From Home to School

Challenges of co-parenting can increase the amount of stress on a marriage especially when there is child with disability at home. Family dynamics are further affected if one the parents is addicted to alcohol or other drugs. There have been several cases wherein due to alcoholism, the addicted partner is not able to play their role and resort to aggression and physical abuse when drunk.

Away from her family for better future, 14 years old Dhruvi resides at Lioness Karnavati hostel for girls with disabilities, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad. Dhruvi was born deafblind (Low vision with moderate to profound hearing impairment). Appx. 6 years back her parents got separated. Been a single parent with no permanent source of income, it became difficult for Druvi's mother to take proper care of her and provide for her needs. It was while visiting a civil hospital, one sensitized medical practitioner refereed the concerned mother to Blind People's Association (BPA). After enrolment in BPA, Dhruvi was enrolled for the necessary services.

Before joining the programme though Dhruvi was independent in her daily living activities but remained confined within home and excluded from other children in the neighbourhood. Due to her deafblindness she was not enrolled in any school and her mother was also apprehensive to enrol her. Her only friends were papers and crayons colour.

Over the years Dhruvi has learnt to stay in hostel and adjust with other girls. She now socializes with fellow hoteliers. On academic front Dhruvi has learnt counting, identification of colours, shapes, animals and vegetables. At BPA she is getting regular training in sign language. Seeing her progress, she has been enrolled in an inclusive school, where she is following 4th grade curriculum and has started to read to

write work. Her mother was given guidance in making applying for Dhruvi's disability certificate, school health card, bus pass and Aadhar card.

From been excluded to the girls who loves to explore garden, visit restaurants and play games with her classmates Dhruvi's mother is overwhelmed. Dhruvi's journey from her home to school is commendable.

In Dhruvi's mother's words **"I was not very confident that Dhruvi will learn so fast in the school, now I know how important is to learn sign language".**