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# NEWSLETTER

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## A Personal Journey with Prajwala

*Prajwala believes that the movement against sex trafficking will become truly sustainable and transformative when insights and best practices are shared among professionals in the sector. Sujatha Kalagadda (MSW), Prajwala's Shelter Director, shares her experience working with victims and survivors of trafficking since 2005.*

"Dealing with the children, in my opinion, is like dealing with the God. My first job was in Prajwala's children's home as a residential counselor. I was there to make them feel happy, but actually it was the children who filled my life with joy. I was so thrilled to have the opportunity to work with the children who



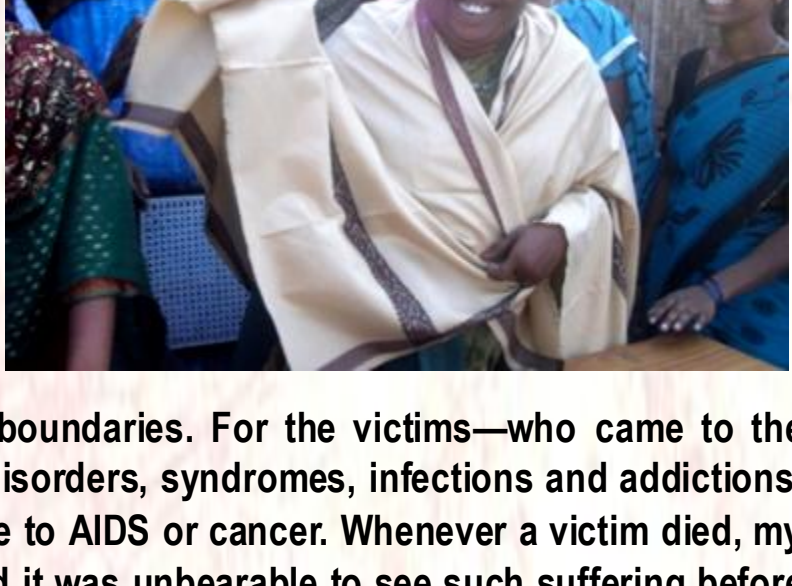
needed help most—trafficked, abused and HIV infected all under one roof. In spite of their troubles they received me with full heart and innocent smiles every day. My responsibility first and foremost was to counsel them and look after their medical and physical needs, as well as motivate them for rehabilitation through education. The children were free to share their feelings with me confidently, ranging from sadness and pain to reasons for celebration. Sometimes HIV+ children severally suffered with TB and sexual transmitted diseases at ages as young as 5-7 years. Their health condition was monitored daily to ensure steps were taken for quick recovery.

The way that Dr. Sunitha Krishnan, co-founder of Prajwala, showed such love and affection towards the children, made a huge impact on me. She not only remembered the names of hundreds of children, but also treated each like her own daughter. Slowly I unconsciously adopted this caring and supportive behavior, and a strong sense of unity developed among the children, who showed a high level of discipline and responsibility. A partner system was created in which older children mentored and looked after the younger ones, so it became like one big family. For 4 years I was an elder sister to them.

Then, in 2009 I got a chance to work with adult victims of trafficking, which was an entirely different experience. Although I was initially overwhelmed, Dr. Krishnan gave me so much courage and strength that I eventually learned how to manage the entire shelter. Every day, while taking case studies of the rescued women, I developed a non-judgmental attitude and strove to not get overly emotionally involved. It took me some time to learn how to balance trusting relationships with healthy, professional boundaries. For the victims—who came to the shelter with multiple disorders, syndromes, infections and addictions, often passed away due to AIDS or cancer. Whenever a victim died, my heart would break, and it was unbearable to see such suffering before they left the world.

The realization that the dangerous conditions of the flesh trade was the reason why so many women lost their valuable lives, made me provide service to them with all my heart and energy. Even in the most difficult circumstances, such as victim deaths or when they escaped the shelter, the words "I CAN NOT" never entered my thoughts. I always found a way, in the deepest crises, to ask God for courage and strength to deal and cope with these situations. Dr. Krishnan used to tell us, "if you want to do something, and you have a pure-hearted intention, please go ahead." With this in mind, I started lead the entire shelter home with hundreds of residents and built a committed team with enormous confidence.

Despite these achievements, instilling hope in the lives of women and children whose minds, bodies and spirits have been shattered, is not always easy. Every individual has to put their energy to make this happen and help the victims see the opportunity to change their lives for the better. Like water in the ocean, every drop counts, and when we all put our hands together to save their lives, it can be accomplished. Because of Dr. Krishnan's leadership, and the cooperation of my team, I have been able to manage an entire intervention in the face of daunting challenges. Failures have been my greatest teachers, as well as my stepping stones to success."



