

Case Story 1

Name of Partnering NGO: Antarang Foundation, Mumbai

I was able to draw a road map of my life.

Anand (name changed) (age 24) is studying at Maharshi Dayananad College at Paral in commerce stream. Anand comes from a place called Shrivardhan (Dist Raigad). His struggle started at early years of his life. His parents work at their hometown as farm labourers to support a family of five.

Anand came to stay with his aunt in Worli, Mumbai, in the year 2014 hoping to get some job in a big city like Mumbai. Sensing the economic burden on his parents and his aunt, Anand immediately accepted a job in a Security Services office at Prabhadevi. He works in night shift (11 pm till 7 am), attends his classes and helps his aunt in daily chores. His aunt worked as Sweeper in State Health Dept, retired from the post in May 2016. As the family no more gets benefit of the residential quarters, Anand, alongwith his cousins and uncle have shifted to Kharegaon, Kalwa in Thane. They stay at a small rented home. Anand's salary of Rs. 8,000/- per month comes in handy to reduce the financial burden a bit.

When Anand learnt from his teacher about the 'CareerReady' course run by Antarang Foundation, he felt that the course will immensely help him. Because Anand grew up at a small town and have a humble background, he could get very little information and exposure about different career choices. He found the CareerReady course very relevant.

Voltas Ltd has provided financial support to reach out to 410 families in Mumbai through Antarang's 'CareerReady' and 'Career Aware' programmes. With this support as well as the close review and monitoring of the interventions and feedback and guidance provided by Voltas CSR team, the interventions are not only 'free of cost' nature for the students but these efforts are helping to build self-reliance in youth. The rich content and engaging methodology of this courses, which focuses on getting pupils ready for career in a holistic way makes an instant appeal to many of the students from the socio economically challenged background. Anand is one of them.

The sessions Anand and other 27 students from his 'E' division of S Y B Com class attended were very powerful. All the students benefited from the tests, exercises, games which has helped in increasing their confidence level, improving their confidence. More importantly, Anand has now realized his aptitude in Banking and Finance. Interactions with his fellow students have also provided him with the learning opportunity to understand their views towards career and life.

With a smile on his face, Anand says, due to the timely support received through the Career Ready program I was able to draw a road map of my life. Truly so, he now works in a Audit firm in Central Mumbai on a monthly salary of 12,000/-. He does mentions that the six-month course supported by Voltas provided him with a valuable exposure and renewed confidence, which eventually also helped him to get selected through his job interview, which proved to be a turning point for him.

Case Story 2

'CareerReady' helped me reaffirm my career choices

Deepashri (name changed), who stays at Kalachouki - Mumbai in a large family of 6 members studies at Second year of B Com. Her father runs a small cloth shop and her mother tries to supports him business by taking up tailoring work which however is not very regular in nature.

Since her adolescent age, Deepashri experienced the brunt of the financial crisis and therefore wanted to be financially self-sufficient. While studying commerce, she also completed her CMLT (Certificate Course in Medical Laboratory Technology) and DMLT (Diploma in Medical Laboratory Technology) courses. Her efforts were not in vain. In July 2016, she started a job as Lab Technician at a salary of 10,000 per month near her home. This has definitely set off a positive signal in her family which earlier was compelled to manage in an average income of 30,000 per month.

Deepashri received information about the 'CareerReady' course run by Antarang Foundation in her Maharshi Dayanand College through one of her teachers. Voltas Ltd has provided financial support to reach out to 410 families in Mumbai through Antarang's 'CareerReady' and 'Career Aware' programmes.

...The daily tests, exercises, demonstrations, friendly advice and information provided by Trainers.. all contributes for making an informed choice and preparing oneself for the career. Deepashri tells that rather than learning from text books, she understands things perfectly if she does it herself. The Career Ready course offered her exactly what she wanted – an activity based, experiential learning atmosphere with a scope to apply learnings and make mistakes. She attended the sessions very regularly and wholeheartedly.

Deepashri underwent an aptitude test. She was very glad to see that the aptitude test results resonated well with her intuitive decision to work as a Lab Technician. Reaffirmed and reassured, Deepashri now has reached to yet higher level. She wants to do B. Sc. in Lab Technology – a three-year course, as it will offer her a wide range of opportunities. In addition to understanding one's own personality, aptitude, communication skills, English Speaking skills, Deepashri has gained a confidence to present her point in front of a group of 20 – 25 persons, which earlier she thought was just not possible.

The strong and lively partnership between Voltas and Antarang Foundation has helped to take these interventions to yet another level. Through regular sharing on processes and progress achieved, periodic programmatic reviews, brainstorming on different ideas, a process of capacity building of stakeholders has been further strengthened. This ultimately is benefitting the marginalized youth and in turn their families to improve their quality of life.