

LEARNING IS THE PRODUCT OF THE ACTIVITY OF LEARNERS : THE STORY OF LISA ROUT

Ainabandha slum, situated in Brahampur town within Ganjam district, is home to over a hundred residents, most of whom are economically disadvantaged. The community relies on various means for livelihood, including daily wage labor, crafting clay and cement statues, and performing domestic work for others.

In this challenging environment, we encounter Lisa Rout, a 9-year-old girl in Class 4, with her mother, Kalyani Rout, and father, Muna Rout, both daily labourers, along with her younger brother in Class 2 and elder sister in Class 8.



QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL

Before the pandemic, Lisa Rout was pursuing her education diligently. However, when the pandemic led to school closures, her studies came to a halt. Simultaneously, her father's work ceased, and he turned to alcohol consumption, putting additional strain on the family. Lisa's mother became the primary breadwinner, making it difficult for the family to afford private tuition. Moreover, her parents lacked awareness of their children's education, and the extended period at home during the pandemic led Lisa to gradually forget what she had learned. Even after schools reopened post-pandemic, her attendance remained irregular, with only sporadic visits each month.

Lisa Rout's journey took a positive turn through the intervention of a learning camp organized by YSD at the Government Primary School, Old Berhampur. Here, we became acquainted with Lisa's situation and subsequently visited her family to introduce the concept of "Camal Ka Camp." Our aim was to bridge the learning gaps and encourage the children to enhance their reading proficiency.

Over the course of 4-5 days, we made daily visits to Lisa's home, providing instruction to Lisa and her siblings while emphasizing the importance of school attendance. As a result of her participation in the learning camp and consistent support, Lisa Rout has made substantial strides in her education. She now reads fluently, demonstrating a clear understanding of her lessons. Moreover, she has developed proficiency in mathematics, encompassing addition, subtraction, multiplication, and even one-digit division. Lisa Rout's educational journey in Ainabandha Slum serves as a testament to the transformative power of dedicated educational interventions and community engagement. With efforts aimed at bridging learning gaps and fostering a connection with the school, Lisa has not only regained her passion for learning but has also achieved remarkable progress in her academic pursuits. This case underscores the importance of providing support and resources to underprivileged children to empower them to break the cycle of limited opportunities and realize their full potential.



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