

# ASSET Case Study #1

## Kalaichelvi, A role model for others

**Kunasekaran Kalaichelvi** is an Assistant Steward at the Hotel Grand Heritage, Anuradhapura. She completed training conducted by the Rural Development Foundation in Vavuniya with WUSC-SL support. Upon completion, she immediately started working. Kalaichelvi is a single mother raising a disabled son. Her parents care for their grandson while Kalaichelvi is at work.

Work keeps her away from her family for most of the week. She lives in accommodation provided by the hotel, travelling home on days off. Her parents can't work and her income provides for the entire family. Medical expenses make up a significant portion of their family budget, but there is also a loan and renovation bills to pay.

Formal training and work in the hospitality sector has increased her confidence. It has been a golden opportunity culminating in a job she relishes.

Full of dreams and laughter, she is an inspiration to young women in her community. H&T is not considered a suitable career for women in Sri Lanka. She is grateful that her parents saw the potential and trusted her ability to succeed, with dignity, in a taboo employment sector. Her message to young women is to believe in themselves. Learning leads to employment and an escape from poverty.

KUNASEKARAN KALAICHELVI



*I was a little nervous when I entered into the hospitality and tourism sector because I am a woman, but I have felt no differences between the male and female employees here. I am now positive that I will soon be promoted”.*

