

I want to share with you all a remarkable chapter of my life, the time I spent with LIFT Fellowship. It all began with a simple email notification that changed everything for me.

Picture this: March 10, 2023, a cloudy day. I was gearing up for my 6th semester final exams when, amidst the chaos, an email popped up. It was about an interview for the LIFT Fellowship, a chance to make a difference in the lives of care leavers like myself. The excitement was palpable, so much so that I could barely eat my rice!

I immediately called Mausumi dii, my mentor and confidante to share the incredible news. March 15th arrived, bringing with it a mix of nerves and excitement. It was my first-ever interview, and it was happening online. I logged in early, greeted by Vidhika ma'am, who made me feel at ease instantly.

The interview was a whirlwind of emotions. There were questions, some I could answer with confidence, and others that left me searching for words. But Vidhika ma'am and the team were supportive, guiding me through it all. As the interview concluded, I was left with a flurry of thoughts. Would I be selected? Could I really make a difference?

Two days later, another email arrived, signaling an open discussion where final decisions would be made. I was nervous, unsure of how to express myself among other care leavers. But I gathered my thoughts and shared what was in my heart.

Before this journey with LIFT, I had already stepped into the world of care leavers through ACLA, the Assam Care Leavers Association. It was here that I found my purpose, spending time with children in homes, understanding their stories, and learning how to connect with them.

My project, focused on enrolling care leavers in higher education, led me to collect data, attend workshops, and navigate through challenges. While some documents were rejected, my determination remained unshaken. I wanted to ensure that every care leaver in Assam had the opportunity for higher education, just like I did.

Through it all, I had a mentor by my side, a guiding light who believed in me. The journey wasn't always smooth, but it was worth every challenge. Today, some care leavers are pursuing higher education, while others have found placements after skill training.

As I look back on this journey, I am filled with gratitude for LIFT Fellowship, for the friendships made, the lessons learned, and the lives touched. It's not just a fellowship; it's a family, a community of care leavers striving for a brighter future.

So here I am, ready to take on whatever comes next, armed with newfound confidence and a heart full of hope. Thank you, LIFT Fellowship, for believing in me and giving me the chance to make a difference