

# Fruit vendor's daughter all smiles now

## Is En Route To Becoming Dentist

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Ahmedabad:** Neelam Sharma, an 18-year-old resident of Surat, always dreamed of becoming a doctor and but her poor financial condition made it doubtful whether she would be able to pursue it. Her father is a fruit vendor in Surat and her mother is a homemaker.

She recently secured merit number 1,132 in the NEET examination and secured admission to a dental college in Siddhpur. Neelam feels she is just a few steps away

from her dream. Neelam's education was supported by the city-based Visamo Kids Foundation since January 2005. The foundation supports the education of poor children.

Neelam said, "I enrolled in a coaching class where I used to study for the NEET exam. I tried to invest a minimum of three hours a day to studies. I couldn't believe it when I saw the NEET results."

Neelam scored well both in her class X and class XII science exams. Despite the struggle of her initial years, the help she received and her determination has taken her towards fulfilling her dream. "While Visamo Kids Foundation only sup-

ports kids' education till class XII, they helped me with my further studies as well," said Neelam.

Sudeshna Bhojia, project coordinator, Visamo Kids Foundation said, "We have been undertaking this initiative since 2002 and so far have helped 24 kids finished their education up to

class XII. While we do not support the education costs beyond class XII, we do facilitate the funding of their further education." "We have student coordinators that have been working with us for years, who take care of the kids' education and other needs. The coordinator who helped Neelam was Ami Shah, who has been with us for 12 years."

