

Fighting All Odds



In a small village of Pelpa, near Badli, Haryana, a 21-year-old girl named Chanchal searches for ways to achieve financial independence and freedom of mobility every day. Chanchal dreamed of pursuing her higher education at a renowned university as a schoolgirl. She wants to travel to new places and work in big companies.

After completing class 12, her father stopped her education and told her to take home chores and practice being a good homemaker after marriage. Hearing her other friends studying and working in the warehouse, she also wanted to earn and help her family. Her father was the only breadwinner in the family, but his income wasn't enough for household expenses. Observing the shortage of money in her family, she wanted to help. She then came across the WE-LEAD project in 2021 in her village when the Development Alternatives (DA) team spoke about livelihood and job creation with the local women. With her mother's support, Chanchal proactively participated in the logistics training program and completed a computer course in 2022 at the DA Badli Centre. After completing her 35 days of training, she was selected as a scanner at the ECOM warehouse in Jhajjar through placement. Working hard for two months, she was promoted to the Data Entry Operator (DEO) post, earning 13,500/- per month. She uses this money to run her home and other expenses.

Although she is proud to help her family, she still feels insecure and uncertain about her future. She still yearns for support from her father and extended family. Even now, Chanchal finds it difficult to convince her family to go out by herself each day, but her unwavering spirit keeps her fighting for her rights.

"I HOPE THAT ONE DAY MY FIGHT TO CHANGE THE VIEWS OF MY FAMILY WILL NOT ONLY ENABLE ME BUT ALSO INFLUENCE OTHER GIRLS IN THE VILLAGE TO BE FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT AND FREE TO MOVE OUTSIDE THEIR HOUSES".
