

# PRACHI'S STRUGGLE FROM RELUCTANCE TO CONFIDENCE

Prachi Parichha, a 10-year-old girl residing in Block-Rangeilunda, Ganjam, is the daughter of Amal Parichha and Savitri Singh. She has one brother, who is a student in Class 8 at Ambapua School, and a sister studying in a different location. Prachi herself was enrolled in Class 4 at Ambapua School. Her parents are actively engaged in work within their village, while she resides with her grandmother. Prachi's grandmother, in turn, works as a helper at De-Paul School.

Prachi Parichha is a reserved and introspective student who experienced a period of absenteeism from school lasting two and a half months. Her challenges became apparent when she failed to complete a class homework assignment, leading to disciplinary action by her teacher. This created a negative image in her mind and she started avoiding going to school.



Prachi's inclination to wear boys' attire caused an incident at school as her teacher deemed her boy's uniform attire inappropriate. This episode deeply affected her perception of school, building negative thoughts about potential punishments and judgements. Once Prachi Parichha went to the park and fell which led her to discontinue any further visits to the park. Further, Prachi refrained from outdoor activities and seldom interacted with other children. She preferred staying indoors even during power outages and stayed alone in a dark room.

Our intervention commenced at Ambapua UP School, guided by the dedicated volunteer, Mahima Pradhan. Mahima initiated contact with Prachi Parichha's family, engaging in conversations with her grandmother and parents to emphasize the significance of education. Prachi's family expressed their previous efforts to persuade her to attend school but without success. Mahima subsequently met Prachi Parichha herself, seeking to understand the underlying reasons for her reluctance to attend school.

Through engaging games and activities like "What will Fly" and "Tell me how many brothers?" conducted in front of her residence, Mahima tried to create an enjoyable and inviting learning environment.

Continuing her efforts, Mahima facilitated storytelling sessions and activities within the community for four to five consecutive days. These interactions kindled Prachi's interest, gradually instilling a desire to participate in community activities. Prachi Parichha's transformation was quite evident as she willingly committed to attending school daily and engaging in learning camps. While initially struggling with basic reading, her confidence surged in a matter of weeks. She progressed to reading stories with comprehension and mastering mathematical concepts such as subtraction with borrowing and two-digit division.



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