team at Youth4Jobs helped Sachin set up the app and add relevant details while also explaining the app's importance. She earns 1,66,128 a year and is thoroughly enjoying her work.

Sachin At Work

Sachin's family is very happy that he has a stable, steady source of income every month, with weekly offs and incentives.



Sachin Chorghe

Male . Maharashtra

Disability - Locomotor

Employer - Flipkart

Salary per annum - 1,68,660

STORY

28



Juttiga Prabhu Dasu

Early Life

Juttiga Prabhu Dasu hails from a farmer's family in West Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh. His household consists of 5 members; his father who is a farmer, mother and two brothers. His older brother is married and his younger brother works as a car driver. The family's income hardly amounts to INR 4000 a month.

Disability and its Challenges

Prabhu was hardly a year old when he was rushed to the hospital with a high fever. The fever led to further complications, leading him to lose all kinds of movement in his right hand and leg. Prabhu's parents were devastated. They underwent a lot of struggle to give the child special attention and made sure he never felt unwanted or discriminated against.

Prabhu completed his education from a government aided school. His school days were filled with trouble and heartbreak. He was often the subject of insults and ridicule. A few of his so-called friends even went as far as to say he would never amount to much in life. Instead of letting this dishearten him, Prabhu took it up as a challenge. He wanted to be a sportsperson and he even participated in a few running contests.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Prabhu discovered Youth4Jobs through a friend who was an old alumnus of the program. Further enquiries led him to details about the training and placement program. Prabhu got in touch with our team and enrolled for the 13th batch of the online training program. Prabhu was trained in various fields like soft skills, retail, hospitality and technical skills at the Vishakhapatnam training centre.

Placement

Before the training program, Prabhu had appeared for quite a few government jobs, but he didn't get through owing to his poor communication skills. Prabhu was on the lookout for a job in Visakhapatnam.

There was a vacancy at Big Basket in Hyderabad and our team encouraged Prabhu to step out of his bubble and give this a shot. He did very well in the selection process and was placed as a Customer Service Executive with an annual salary of 1,23,420 INR. He also gets other incentives in addition to his salary.

Prabhu is a different persona now. His communication skills have improved and he has developed oodles of self-confidence and self-esteem. Prabhu's success feels like our own and we wish him the best!



Juttiga Prabhu Dasu

Male . Andhra Pradesh

Disability – Locomotor

Employer – Big Basket

Salary per annum – 1,23,420

STORY

29



Manish Chaudhary

Early Life

Manish Kumar was born in Delhi to parents from a very modest background. His parents discovered his disability when he was about 2 years old. Manish was affected with polio as a child, which caused 75% disability in his lower limbs (left leg).

Manish has an older brother and a younger brother and his mother manages the household. His father's income was just enough to cover expenses for the family of 5. Manish's parents could never come to terms with his disability. They were worried that their disabled son would forever be a burden on them.

Despite zero encouragement from his family, he completed school and undergraduate program. Manish is pursuing his MBA now.

Disability and its Challenges

The entire family would neglect Manish. His parents discriminated against him and never paid any attention to his needs, feelings or studies. They never tried to empathise with how much his disability was bothering him and instead treated him like a burden. They were worried about all the additional financial burden that Manish's disability caused.

His siblings were not very supportive of Manish either. He sought their love and companionship but got none! Due to this atmosphere of neglect, Manish always felt inferior and worthless. He was not very hopeful about achieving anything in life.

It was not just at home that he was lonely, even at school Manish used to feel very alienated. The reason was that he could not play sports like the other kids at school. While he longed to play, his body just didn't let him!

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Manish got details about the online-training

program from his friend. He enrolled in the program to improve his skills. His confidence level spiked after attending the first session. He understood that being disabled was not a curse or burden, it just meant that he was differently abled. Our trainers are skilled at picking up and working on the candidates' strengths. The training helped Manish face his challenges and conquer it.

Placement

Our team lined up an interview for Manish at OLX. Manish had cleared the introductory round, the second round which was about content moderation and a final round which tested his knowledge about OLX. Manish had to clear multiple interviews in 3 phases before he got selected as a Customer Sales Associate. Manish earns about 2,15,004 INR per year and is extremely thankful to be working from home, especially during the pandemic.

This boy is a shining example of how never giving up will ultimately take you places! We wish him the best.



Manish Chaudhary

Male . Uttar Pradesh

Disability - Locomotor

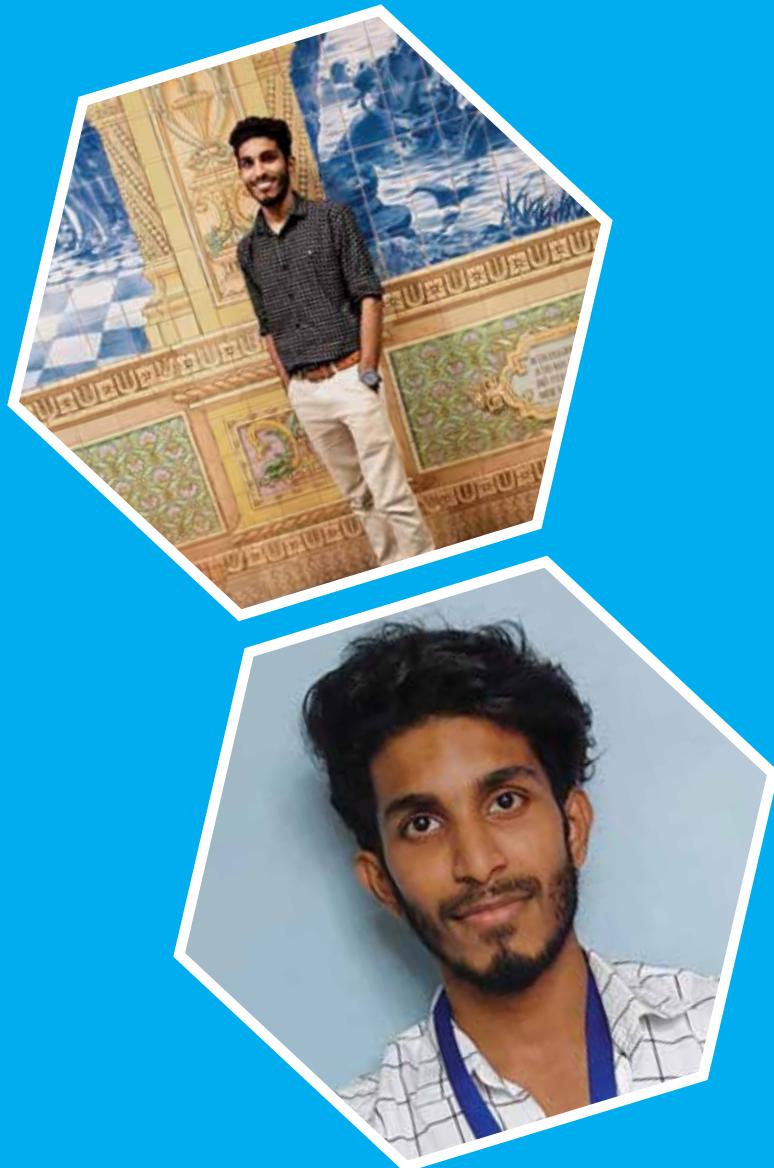
Employer - OLX

Mode of Employment - Work from Home

Salary per annum - 2,15,004

STORY

30



Nagraj Talekar

Early Life

Nagraj Talekar hails from a tiny village called Karwar in Goa. Nagraj's family of 5 included his parents and two sisters. His mother takes care of the household while both his sisters are in college pursuing their education. After Nagraj's father passed away a couple of years ago, the responsibility of providing for the family fell entirely on him. Nagraj had to discontinue his education and start looking for a job.

Disability and its Challenges

Nagraj was born with a speech and hearing impairment and studied up to Class X from special schools in and around his village. He had to keep switching schools as the first school he enrolled in didn't have facilities for secondary school. So after completing primary school, he used to travel for almost an hour everyday as the secondary school was on the outskirts of his village.

To communicate with friends and family, Nagraj either uses the Indian Sign Language or uses written communication. He can fluently lip-read Marathi and takes his sister's help to bridge the communication gap with family. During conversation if he ever gets stuck or confused, he uses the Notes app on his smartphone to type a message and show it to the other person. Earlier he used to jot down whatever he wanted to communicate on a piece of paper, but thanks to the evolution in technology, his job has gotten a lot easier now.

The family faced a major financial crisis after Nagraj's father passed away. With both his sisters pursuing a college education and bank loans to be paid, Nagraj was pushed into a situation where he had to provide for his family. Though Nagraj's mother tried to manage the situation by using up the pension that they got after his father's demise. They still needed money to run the household and cover their basic expenses. This is when Nagraj decided to discontinue his education and look for a sustainable source of income.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Nagraj tried seeking a job at many local shops in his village but they all rejected him either due to

lack of awareness or by citing his disability as an excuse. This demotivated Nagraj and made him feel hopeless. His mother tried lifting his spirits by encouraging him to work at any place with an opportunity, like a local tea stall, but Nagraj wanted to do better.

While talking to a friend about job opportunities, he was introduced to the online training program at Youth4 Jobs through a poster. Nagraj immediately got in touch with a trainer who enrolled him for the training. Nagraj attended the 21-day training program after which he was given an opportunity to attend an interview at Vishal Mega Mart.

Placement

The employer was very impressed with Nagraj and he was shortlisted. Nagraj was asked to join immediately as a Retail Trainee Associate. He has been working at the store for over six months now. His roles and responsibilities include stock keeping, checking, and maintenance. Nagraj is very happy to be working with Vishal Mega Mart as it is a reputed and inclusive store which does not discriminate against disabled employees.

