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Nitish at work



Nurturing Livelihoods

Skill training is a dire need in India with 46.9 million youth struggling to find employment. At Ambuja Cement Foundation, skill training is promoted through Skill and Entrepreneurship Development Institutes (SEDI). This newsletter brings to you the stories of Nitish in Darlaghat, Himachal Pradesh who trained to become a successful plumber and Ashish who acquired skills at SEDI post the floods in Uttarakhand.

Nitish had seen his family struggle since childhood. Nitish's father was a postman with a meager salary. Since childhood, Nitish wished to study hard and support his family. He was a sincere student in school and was determined to complete his graduation. Post school, he moved to Darlaghat. After completing his bachelor's degree, Nitish started working in a grocery shop. It was a surprise that even though he had completed his formal education, jobs were not easy to come by. His family soon pressurized him to get

married. This further increased his woes as he had the responsibility of his wife as well. In desperation, Nitish started working as a labourer at construction sites. While he was undertaking one such assignment, he met the SEDI Principal at Darlaghat. The Principal noticed his dedication and hard work and suggested him to take the plumbing course. Nitish's decision to take up plumbing changed his life. He worked hard and paid the fee for 6 month course. Post training he started working with his cousin who



Ashish at SEDI

was in the same industry. After gaining work experience for an year, he loaned instruments. Within one year of working independently, he developed a strong customer base. Today Nitish has a well-established business and has more work than he can handle himself. He has bought his personal instruments worth Rs. 70,000/- and plans to expand his work.

Building a secured future through skilling

The floods at Uttarakhand in 2013 created havoc for numerous families. The floods rendered people homeless leaving many with hardly any livelihood option. Many communities depended on tourism for sustenance which was no more an option for survival.

Ashish Chauhan, lost his shop to the floods. Being the sole earning member, he had to think of a quick option to provide for his family. Ashish and some of his friends visited Gujarat in search of job opportunities. But one of the major requirement to be

employed was to be trained in some trade. It was during this time, that they discovered SEDI.

When they approached the Principal, it was essential to suggest a trade which would interest youth and fetch quick jobs. After numerous discussions, Computer Hardware and Networking was suggested.

SEDI not only provided training in skills, but also a hope for a better future. The youth at the centre are aware about the hardships which await, but are now better equipped to face them. Ashish not only knows about the tourism industry, but is today confident to begin his own business or take up a job.



Ashish with his group of friends