

Cut to PERFECTION

Grishma Salla represents the new sophisticated tribe of Bandra which is growing by leaps and bounds. At the age of 22, she has learnt the skill of hair cutting so immaculately that her clients list includes many celebrities such as Sanjay Dutt, Mandira Bedi, etc. But when you ask her whose mane she likes to experiment upon, pat comes the reply Jimmy Shergil. I think he's the coolest one and so friendly that he doesn't mind trying new hairdo. So what does it take to become a renowned hair stylist? "Apart from your skill and confidence there are certain attributes which can help you reach to the top," says Salla, who started her venture into hair styling when she was just 17. As time progressed she only got better and better and went on to assist some of the best hairstylists in the town.

"To be one of the most sought-after hairstylists you need to carry yourself well. You need to be

creative and learn to be experimental without losing your individual touch," asserts Salla with conviction. She knows her creative strength very well, and it comes instinctively, as to which hairstyle will suit whom. "Like any other field, experience is the key and one improves, if only one is willing to learn," she exclaims. "Many girls get lured to this attractive job because of its glamour, but it's hard work too. You need to be in touch with the latest trends and style. A fresher in this field gets anywhere between Rs. 5,000-6000 per month which can be translated into Rs.30,000-40,000 depending upon your hard work and experience," explains Salla. And whether Salla enjoys her work? She gets animated with a spark in her eyes which also



tells a story about the changing, youthful and independent individual who has adopted a different route to be successful in the ever changing city.



With more than a week old stubble making his childish face look much more matured, coupled with ruffled hair, Samir Mohammad changes the blade in the razor and gets ready for his next chop. Samir is one of many 'hair dressers' who provide their services for many at an affordable rate. His sharp razor moves smoothly across the client's face. Without looking down even once, Samir does his job with great precision as he gets engaged in a chat. He has no complains against the high-end salons which are mushrooming in almost every nook of Bandra.

His saloon is tiny, a bit dingy and a little unorganised. He explains, "Dekho jisko jaisa parvadega vaisa service milega, [one gets the service as per the size of one's wallet], I try to give my level best with what I have with me". In today's world, where 'optimisation of resources' is the mantra, Samir who has studied only till the third grade seems to have got all his management fundas right. His client is clean shaven now and wants to get a hair-cut done. Samir is happy to oblige and gets a pair of scissors



CHOPPER'S STOP



ready. "This is what I started my job with ten years back when I was only thirteen. I like to make people look good with a proper hair cut and over the years I completely understand as to what hair-cut is going to suit what type of face," he explains.

It is quite bizarre to observe that in spite of the existence of both radio and television in the saloon, they are not on. "Ladki, TV aur Gaane se mein koson door rehta hoon, [I stay away from girls, TV and songs]. The TV is for my co-hair dresser. For me work is god and the harder I work the better I earn," he clarifies with a sheepish smile.

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