Nagraj's mother is over the moon that her son got a job opportunity when a lot of people were struggling for jobs. We are glad that Nagraj's troubles have come to an end and wish him the very best!



Nagraj Talekar

Male . Goa

Disability - Locomotor

Employer - Vishal Mega Mart

Salary per annum - 1,44,000

STORY

31



Bala Abirami. G

Early Life

21 year old Bala Abirami is from Chennai. She belongs to a household with a reasonably stable income. Her father is employed with a private sector organisation while her mother takes care of the household. Abirami also has a brother. She studied in a special school for girls and graduated from St. Louis College, for the hearing impaired.

Disability and its Challenges

Abirami's speech and hearing impairment went unnoticed for a long time. Her parents just thought that their child was taking time to speak. A consultation with a doctor revealed that Abirami had a disability.

Bala Abirami loved to explore the outdoors and play with other children her age. Unfortunately they all neglected her and chased her back to the house. She was deeply hurt by how other kids treated her. Due to this, her parents thought that she would do well in a school for children with special needs. After identifying the school, they decided to enrol her in the hostel attached to the school. Abirami was very close to her parents and did not want to be away from them. Her parents convinced her and gradually she got used to the school and made a lot of friends.

She completed school and graduated from St. Louis College with a bachelor's degree in Commerce. Her parents supported her and ensured that she got an education. They also strived to constantly create a better environment for her. The family was financially stable but she did not get the expected emotional support from them. She spent most of her life in a hostel away from them. Her folks cannot communicate using sign language, so Abirami is forced to communicate by writing. This is not very effective either, as her mother cannot read very well. The onus of communicating anything she felt was entirely on Abirami.

After her graduation, Abirami's parents wanted to get her married. Even amongst the privileged, this is a problem that a lot of girls face in this country. Abirami wanted to work and be independent. Her parents flat-out refused saying that she'd face a lot of difficulties, especially considering her disability. She found it very challenging to convince her parents. However, she finally did it by telling them that she would

get married if he didn't find a job in 2 years. She started desperately looking out for opportunities but the pandemic only made things worse for her. She lost a few precious months, thanks to Covid!

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Abirami was friends with a Y4J alumni. This friend told her about the direct walk-in placement drive offered by Y4J. Abirami immediately got in touch with our team and enquired about the nature of job and location. Our team gave her a complete orientation about the job and all its requirements. Convincing her parents to send her for the interview was a whole other process. They refused to send their daughter alone to a place that was far away. Our team explained to them that it was a reputed company and they could accompany her and see for themselves.

Placement

Our team lined her up and prepared her for the interview. Abirami aced the interview and was selected as a Warehouse Associate at Michelin India. She was over the moon on being selected for her first ever job with an annual take home of INR 1,26,768. Her parents were also extremely happy to see their daughter work for a reputed firm with all safety measures in place. We wish Abirami the best at her new job and hope she shines!



Bala Abirami. G

Female . Tamil Nadu

Disability - Speech & Hearing Impaired

Employer - Michelin India Private Limited

Salary per annum - 1,26,768



Sudharshan Reddy Medimi

Early Life

Sudarshan Reddy Medimi is 24-years old and belongs to Thumparthi in Dharmavaram, Andhra Pradesh. Sudarshan was born with a locomotor disability. With three older sisters and parents without a steady source of income, Sudarshan's family of 6 lives in abject poverty. Despite all the odds, he managed to receive a basic education and study up to class X from a school in Anantapur.

Disability and its Challenges

Sudarshan could not use his hands or feet like other children. Even things that we take for granted to be basic chores, like eating, playing and writing were off the table for him.

The family's financial condition was such that Sudarshan could not expect a lot of support from his parents. His parents still managed to put aside money for his treatment every month. After a point, it just got to be too much and Sudarshan felt like he was burdening them with these expenses.

When the expenses became difficult for his parents to manage, Sudarshan had to stop his treatment and this made him feel very abandoned.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

With the help of some friends Sudarshan approached the Rural Development Trust at Anantapur in the hopes of finding a job. A staff at RDT told him about Y4J and the training program.

It was through them that Sudarshan got in touch with our team to enquire about the online training program. He was impressed with the details and enrolled for the program at Y4J Tirupathi.

Sudarshan was an enthusiastic participant who thoroughly enjoyed the aids and activities during the sessions. He was very involved in the learning process and actively participated in all the sessions.

Placement

On completion of the training, Sudarshan was placed at D-Mart Tirupathi. He works as a customer service associate and absolutely enjoys his job. This job has changed Sudarshan's life and everything associated with it. He is respected in his village and the family's lifestyle has improved tremendously. A lot of people in the village encourage their children to look up to Sudarshan as a role model. His parents, who did not expect their son to make anything out of his life couldn't be prouder of him now.

Sudarshan needed a bit of counselling to join work during the pandemic and our team ably guided him through it. He is very grateful to have a supportive employer and his perception about life has changed for the better. Where it was dark and gloomy before, it is now cheerful and brimming with confidence. He sends money to his parents every month while also saving money for his future. He aspires to become the manager of the store one day and we are very confident that the day is not far when he will fulfil that dream! We wish him all the happiness and great success.



Sudharshan Reddy Medimi

Male . Andhra Pradesh

Disability - Locomotor

Employer - D Mart Tirupathi

Salary per annum - 1,07,724

STORY

33



Satyam Devkate

Early Life

18-year-old Satyam was born and raised in Beed District, Maharashtra. His father, the sole breadwinner of the household, is a farmer. As a farmer in a drought-ridden district, Satyam's father's earnings were not very stable. The finances in the household were dependent on a lot of external factors that the farmer had no control over.

Disability and its Challenges

Satyam is speech and hearing impaired from birth. He studied at a special school and is very adept at sign language. Satyam passed his class X boards with a First Class and was hoping to pursue higher education. It was during this time that an acute water crisis hit Beed due to which there was no harvest that year.

Unable to pay the fees for his higher education, he decided to move to Mumbai and support his family at this crucial time by securing a job. The first world problems that many of us complain about, pale in comparison with the struggles that young, disabled folks like Satyam have to face.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Satyam got in touch with an interpreter at Y4J Mumbai to let him know that he was seeking a job opportunity. The interpreter contacted him as soon as a vacancy needed to be filled at Flipkart. Satyam who was at home during that time, couldn't arrange enough cash to travel from Beed to Mumbai. When he managed to gather the cash and contact the interpreter, he was told that the vacancy had been filled. The interpreter also promised to keep him informed when the next drive was scheduled. Satyam however decided not to wait and approached Flipkart directly for an interview, where he was asked to go back.

Our interpreter counselled him about not taking

decisions in haste and assured him that there would be another interview soon. He also gave Satyam tips and helped him prepare for the interview so he'd definitely get selected.

After a few days when Flipkart conducted an interview drive, Satyam was selected, no surprises there! Considering how Satyam was a young boy in a big city, our interpreter helped him find a room to share with other hearing and speech impaired candidates working for Flipkart, at a very nominal price.

Placement

It gives us a lot of joy to say that Satyam secured his first ever job through Youth4Jobs. There is an unparalleled happiness that comes from helping people that are not privileged as us.

Satyam has been working for Flipkart since February 2021, as a Data Entry Operator and earns about INR 1,42,800 every year.

His parents have told us that they are grateful to Youth4Jobs. They are thrilled that their son provides for them and has a secure job which brings in money every month consistently.



STORY

34



Soma Anusha

Early Life

Anusha is from a small town in Telangana. She is the youngest child in her family of 5. Anusha's father runs a small-scale business while her mother takes care of the household. Anusha also has an older brother who is working and a married older sister. Anusha was born with a hearing impairment. Though she really wanted to, Anusha could not pursue her education after high school.

Disability and its Challenges

Anusha's parents discovered that she was hearing impaired only after 2 years of her birth. They did not discriminate against her, in fact they treated her like the special child that she was and never let her feel any less. They learnt sign language with her and researched the best education options for her. It is safe to say that Anusha was the favourite of everyone in her family.

Her relatives constantly nagged her parents about how they were wasting money on educating her to which her parents paid no heed. Her father took all the efforts to enrol her in a special school and later a college that was inclusive. She fell seriously ill while at college and had to unfortunately drop out.

The family faced a lot of financial trouble as Anusha's father did not earn a lot as a private employee. Whatever he made would barely help them scrape through the month and so he started a garment business on the side to make some extra money. The business took some time to take off and the initial days were filled with a lot of anxiety and apprehension.

Anusha wanted to find a job as soon as she could, so she could continue her studies later without putting all the financial burden on her father.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Anusha came to know about Y4J through a poster for a mobilisation workshop. She texted our team to enquire about the program and was given all the information she needed over a video call. The team from Y4J also briefed her parents about the program and they encouraged her to enrol right away.

Anusha was full of energy and participated in

all the online activities with great enthusiasm. She was extremely punctual and regular for the sessions. The online training program helped her develop her language skills and soft skills. It also made her more positive and confident.

Placement

On the completion of training, Anusha appeared for a job interview at Big Basket, Hyderabad. She cleared the interview and was selected as a Stacker with a yearly salary of 1,23,420 INR. A few other candidates also got placed from the same batch as her, so Anusha has friends at her new workplace. Her co-workers are very supportive of her and her employers also arranged for accommodation near the store. This was a source of relief for her parents who worried about her commute and stay.

Anusha's family is over the moon at their daughter's independence. Her father who was initially hesitant to send her to work at Hyderabad, now proudly tells everyone that his daughter works for a reputed organisation there. Anusha's employers also have only good things to say about her. Our team received feedback that Anusha is a quick learner who completes all her tasks very efficiently.

