

Dulani

Dulani, a young girl in her mid-twenties, lived in a town near Colombo. Her relationship with her family was not very stable. Her father had died when she was in late adolescence. She didn't have a close relationship with her brother and mother. After leaving school, she found a job at a garment factory in a suburb of Colombo and was boarded nearby. While working in this garment factory, she started a relationship with a young girl, Nelum, who worked in the same factory.

For nearly three years, their relationship was a happy one. In the beginning of 2003 Dulani left the garment factory to work in another manufacturing company. Thereafter, they had less chances to see each other. During this time, some of Nelum's friends contacted Dulani with the news that Nelum had started a relationship with a young man. When confronted with this, Nelum denied it but later confessed that there was such a relationship, alleging that she started this relationship due to peer pressure from her friends to have a boyfriend. However, due to Dulani's insistence, she broke off the relationship with the young man.

It was during this time, that Dulani left her place of employment again and started a job that entailed travelling extensively to different parts of the country, thereby making it even more difficult to visit Nelum regularly. Towards the end of 2003, Dulani was working in the North-Central Province in a place near Nelum's hometown. When Nelum came home for her holidays, Dulani visited Nelum and her family. During this visit, Nelum told her that she wanted to end this relationship because she could see no future in it. Dulani later found out that Nelum had started another relationship with a young man during the time she was away. During the next few months Dulani became more and more isolated, depressed and unable to work. She came back to Colombo, to the house where she had been boarded and continued living there without any attempt at finding herself another place of employment. One attempt to end her life was prevented by her landlady and family. She returned to her boarding house after a few days in a hospital. As a last attempt at asking for help, she contacted an organisation working on suicide prevention and was asked to visit them. The organisation then referred her to a psychologist.

The WSG met Dulani in February 2004 on the day she met the psychologist. A WSG member was contacted by the psychologist and introduced to Dulani. The WSG then decided to provide financial support so that she could continue her visits to the psychologist and the psychiatrist who treated her depression. The WSG also found her employment, after which she refused financial support. Dulani maintains her contact with the WSG as a member, but has got over the dark period of her life.