

# Building Confidence Through Learning : Sophia's Story



Sophia Pradhan, a 9-year-old girl from Sanamadhapur village under BN Pur Panchayat in Khallikote Block of Ganjam district, once struggled to keep up with her studies. She lives with her parents, Manoj Pradhan and Rashmi Pradhan, who were increasingly worried about their daughter's learning progress. Although Sophia attended school regularly, she found it difficult to understand lessons and remember what she had learned. Her reading ability was very limited, and she struggled to recognise letters and numbers like other children of her age.

Seeing their daughter fall behind made her parents anxious about her future. They wanted Sophia to succeed in school but did not know how to support her learning effectively.

Around this time, Youth for Social Development (YSD) established "Khel Vatika" a Community Learning and Support Centre in Sanamadhapur village to help children strengthen their foundational learning skills through activity-based and child-friendly methods.

One day, Sophia's father visited the centre and observed how children were learning through interactive activities, games, and creative teaching tools. The lively environment and joyful approach to learning impressed him. Hoping it would help his daughter, he brought Sophia to the centre the very next day and shared his concerns with the Community Learning Facilitator.

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The facilitator warmly welcomed Sophia and encouraged her to attend the centre regularly. With special attention, patience, and supportive guidance, Sophia slowly began to engage in the learning activities. The sessions used simple and playful methods that made learning easier and more enjoyable for her.

Gradually, Sophia started recognising letters, reading simple words, and understanding numbers. With continuous support from the facilitator and encouragement from her parents, her confidence began to grow. Over time, she made remarkable progress in both reading and numeracy.

Today, Sophia can read Odia storybooks independently and solve basic mathematical problems such as addition and subtraction. The improvement in her learning ability has greatly increased her confidence. She now enjoys studying and participates actively in learning activities.

Sophia has also started helping her friends with their lessons and often brings them to the learning centre so they can learn together.

Sophia's journey shows how community-based learning support and caring guidance can transform a child's educational experience. With timely support from the YSD learning centre and encouragement from her family, Sophia has gained confidence, strengthened her learning skills, and developed a strong interest in education. Her story is a hopeful example of how the right support can unlock a child's potential and open doors to a brighter future.

## Support



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