We are very proud of Anusha and we are sure that she will make us even prouder, someday! We wish her the very best.



Soma Anusha
Female . Telangana
Disability - Speech & Hearing Impaired
Employer - Big Basket
Salary per annum - 1,23,420

STORY

35



Neeraj Sain

Early Life

33-year-old Neeraj Sain belongs to Dausa district in Rajasthan. His family comes below the poverty line. His father works at a barber shop and his income is barely enough to provide for the large family of 9. Neeraj's father heavily borrowed from others to keep up with the family's expenses, because of which the family was in heavy debt. He still managed to give Neeraj an education.

Neeraj is a graduate with a bachelor's degree in Arts. He is married and currently lives with his wife and 2 children.

Disability and its Challenges

The family's financial struggles faded in comparison to their struggles after Neeraj turned a year old. He was running a high temperature and his father took him to a hospital. The doctor gave him an injection, soon after which both his legs were paralysed.

His father rushed him to another hospital, where another doctor after taking a look at him, declared that it was a polio attack. This had happened because of negligence, where the first doctor had given him the wrong injection.

Neeraj's father never gave up on him and religiously took him to hospitals to get treated. Thanks to his unrelenting efforts, after a year of treatment, Neeraj could walk without support. But unfortunately, his left leg remained 40% disabled.

His maternal uncle supported the family financially and made sure Neeraj got an education. Despite being a graduate, Neeraj couldn't find a job owing to his disability. The taunts of the society and family didn't help either and he sunk into negativity and depression.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Neeraj heard about Y4J from a friend. He got in touch with our team and was invited to the centre. At the centre, he was briefed about the entire process after which he enrolled for the Online Training Program.

He was a very enthusiastic student, and understood how the training would enable him to prepare for upcoming interviews and

his future career. Neeraj was inspired by how the trainers would individually focus on each candidate to ensure they were progressing. He was also very impressed by the process of shortlisting the candidates to placing them in organisations.

Placement

Soon after the training was complete, Neeraj was placed at Genus Power & Infrastructure Pvt Ltd as a helper. His monthly earnings were about 7500 INR. Initially he was happy to be placed but he realised later that this was not enough to provide well for his family.

He approached our team and explained his situation. After hearing him out, the team decided to help him out by finding a better option where he would be able to earn more. A few days later, they scheduled an interview for him at Vinayak Diamond Pvt Ltd. Neeraj was selected as a helper and now earns INR 1,02,000 a year. His working hours are lesser too and he is very happy to spend some extra time with his family.

Neeraj is very thrilled that he is now self-reliant and his disability doesn't bother him anymore. His family respects him and even takes his advice now because he provides for them.

Y4J is glad that he is now independent and wishes Neeraj the best!



Neeraj Sain
Male . Rajasthan
Disability - Locomotor
Employer - Vinayak Diamond Pvt Ltd.
Salary per annum - 1,02,000





STORY

36



Abdul Hakkim J

Early Life

26-year-old Abdul Hakkim resides in Manikandam Taluk of Trichy. Abdul's father passed away when he was a child and his mother did everything in her power to help him get a basic education. Abdul is speech and hearing impaired. He is now married and lives with his mother, wife and child. Coming from a background where he had seen a lot of poverty and suffering as a child, he was determined to find a job and take care of his mother and family.

Disability and its Challenges

When Abdul was just diagnosed with a speech and hearing impairment, his parents panicked and were absolutely clueless about how to deal with his disability. When Abdul turned 5 years old, they discovered sign language and a few schools which would help their son study without struggling to cope. This gave them some hope.

Abdul studied at a special school for hearing impaired children where food and accommodation were free of cost. He completed his Class X examinations but had to discontinue after that because of financial circumstances.

Abdul was forced to start working as a daily wager to contribute some money to the household and he did not enjoy it at all. The fact that his friends were working for reputed organisations kept bothering him. Somehow he managed to get an opportunity to work at RedFox Hotels in Trichy through a friend. He worked there as an Associate for over two and a half years. This is when the pandemic struck and Abdul lost his job without any prior notice. He was heartbroken and out of all confidence as he sat at home for 3 months without a job.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Our team participated in a job fair/mobilisation camp which was organised by the District Administration of Trichy. This is where they identified Abdul as a potential candidate for the online training program. Abdul was out of a job and he was more than happy to join the 26th batch at the Trichy centre.

He was very interested in the training and

was an active participant. Abdul was very interested in job vacancies at Amazon, Flipkart, and such reputed organisations as opposed to other smaller firms. He did not show a lot of enthusiasm when our team lined up interviews or proposed vacancies at smaller organisations.

Placement

Abdul's patience paid off and he ultimately found a job that he wanted. When a job opportunity came up at Flipkart (Al Cargo), in Bengaluru, our team got in touch with Abdul and his entire family was thrilled at the prospect.

Abdul performed well during the selection process but the HR was a bit hesitant to hire him as he was over 30 years old. Our team communicated with the HR and told them about Abdul's previous work experience which convinced them to hire him. Seven candidates attended the interview process and Abdul was the only one who was selected.

Abdul joined as a Senior Assistant for an annual salary of INR 1,86,156. The organisation also provides free accommodation and food as additional perks. Abdul is extremely happy with his job and sends almost 75% of his earnings home to support his family. We are very excited to see where Abdul's future will take him and wish him the very best!



Abdul Hakkim J
Male . Tamil Nadu
Disability - Speech & Hearing Impaired
Employer - Zeelog Logistics Solutions Pvt Ltd.
Salary per annum - 1,86,156

STORY

37



Govinda Kumar Sharma

Early Life

Govinda Kumar Sharma is a youth from Hatia in Ranchi. He is speech and hearing impaired. Govinda comes from a very modest background. His father passed away when Govinda was young. His mother is not physically fit to fend for the family. The household's income came from the tailoring jobs that Govinda's older brother took up. The monthly income hardly amounted to 7000 INR. Govinda also has 2 younger siblings. As it became difficult with every passing day to provide for a family of 5, Govinda started looking out for a job that would bring in a stable income every month.

Disability and its Challenges

While he was studying Govinda had to scrape money to buy even the most basic things like books, copies, and stationery. There were times when he would not have money even for that. Due to the family's financial crisis, Govinda was never able to pay the school fees on time. His teachers would constantly remind him about it in the class and he would feel very embarrassed before his classmates.

Govinda strongly felt that his disability bothered the society, people used to mock him and make fun of him. However, he never let it affect his self-confidence or pull him down.

Govinda tried really hard to find a job to support his family, but lack of education and skills with a disability on top of it, made it impossible for him to find one.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

An alumni from our online training program told Govinda about the program and motivated him to enrol for it. During his counselling sessions, our team briefed Govinda about the hospitality sector, the various job profiles, and scope for growth in the sector.

Govinda took a leap of confidence and started attending the sessions. He learnt basic English,

presentation skills, grooming, and how to communicate with customers. Govinda had a fire burning inside him, to hush all his naysayers and prove that his disability did not make him any less of a person. He wanted to be able to do everything that a person without disability did. The training sessions helped him build confidence and prepared him to face challenges in his professional and personal life.

Placement

On completion of the training program, Govinda appeared for an interview at Radisson Blu Hotel. He did very well during the selection process and was placed in the hotel for a yearly salary of INR 1,08,000 with additional benefits. Govinda was thrilled that he had secured a job which would give him a stable, sustainable income. He is very confident at what does and loves learning new things. Govinda is among the thousands of disabled people who has climbed the ladder of opportunity by realizing the potential of his skills. His mother who was very concerned about her disabled son's future is now at peace, knowing that he has a steady job.

We wish Govinda the best and hope he finds a lot of success in life!



Govinda Kumar Sharma

Male . Jharkhand

Disability - Speech & Hearing Impaired

Employer - Radisson Blu

Salary per annum - 1,08,000

STORY

38



Najana Suresh

Early Life

Najana Suresh is a youth from Pathapatnam in Srikakulam. He has a locomotor disability but that is not the first thing that you will notice about him. It is his infectious energy that takes the centre-stage. Suresh's father works as a labourer for daily wages and his mother manages the household. He has 3 siblings, two married sisters and a brother who works as a labourer in other farms.

Suresh belongs to a humble background. The family's monthly income was roughly 4000 INR but they managed their expenses pretty well. Suresh completed his graduation with his family's support.

Disability and its Challenges

Suresh was all of 8 months old when a doctor's negligence changed his life for the worse. A wrong injection caused a polio attack which affected both his legs. The diagnosis was that he would never be able to walk without the help of a walker or wheelchair.

His parents took him to various hospitals and treatments for over 3 years without any development. At this point they realised that Suresh would have to depend on a walker for the rest of his life.

Suresh had to travel almost 5 kilometres to get to his school and this commute was nothing short of a nightmare. He persevered and completed high school despite the challenges. Then came college which was about 20 kilometres from his village. Suresh still carried on undeterred and took the local bus and auto rickshaw every day to college. All of these hardened Suresh and got him ready to face real world challenges, especially those that a disabled person faces in our society. His family constantly stood by him and offered financial, moral and emotional support.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Suresh discovered Youth4Jobs through a mobilisation camp that was conducted in Srikakulam. Here he also learnt about the training and placement program. After getting in touch with our team who briefed him about the program and its benefits, Suresh was shortlisted for training. He joined the skill training program at the Vishakapatnam training centre.

Suresh showed a lot of interest and was an active participant in all the activities conducted at the training centre. His typing skills improved and

he could type close to 20 WPM. Suresh was very interested in learning something new. He aspired to find a job that was related to computers. So he took advantage of the computer training classes to improve his skills. He showed special interest in social service activities like blood donation camps. Suresh collaborated with Lions Club and other seva foundations to organise drives for the people in his village.

