

AMFI-WB WE-LEAD Project Individual Case Study

A Journey of Growth towards the Fulfillment of Dream

Rabia Khatun , Age: 21 years

Raghudevhati, Sankrail Block, Howrah District

Background:

Rabia Khatun hails from Raghudevhati village panchayat, Mistry Para in Sankrail block of Howrah district. She is one of five daughters and two sons of Moinuddin Sardar and Firza Begum. Moinuddin Sardar was a goldsmith by profession, who managed to marry off all his daughters with the income from his trade. However, due to a decline in goldsmith work in Howrah, he became unemployed. Consequently, his eldest son moved to Puducherry for work to support the family.



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Intervention Support: Khatun despite her young age, faced numerous challenges. She suffered from polio in her childhood, which caused one of her legs to be slightly bent, making her walk with a limp. She was eager to help her family and share the burden, but opportunities were scarce. She began tutoring at home and used the family's sewing machine to make small alterations for neighbors. Her situation worsened when her mother passed away, forcing her to abandon her BA studies in the 5th semester and assume all household responsibilities.

Despite these setbacks, Rabia's determination only grew stronger. She sought to learn tailoring and came across information about the WE LEAD under AMFI-WB program organized by the Women and Child Development Center through a neighbor. She participated in the EDP program and expressed her desire to baseline her skills. Due to her physical condition, she was initially advised to consider other trades. However, her relentless determination led to her enrollment in tailoring training, which commenced soon after.

Training and Entrepreneurial Ventures:

During her training, Rabia demonstrated exceptional attendance and a strong desire to learn. After completing her tailoring course, she repeatedly requested to visit the market for supplies. Using savings from her tutoring work, she purchased materials and started her own tailoring business. Her father, Moinuddin, supported her initiative by refurbishing a small shop and selling her creations, including churidars and nighties. He promised to fully renovate the shop and expand the business to local markets if initial sales were successful.

Rabia has already made some sales and named her shop "Begum Tailors" in honor of her late mother. She has requested a banner design from We Lead, which is currently in progress. She plans to open her shop fully once the banner is ready.

Financial Summary:

Expenses for Shop and Other Costs: ₹5,000

Funds Raised Through Personal and Family Support: ₹5,000

Earnings (Past Week): ₹500

Future aspiration

Rabia Khatun's journey exemplifies how determination and hard work can lead to



success despite significant obstacles. Her story is a testament to the power of perseverance and the support of programs like WE-LEAD. As Rabia continues to build her business, she stands as an example of how dreams can be achieved with unwavering commitment and support.