JOBS FOR DISABLED IN COVID TIMES A YOUTH4JOBS INITIATIVE

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Jeganathan L

Jeganathan is all of 26 years old and comes from a farmer's family in a small town in Vellore, Tamil Nadu. His mother manages the household and he has 2 married sisters who live at their marital homes. Jeganathan comes from a financially poor background. His father's income from farming was barely enough to make ends meet for the family of 5. While the family had to scrimp and save to even buy basic necessities, education was out of the question. Jeganathan's parents still managed to give him an education up to class XII.

After school, he did not want to burden his parents with the expenses of a higher education. Jeganathan joined a small manufacturing industry near his house and worked as a daily wage labourer in the loading section. He wanted to contribute to the family and reduce his father's financial burden.

Disability and its Challenges

Jeganathan was born with a speech and hearing impairment, which went undiagnosed till he turned 2 years old. His father's attitude towards him changed as soon as he discovered his son's disability. The stigma around disability caused Jeganathan's relatives to shun the family. This in turn incited his father who thought he was a curse to the family and harassed him. Jeganathan's mother and sisters were his guardian angels who were extremely supportive. They offered him all the solace that he never got from his father.

Jeganathan studied in a special school and made a lot of friends while at school. But, every time there was a gathering in the household, his cousins neglected him.

It was only after he started working that his

father softened up to him and understood him. Jeganathan used his earnings to help his father with his sisters' wedding expenses. Jeganathan got married to a girl who was also speech and hearing impaired. The stigma and ignorance around disability kicked in again amongst his colleagues at work. They would tell Jeganathan that his child would be born disabled too. This struck so much terror in Jeganathan's heart that he would fervently pray to the almighty for a child who was not disabled.

Jeganathan lost his job during the pandemic. When there was a complete lockdown in the country, jobs were not the biggest priority and disabled people were in the most vulnerable state. He wanted to find another job as soon as possible, so that his family wouldn't suffer but could not manage to.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Jeganathan found out about Y4J through a social media platform. He contacted our team in Chennai and they helped him enrol for the online training program. Jeganathan was an active participant during all the sessions. He was a bit unsure about himself and was battling negativity. His biggest regret is that he won't hear his child's voice when she calls him daddy! Our team gave him ample counselling sessions and helped him get over his traumas.

Jeganathan was very keen to find a job immediately after training owing to his family's financial situation.

Placement

As luck would have it, Jeganathan was selected for a job at Anusham Industries as soon as he completed training. He works at Anusham

AUTOMOTIVE INDIA PRIVATE LIMITE

PLOT NO B-64, SIPCOT INDUSTRIAL F. RUNGATTUKOTTAI, SRIPERUMBUDUR NCHEEPURAM, TAMIL NADU - 602 105, Industries now with a few other candidates from our training sessions. He is an extremely sincere worker, who is also very composed and co-operative. Jeganathan helps his father with farming in addition to supporting him financially. His wife gave birth to a perfect baby girl with no disabilities.

All the relatives who shunned him are now in awe and respect him for how he turned his life around despite his disability. Success is such a game changer. Jeganathan lives with his wife and beautiful baby girl who will one day grow up and make him as proud as he made us!

Youth 4 Jobs

Jeganathan L

Male . Tamil Nadu Disability - Speech & Hearing Impaired Employer - Anusham Industries Chennai Salary per annum - 1,77,000



"Disability is a matter of perception. If you can do just one thing well, you're needed by someone."

- Martina Navratilova





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As someone who was born with a disability in one of his legs, 29 year old Shibdas Porey has seen a lot of disappointment, misery, and frustrations in life. He lives in a small village, which is 90 kms away from Kolkata, in the district of Howrah. Shibdas has an older brother who works in a small shop. His father is a daily wage labourer and his mother takes care of the household. The income in the household hardly amounts to 5000 INR a month, which is barely enough to provide for a family of 4.

Disability and its Challenges

Shibdas could not pursue his education beyond class VIII, as the household's income barely covered the basic expenses. He had a 60% disability in his left leg and went to many hospitals to get it treated. From the Government Hospital at Howrah to spending close to 20 days in a hospital at Vellore for treatment, he had seen it all.

After completing his final examinations for Class VIII, he started working in a tiny cycle garage, doing odd jobs for a meagre salary of INR 2500 a month. He used to deliver newspapers at people's doorsteps to earn some extra cash. He worked very hard to be of some help to his struggling family and to provide a better life for them.

His only aim was to find a better job as early as he possibly could, so that he could improve his family's standard of living. The rat race makes it difficult for everyone coming from poor economic backgrounds to find a job; imagine how difficult it must have been for a person with a disability who hadn't completed his education. Shibdas was struggling to find a job of his liking, but he was resolute in pursuing his goal and let nothing get in his way or deter him. Instead of cribbing and whining about how life was unfair, he took it in his stride and kept at it!

Journey with Youth4Jobs

It was through social media that Shibdas came to know about Y4J's Online Training Program. He got in touch with our team and expressed interest in the 21-day training program. Shibdas was very enthusiastic during these sessions and displayed great energy. He was extremely regular and didn't miss even one session. Unlike a lot of other candidates who attended these sessions from the comfort of their homes, Shibdas attended these sessions from the cycle garage that he was working at.

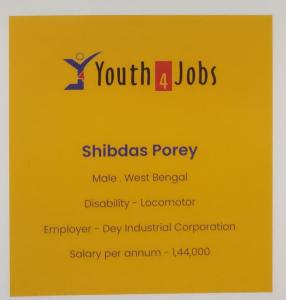
Placement

Shibdas had just one condition about where he wanted to work. He wanted to ensure that his workplace was close to his house, so he would not have to commute. If he were to find a job in Kolkata or some other place that's far away, the everyday journey to and from the workplace would have been very difficult for him.