Placement

Suresh had attended quite a few interviews in various companies and even appeared for Government service examinations, but was rejected due to his disability and lack of communication skills. His marketing and communication skills improved by leaps and bounds after joining the online training program.

He showed great interest in marketing and wanted to be a marketing executive. That is exactly what he got too!

Suresh appeared for an interview at Kotak Mahindra Bank and was selected for the role of an Account Executive. He earns close to INR 1,32,000 annually and is very happy to give back to his family for all the support they offered him.

He attributes his success to the life skills and employability skills he picked up during the training sessions and we attribute it to his hard work and positivity. We wish Suresh the best!



Najana Suresh

Male . Andhra Pradesh

Disability - Locomotor

Employer - Kotak Mahindra Bank

Salary per annum - 1,32,000

STORY

39



Pradip Khade

Early Life

Pradip Khade is 28 years old and has already seen struggles far beyond his years.

Pradip was born with a disability, in a financially unstable background. Pradip's father drives an auto rickshaw and his mother runs the household. He also has 2 brothers and a sister. As Pradip grew up, all of his body parts developed except for his left leg which remained short. The family could not afford to treat it with the meagre income that Pradip's father brought in. Unfortunately, Pradip had to pay the consequences all his life.

Pradip wanted to study hard and was a smart student while at school. His teachers liked him and he did not face any kind of discrimination. Pradip's father worked very hard to pay the school fees, but he could not continue after class XII. The basic needs of the family took precedence over Pradip's education, so he had to discontinue.

Disability and its Challenges

Unlike other children his age, Pradip could not walk or run. He limps while walking and it took him a few years to understand that he is different. As the years passed, Pradip learnt to live with his disability but not once did he give up hope.

He never blamed anyone for his condition and took up accountability. He wanted to offer a hand and help his family become financially stable.

Pradip started looking out for job opportunities but was rejected everywhere he went, because of his disability. This constant rejection got to him after a point and damped his spirits.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

One fine day, Pradip got a message from our team about a job opportunity for PwD's training program. This was exactly the break that Pradip was looking for. He got all the necessary information and enrolled for the training. Pradip was extremely punctual and showed great enthusiasm and interest during the sessions. He regained all his lost confidence and used the sessions as a tool for motivation.

Placement

On completion of the training, our team scheduled an interview for Pradeep at Dhoot Transmission Pvt Ltd, Aurangabad. He was selected as a Machine Operator with a starting salary of INR 99,600 per year. To Pradip and his family this moment was nothing short of a dream come true. His family is extremely proud of him.

Pradip works hard and takes all necessary precautions as he started work during the pandemic.

Right now, he is working beyond the call of duty and earns double. Pradip's attitude to never give up and undying spirit helped him reach where he is today. He has used his income to join a study circle and prepare for civil service exams. One should learn the art of balancing work, studies and providing financial stability from Pradip. Our team wishes him nothing but the best!



Pradip Khade
Male . Maharashtra
Disability - Locomotor
Employer - Dhoot Transmission Pvt. Ltd
Salary per annum - 99,600

STORY

40



K Jaya Bharathi

Early Life

Jaya Bharathi is from Nagavaran in Mahabubnagar district. She was born with a locomotor disability, in a family of 5. Her parents are daily wagers and the only source of income for the household. Jaya has a younger sister who is married and a brother who is in Class X.

Despite her disability, Jaya didn't get disheartened. She has always wanted to support her family financially. She has completed her graduation.

Disability and its Challenges

Jaya was an extremely ambitious person with a lot of dreams and goals for her career and life. Since she had seen financial instability as a child, all she wanted was to build a stable life for herself and her family. She left her village and moved to Hyderabad in the hope that she could do something with her talent and abilities.

As she came from a small town with limited exposure, she had to hone her skills before she could land a job. This is exactly when our team stepped in and helped her.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

The Y4J team conducted a mobilisation camp at Jaya's village to promote the WISE Online Training Program. Jaya enrolled for it immediately.

She was very involved in the program and was an active participant during the sessions. The sessions began with imparting life skills to all the participants. Jaya was given an opportunity to cultivate skills like discipline, grooming, communication, decision-making, time management, money management and goal setting. These sessions equipped her enough to spike her confidence levels.

Jaya's excitement levels at having completed the training were palpable. She would constantly dream about getting placed and earning her own money.

Placement

Jaya had to face a few more bumps along the road before she was placed. She faced all her obstacles like a champ before getting selected as a Clerk at Navata Road Transport. She was so enthusiastic about starting that, she was asked to join work on the same day she got selected for the role. Jaya earns about INR 1,15,740 a year and is beyond thrilled!

Her joy knew no bounds and she was extremely happy that all the faith she placed on herself bore fruit. No wonder her success feels like our own. We wish Jaya all the happiness in the world!



Y4J Youth 4 Jobs

K Jaya Bharathi

Female . Telangana

Disability - Locomotor

Employer - Navata Road Transport

Salary per annum - 1,15,740

STORY

41



Vinayak Kamble

Early Life

Vinayak Kamble comes from a very modest lower middle-class family in Dahisar, Mumbai. His father is a vegetable vendor and the family's only source of income was from everyday sale of vegetables. This income was not very consistent, as the sale would be great on a day, but barely anything on another.

Vinayak managed to finish his schooling from a special school run by a charitable trust in Bandra. He has always been very motivated to work, so he could support his parents who struggle for a stable source of income. As the elder son, he feels it is his responsibility to provide for his family and support his aged father. This is also why he is not very enthusiastic about pursuing his education.

Disability and its Challenges

Vinayak was born with mild symptoms of Tuberculosis that affected his hearing. When his parents discovered this after about a month of his birth, they looked for options to get him treated, but couldn't find any.

The teachers at Vinayak's special school made him feel very comfortable. This is also where he learned sign language. His parents and brother picked up sign language from various social media platforms and communicated with him using ISL (Indian Sign Language). Everybody in his circle including his extended family and neighbours learned sign language to communicate with him.

While a majority of the people associated with him have never made him feel small about his disability, there were some instances where people have treated Vinayak badly because of it. Once at a salon, Vinayak was made to wait for

more than an hour. The barber kept making Vinayak wait while he attended to other customers that came in after him. Vinayak was very angry and upset after this incident as he couldn't express his displeasure due to his disability.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Vinayak loves to travel and visit new places and is also very active on social media. He met a friend from school during the lockdown and the discussion veered towards their respective careers. Vinayak came to know about the Y4J Telegram Channel and through that about the multiple job vacancies in Mumbai. Vinayak contacted our trainer for Indian Sign Language for information about training batch and placement. He was a very active participant during the training and mentioned that he liked the trainer's sign language as it was very clear.

Placement

We were very eager for Vinayak to be placed after his training was complete, considering his responsibilities. Vinayak attended the interview at the Diatrends office with 23 other candidates who were speech and hearing impaired. The assessment process included an Aptitude Test, a Graphology Test and a Personal Interview. Guess who was the only candidate to get selected among the 23? No prizes for guessing it. Vinayak was the only candidate that got through the stringent process!

Vinayak was thrilled that he found a job and is being trained in various departments, including designing, sorting and functioning of machines related to jewellery.

Vinayak has been working as a trainee with a



stipend of INR 96,000 for one year. He is being trained in various fields and will be placed in the field where he's gained maximum expertise. The household now completely runs on Vinayak's earnings as his father's livelihood has come to an abrupt halt due to the pandemic.

Vinayak's family couldn't be more proud of him! They wish for other people with disabilities to find jobs too, so they can be as independent as Vinayak is. Vinayak has now become a major motivation for his younger brother, who looks at his brother as nothing short of a superhero for supporting their family during a crucial time.

Youth 4 Jobs

Vinayak Kamble

Male . Maharashtra

Disability - Speech & Hearing Impaired

Employer - Diatrends Jewellery Pvt. Ltd.

Salary per annum - 96,000



STORY

42



Kavitha S

Early Life

Kavitha is 27 years old with a locomotor disability. She hails from Vellore district in Tamil Nadu and belongs to a middle-class family, she has 2 siblings. Kavitha's father is an employee with a small private company and her mother is a retired government employee. Kavitha currently lives in her marital home with her husband.

Disability and its Challenges

Kavitha was diagnosed with a mild locomotor disability when she was born. The doctors recommended physiotherapy to her parents, to avoid complications in the future. Since there was not a lot of awareness around this subject, her parents did not take the recommendation seriously. Since the disability was mild during Kavitha's childhood, her relatives misguided her parents too about how she seemed normal & active and didn't require therapy. Kavitha actively participated in athletics as a child and was good at running and cycling. As the years passed, she began to notice discomfort while walking. This led to her disability getting worse. She couldn't walk very far and standing for more than an hour was very painful. She couldn't even cycle to school and her parents had to arrange for an auto-rickshaw.

Kavitha's parents were guilt-ridden as they didn't take the doctor's advice seriously. It pained them to see their child suffer due to their negligence. The idea of never participating in sports again killed Kavitha's spirits.

Once she completed schooling, her friends at college used to poke fun at her. They were under the impression that Kavitha was faking her disability to get away from working. It is very painful to even think about how much this must have hurt Kavitha. Kavitha worked really

hard to crack an interview at her college campus recruitment drive. Her disability got in the way and she was rejected on the basis that her profile wouldn't suit the job. She attended various interviews off-campus without any luck! All the physical and mental exertion during this period caused a lot of strain and she had to undergo a surgery in her spinal cord.

