

## **Maalavarapu Bala Latha**

### **Young Achiever of the Year - Education**

Maalavarapu Bala Latha hails from Jadi Jamalpur, a small, nondescript village in Bodhan mandal of Nizamabad district. Afflicted by a reaction to polio drops which hampered her mobility, Bala Latha resolved not to let her disability affect her attitude to life. Her parents Vijaya Rani and Shourayya knocked at the doors of many a hospital to find effective treatment for her, in vain.

Tutored by her parents till tenth, Bala Latha passed the exam and discovered that her journey in the realm of education had just begun. Undeterred by failure in two subjects in Intermediate, with grit and perseverance, she soldiered on and topped the Law Entrance exam.

If there's one thing, Bala Latha detests, it is others taking pity on her. Determined to find her place in the sun, she appeared for the Civil Services and secured the 399th rank in her very first attempt. Those who once shunned her, now vied with each other for a photo-op with her.

Bala Latha took yet another momentous decision which was to change the course of her life. It was a decision which also transformed the lives of many others. She decided to instil confidence and self-esteem in candidates from a deprived background, appearing for civil services. At the cost of a promising career as a civil servant, Bala Latha chose to be of service to others in a situation similar to hers. Today, an added feather in her cap is that a large number of successful aspirants coached by this achiever have proved their mettle in competitive exams. In 2016, Bala Latha appeared for the civil service exams for a second time and secured the 167th rank. When asked why she did not join the administration as an IAS officer, with characteristic humility, Bala Latha replied, "I wanted those being coached by me to develop confidence in themselves. I always bear in mind the fact that more than the education imparted to me by father, the confidence he instilled in me, stood me in good stead." For being a stellar example of how an individual can triumph over adversity and for guiding and shaping the careers more than 70 other civil servants, Sakshi Media Group honours Bala Latha with Sakshi Excellence Award 2017 in the category of Education.