On the completion of training, Shibdas was placed at Dey Industrial Corporation as a Machine Operator. His workplace is not very far from his hometown and he earns INR 1,44,000 every year.

Shibdas is also pursuing his incomplete education and plans to appear for his board exams very soon.

We hope he aces his exams, like he has conquered every other challenge that came his way. Our team wishes him the best!







Asfaque Hussain

Asfaque Hussain is from Tangra in Kolkata, he is speech and hearing impaired. He belongs to a family of four and his father works in a small leather factory in Sealdah, Kolkata. Asfaque has a younger brother and the family of 4 could barely survive comfortably on his father's monthly income of 5000 INR. Asfaque wanted to study further, but the family's economic condition didn't allow him to pursue his education. As soon as he completed schooling at a special school for the hearing and speech impaired, Asfaque started looking out for a job, so he could support his family.

Unfortunately for Asfaque, he could not find a job anywhere. So he started assisting his father at the leather factory. He would come home in the evening and help his brother with his studies. Asfaque would also help his mother out with the chores at home. This potential of helping everyone with all kinds of work, is what sets him apart!

Disability and its Challenges

Asfaque was always mocked and ridiculed for his disability by his friends and relatives. This only fuelled his desire to make something out of his life and silence all the naysayers. The cut throat, competitive world had no place or a school pass out which was productive and sustainable. Throw in disability, which only almost nullified Asfaque's shot at a normal life.

Asfaque however had no plans of giving up. Not only did he crib even once about all his challenges, he also turned them into stepping stones for success! Till he found a job of his liking, he relentlessly worked at his father's leather factory, every single day. This attitude of never giving up is exactly what helped him succeed in life.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

It was thanks to Facebook that Asfaque discovered Youth4Jobs. He realised that this was exactly the opportunity he had been waiting for all along. Asfaque grasped the components of the training and gained knowledge about the retail sector. He also understood the potential job profiles in the sector and the scope for entrepreneurship among other factors.

He took a leap of confidence and enrolled for the ^{course.} He honed his skills and became proficient. He additionally also learnt English and basic computer applications along with resume writing skills, theory and practical lessons. After his training, Asfaque would go to the leather factory and help his father there! This level of dedication is extremely rare.

Placement

It was only fair that all of Asfaque's hard work paid off after the training. He was placed at Spencer's in Axis Mall Kolkata, with a salary of nearly 99,384 per year. He is an excellent employee and is very happy to be working. Asfaque's hard work, attitude to learn something new and being receptive to learning will take him places. He currently works as a Sales Associate. He is all praise for the other members in his team, who have helped him settle down in his new role. He sees this as the first step toward fulfilling his dreams.

His parents are extremely happy as their son is now independent and can take care of himself while also providing for the family.

His employers also have great things to say about him. Asfaque's manager told our team that Asfaque is very positive and has a great attitude. His manager also mentioned that Asfaque is very energetic and puts a lot of effort at the workplace.

Asfaque is one of the many successful aspirants to have benefitted from the Skill India Mission training initiative and we couldn't be more proud of him!







Sucharita Sarkar

Sucharita is 27-years old and was born in a village called Shyamnagar, deep inside Kolkata. She could not speak or hear since birth. Her father owns a small business and her mother runs a tailoring shop. Money is pretty hard to come by, and even on a good month when business is great, the family makes about INR 6000. She also has a younger brother and the household's income is not really enough to cover the family's expenses. Ever since she passed high school she has wanted to work and support her family in whatever way she can.

Sucharita enjoyed painting and dancing since the time she was a child and was quite proficient. So strong was her grit to help her family that she started painting and dance lessons for other kids near her house. She used to earn some money from these lessons and would give it all up to her father for the household expenses. After completing all the lessons, she would help her mother with her tailoring.

Disability and its Challenges

Sucharita and her parents were constantly mocked for her disability, as though it was their fault. How grown-ups can be so thoughtless is something that still baffles us.

It took a long time for Sucharita to understand that she was not like other children. While the other children spoke and played, she couldn't comprehend that she was different. This caused her a lot of heartache as she felt lonely and neglected, unable to express her feelings.

Sucharita dropped out after high school. As she didn't go to a special school, she found it extremely difficult to interact with the other kids in her class. She constantly felt like the other kids neglected her. She really wanted to pursue her education but that dream was brutally cut short due to lack of proper finances. Financial difficulties aside, another reason that she dropped out was due to the challenges she faced after studying at a non-inclusive school.

As the years passed, realisation dawned that she will have to live with her disability. Sucharita decided not to be dictated by her fate but instead decided to live life on her own terms.

Sucharita had appeared for quite a few interviews and even got placed a few times before she joined training. Unfortunately, all of these job offers were located far away and most of her money and energy were spent travelling to and from the location. This didn't give her a lot of scope for saving her hard earned money.

Journey with Youth4Jobs

Sucharita came to know about Y4J after she got a text about admissions at the training centre in Kolkata. She contacted our team who gave her all the information she needed about the online training program. Though she was on the verge of getting placed, she chose to complete the training first, as she knew that it would give her an edge. Sucharita was trained in various fields like Retail, English, Life Skills and Soft Skills. She was very regular and attended the training sessions with a lot of enthusiasm. She was an active participant during the sessions.

She always felt like a burden on her family and felt very helpless as she couldn't contribute substantially in any way. Not finding a job that she liked only added to that stress. The success stories of other candidates at the training centre gave her a lot of confidence.

Placement

Sucharita's confidence and faith in herself did not disappoint her. She is now an employee at Spencers Supermarket and earns INR 99,384.

We hope Sucharita never loses hope and the confidence she has in herself. The entire team at Y4J would like to wish her the best!



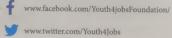




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