

BEYOND THE TRACKS: SATHIEVELLI CHETTY



SATHIEVELLI CHETTY , SENIOR SUPPLIER DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Say hallo to Sathi, with six years of dedicated service at Gibela, her story is one of suppleness, enablement, and solid passion for a future where women are equally vital to the industry's evolution.

She vividly recalls the day she seized the opportunity to join the industry, seeing it as a promising future for transportation and a way to contribute to societal sustainability. "Rail offers lower emissions, reduces congestion, and helps preserve our deteriorating road infrastructure," she explains proudly. Her enthusiasm is contagious, and she is quick to share her pride in being part of an industry that is shaping the future.

Professional Achievements

But Sathie's journey goes beyond her professional achievements. As a woman in a demanding field, she champions empowerment. To her, professional empowerment means making a tangible impact, nurturing others, and fostering an environment built on trust and accountability. "Supporting and growing others to become better versions of themselves is what empowerment really looks like," she says.

Inspiration

Her personal philosophy is equally inspiring. Raised by three strong women, her mother, aunt, and grandmother, Sathie learned early on that no task is beyond her reach. Her resilience shines through her attitude of embracing every challenge head-on, transforming hardships into opportunities. She emphasizes that continuous learning and adaptability are key in her dynamic industry, where no two days are alike.



Experience

Sathie's experience shatters myths about women in engineering and manufacturing. She recalls being the only female in her training batch, tasked with physically demanding work, carrying 25kg bags and pulling hoses. Rather than shy away, she innovated, introducing tools like automated hoists and trolleys to work smarter. She has worked shifts that take her away from family weekends but have also allowed her to cherish unique moments with loved ones. Her daily routine involves wearing PPE in gritty industrial settings, a task she embraced for years, loving the camaraderie and the tangible results of her efforts.

Her story also underlines the importance of conspicuousness. Currently, women make up 57% of her department, a figure that continues to grow. Sathie believes that women are increasingly recognized as capable, dependable professionals, "go-getters" who get the job done. Yet, she acknowledges the challenges of rivalry and competition among women, emphasizing the importance of supporting one another rather than falling into divisiveness.

Breaking Barriers

A common misconception she addresses is that women tend to settle into comfort zones after marriage or motherhood. Sathie defies this stereotype, constantly seeking growth and new challenges. She is currently pursuing tertiary studies alongside her family and personal pursuits, exemplifying her relentless drive for self-improvement.

Her message to women everywhere is clear:

"Start small, make an impact, and approach each day with positivity." As she continues to shape her path in the rail industry, she inspires others to break barriers and forge their own futures, one train, one challenge, one victory at a time.



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