

FROM RUBBLE TO SHINING GLORY - ASHOK KADAM ★



Ashok Kadam

"I love machines and I want to be a mechanical engineer!" Ashok Kadam surely knows that he does not want to be a construction worker like his parents who have spent their lifetime in this grueling profession. A construction worker's life is a parody of extremes. While the labourer toils over constructing palatial homes for other to reside, his family lives in a tiny shanty of tin sheets surrounded by unhygienic conditions and often without the basic necessities of electricity and water. The construction worker's children often spend their childhood in a filthy environment detrimental to their growth and future.

Born in Kinnaula village of Parbhani district in Maharashtra, Ashok was lucky that his parents came to work at the One North Project in Pune where Tara Mobile Creches Pune runs a centre for the children of construction workers on the site. Looking at his parents struggling to work for nearly 18 hours a day so that the family could have two decent meals daily, Ashok was determined that he wanted something different for himself in the future.

When Ashok came to the Tara Mobile Creche he was 3 years old. A bright and intelligent child, Ashok showed all signs of being good at learning. The Didis at TMCP worked hard to enroll him at the

Lonkar High School in Mundhwa. Construction workers are a migrant population who normally lack the necessary documents required to prove their domicile and status as a local resident. This often creates obstacles in the admission process when their children wish to enroll in schools and colleges. Furthermore, lack of education and the fear of losing even a day's income often deters these workers from pursuing the completion of these formalities with the local municipal offices. TMCP has been using its good rapport with government agencies and their expertise in this area to assist the construction workers to process their papers. It is tremendous work for the TMCP co-ordinators but the joy of being able to provide the right of education to one more child overpowers the pressure and frustration that often ensues in the process.

Ashok has studied very hard at school and has successfully cleared the SSC (Class X) exam this year with flying colours. He has made TMCP very proud indeed. The boy who loves to study is all set to embark on a career in mechanics, and he knows that wherever he goes, TMCP will always be with him to support him in his ambition!!!



Ashok Kadam with Alumni, Staff and friends from TMCP