

Learning In Fellowship Together: My LIFT Journey best wishes

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LIFT is the **platform that has given me power to uplift myself and become the change for many like me.** The experiences as a LIFT fellow will always stay close to my heart and all the people who supported me throughout the year in this fellowship.

I feel blessed to be a LIFT fellow. **The very thought that this has been curated exclusively for young persons with experience of care makes me feel proud that I was part of this.** It also gives me a sense of responsibility that **being the first of its kind**, I along with my other fellows need to work hard on making it successful, not only for myself but for all future care leavers.

LIFT helped me grow in every field be it professional or personal. It empowered not only me but other Fellows to act as change-makers and bring the change in the care leaving situation in India.

Ever since I started this LIFT, I have seen a different change in myself. **My life has started anew.** Earlier I used to stay at home. I don't want to share my thoughts with anyone. I was afraid to meet and talk to people. I was afraid to step out of the house. Will I be able to or will I ever be able to get a good job in life? Or if I could do something good for others, I always had a doubt in my mind.

I feel happy that I can help girls like me and I feel very happy about it. While doing this fellowship, I started a different experience. From then on I started meeting different people, **started making my own decisions**, and started working on my own ideas. The confidence in myself grew as my speaking skills improved for which I was given English courses. Different sessions were conducted. After completing that course an exam was being conducted on what I had learned. Finally and I got a certificate for it that fall. Harappa courses helped me to gain knowledge.

We started getting knowledge from outside on how we can support each other and take it together. I began to imagine this and I got an opportunity to meet with different organizations. I got a chance to interact with the people managing the organization. Never in my life had I got to sit in a plane. This is a new incident in my life. This happened in my life because of LIFT. I got to feel the problems of other children like me. I got a chance to help them, but I fell behind somewhere because I formed a group of care leavers but I could not spend much time with them. And even they could not give me time.

Children living in CCIs want to be understood and understood, but after a period even when they grow up, they want someone to guide them, to understand them. In the style part of scholarship that I got, I paid my taxes, I lived on rent in a room, and I also benefited from my education. How important this fellowship was for my life that I have come and I am working in an organization that is well known for working on aftercare. The fact that I have a full time job at Prerna I Mumbai is proved by this.