



# Empowering Dreams: Ravi's Inspiring Journey from Struggle to Success

Hailing from Pratap Nagar, Jaipur, Ravi Kumar Sharma's journey began amid financial hardship, with his father, a farmer, struggling to support a family of seven. As the eldest son, Ravi felt a deep sense of responsibility to contribute to his family's income. Despite having completed his senior secondary education, Ravi found himself in a tough spot due to a lack of professional training. This made it challenging for him to secure a stable job, forcing him into daily wage labour, where he earned a meagre sum of INR 300 per day. His employment prospects could have been more consistent, with work available for only about 15 days each month. However, Ravi's passion for education and his desire to uplift his family's living standards remained undiminished.

Recognising Ravi's frustration with the irregular nature of his work, his friend Deepak informed him about a training centre run by the Development Alternatives Group (DA) with support from Housing and Development Board Financial Services (HDBFS) in Pratap Nagar. Deepak encouraged Ravi to explore this opportunity, offering a potential pathway to a regular job without the burden of high training fees.

Upon visiting, the DA's skills to livelihood centre, Ravi was introduced to various programs, courses, and placement opportunities. Although he aspired to enrol in the Micro Finance Executive (MFE) course, he initially hesitated due to financial constraints. However, the centre manager, displaying empathy and understanding, offered Ravi the option to defer the INR 1000 registration fee until after he secured employment. This compassionate approach allowed Ravi to pursue his dreams despite his challenging circumstances.

Ravi reflects warmly on his experience with DA, highlighting how the program extended beyond curriculum delivery. It played a crucial role in boosting his self-confidence and motivation. When he initially joined the training program, he lacked the confidence to share his thoughts in the classroom. However, through dedicated efforts and consistent counselling on professional skills, offered alongside his MFE training, Ravi gradually developed the confidence to actively participate in class activities, including those focused on communication and time management.

In a short span, Ravi gained a wealth of knowledge and skills, and upon completing the course, he seized the opportunity to participate in a placement drive and secured a position as a Sales Executive at Airtel in November 2019. Ravi attributes his success to the guidance he received on interview skills and his knowledge of Airtel and its services. He began with a basic salary of INR 14,500, but his hard work quickly paid off, with his monthly earnings reaching an impressive INR 61,000, including incentives and bonuses.

Ravi is overjoyed to be able to support his family, fulfilling a lifelong dream to improve their financial standing. His story highlights the stark reality of many in his community who often resort to daily wage labour due to a lack of awareness about such transformational programs. He is determined to make a difference in their lives by spreading the word about these opportunities, enabling others to build brighter futures for themselves.

Ravi's success is a shining example of how hard work and dedication can yield rewards in the long run. He has managed to purchase a plot of land for his family, a testament to his commitment to providing them with a better life. He diligently pays the EMIs and continues to save for the construction, solidifying the belief that dreams can become a reality with perseverance and the proper support.

