## MEET VEERANA AGE 45, SECURITY GAURD

## MEET VEERANA'S SON JOHN AGE 21, COLLEGE-DROP-OUT

## MEET JOHN AGAIN AT HIS NEW WORK-STATION



High-food insecurity owing to Veerana's wage cut as a security guard- made his family – take up odd jobs for survival. Despite her ailment, his wife Sarala had to work as a gardener in return for bareminimum pay. Veerana was compelled to take donations in the form of food.

All these years, Veerana managed to send his children to study, despite challenges but the sudden plight made his 21 years-old son John –drop out of college, taking up a nightshift menial job in a local garment factory.



Up against his friends, who had the privilege to continue their degrees, John was the lone among his peers – to quit studies to bring food to the table. "*My priorities changed overnight. I could not let my family sleep hungry. Education was a luxury for me.*"

The young boy – who had different plans for his career- had no choice but to work in the factory to make ends meet. Yet his meager income pushed him to look for second sources of earning. Seeking recommendations from some of his friends, he got enrolled in an employability training at ANUDIP. "When I first heard that I had to enroll for a course, I was overjoyed. I thought – it would take me back to learning again."



Having enrolled for the English and IT courses, John allocated three months of his mornings to offline and online training, while still doing night-shifts for money. "*I slept very little because I knew this was my chance to learn and earn*." After three months of training and certification, John got his placement at Amazon, as a Warehouse Assistant where he controls inventory, manages documentation, and data entries.

" I earn double now from what I earned at the factory. I coaxed my mother to quit her odd job. My father still works as a security guard but takes pride in seeing his son to be the first in the family to have a formal sector job. "