➤ This month, Diwali was celebrated at Prajwala's shelter home with exuberant joy. After receiving their brand new dresses, all of the children and young adults played crackers together and with a sense of awe witnessed the fireworks in the sky.



➤ The Community-Based Prevention Program conducted 32 human trafficking sensitization programs successfully, in which 4742 Members participated and 3981 signatures taken petitioning against the demand for prostitution.

➤ Prajwala inaugurated one new transition center in Singareni Colony, which is currently serving over 35 at-risk children living in communities with high prevalence of child marriage, prostitution, sex trafficking, and other crimes.

➤ 50 students from the organization's 7 bridging schools participated a unique leadership training program at Silver Oaks School in Hyderabad, where they gained skills in communication, teamwork, & more!



➤ In association with the Andhra Pradesh Women's Commission, Prajwala hosted a program on "Trafficking of Women and Children" as part of the 15-day "Women's Safety Fortnight" campaign. With over 400 participants, Prajwala's award-winning documentary *Anamika - The Nameless* was shown, which featured real-life testimonies of sex trafficked survivors.

➤ The program brought together community leaders, law enforcement officers, survivors of commercial sexual exploitation, and corporate partners to break the silence about sex trafficking and call for multi-stakeholder action in the areas of prevention, rescue and rehabilitation.



➤ This month, 34 victims were referred to Prajwala's shelter through court order, to ensure their rehabilitation and bright future.

➤ The Rescue and Restoration team conducted 9 home investigations throughout the state to determine whether the community and family environment is safe for the victim's recovery process. Also, 19 victims were produced in court to give their statement and appear for cross-examination.

➤ One minor victim of rape received Rs. 50,000/- compensation fund from the P.D. office in Hyderabad.

## Prajwala Film Winner of 5 International Awards!

5 INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

BEST MOVIE OF THE YEAR 2013  
IFFCRM JAKARTA, INDONESIA

BEST FILM MAKER OF THE YEAR 2013  
IFFCRM JAKARTA, INDONESIA

BEST FEATURE FILM  
TRINITY INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, USA

BEST FILM OF THE FESTIVAL  
IFFCRM JAKARTA, INDONESIA

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE  
IFFCRM JAKARTA, INDONESIA

PRODUCED BY M. S. RAJESH - SUNITHA KRISHNAN  
STORY, SCREENPLAY & DIRECTION RAJESH TOUCHRIVER

PRAJWALA PRESENTS A SUN TOUCH PRODUCTIONS MOVIE A RAJESH TOUCHRIVER FILM  
"NAA BANGAARUTALLI" SIDDIQUE ANJALI PATIL LAKSHMI MENON RATHNASEKHAR  
NINA KURUP SUNIL KUDAVATTODR WARREN JOSEPH ANURADHA ANOOP ARAVINDAN  
CONCEPT ADAPTOR DR. SUNITHA KRISHNAN MUSIC SHANTANU MOITRA ADDITIONAL MUSIC SHARRETH  
CUTTER GARLAPATI VENKAT RAGHU - ANANTHAM

A RAJESH TOUCHRIVER FILM  
నా బంగారు తల్లి  
a never before told true story  
MY DEAREST DAUGHTER

GRAPHICS DEEPAK NAIR COSTUMES SRI HARSHA  
PRODUCTION DESIGN RAJEEV NAYAR DIALOGUES SURESH  
EDITING DON MAX CINEMATOGRAPHY RAMA THULASI 1F1  
www.naabangaarutalli.com

Prajwala's Telugu feature film about sex trafficking *Na Bangaaru Talli* has won yet another award— Best Movie of The Year 2013—at the International Film Festival in Indonesia (IFFCRM). Directed by critically acclaimed filmmaker Rajesh Touchriver and co-produced by Sun Touch Productions and Prajwala, the film also received "Award of Excellence," "Best Film of The Festival" and "Filmmaker of the Year" awards at IFFCRM. Based on a true story the film was widely appreciated by the jury for its sensitive scripting and the overall making. Earlier this year it was adjudged the "Best Feature Film" at Trinity International Film Festival, Detroit, USA. Considering that *Naa Bangaaru Talli* was chosen from amongst some highly celebrated and awarded documentaries and movies, this is extremely significant and humbling moment for the anti-trafficking cause as well as Telugu cinema. During the ceremony, Dr. Sunitha Krishnan was also honored by the King of Kutai Mulawarman, Dr. HC. Maharaja Srinala Pradiitha Alpiansyahrechza Fachlevie with a gold medal for her tireless efforts fighting for the rights and dignity of sex trafficked victims. As part of the IFFCRM awards "Naa Bangaaru Talli" will be released in theatres throughout Indonesia to spread Prajwala's mission of a trafficking-free world.



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR MOVEMENT TO END SEX TRAFFICKING!