

CASE STUDY: S. KOMELESWARI, EASTERN HOSPITALITY



“None of us are cowards. Each of us are strong individuals. We just need to find the courage that is lost in us and only we can do that.”

S. Komeleswari is doing her best to set a good example for her 5-year old daughter. Komeleswari became the sole provider for her daughter and her mother when her husband left a few years ago. Losing her own father at a young age, Komeleswari witnessed her mother’s struggle as a single parent. She was determined that her daughter would not endure the same hardships.

People in her community were very clear that the H&T industry was no place for a woman. Despite that, Komeleswari felt that she was strong enough to overcome the negative attitudes she might face. She heard about a Food and Beverage training program at Passikuda’s Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management (SLITHM). This was an opportunity for a better future for Komeleswari and her family. She enrolled and is now employed as a Food and Beverage (F&B) server at the Stewart Hotel. She hopes to be able to continue to develop her skills while working in the industry. She intends to become a manager within the next five years.

She comments “I knew I would be good at this profession, even though people consider it unsafe for me to work in this industry. All I had to do was be determined and be self-confident in my abilities and believe in myself.”