Kavitha's parents were keen to get her married after this! They weren't happy with the amount of stress she was under to find a job. Kavitha married a wonderful person who is extremely supportive of her. Her partner wants to help her achieve her goals. Kavitha started looking for job opportunities soon after marriage. It was a lot more challenging this time with the pandemic. Lots of people were out of jobs, forget finding one! Kavitha was also particular about finding a profile that would allow her to work from home, considering the situation.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Kavitha came to know about Y4J through a job fair conducted by the Chennai Wise Team at the employment office. She got in touch with a team member who explained the whole online training and placement process. She enrolled for the training sessions and was a regular and enthusiastic participant. Kavitha also helped other candidates with their assignments during this time.

She had just one request, which was to find a job where she could work from home and we delivered!



Placement

After the online training sessions, our team notified her about job opportunities where she could work from home. Our team also helped her upload her resume on a private job portal. Kavitha attended many virtual interviews before she finally cracked one. She was selected at Tech Mahindra after an intense interview process that lasted 5 rounds! She currently works at Tech Mahindra as a process executive and earns about 1,44,000 INR every year. It gives us immense satisfaction to see her happy and living her dream of being independent, while working from the comforts of her house!

 Youth 4 Jobs

Kavitha S

Female . Tamil Nadu

Disability - Locomotor

Employer - Tech Mahindra Limited

Mode of Employment - Work from Home

Salary per annum - 1,44,000



STORY

43



Shankar G

Early Life

Meet 30 year old Shankar who hails from Villupuram. He comes from a household of 4; his parents are farmers and his sister is married and settled in Chennai. The income in a farmer's household is dependent on a lot of external factors and Shankar's household was no exception. Despite coming from a financially unstable background, his parents have supported him throughout. Shankar has a locomotor disability where he cannot walk without limping.

Shankar's father made sure he got a good education. After he completed his post-graduation, his father urged him to find a job as quickly as he could. The timing was very unfortunate as that's exactly when the COVID pandemic hit India and people started losing jobs.

Disability and its Challenges

When Shankar was a child, his parents had to carry him to school at times as he had trouble walking. Shankar faced a lot of insults and challenges because of his disability. He used to limp and all the other kids would tease him for how he walked. It must have caused so much pain and suffering to a young child's psyche. It caused his morale to sink and did no good to his already low self-esteem.

Eventually he learnt to live with his disability and understood that it would do him no good to dwell on it. He studied very hard and completed his schooling, graduation and post-graduation. After this he applied to many organisations in the hope of finding a job. Though he was fully qualified he did not manage to find a job. Though no organisation was upfront about it, it could not have been clearer that Shankar wasn't given an opportunity because of his disability.

The organisations would give him flimsy excuses like, the work they did was hard, so he wouldn't be able to cope and so on.

This really frustrated Shankar who would take it all out on his parents and sister. They tried to help him but he would ignore them and give them the cold shoulder. Add to this a worldwide pandemic, it was a raging disaster. The financial situation in the household got worse. Shankar's sister offered to support him financially so he could start his own business, but he refused as he wanted to find a job independently.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Shankar chanced upon Y4J while looking out for job opportunities. He enrolled for our online training program and attended all the sessions regularly. Shankar was an enthusiastic learner and mingled well with his batchmates. Even after the sessions ended, he would call the trainer to seek guidance and counselling. Shankar has always wanted to give something back to society and his family. He wanted to share his story and inspire others like him to not lose heart!.

Placement

After training, Shankar appeared for an interview at Ammu Enterprises. He cleared the interview and joined the organisation as a Sales Executive. Shankar worked there for a few months and was quite adept at his job. He learnt a lot in the months that he was employed there. He was very happy to have a job during a time when employment was difficult. Shankar was able to support his family financially while also saving money for himself. He was a great source of support to his family during the pandemic.



With the money he had saved, he was able to set up his own business after a few months. Shankar's sister also supported him during this time. He was running his own business while simultaneously working for Ammu Enterprises. It would be an understatement to say that he was successful in his business. He earned close to 5 lakhs from his set up and is now helping others like him, start a business of their own. Shankar's dream is for other disabled people to be independent and he wants to support them by funding their business ideas. He often gets in touch with our team for ideas and guidance.

We are incredibly proud of how this young man has turned his fate around and is now helping others do the same. We wish Shankar the best and all the success.

Youth 4 Jobs

Shankar G

Male . Tamil Nadu

Disability - Locomotor

Employer - Ammu Enterprises

Salary per annum - 72000



STORY

44



Asfaque Hussain

Early Life

Asfaque Hussain is from Tangra in Kolkata, he is speech and hearing impaired. He belongs to a family of four and his father works in a small leather factory in Sealdah, Kolkata. Asfaque has a younger brother and the family of 4 could barely survive comfortably on his father's monthly income of 5000 INR. Asfaque wanted to study further, but the family's economic condition didn't allow him to pursue his education. As soon as he completed schooling at a special school for the hearing and speech impaired, Asfaque started looking out for a job, so he could support his family.

Unfortunately for Asfaque, he could not find a job anywhere. So he started assisting his father at the leather factory. He would come home in the evening and help his brother with his studies. Asfaque would also help his mother out with the chores at home. This potential of helping everyone with all kinds of work, is what sets him apart!

Disability and its Challenges

Asfaque was always mocked and ridiculed for his disability by his friends and relatives. This only fuelled his desire to make something out of his life and silence all the naysayers. The cut throat, competitive world had no place or a school pass out which was productive and sustainable. Throw in disability, which only almost nullified Asfaque's shot at a normal life.

Asfaque however had no plans of giving up. Not only did he crib even once about all his challenges, he also turned them into stepping stones for success! Till he found a job of his liking, he relentlessly worked at his father's leather factory, every single day. This attitude of never giving up is exactly what helped him succeed in life.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

It was thanks to Facebook that Asfaque discovered Youth4Jobs. He realised that this was exactly the opportunity he had been waiting for all along. Asfaque grasped the components of the training and gained knowledge about the retail sector. He also understood the potential job profiles in the sector and the scope for entrepreneurship among other factors.

He took a leap of confidence and enrolled for the course. He honed his skills and became proficient. He additionally also learnt English and basic

computer applications along with resume writing skills, theory and practical lessons. After his training, Asfaque would go to the leather factory and help his father there! This level of dedication is extremely rare.

Placement

It was only fair that all of Asfaque's hard work paid off after the training. He was placed at Spencer's in Axis Mall Kolkata, with a salary of nearly 99,384 per year. He is an excellent employee and is very happy to be working. Asfaque's hard work, attitude to learn something new and being receptive to learning will take him places. He currently works as a Sales Associate. He is all praise for the other members in his team, who have helped him settle down in his new role. He sees this as the first step toward fulfilling his dreams.

His parents are extremely happy as their son is now independent and can take care of himself while also providing for the family.

His employers also have great things to say about him. Asfaque's manager told our team that Asfaque is very positive and has a great attitude. His manager also mentioned that Asfaque is very energetic and puts a lot of effort at the workplace.

Asfaque is one of the many successful aspirants to have benefitted from the Skill India Mission training initiative and we couldn't be more proud of him!



Asfaque Hussain

Male . West Bengal

Disability - Speech & Hearing Impaired

Employer - Spencers

Salary per annum - 99,384

STORY

45



Mohd Ghouse Khan

Early Life

Ghouse Khan lives near Charminar at Hyderabad. His father was an army officer and his mother a homemaker. Ghouse has 3 brothers and a sister. After his parents passed away, Ghouse and his siblings were raised by their grandfather. Ghouse has completed his bachelor's degree in commerce. He is now married with two young children. While his wife took care of the household, Ghouse wanted to find a good job that pays well so he can give his children a good life and education.

Disability and its Challenges

Ghouse has had a locomotor disability from the time he was 9 months old. For a long time, he struggled to walk as a kid, he could only crawl. His father took great care of him and made sure to take him to treatments and therapies for almost 10 years. This helped him balance himself on his legs and stand up. He could also walk normally, though with a slight limp. Ghouse says he owes it all to his father because of whom he is able to walk today.

He also had very supportive friends who used to carry his school bag and lunch box on the way to and from school, so he could walk without any trouble.

After he completed graduation, he began to seriously look out for a job. But unfortunately, he didn't find one to his liking, as employers neglected him and told him that he would be unable to fulfil their expectations.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Not finding a job was extremely demotivating for Ghouse. He was in this phase, when he got a call from our team asking if he would be interested in enrolling for the WISE Online Training and Placement Program. Ghouse signed up for it immediately.

Before enrolling for the training, Ghouse was an introvert, and quite unsure about his future goals. He was not technologically savvy either. Without proper guidance and visions, he was kind of lost and just looking for anything that would give him a livelihood. After the program

though, the exposure helped and he became very computer savvy.

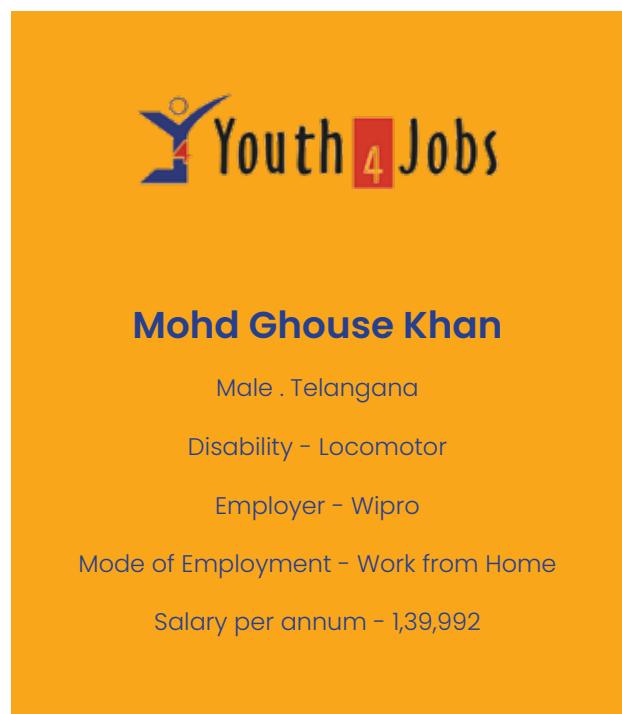
He found the sessions very interesting unlike the sessions conducted at conventional institutions. He learnt a lot of practical skills and how to communicate well in English.

