



THINK LABOR

To keep up with everything skilling and employment

Center Visit

Education is important. Education is essential. Education drives a country and decides its destiny. But a family, from a remote village in Maharashtra tried to get 17-year-old Shubhangi in the family married without adequate education in September 2020. Sakshi (age 35) a mother of a 16-year-old restarted her education only post Covid-19 just to support her family. What are we doing as a country to tackle and meet the end needs of the so called “Indian common man”?

Pratham Skilling for me can be described as, “learn to earn” irrespective of age and level of education. I saw Shubhangi and Sakshi sitting in a class of healthcare training wanting to build a life for themselves at Pratham Skilling in Chembur, Mumbai. This is what I call the “Indian Independent Woman”. It is interesting to see life from a new lens with rays of hope willing to shine in their darkest hour with immense self-belief.

Pratham Skilling Centre at Chembur, Mumbai indeed offered students learning opportunities in three fields – graphic designing, general health care, washing machine, fridge and AC repairing. The center visit was indeed a hands-on learning experience. The skilling center has a lot to learn from the stories itself of their students. Students irrespective of their age were willing to restart their education at the age of 35 to support their family, while on the other hand some students abandoned traditional education post class 10 and wished to learn through employment to fund their own education. The approach skilling approach is an interesting way to gain employment and indeed age is just a number.

One of the most interesting aspects of the visit was the trainer of the general health care program was herself a nurse before Covid-19. When I asked her, “Why do you choose to teach and not work in a hospital?” For that she replied, “For me over the period I have learnt that teaching young girls and making them independent is a better opportunity for me to give back to the society than dealing with one patient at a time.” Over the past one year, she has had the privilege to train more than 200+ girls and make them the bread earners and self-believers. It is indeed true, when a woman works it not only uplifts the family but also the economy!

My coming from an International Relations background, my life has majorly revolved around government and trans governmental institutions. But, as I proceed a step closer towards making an impact and doing my bit in the society, I can firmly say India is marching towards a #Naya-AtmaNirbharBharat.

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