

Developing Leadership through Physical Activity



Bijaya Laxmi Sethi is an 11 year old girl living with her parents and her brother in the slum of Dum Duma in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Her mother works as a teacher and her father is a cleaner for the Bhubaneswar Municipality Corporation.

She is currently studying in Class 6 at Bhaktakavi Madhusudan School (BMS), a school run independently by a local NGO, located in the Dum Duma Slum.

Bijaya Laxmi has always has a passion for extra-curricular activities, and according to her mother Shreemati Chanadilata Sethi “She has always enjoyed being physically active and also loves acting and debating in school”.

She has participated in some physical activity in the past but due to lack of accessibility to organised sports or physical education, she hasn't' been able to pursue this regularly.

“The games have made me more confident and active than I was before” says Bijaya Laxmi.

This increased self confidence has become evident in the classroom, according to her teacher Sanjida Anjum, who says, “Bijaya Laxmi’s confidence has grown in school– when a question is asked during a class, she is the first one to raise her hand and answer the question and she is always keen to reply”.



Participating in the activities and games part of PSD’s program has helped Bijaya Laxmi build her confidence and discover how to lead her classmates. She says, “I like to be responsible and feel happy when I lead a game”. The impact has also been observed at home by her mother, Bijaya Laxmi talks about the games that she does at school. In her spare time she organises to play the games with her friends and enjoys leading them”.



Bijaya Laxmi has become a leader amongst her peers and aims to continue studying hard and wants to become a monitor of her class in the future.