

Stories Of Truth (Hello Helpline)

Story No. 1



The story of Abhilash is one of the many meek voices of hunger and uncertainty. D. Abhilash is a student studying in 11th grade and has gone through tremendous pressure at home financially during lockdown. He was left with just 600/- rupees during the peak months of the lockdown. His father suffers from a bad eyesight due to which he was advised not to work in visually challenging settings. He is an electrician cum plumber but due to weakening eyesight he was working in a bar and doing other odd jobs before lockdown. He earned around 6000 rupees per month through which they could barely meet their expenses. After lockdown, when the bars opened and he went looking for the job, he was shunned away from the job saying that there are other young people who joined the job in his place and that they are not planning to take many people as business is very low right now. His father is very old, he is almost 50 years old as Abhilash was born nine years after marriage and then his sister was born another nine years later. During the conversation he mentioned, "If only my son was born a little earlier, he would have gotten an opportunity to work." His father was in tears and was requesting to help them to pay their rent and meet their basic necessities.

Abhilash, being 15 years of age, has been rejected to work at many places due to age being below 18 years. He has been going out almost everyday looking for work on his bicycle. Unfortunately, not many opportunities exist which can cater to the family needs and requirements in a consistent way. His mother also being physically weak was unable to help them in their journey towards dignity. He has become weak and his face has lost the charm that generally a child of his age carries as his food intake was going down while taking nutritious food is a far fetched dream.