

SHE DOES IT AGAIN...ANJANA KASHID ★

Where there is a will there is always a way.

Years ago, Savitri Phule was a beacon for girls wanting to be educated in this country. More and more girls in India are today living Savitri's dream by going to school and then college to carve a better future for themselves.

Anjana Kashid is a beacon today for all children of construction workers who has proved once again that every child does need a rightful right to education. Two years ago, Anjana who then lived in the labourers' camp at Zenith Kharadi scored 80% at the SSC examination. This year, she has repeated her feat by scoring 74% at the Class 12 HSC examination! Being the first girl at Tara Mobile Creches Pune to have succeeded so well in her studies hasn't been an easy journey all through her childhood. This gutsy and determined girl has worked as domestic help during her free time, studied at nights under candlelight and overcome financial constraints and family opposition to work towards her dreams.



Anjana Kashid

We spoke to Anjana after her success at the HSC exams and here is what she had to say....

How does it feel to be an achiever the second time again?

Anjana: I feel like I have been given a gift for the second time in my life. I had never dreamt of getting this opportunity to realize my dream of excelling in the examinations. It all feels so wonderful - to get a slice of fame again, to be interviewed, to be photographed and to be able to bring such happiness for my parents yet again.

How did you study for the HSC examination?

Anjana: I followed a rigorous daily routine. My day began at 4am every day. I would attend college and classes for 6 hours and study for 8 hours daily. Being in a hostel was a mixed experience – while there were rules to follow, there was also the privilege to study in an environment that was so much better than a construction site with all noise and chaos.

What kind of challenges have you faced in your journey till now?

Anjana: They say life is no fun without

challenges and that is so true. I have had to work hard throughout my childhood just like other children of construction workers do. When I was not at school, I would help my mother in her work as a domestic help. No holidays, no vacations... there were even times when I had to study in candlelight if there was no electricity. Initially my parents were not in favour of my studying after the Xth but I had to convince them a lot and they finally agreed. During my Class XII, my cousin had passed away suddenly and there was a lot of tension in the family.



Anjana with her Mother

Who would you say has been your inspiration?

Anjana: When I was very young, my teachers at school always advised me to dream big and aspire to be like successful people around me. The Didis and teachers at Tara Mobile Creches have motivated me to work hard and be compassionate always. Their guidance and support constantly nurtured the seeds of ambition and determination sown early in my childhood.

What are your plans for the future?

Anjana: I would like to graduate with a BCom degree and then study Chartered Accountancy. I have already registered for the CA exam. But, first and foremost I want to be an ideal daughter for my parents and an obedient student of my guru. Then, I would like to realize my dreams of a successful career.

How would you like to motivate young girls like you to gain an education?

My advice to other girls like me is to firstly accept whatever situation you are in. If someone has a new bag and you don't, never feel bad about it. We must be happy with what we have because we do not know what is in store for us in the future. If we are content with our present many good



Anjana at a TMCP centre

opportunities and good people come in our lives to help us. An important point to remember here is that we have to give back the good we get from others. Study hard, be successful and enjoy!

What do you think is the problem faced by children of construction workers?

Poverty is the biggest problem for children like us. Our parents do not have the means to fulfill our needs – be it for food, clothes or for education. Having a good supportive family, being in a peaceful environment, being satisfied with enough to eat are according to me vital for any child. I am lucky to have supportive parents but not many children are

What would you say has been your best learning at TMCP?

Mobile Creches has been my school since my childhood. I will not be able to express in words what TMCP has done for me or rather given me. It has imparted me good values. What I am today is because of TMCP. Even today I feel like running back here to my first class and having fun as I did as a small child.

Describe an incident TMCP that you will never forget.

I remember an incident when I was in Class IV. Our centre was to put up a drama at a cultural program organized by TMCP. I was given a small role while another girl at the Centre was given a bigger role in the play. Two days before program, the other girl dropped out of the play. I was asked to step in and take her place. Her dialogues ran into four pages and learning them



Anjana with her TMCP teacher

seemed such a daunting task for me. The Didis at my Mobile Creche encouraged me and assured me that I would be able to do it. It was their confidence and boost that helped me learn the dialogues within a night. The play was of course a grand success and we got many "once mores" from the audience. That experience is so ingrained in my personality that I never fear taking up a challenge because I have the confidence to forge ahead. Thanks to the Didis at my Mobile Creche centre.

What are your other friends from the Mobile Creche centre doing today?

Some are married, some have gone back to their villages...

Anjana's favourites

Hobbies - Singing, drama and elocution

Filmstars - Madhuri Dixit and Amir Khan