His training and mentoring continued for long after his sessions ended.

Placement

It was Ghouse's dream to work in a corporate and this finally came true after the training. He was placed at WIPRO in Hyderabad, where his designation is that of an Associate. He earns about INR 1,39,992 annually and currently works from home, which is a great bonus!

He expressed his gratitude to the entire team for helping him develop and become the well-rounded personality that he is today. We wish Ghouse all the success and prosperity.



Youth4Jobs

Mohd Ghouse Khan

Male . Telangana

Disability - Locomotor

Employer - Wipro

Mode of Employment - Work from Home

Salary per annum - 1,39,992

STORY

46



Sucharita Sarkar

Early Life

Sucharita is 27-years old and was born in a village called Shyamnagar, deep inside Kolkata. She could not speak or hear since birth. Her father owns a small business and her mother runs a tailoring shop. Money is pretty hard to come by, and even on a good month when business is great, the family makes about INR 6000. She also has a younger brother and the household's income is not really enough to cover the family's expenses. Ever since she passed high school she has wanted to work and support her family in whatever way she can.

Sucharita enjoyed painting and dancing since the time she was a child and was quite proficient. So strong was her grit to help her family that she started painting and dance lessons for other kids near her house. She used to earn some money from these lessons and would give it all up to her father for the household expenses. After completing all the lessons, she would help her mother with her tailoring.

Disability and its Challenges

Sucharita and her parents were constantly mocked for her disability, as though it was their fault. How grown-ups can be so thoughtless is something that still baffles us.

It took a long time for Sucharita to understand that she was not like other children. While the other children spoke and played, she couldn't comprehend that she was different. This caused her a lot of heartache as she felt lonely and neglected, unable to express her feelings.

Sucharita dropped out after high school. As she didn't go to a special school, she found it extremely difficult to interact with the other kids in her class. She constantly felt like the other kids neglected her. She really wanted to pursue her education but that dream was brutally cut short due to lack of proper finances. Financial difficulties aside, another reason that she dropped out was due to the challenges she faced after studying at a non-inclusive school.

As the years passed, realisation dawned that she will have to live with her disability. Sucharita decided not to be dictated by her fate but instead decided to live life on her own terms.

Sucharita had appeared for quite a few interviews and even got placed a few times before she joined training. Unfortunately, all of these job offers were

located far away and most of her money and energy were spent travelling to and from the location. This didn't give her a lot of scope for saving her hard earned money.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Sucharita came to know about Y4J after she got a text about admissions at the training centre in Kolkata. She contacted our team who gave her all the information she needed about the online training program. Though she was on the verge of getting placed, she chose to complete the training first, as she knew that it would give her an edge. Sucharita was trained in various fields like Retail, English, Life Skills and Soft Skills. She was very regular and attended the training sessions with a lot of enthusiasm. She was an active participant during the sessions.

She always felt like a burden on her family and felt very helpless as she couldn't contribute substantially in any way. Not finding a job that she liked only added to that stress. The success stories of other candidates at the training centre gave her a lot of confidence.

Placement

Sucharita's confidence and faith in herself did not disappoint her. She is now an employee at Spencers Supermarket and earns INR 99,384.

We hope Sucharita never loses hope and the confidence she has in herself. The entire team at Y4J would like to wish her the best!



Youth4Jobs

Sucharita Sarkar

Female . West Bengal

Disability - Locomotor

Employer - Spencers Supermarket

Salary per annum - 99,384

STORY

47



Samlam Chuilo

Early Life

This is the story of Samlam Chuilo who belongs to Nagaland. Samlam comes from a small town called Jalukie in Paren District. She has had a speech and hearing impairment since birth, despite which Samlam is extremely smart and active.

Samlam's parents are farmers and they've always tried their best to provide well for their children and give them a modest life. Samlam especially holds a special place in their hearts. They are extremely protective of her and have never made her feel any different from her siblings. Samlam has finished her higher secondary from National Open Schooling, after which she discontinued. She is very interested in the beauty and fashion industry. Her parents have also encouraged her to pursue her interest and inspire her differently abled friends.

Disability and its Challenges

Unlike a lot of other disabled people, Samlam's challenges have been pretty limited. Nagaland has a rich culture and the younger generation is a pro with fashion and beauty. Samlam has never let her disability get in the way of participating in extracurricular activities. She is also very popular in her circle. Despite her positivity, there have been times when she has not felt accepted by society. This caused her a lot of distress, but her parents have given her the needed strength and support during these times. There are also a lot of people who accept her and love her for the way she is, and Samlam chose to ignore the haters and naysayers.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Despite having a strong support system to fall back on and an easy life, Samlam has always wanted to be independent. Knowing how protective her family is, she has always had to make the right choices, so they wouldn't worry about her, if she ever left home for work.

She has been an active member in many disabled groups on different social media platforms. This is how she came to know about the Y4J online training program. She enrolled herself for an online class since this training program was linked to a placement as well. She told our

team during one of the training sessions that she aspired to be independent and work for a reputed organisation someday. She was very confident about convincing her parents as well. Placement opportunities at her town were few and far and her parents weren't willing to send her any place beyond Dimapur. Samlam was willing to shift base only if the offer was at a reputed organisation with a good pay.

Placement

A few job offers came Samlam's way after the training program at Kohima, but she could not take them up, as her parents disapproved. They were very hesitant about letting her go somewhere that was far away. After a few counselling sessions, they agreed to compromise and let their daughter chase her dream of being independent. Samlam recently secured a job at KFC, Guwahati.

She was thrilled to start at her first ever job and first shot at being independent and earning her own money. Her family continues to be supportive of her, thanks to the team that counselled them! We wish Samlam the best.



Samlam Chuilo

Female . Nagaland

Disability - Speech & Hearing Impaired

Employer - KFC Indore

Salary per annum - 1,08,000





STORY

48



Manavar Singh Rawat

Early Life

Manavar Singh Rawat belongs to Dehradun in Uttarakhand. He is 28 years old and the oldest of 4 children. Manavar has a locomotor disability which makes him disabled from the waist down. He uses crutches to support himself as his lower body is immobile. Manavar has studied up to class X. Unfortunately, his father, who also was the sole earning member of the household passed away in 2007. His mother started working after that to feed the household. The money that she made was hardly enough to feed the family of 5. Manavar, being the eldest, felt that it was his responsibility to support the family.

Disability and its Challenges

Given the family situation with him being the eldest it became imperative that Manavar found a job to supplement his mother's income. Manavar started scouting for a job but his limited qualification was a major impediment. After some struggle, he finally landed a job in a warehouse where he worked till 2017. His struggles resurfaced when the warehouse was shut down; this meant he along with a lot of other employees were asked to leave. Manavar got really worried as this meant that he wouldn't be able to support his family again. Dejected and feeling hopeless, he picked himself up and tried giving interviews at other places. But finding a job was very difficult again – wherever he applied, he was rejected due to his disability.

After a lot of hard work, Manavar finally landed a job but his happiness was short-lived. The accessibility of the road leading to his office was not in great shape and given the nature of his disability, it was difficult for him to commute. The problem was compounded during the rainy season, making it impossible for him to even get out of his house. The logistical limitation forced him to quit this job.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Manavar first got to know about the Youth4jobs foundation from Gokul Sansthan, another NGO in Uttarakhand. They told him about Youth4jobs opening its first centre in the state. He got in touch with the centre manager and enrolled in the first batch. The centre manager recounts his first meeting with Manavar and how he was terrified about breaking something with his iron crutches. Manavar told him about how a similar incident had transpired at a bank, where a huge glass broke. Manavar was scared and inhibited initially but he quickly blossomed into a star performer in the class. He was always punctual and helped others with their assignments.

His confidence was still very low when it came to attending interviews and visiting new places. In fact during a mock interview, he cited some random excuse about having to go home to escape the session. But our centre manager who has had years of experience dealing with youth sensed that something was off. He made sure that Manavar attended another session where he aced the mock interview.

The feedback that he got from our team after the interview helped his confidence soar. We saw a new Manavar who was present in every class and facing challenges head-on!

Manavar has applied to appear for class XII examinations and we think that is a great sign of how much he has changed. He also appeared for many interviews after completing the course, in fact he even passed many of them and got selected for a job.

Our team left no stone unturned to help Manavar in his journey of finding a job.



Placement

The team at Y4J has been in touch with him throughout his journey, making sure to motivate him at each step. Manavar now works for Aarohi Info FI Management Ltd, the icing on the cake being, no commute to and from work. His profile allows him to work from home. Manavar's seniors at work are extremely supportive and helpful. Manavar's mother is thrilled and relieved that her son now has a stable job. We wish Manavar the best and hope he finds all happiness.



Youth 4 Jobs

Manavar Singh Rawat

Male . Uttarakhand

Disability - Locomotor

Employer - Aarohi Info FI Management Ltd

Mode of Employment - Work from Home

Salary per annum - 72000



STORY

49



Vikahsi Shah

Early Life

26 year-old Vikahsi is a post graduate who lives with her mother and father in Ahmedabad. Her father works in a factory and her mother is a homemaker. Her parents have supported her emotionally and physically all along. Despite not being financially sound, her father made sure that she is enrolled in various educational programs. He understood that a solid educational background would give her the necessary confidence needed to succeed in life, despite her disability. Vikahsi has completed her post-graduation despite coming from a very modest background where her treatment costs had to be figured in as well.

