



From Miles to Smiles: A Truck Driver's Journey to Financial Mastery and Family Security



The Suhana Safar Program, spearheaded by Development Alternatives (DA) since 2016, has been dedicated to transforming the lives of truck drivers, a demographic often overlooked in community development initiatives. Recognising the dearth of initiatives tailored for this community, DA acknowledges the unique challenges faced by truck drivers, including the lack of access to creature comforts, hygiene, financial stability, and healthcare; due to their demanding lifestyle, DA has endeavoured to provide support and empowerment to this community.

One such individual benefiting from this program is Zakir, a 24-year-old truck driver from Dadri Depot, who supports a family of six: himself, his wife, a daughter, his parents, and his sister. Initially drawn to the program by the prospect of receiving a free kit, Zakir soon recognised its potential to significantly enhance his livelihood. Through the training session, Zakir came to know about **Sukanya Samridhi Yojana**, a government-backed savings scheme launched in 2015 as part of the '**Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao**' campaign. This scheme incentivises investment in the education and marriage expenses of girl children, providing attractive interest rates and tax benefits. Zakir now understands the importance of securing his daughter's future through such schemes, further reinforcing his commitment to financial prudence and long-term planning.

Moreover, through the program, Zakir acquired invaluable financial management skills, including budgeting techniques, investment schemes, and effective money-saving strategies. This newfound expertise enabled Zakir to effectively navigate his earnings towards essential expenses and savings for the future, ensuring financial stability for himself and his family. He thanks to the insights gained from the training program.

The Suhana Safar Program has not only empowered Zakir with essential financial literacy skills but also equipped him with the knowledge to secure a better future for his family, particularly his daughter. Through initiatives like the Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, Zakir and countless other truck drivers are now able to navigate financial challenges with confidence and invest in the long-term well-being of their loved ones.