Geeta's Dream Come True.....

Geeta is about 24 years of age and is originally from Delhi; her family has been living in Koucha Mohtar Khan in Mori Gate, adjacent to the Old Delhi Railway Station, for the last almost fifty years. Her grandfather migrated to Delhi and settled down and the family has lived there ever since. Her father is unemployed but ever since he stopped working Geeta's mother and both brothers have got jobs at a packing factory. Their grandmother also lives with them. The three working members earn around INR 5,000 each (USD 206 as total income) which is hardly enough to make ends meet. Geeta first came to the BUDS Mobile Health Van about three years ago and seemed very disturbed and upset. Initial attempts to speak to her didn't work. After several visits to her home, Bindu – a BUDS counsellor – probed the reason for her frustration and her refusal to speak to anyone. When asked whether she wanted to study further, Geeta admitted that she wanted to but did not know how to go about educating herself. There wasn't enough money to feed the family– how could she ask for money for school fees, books and travel? Bindu explained that the PACE programme had been designed for girls like herself, who wanted to study but did not have the means to do so. Coming to the PACE Centre changed Geeta's life. She gradually started mixing with other girls in her class, getting interested in studies and expressed a desire to take her 10th Board examinations. Through the PACE programme Geeta gave the Board examinations but couldn't clear two papers. This hurdle has not interfered with her decision to continue with her studies. In fact she is determined to pass the examination in the near future. When the Delhi Government imposed a lockdown on the city on 22nd March 2020, thousands of people were left stranded – without food, medicines, water and essentials. BUDS started a food distribution system and Geeta volunteered to liaise with her colony to ensure aid reached the people. Her leadership and organization skills blossomed and her self-esteem rose. She became a very important part of the BUDS ration distribution drives and without her assistance, BUDS could not have reached the members of her colony as fast as they did during the initial phases of the lockdown. Geeta was conscientious and meticulous in her work. She made lists of all the colony members, categorised them and ensured that they got rations. In the course of her work she identified women who were being subjected to domestic violence. She was courageous enough to get them help. She helped complete forms for e-rations, sensitized her community about prevention measures, mobilized volunteers for food distribution at night so women wouldn't have to leave their homes. Geeta aspires to become a fashion designer, so that she can become financially independent and train young women like herself. Through the PACE programme and BUDS good offices, Geeta has been able to realise her dream. She is currently a trainee at Fashion Designing and Merchandising at Gandhi Darshan in New Delhi and well on her way to realizing her dreams