Disability and its Challenges

Vikahsi met with a dangerous accident in 2018, which led to her having a locomotor disability. She badly injured her spinal cord that completely restricted her movements. She had to use a wheelchair and needed help to even go from one place to another. Vikahsi's mother has been helping her out full-time. This mishap has caused a great deal of agony to everyone in the family.

Vikahsi lost all hope and confidence after her accident. She had to depend on another person for basic chores like walking and going to the washroom. This sudden change in her life caused her a lot of grief and made it very difficult for her to accept it and live with it. This is when her family stepped in and offered her a lot of support that helped her come to terms with her disability.

Vikahsi is very interested in studies, she is great at math and speaks fluent English. She religiously reads the news and is updated on all current affairs.

She has worked with the marketing department of a cosmetic company for over 3 years. Vikahsi is a different person now, she brims with confidence and positivity, ready to handle any obstacle that comes her way.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Our team got in touch with Vikahsi to offer an Online Training Program. She was glad to start the sessions and has not missed even one

session. She is an active participant who also encourages others to be regular and complete their assignments on time. Talk about a model student!

The training sessions have molded her into a strong personality who has come to terms with her disability. She especially loves the soft skills sessions.

Placement

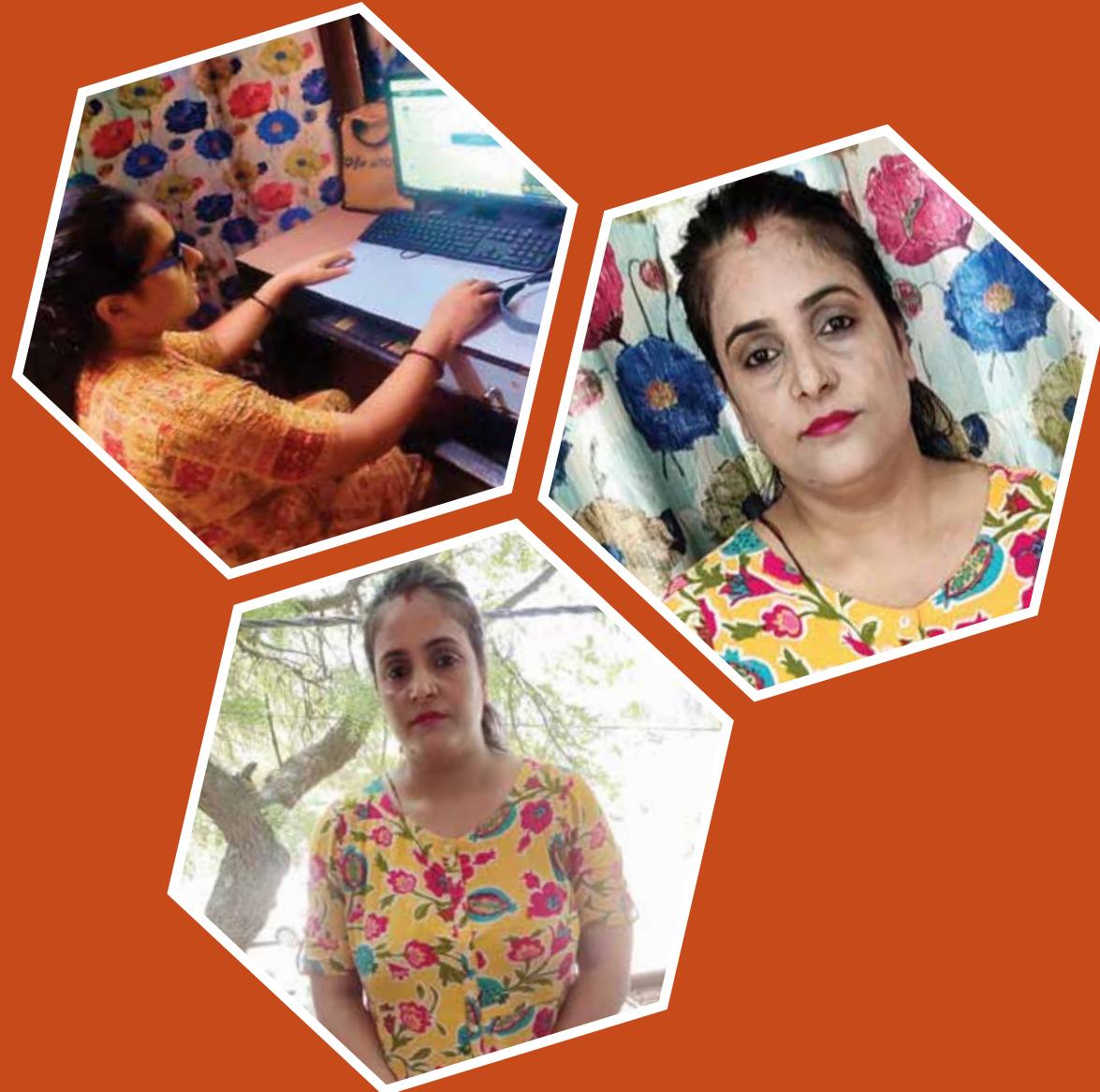
When our team was informed about job openings at Samardha Info Tech, where the candidates were expected to work from home, they forwarded it to Vikahsi. She attended the interview and was selected as a tele executive. Vikahsi earns INR 1,02,432 annually and is very satisfied with her work profile. Her disability makes travel challenging for her, so the work from home opportunity is just the perfect fit



Vikahsi Shah
Female . Gujarat
Disability - Locomotor
Employer - Samardha Infotech
Mode of Employment - Work from Home
Salary per annum - 1,02,432

STORY

50



Renu Chaudhary

Early Life

31-year-old Renu Chaudhary was born and raised in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh. While growing up, her family saw a lot of financial difficulties, as her father was a farmer whose income was seasonal while her mother managed the household of 5. Renu was affected by polio when she was hardly 3 years old and this caused a disability in her right leg.

Renu overcame a lot of obstacles to complete her post-graduation. She is now happily married with a one-year-old son and lives in Gurugram, Haryana.

Disability and its Challenges

Due to lack of awareness and the right education, Renu's parents did not get her vaccinated for polio at the right time. When Renu was about 3 years old, they noticed that something was wrong with her posture and the way she was walking. After consulting a doctor, it came to light that she had missed her polio vaccine as a baby, and it was too late to get it. Renu's father tried his best to get her the right treatment, but the financial condition at home made it very difficult for him.

Renu's mother wanted her to have a normal life like other children. Renu was enrolled in a mainstream school but she felt very isolated. While the other kids ran and played, Renu used to feel very lonely. She was also discriminated against at home because she was a girl. After completing her graduation in Bareilly, Renu desperately wanted to go to Delhi to pursue her post-graduation but her father did not let her leave. She somehow managed to convince her father and completed her Masters.

Renu aspired to be a chartered accountant, but could not clear her exams even after three attempts. Her parents found her a good match and she got married to a wonderful man. Renu's husband never made her feel any different and is extremely supportive of her dreams and aspirations. Though she wanted to continue her education after marriage, she found it very difficult to balance her responsibilities towards her household and education at the same time.

Renu told the team at Y4J that she would prefer to work from home if given a chance, as her in-laws were a bit orthodox and would not be very supportive of her stepping out for work.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Renu's family was facing a financial crisis and she was under a lot of stress as her husband had lost his job in the pandemic. Renu got in touch with our team after she saw a poster on social media about Y4J. Our team then briefed her about the online training program. The first thing she wanted to do on joining the training was to improve her spoken and written English.

Placement

After the training, our team scheduled an interview for her with OLX as a Customer Advisor. Renu was low on confidence and needed a lot of encouragement from our team to appear for the interview.

After some motivation, Renu attended the interview and gave it her best. She had to appear for three rounds in the selection process; the first round was an introductory one, the second was about content moderation and the final round was to test the candidate's knowledge about the organisation. It is safe to say that Renu aced the interview. She was selected for the role of Customer Advisor with a yearly income of INR 2,80,000.

Renu is thrilled that her current job lets her work from home, which helps her balance her responsibilities as a mom and wife. We hope that this is just the start of other wonderful things to happen to Renu and wish her all the success!



Renu Chaudhary

Female . Haryana

Disability - Locomotor

Employer - OLX Autos

Mode of Employment - Work from Home

Salary per annum - 2,80,000

STORY

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Manash Pratim Pohuchungi

Early Life

Manash Pratim Pohuchungi was born in a town called Margherita in Tinsukia district, Assam. This town Margherita is known as the 'Coal Queen' of India. The famous wildlife sanctuary, Dehing Patkai is very close to this town. The inhabitants of this town are mostly Assamese, Bengali and Nepali.

Manash's parents were farmers and the income from farming was hardly enough to cover the bare minimum needs of the family.

Disability and its Challenges

Manash was born with a speech and hearing impairment. It took a few years for his parents to realise that their son couldn't speak or hear. Being marginal farmers, they somehow cultivated enough to get them through every month. But the finances covered just the basics, sometimes even that was a challenge. Add to this the expenses of treating a speech and hearing-impaired child, the family faced some very difficult times.

As there was no special school in Manash's town, he had to travel to Guwahati for his education. Owing to the family's financial crisis, he could not afford to study beyond high school.

Some of his relatives and neighbours went up to the extent of saying that his parents had sinned and that's why he was cursed.

