

Paraplegic woman now a stock market winner

SUJATA LOST USE OF HER LEGS AFTER A CAR ACCIDENT

Hyderabad (AFP) Burla Sujata is totally dependent on her two helpers — except when she sits behind her computer screen and plays the stock market.

Sujata, 28, a paraplegic who used to run a photography studio, became interested in the stock market after losing use of her legs in a car accident six years ago when her car collided with a truck while on her way to a Hindu temple.

"After the accident, there was no life at all for me, no friends, no people, no supporters," said Sujata, who was also abandoned by her fiancé after the accident.

Investment

"When you have everything, everybody is with you but when you lose everything, nobody is behind you," she said.

But feeling sorry for herself did not suit Sujata.

"Because I was physically dependent, I decided to



Remarkable achievement

Sujata works on a laptop and trades stocks from her home in Hyderabad.

look for something that I could do independently," Sujata said in her apartment in the southern high-tech city of Hyderabad.

She now has rebuilt her life by investing in India's rocketing stock market, which last year soared by a record 46.7 per cent.

Sujata's achievement is even more remarkable as India's financial world is still heavily male dominated. Sujata started out from scratch — learning about investing in 2004.

"I had no business knowledge," she said. "I began studying the stock ex-

change rules, read financial books and magazines and watched business television channels."

She learned fast, and now trades through brokers on India's National Stock Exchange.

Glued to computer

Five days a week, when the exchange is open, she sits glued to her computer screen watching the market, buying and selling shares that she feels represent "good value."

She says her monthly trades total about Rs20 million to Rs30 million (\$493,785 to \$740,582; Dh1.8 million to Dh2.7 million). Out of this she takes a monthly income of 10 to 15 per cent or between \$4,991 and \$7,626 — a small fortune in India and more than enough to pay for all her needs.

Sujata now has set her sights on setting up her own investment house.