

# Santosh – An Inspiration for All



Like all mothers, I too have a dream.” Santosh is a mother of three children, two sons and a daughter. She prays daily that her children study well and lead comfortable lives.

Living in Badli, Haryana, she works hard to support her family. Her husband met with an accident a year ago, which left him bedridden. Being the sole earner in the family, Santosh and her kids greatly depended on him. To be able to pay for the medical bills and household expenses, Santosh turned to employment. But her in-laws disagreed initially, as they believed that working outside the house was only a man’s domain. However, this belief did not last long, as financial hiccups affected the family’s day-to-day functioning. Santosh started looking for employment and soon found an opportunity in a small factory near her home for a brief period. She was not satisfied with how much she was drawing per month as it did not meet her needs.

One day in her discussion with neighbors, she got to know about the WE-LEAD project, its mandate, and how it has been connecting women with good work opportunities in the area. She contacted one of the project’s Community Resource Person (CRP) and immediately enrolled herself in the ongoing logistics training on warehouse operations. Soon after training, she got placed with Reliance, whose warehouse was in the vicinity of her village, in the function of a picker. Santosh currently earns INR 11,500/- per month and has an eight-hour shift, six days a week. She believes that this is helping her regularize her household finances. With continuity, she wants to be able to build up an exigency fund.

Taking inspiration from her mother, Vikram, the elder son enrolled himself and completed the same training. He now works with DB Schenker, whose warehouse too is in the same logistics industrial park as her mother’s. He earns INR 11,500/- per month, which enhances household income two-fold. In college, her daughter, Jyoti (21 years old), is completing a computer course at the center, where she is learning how to operate a desktop and data entry skills. Arvind (19 years old) is still in school but wants to help his family in the future. This is how the program impacts different personas, and it’s rather peculiar to find personas within families who are furthering from the program. Looking back, Santosh gets emotional. She now wants her children to study, get good jobs, and have an open mind to adapt to changing times. She does not want them to keep struggling. She adds, saying that many people were skeptical of her work. However, she continued to toil. Now both her in-laws and neighbors respect her for her contributions to the family and how she manages home and work.

At the end of the interaction, she keeps her hand on her chest and says, “As a mother, a woman...

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**I AM HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO HELP MY FAMILY DURING THE GOOD AND BAD TIMES. THIS IS SOMETHING WE WILL NEED TO FACE TOGETHER**

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