

## Case Study

Name: **Jhumuri Gouda**  
Age: **24**  
Gender: **Female**  
Education: **9<sup>th</sup> (10<sup>th</sup> incomplete)**  
Marital Status: **Single**  
Highest education: **9<sup>th</sup>**  
Current self-employment/ employment status: **Unemployed**  
Type of impairment: **Locomotor Disability (Polio)**  
Any other members with disabilities in family: **Elder brother**

Interview unique number: **05**  
Interview date: **22/11/2019**  
District: **Ganjam**  
State: **Odisha**

Jhumuri is a 24-year-old young woman with locomotor disability was diagnosed with polio in her early age and later her brother was also diagnosed with the same. She studied in a village school till 7<sup>th</sup> standard and because they couldn't afford crutches, so she used to limp while walking. She stated that her parents have supported her education, however, she couldn't complete high school because of her mother's sickness who had paralysis attack resulting in doing household chores and Jhumuri did not go to school.

Jhumuri expressed, "In 7<sup>th</sup> standard I received crutches because of our Sarpanch in the village."

Getting admission in school was not difficult for Jhumuri, however she had her struggle in continuing the studies in an insensitive environment towards disability needs, especially for girls with disability. Jhumuri had tried different mobility aids, such as tri-cycle when she was in 4<sup>th</sup> standard and crutches when she was in 7<sup>th</sup> standard. However, because of her friends, community insensitivity and lack of awareness, she was stopped using any mobility aids.

*"In 4<sup>th</sup> standard my parents bought me a tri-cycle from the block office but school kids used to play or sit on it and I could not use it, hence I dumped it at home. Growing up, sometimes my friends would tease me by taking away my crutches while I wash my hands and leg at the tube well. I complained and my teachers would do nothing. I decided to dump the mobility aids as these had become instruments of mockery and harassment. I managed to walk to school but deformity increased until one day I started crawling on all four limbs. I attended the school regularly except during the monsoon, as roads were bad and the whole area around the school was muddy. I used to go for open defecation as the school toilets were inaccessible and dirty. For me, getting educated was painful and I feel sorry for children with disabilities especially girls who undergo immense trauma both due to attitudinal and physical barriers in schools."*

She also feels disappointed by the poor healthcare facilities in the rural areas. She was operated by a 'quack' doctor three times. There was no success and money was wasted. Then they went to a government hospital doctor, which was 15 kms away and they had to take a bus.

Jhumuri strongly recommends, "**village level health facility to be available round the clock. State and central government should ensure community out-reach by mobile vans and dispensary for medicines so that women like us are not left behind**".

Jhumuri started to work from home with her sister-in-law and started selling soft toys. She came to know about the *Sambhaba* DPO through *Jana Jagaran* NGO and received training on soft toys, fast food preparation and farming.

Jhumuri stated, "Fast food and farming are good enterprise but my favourite is soft toy making. I sell the soft toys in a mela (village fair). I have managed to save Rupees 6000/- so far and bought a mobile on my own. I feel happy and contended with the business as I am self-sustained. I am not worried about people's comment. I carry all the items in an auto rickshaw and some people help me to arrange the stall in the mela."

She attends all family functions without any hesitation, even after her family reluctance. She expressed her wish to marry but she is unable to express it to her parents. After the death of her elder sister who died after child birth, her parents were scared. An they never showed interested in her marriage.

