Orphan who dropped out clears exam

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mysuru: The story of 17-year-old **Ramesh K** is an inspiration for all. He dropped out of school when he was in class I and never returned to formal education system till he attained 11 years in age.

Ramesh didn't even know how to write his name in Kannada or in English. But on Tuesday, he was on cloud nine as he cleared SSLC examination with 348/625 marks as a private candidate. What makes his achievement unique is that he cleared the examination in English medium.

Ramesh, a resident of Mellahalli near Varuna, said, "Both my parents died five years ago. I am staying with my sister who is also an illiterate. In 2013, I joined Kaliyuva Mane, a free alternative residential school run by the Divya Deepa Charitable Trust in Mysuru. I started learning alphabets there. Slowly, I started identifying the letters on sign boards, posters etc. This is how my journey started," said Ramesh.

"I love English. So I decided to write the examination in English medium as a private candidate. I am planning to join a job in Bengaluru and continue my studies," he said.

Ananth Kumar M R, founder of Kaliyuva Mane, said, "He coped up well. He is an inspiration for all."