



## EDUCATION FOR EMPOWERMENT

*“Here I learnt every individual has some kind of shortcomings, but what makes you distinct is that you fight your problems and overcome them...”* wise words of a six year old girl, Muskaan. Her journey of discovering her potential began with the Non-formal education programme of CEQUIN, implemented in partnership with the Delhi Governments Gender Resource Centre.

With eight children, her poor parents were struggling to provide all of them education and Muskaan had never seen the face of a school. She recalls, *“my parents hesitated to seek admission for me because of my stammering problem. This problem had made me a reserved child, I hardly ever went out but when my parents heard of the Non-Formal Education programme of CEQUIN, they gave me permission to step out for the first time....”*

In this programme, Muskaan was trained for six months in the elementary skills of reading and writing. She was also provided a supportive and encouraging environment. This helped her to make friends who did not make fun of her stammering problem. In such an enabling environment, Muskaan regained confidence in herself and applied for admission in *The Oxford Square School*. Today, she has joined Kindergarten class and is attending school for the first time with her brothers and sisters.

Muskaan’s confidence is clearly evident in her remarks, *“earlier people used to laugh at me on my stammering problem but now that I have got admission in the school they are silenced for good. I will always remember the lessons taught in this school and will always fight all my problems in life to be successful!”*