

My LIFT journey started with a simple email from the Care Leaver Fellowship, mentioning Udayan Care and more. Curious, I decided to fill out the form, not expecting much. To my surprise, a few days later, I got an email saying I was selected. Excitement and nerves mixed as I approached the interview, where self-doubt lingered. Against the odds, I made it through the interview process. A video call interview with all the selected participants followed, adding another layer of nervousness. But despite my initial uncertainties, I came out triumphant from this crucial phase.

My first meeting with Vidika (Ex: Project Coordinator) and Surja (Co-ordinator) marked the beginning of an incredible journey. The meeting wasn't just productive but also enjoyable, thanks to the camaraderie. The support from my mentors was priceless, boosting my confidence. They introduced me to the Harappa course, a game-changer for my project's success.

During this journey, I met people who became friends — Shahid, Abhiheik, Amir, Priyanka, Nandini, and Shwetha. Before the

fellowship, terms like “care leaver” were unknown to me, and I didn’t understand what it meant. After encountering the fellowship, I learned a lot, from the care leaver word to being patient and resourceful. Before, I was very nervous and hesitant to talk to people. LIFT changed a few of my personalities; now, I can connect with people, ask for help, and be more impactful for society.





I am currently working on a mood journal website for care leavers, which brings me satisfaction and helps me understand how to work for the project. Of course, I faced some issues, like arguments and moments of feeling demotivated. But I learned how to tackle them and work towards my goals. LIFT helped me personally and professionally. **I can say LIFT gave me not only friends but also a few brothers and sisters.**

