

after member of our group”.

She recalls with dreamy eyes, “the day I decided to join my friends on a trip to Mussorie was the day when I conquered my handicap forever. Life is so different, so lovable since then!”.

“My aim in life is to ‘cure’ people who think disabled persons are inferior”, says 35 years old Preeti Singh who is visually handicapped.

Preeti gradually lost her sight till she became totally blind at 13 years of age. Her blindness was traced to some adverse reaction of the small-pox vaccination. Preeti studied till class X, after which her impairment came in the way. Presently, Preeti is a successful Marketing Executive with a corporate organisation that manufactures the pickles “GRANNYS”.

Preeti’s life after marriage was not a bed of roses. Her husband tortured her physically, emotionally and mentally, almost to a point of destruction, so much so that her 8 year old daughter asked her “Mummy, why don’t you take a divorce?”. According to Preeti, “My marriage made me feel that I was handicapped. It suffocated me and I spent 6 years of my life just crying. My life was like a shuttle-cock. I was between my husband and my parents”.

After moving to her parent’s house Preeti learnt aerobics from Veena Merchant, who taught her exercises with touch. She then started taking aerobics classes on the terrace of her house. This helped her gain confidence, and the first time in her life she felt independent. “Actually, I started living once again,” says Preeti.

Preeti then took up a full time job with the National Association for the Blind and this made a whole new world open for her. She received specialised training in computers with

voice synthesizers (a device that speaks out whatever is keyed in) - a machine that has made computers accessible to visually handicapped persons.

Today, Preeti is a successful marketing executive, the only difference being that her Secretary accompanies her. Giving credit to her family, Preeti says, “Today I am here because of my family. I feel that the attitude of the family reaches out to the society”.

Preeti likes travelling, talking on the phone and day dreaming. She hopes to become a writer in the future and has made a beginning by doing small features in the newspapers. Her role model is Helen Keller, her ideal “Granth Sahib” and her motto - “Never give up”. After a lot of problem, Preeti feels that she has started living with her head up. “Small things still upset me, but then I remember the big haze of problems I have gone through and I overcome them.”

Anu Gupta, Neelam Sinha

HUMAN NATURE

*Human nature
is most vital,
It's like a wave
and the tidal,
Roaring, rising, falling
grand,
But not easy
to understand.*

*Human nature
is full of want,
No one can fulfill
all by grant,
The more the grant
the more the want,
Life is not easy
to understand*

Sanjay Khurana
CSMP

