Stitching Success: Narendra Kushwaha's Journey from Tailoring to Entrepreneurship



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rom unassuming origins and operating out of his residence, twenty-six-year-old Narendra Kushwaha has woven a tapestry of success through his thriving tailoring establishment. His story commenced when an introduction by a friend ushered him into the fold of Work4Progress. Here, his innate talent and unwavering dedication found the rightful recognition, a culmination witnessed during his participation in the distinguished Kaun Banega Business Leader (KBBL) competition, a flagship programme of Development Alternatives, supported by the "la Caixa" Foundation that focuses on creating dignified and meaningful livelihood opportunities for marginalised women and youth in rural India through enterprise development. This platform not only unveiled the blueprint of his enterprise but also provided invaluable guidance for its inception. Emerging as a winner in this event, Kushwaha garnered a pivotal loan of ₹30,000 − a sum that breathed life into his entrepreneurial aspirations.

Years of meticulous honing paved the way for his business to turn into full-time tailoring. Today, the rhythmic hum of sewing machines resonates through the air as Kushwaha oversees a flourishing business employing his younger brother and two other family members. His door welcomes an average of 15 to 20 customers daily, a testament to his success. With a palpable sense of accomplishment, Kushwaha recounts how his establishment has become a fulcrum of financial support for his family. His success story radiates inspiration within his community, kindling the aspirations of budding entrepreneurs who seek a similar path. His association with Work4Progress has transformed into a conduit for change, linking countless people with the platform to unfurl their own entrepreneurial journeys.

A recent venture into the sound system business, in collaboration with his siblings, epitomises the impact of his accomplishments. The gains reaped from his tailoring fuel this expansion, setting a chain reaction of entrepreneurial vigour and unexplored possibilities in motion. Kushwaha, now wishes to open a training institute—to impart the art of stitching men's wear to young girls, and vice versa, a symbiotic fusion of opportunity and breaking of barriers. Narendra Kushwaha's journey, from being a diligent tailor to an enterprising trailblazer, is an inspiration that reverberates through his community and beyond.