

# "BEING A DAUGHTER OF A SEX-WORKER, THEY ASKED ME TO MARRY A BOY IN THE SAME TRADE."

Ahana



Near India-Bangladesh Border

NAME AND CREDENTIALS CHANGED DUE TO PROTECTION

Birth



Born to a sex worker near the India - Bangladesh border, Ahana still does not know who her father is. She never went to school like most other girls in her neighborhood.

At the age of 6, *"I was kidnapped by some men. No-body knew where they were taking me but luckily few cops arrested them."*

7 years



When she was seven, Ahana was rescued from trafficking and sent to a government-run shelter home for vulnerable children in Berhampur. *"There I received nutritious meals twice a day and was introduced to schooling. "*

*" I was given books, pencils, and a study mat."*Ahana started learning from private tutors at the shelter-home and completed her class 10th board examinations.

18 years



When she turned 18, she was forced to vacate the place.

*"Leaving the home made me baffled since I had to go-back to the same community, from where I was rescued."*

Her mother who was still active in her profession could not afford to fund her higher education. Ahana took up small tailoring jobs which helped her earn INR 500 -700 a month - to study further. *"In 2018, I got admission in computer and IT training in ANUDIP Domkal, which promised us free classes and also provided transportation costs for us to come to the centre."*

21 years



Breaking the social stigma that was often intertwined with the daily lives of sex workers and their families, Ahana attended her class regularly. *"Men followed me to the training centre to know my whereabouts. Women believed that I am following my mother's profession."*

After 1year 7 months, she got employed in one of the leading digital data companies. *"After I got a job I stopped my mother from continuing the sex-trade"* –recalls Ahana .

Now



*"Being a daughter of a sex-worker, they told me I am bound to marry a boy in the same trade."* Ahana's next step was to inform the ANUDIP faculty and trainers who supported and arranged a decent wedding with a groom, who works as a corporate employee.

*"I live with dignity with my husband who know my past. We both work in the same company and dream a future in a decent society, freed from the murky world where I belonged."*