This kind of negativity got to him and made him feel very helpless and depressed. As the eldest son, he felt that his prime duty lay in shouldering the responsibilities of his family and providing for them.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Manash came to know about Y4J's free residential training program through a mobilisation camp in Guwahati. During the training sessions, he opened up about how terrible he used to feel when his neighbours and relatives ridiculed and insulted him because of his disability. Manash was not very great on confidence and used to wallow in self-pity and negativity.

After the training, his confidence levels soared and the positive attitude of his trainers rubbed off on him. The environment was conducive for him to connect with other youth with disabilities from different parts of the country. This helped him understand that he was not alone in his journey and motivated him to chase his dreams!

Placement

Our team lined up a few interviews for Manash after he completed his training. Manash cracked the interview at Big Bazaar and was placed as a Team Member in the Grocery Department, Guwahati. He earns close to INR 1,02,000 a year. Manash's employment has come as a major source of relief for his aged parents. They consider it nothing short of an achievement and feel that this is the right comeback to all the naysayers.

The HR and the Store Manager at Manash's workplace are extremely happy with his performance. It hasn't stopped with just the employers, even a few customers have mentioned how pleased they are with Manash's service. Manash is now a role model to other employees, having got an increment and a promotion just a few months after joining. Manash is now a cashier at Big Bazaar and is very grateful to his employer who has given his family financial security. As his workplace is far from his hometown, he now lives at Guwahati as it makes his commute easier. It gives us a lot of pleasure to see Manash bloom into this independent, hard-working, young man. We know this is just the beginning of good things to happen to him and wish him the best for his future!



Manash Pratim Pohuchungi

Male . Assam

Disability - Speech & Hearing Impaired

Employer - Big Bazaar

Salary per annum - 1,02,000



Chamundeswari T

Early Life

28-year-old Chamundeswari is the victim of a condition called dwarfism. Dwarfism is a growth disorder characterized by shorter than average body height. She was born in Andhra Pradesh and has 3 siblings. Her father is a mason and her mother manages the household. Coming from a modest financial background, Chamundeswari managed to complete her schooling. She performed very well at school and passed her exams with a first class.

Disability and its Challenges

Chamundeswari started working for a doctor after completing school. She worked with the doctor for 2 years before quitting as the income was very less and barely enough to cover expenses. After this she joined a hospital in Chittoor as a nurse. She hardly worked here for a few months and circumstances forced her to quit this job too. She was asked to come in for night shifts and her parents did not want her to work in night shifts.

Chamundeswari was unemployed for almost a year following this. She tried applying to a lot of jobs during this time but nothing clicked. She did not have a mobile phone and this was a great disadvantage as she couldn't attend online interviews. The few interviews that she did manage to attend, she was rejected because of her disability.

Chamundeswari's father's acquaintance told her about an institute called Ropes, which offered training. She attended a 3-month training and got a job with Apollo Hospitals. She was made to wait for more than a week, while all the other people who came with her started working. Chamundeswari had to work a night shift here as well.

It was at this time that she took a break to go home and collect her pension. Another nurse took charge of Chamundeswari's patients and accidentally mixed-up medicines which caused a lot of chaos and confusion. Chamundeswari eventually returned and worked as an assistant warden for close to 3 years. A change in management cost Chamundeswari her job. She was sent to Hyderabad, with the promise of a job opening. She spent almost 6 months at Hyderabad without a job and then went back home.

This time Chamundeswari was home for almost a year. She faced a lot of mocking and insults from her family during this period. Her parents used to yell at her for the smallest of things. Her family ignored her birthday, would behave rudely and even make her feel bad about eating. Chamundeswari must have felt terrible about all this hatred directed at her, for no fault of hers. She found a job temporarily in the village and give all the earnings to her parents. She used to eat food that was leftover and there were times when she went to bed hungry.

About a year later she found another job at Chennai but had to quit owing to health issues. The same problems followed again, it was a cruel rinse and repeat! She decided to join a computer course and took up one at DDUGKY, which is a government employment scheme for youth. She completed the training but couldn't find a job.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

A person from the management in DDUGKY told Chamundeswari about Y4J's online training program after she repeatedly failed to land a job. At his recommendation, Chamundeswari made further enquiries and contacted our team

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BRIGGS BREWERY



to enrol for the training. She joined the batch in February 2019 and underwent training in various fields that included English language, soft skills and basic computer skills. Chamundeswari was regular, punctual, and participated in all the activities.

Placement

After training, Chamundeswari found a job at “Hobbits Café” in Bengaluru. The specialty of this café is that the serving staff are specially abled and victims of dwarfism. A member from our team accompanied Chamundeswari on her first day to work. She wasn't very happy with her workplace on the first day and even cried, but the café manager Mr Karthik, encouraged and motivated Chamundeswari.

She was also taught how to converse with the customers. Chamundeswari settled down happily at her new workplace and worked there for nearly a year and a half before she returned home due to the pandemic. She is now back at her workplace, and is happy to be working for her kind, supportive, and polite employers.

Chamundeswari earns close to INR 1,08,000 a year, plus additional perks like accommodation and free food. She takes great pride in the fact that she provides for her parents. We wish Chamundeswari the best and all the happiness and success in life!

 Youth 4 Jobs

Chamundeswari T

Female . Andhra Pradesh

Disability - Locomotor

Employer - The Hobbit Café

Salary per annum - 1,08,000





Srishti Agarwal

Early Life

Srishti Agarwal belongs to a household of 5 and lives in Hyderabad. She has a locomotor disability. Her father runs his own business, her mother runs the household and she has 2 older sisters who are now married. Srishti's father has been very supportive of her dreams since childhood. Her mother too has been a constant source of comfort and support. The family did not see any major financial challenges and managed to meet the basic needs like food, shelter and clothing. Her father's income amounted to almost a lakh per annum, so Srishti was raised in a household that was not stricken with poverty. The family fared reasonably well finance wise.

Disability and its Challenges

Srishti struggled for basic things during her school and college days. Things like going to the washroom and moving from one class to another were big challenges! There were no proper facilities and the institutions weren't disabled friendly.

Fortunately for her, she managed to make a few good friends who would help her out. Her family also arranged for her to be dropped and picked up which was a major saving grace. Srishti studied well and created a good impression on the teaching staff who treated her just like any other student without discrimination. With the support from her family and friends, Srishti managed to complete her Bachelor's degree in Commerce.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Srishti was rejected in many organisations because of her disability despite having excellent communication skills and computer literacy. She never let that get to her and kept up with her job hunt. She eventually was placed at Franklin Templeton International Services in Hyderabad as an Operations Analyst. Her manager and other team members were very supportive. The organisation was inclusive, disabled friendly and they even provided her with an electric wheelchair. It was a great place to work for but unfortunately Srishti had to quit her job owing to health issues.

After hunting for another job, she was placed

at Wipro as a Customer Care Executive. This is when the pandemic hit and Srishti lost her job.

Srishti discovered Youth4Jobs during a job search and hasn't looked back since. She went through the website and got in touch with our team who were impressed with her communication skills and previous experience.

Placement

The team at Y4J scheduled an interview for Srishti with Virtusa Consulting Services. Just like we knew she would, Srishti aced the interview and was selected for the role of an Analyst – KPO at Hyderabad. Due to the pandemic, Srishti's job profile requires her to work from home and this was an added advantage. Srishti earns close to INR 2,75,004 annually and is thrilled to have found a job again, especially during a worldwide pandemic. We are very happy for Srishti and wish her all the success in life!



Youth4Jobs

Srishti Agarwal

Female . Telangana

Disability – Locomotor

Employer – Virtusa Consulting Services Pvt Ltd

Mode of Employment – Work from Home

Salary per annum – 2,75,004

STORY

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Joyal Fernandez

Early Life

Joyal is the youngest of 4 siblings and hails from a small village in Karnataka. Joyal's father ran his own business before passing away in 2019 and his mother managed the household. Joyal was visually impaired since his birth. He has 2 older sisters and 1 older brother who are all married and settled with their respective families.

Disability and its Challenges

Joyal went to a special school for the visually impaired at Siddapura in Uttar Kannada. After completing high school, he graduated with a bachelor's degree from Dharwad University through distance education. Joyal appeared for competitive exams to get a job in the government and worked hard to clear the Karnataka State Public Service Examinations.

He was placed as the Second Divisional Assistant in the Bangalore Rural District Sessions Court at Anekal. Joyal prefers to live by himself and has rented out a house where he manages his day-to-day life independently. Joyal was bullied as a child and the people in his village used to discriminate against him because of his disability. This was one of the main reasons why he chose to stay away even if it meant that he'd have to live all alone.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Joyal happened to come across a notification about Y4J's digital literacy program for the visually impaired. The course aimed to provide training in English, Computers and Soft Skills. Joyal was very interested in enrolling as he wanted to brush up his skills. Having studied in a small village, he had very limited skills; especially communications, soft skills, body language and grooming.

Joyal told the team that this training came as a lifesaver for people like him, especially during the pandemic where he could interact, network and stay up to date on current affairs. Because the training took place virtually there was hardly any risk of exposing oneself to infections. He used his time off during the pandemic very effectively by equipping himself with various skills.

Placement

Joyal was due for a promotion at work and he recently appeared for an exam to be eligible for it. He aced his interview and was promoted to First Divisional Assistant. Joyal thinks that the training at Y4J helped him gain knowledge and overall made him a confident person. He now refers others to the program and encourages to enrol for it, so that it might benefit them in the same way it did for him. We know that Joyal is destined to achieve bigger things and wish him the very best!



Joyal Fernandez

Male . Karnataka

Disability - Locomotor

Employer - Bangalore Rural Sessions Court

Salary per annum - 2,75,004



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