

Night schoolers do a great job, despite long work hours

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MUMBAI: Nilesh Shinde moved to Mumbai from his village in Daund last year to earn money, and to fulfil his dream of becoming an engineer.

On Friday, Shinde came a step closer to his dream when he scored 82.8 % in the SSC exams.

A student of the KMS Night School and Jr. College, Parel, Shinde had to juggle household chores, work and academics. "After working from 9 am to 5.30 pm at a construction company, I attended school from 6.30 pm to 9.30 pm. I did my homework till 1 am," the 18-year-old said. "It's my determination to improve my



■ **Nilesh Shinde**

family's economic condition that has got me this far."

Shinde is one of the many night school students who overcame obstacles to pursue studies. Sunil Shinde, 20, a student of Milind Night School in Parel, scored 55%. He contracted chicken pox during his board

exams. "Despite working 10 hours throughout the week, I used to manage to study and expected to score 80%. Unfortunately, I fell ill during the exams," said Sunil.

Neelam Sawant, 24, another student of Milind Night School, got married four months before her boards. She scored 45% and believes her marriage has brought her luck. "In the midst of work and wedding preparations, studies had taken a backseat. But with my in-laws' support, I have managed to clear the exams," she said.

Many night schools across the city managed to get excellent results, with Utkarsh Night School and KMS Night School notching a pass percentage of 100% and 92 % respectively.