

ANITA, VILLAGE GIRL DETERMINED TO TAKE CHARGE OF HER FUTURE

Anita left the village as she was not ready for marriage arranged by her parents. She had a support of her elder sister. Anita met the head master of Night school and expressed her desire to enrol as she went to drop her niece to the day school in the same building. The HM proactively wrote to her village and got her leaving certificate. Anita was admitted to school in 8th grade in June 2016; in Ram Manohar Lohiya Night School. Anita was introduced to Masoom in the night school. The Masoom Programme manager helped her adjust to the school environment; encouraged her to mix with classmates and make friends. The bridge course of Masoom was like revision of Math and English. Masoom provided her nutrition and other support under SSC program. She passed in SSC exam conducted in March 2019. She has taken admission in Night College in 11th grade.

Family Background

Anita's parents are poor and work as unskilled rural laborers. They live in a small village in Hingoli district of Maharashtra. They migrate to other places in search of seasonal work. They are scared of leaving young daughters in a village all by themselves. Anita has three elder sisters. As soon as they were 16, the parents got them married. Anita passed 6th grade in village school. The parents decided to arrange her marriage. Anita had seen the difficulties of her elder sisters due to incomplete education and marriage at very young age. Anita rebelled and contacted her elder sister from Mumbai, convinced her that she is not ready for marriage and wants to study. The elder sister was able to understand her and asked her to shift to Mumbai. After coming to Mumbai Anita looked for work. Due to less education she did not get any job and had to accept to work as domestic help. Till date she works as House Help with a few families and earns Rupees 3000/- per month. She had a desire to study and complete education. She was looking for opportunities where she will be able to work as well as study and will not have to spend much on education. Once Anita accompanied her niece to school and came to know about Night school facilities. She understood that this is the right place. Anita met the Head Master of the night school and shared her interest in joining night school.

Masoom Intervention:

The HM of the school was very proactive. He wrote a letter to her school in Hingoli asking for her School Leaving Certificate and proceeded with her night school admission. Anita was introduced to Masoom in the Night School and received educational support from Masoom. Anita took admission in night school in June 2016 in grade 8th . Anita's classmates were younger to her. Because of the age difference and village background, she was initially shy to mix with them. But Masoom PM introduced her to other students. After a few days she was comfortable with her classmates. Anita was nervous about studies as there was a long gap in her schooling. She felt that she is weak in Math and English. The bridge course books of Masoom helped her to gain confidence in Math and English. The Head Master always supported Anita. He gave letters to families where Anita was working so that they will support her for taking leave during exam etc. Anita developed confidence and decided to study sincerely. Anita received daily nutrition in school. She is provided with all support provided to students under NSTP. During this academic year she is given all support under SSC improvement programme. She appeared for SSC board exam in March 2019. She is confident of getting good marks.

Her Dream: Anita is motivated to help people, to improve their way of living. She has a desire to take up "Social Work" as career in future.