

# I Know I can do it!!

When Milka's pregnancy test confirmed she was expectant, her world was shattered. Well, literally! It was not long before her parents found out and kicked her out of their house. Her boyfriend denied responsibility. The school administration suspended her.

"It was the end of the road for me," she says in an interview. "I had never felt that low in my life. In school, my teachers had hailed me as a role-model, one of the students coming from a poor family but scoring good grades. All this image simply evaporated!"



Six months into her pregnancy, Milka was introduced to our program by one of her teachers. She joined the rest of the students in weekend classes taught by volunteer teachers. Other activities included outdoor games, group therapy and life-skills training.

"For once I felt at home, sharing my experience with other expectant mums and realizing that I was not alone in playing the blame game," says Milka, 19 years.

With GEMINI assistance, Milka registered for her national exams and passed remarkably well with 308 marks out of a possible 500 points. "I could not go back to my parents' home after I delivered my daughter. I just couldn't..."

Milka is now one of the 14 teen mums enrolled in our baking project which provides cakes, low-cost bread, samosa and cookies to a ready market. "This is a great experience for me! I now believe that I can achieve a lot in my life if I'm focused," she says, her hands busy making dough, ready for her next assignment.

With your help, GEMINI will be able to provide self-employment to an estimated 30 mums every month and ensure they acquire both education and a source of livelihood.

"Thanks so much for your support. I know with enough encouragement GEMINI can reach out and prevent more girls like me from undergoing such a terrible experience."

*Grassroots Empowerment Initiative*