



Photo: Mexy Xavier

Young minds absorbing knowledge after dark in Mumbai

# MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE

NIKITA KETKAR'S VISION TO EMPOWER CHILDREN IN NIGHT SCHOOLS HAS

GIVEN WING TO MANY A FLEDGLING DREAM

by Jamuna Rangachari

I want to be a teacher," says Ram Choudhary, eagerly. Ram did his schooling up to the seventh standard in Aurangabad and went on to continue in night school at Worli in Mumbai simultaneously working and learning vocational skills during the day.

"Was it difficult to balance the

two?" I ask to which he replies that it was the fact that he is educated today that made up for all of the travails faced. With his unflagging optimism, the fact that he is visually impaired seems hardly noticeable. Now, with 67 per cent in his Board exams this year, he is applying for the eleventh standard

admissions and is grateful to the team at Masoom for boosting his morale and even providing him a writer for the exams.

"What a wonderful dream," I think. With teachers like him, surely the children will learn the key life skills of determination and fortitude.