

## **Pratibha ki pratibha**

### **(Pratibha's talents)**

Pratibha is 23 years old. Her family migrated from U.P. Her father's name is Mr. Ram, who was a casual labourer. But due to the COVID-19 related lockdown this year he hasn't had any work. There are five children in the family. The eldest brother also works as a labourer. He is married and he has an ailing daughter with a chronic digestive disorder. Pratibha's second brother has bone T.B. He is taking treatment, but is unable to work for a living. One of her brothers has passed his school-leaving examination while a sister is studying in the 12<sup>th</sup> standard. Her mother is a housewife who suffers from joint pain. So it is the responsibility of the sisters to earn and run the home.



Although Pratibha had qualified as a field executive with the help from BUDS, due to her father's deteriorating health, she could not further her career goals. He was in and out of hospital, and on one such occasion, in mid-April 2021, he tested positive for COVID-19 and the doctor said that his lungs were affected. Worried, upset and feeling hopeless, Pratibha called the BUDS counsellor and poured out her sorrows while crying profusely.

Shobha (the BUDS counsellor) calmed her down. "First of all stop crying and share your problem," she advised. Pratibha told Shobha that her father was in a very serious condition. She had taken him to a privately run hospital in South Delhi but they were asking her to pay a sum of money that was way beyond her reach. At that time Delhi was experiencing a severe shortage of hospital beds and life-saving devices like oxygen cylinders. Oxygen concentrators were expensive and hard to come by. Many people were suffering, just like Pratibha's father, because of COVID-19 and related complications.

After many phone-calls and searches for a hospital bed and oxygen, Shobha was able to locate a facility that would admit Ram. "I'm sending you the number of a provider who will give a hospital bed and oxygen" she advised. "And just talk to your relatives too for financial help". After 15 minutes, Pratibha called Shobha and said that an Oxygen Cylinder had been arranged. Shobha suggested that Pratibha's father be taken care of at home too, explained safety protocols and infection control procedures for COVID-19 in detail for the safety of the entire family. Pratibha followed the doctor's advice and the instructions Shobha gave her. Thanks to the treatment and care, her father recovered from his illness.



### **Pratibha's job interview**

Pratibha now had to take a job interview and move on with her career. BUDS was with her every step of the way in her efforts to get a job. First the counsellors trained her for all four rounds of the interview that she would have to undergo. Then they had to prepare her for the written test and for the tasks that she would have to do in her new job such as writing reports, field visits and maintaining documentation. Pratibha cleared the interviews and tests. She got the job of a community mobilizer in an NGO in November 2021 and is currently

earning about Rs. 13000 a month. Pratibha is intelligent and hard-working and has gained confidence in herself thanks to BUDS. Shobha is very happy and proud that she was able to help such a deserving candidate.

Recently, Pratibha came to the BUDS center and thanked the counsellors and gave them all a gift card. "We, at BUDS, are really very glad that she could realize her ambitions. She always wanted a profession as a social worker so she could reach out to the community and try to help them".

*(Names changed to protect confidentiality)*

*Prepared by: Shobha (counsellor) at BUDS*