

FROM DREAMS TO REALITY: POOJA NAHAKA'S JOURNEY INSPIRES HOPE IN THE HEARTS OF BAURIBAGAD

In Bauribagad, a region plagued by educational deprivation and deep-rooted stereotypes against girls' education, Youth for Social Development (YSD) embarked on a 30-day education camp at Bauribagad Primary School. This endeavour aimed to address the prevailing challenges that deterred children from attending school, especially girls. In this narrative, we delve into the transformational story of Pooja Nahaka, a 17-year-old +2 student, who became the beacon of change in her village. Bauribagad was burdened with a culture that discouraged children from pursuing education, particularly secondary education for girls.

Deep-seated stereotypes stifled dreams, and for girls, the aspiration to study was akin to chasing a distant mirage. Even if a child harboured the desire to learn, familial and societal pressures pushed them away from the path of education. Recognizing these challenges, the YSD team initiated a series of community engagements and meetings to alter mindsets and advocate for children's education. These efforts struck a chord with many villagers, igniting a desire to change their children's educational prospects. Among these change-makers was Pooja Nahaka. Pooja, the first girl in her village to aspire to attend college, understood the transformative power of education.



She passionately believed that "Education is the passport to freedom." Despite facing her own childhood difficulties with reading and learning, she resolved to ensure other children did not face a similar fate. Pooja commuted 15 kilometers to a distant college but didn't let her busy schedule deter her commitment to education. Pooja began her mission by teaching her younger sister and her sister's friends using engaging stories and activities.

QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL

Slowly but steadily, her dedication inspired other children and their parents, kindling their interest in the "CaMaL Ka" camp. Pooja encountered numerous obstacles, but her unwavering determination led her to visit households and raise awareness about the importance of education. Through countless home visits and meetings, Pooja succeeded in persuading parents to prioritize their children's education.

The stories of transformation in Bauribagad underscore Pooja's leadership style, emphasizing that every student can be empowered to lead and contribute to positive change within their community.

In Pooja Nahaka's remarkable journey, we find hope and inspiration, a testament to the potential for transformative change through education and the unwavering dedication of individuals like her.

