

Kirtisha Bheergoonath, also known as Shiksha, born 31<sup>st</sup> March 2001, suffers from Cerebral Palsy and scoliosis. Kirtisha attended Jawaharlal Nehru Government School for her primary education and studied year 7 at Manilal Doctor State Secondary School while year 8 and 9 at Bon Accueil State College. Thereafter, she attended Laventure Technical School which is a specialized school for learners with disability, where she acquired skills in IT, Drawing, Painting and swimming. Shiksha can also read and write. However at the age of 21, her schooling ended and she now stays at home. Shiksha, now aged 23, is an active Tik Tok user (Shiksha @lallmatie) with 23.0K Followers and 607.2K Likes.

When Kirtisha turned 18 years of age, and she was entitled to vote, she was asked by her father, Mr. Anil Bheergoonath if she wanted to stand as a candidate, in order to represent people with disability. She agreed. The reason behind was to motivate her so that her disability should not preclude her from participating in any social or national event. When she registered as a candidate, Shiksha herself wrote her name and signed on her registration form. Further, she personally confirmed her willingness to stand as candidate for the General Elections to the Returning Officer.

Kirtisha obtained 314 votes, and was the highest vote obtained by an Independent candidate for the 2019 National Assembly Elections.

Recently, for the launching of the Sir Anerood Jugnauth Hospital, Kirtisha made an official request for additional parking slots to be allocated for people with disability. The said request was favourably entertained and 10 parking slots have been allocated for people with disability.