“When she was seven, Ahana was rescued from trafficking and sent to a government-run shelter home for vulnerable children in Berhampur. “There I received nutritious meals twice a day and was introduced to schooling.”

“Ahana started learning from private tutors at the shelter-home and completed her class 10th board examinations.

When she turned 18, she was forced to vacate the place. “Leaving the home made me baffled since I had to go-back to the same community, from where I was rescued.”

Her mother who was still active in her profession could not afford to fund her higher education. Ahana took up small tailoring jobs which helped her earn INR 500 -700 a month – to study further. “In 2018, I got admission in computer and IT training in ANUDIP Domkal, which promised us free classes and also provided transportation costs for us to come to the centre.”

Breaking the social stigma that was often intertwined with the daily lives of sex workers and their families, Ahana attended her class regularly. “Men followed me to the training centre to know my whereabouts. Women believed that I am following my mother’s profession.”

After 1 year 7 months, she got employed in one of the leading digital data companies. “After I got a job I stopped my mother from continuing the sex-trade” –recalls Ahana.

“I live with dignity with my husband who know my past. We both work in the same company and dream a future in a decent society, freed from the murky world where I belonged.”