

HELP LIGHT THE PATH FOR MANY MORE.



An educated girl is independent, empowered and makes informed decisions. Yet across the country, many adolescent girls are robbed of their chance at an education.

It has been estimated that 25.6 million out of 58.6 million girls in India, between the ages of 14 to 18 years, drop out of school and tend to fall into the traps of child labour, early marriages and early pregnancies.

We urge you to help change the situation for the girl child. Your donation to CRY, will ensure 1,21,000 girls across CRY-supported projects stay in school and complete their basic education. And, give them the opportunity to newer possibilities and a better life.

BRING 121,000 GIRL CHILDREN BACK TO SCHOOL

IMPACT STORIES

JULIE KUMARI

In the entire village of Bansipur (Munger, Bihar), there is only one college-goer. Her name is Julie Kumari.

If that fact has surprised you, what will add to it is that this is a village of 'Musahars' or rat catchers, and the college is situated at a distance of two hours from the village.

And there's more to come.

Julie was studying in Class IX when her parents decided to marry her off...and this was the norm in the village. But she was busy dreaming of becoming a doctor, and nothing else could come in the way. Such resistance was unheard of in this extremely poor and backward village of Bihar. And Julie knew, it would be difficult for her to fight the battle alone.

CRY supported project DishaVihar, had, in the meanwhile, initiated a children's group in the village called the Munna - MunniManch. They extended support by getting the staff of DishaVihar involved. A series of discussions followed, and the wedding was finally called off.

Julie was not prepared for what followed. All her relatives and the entire village demanded answers from her parents as to why they went against the tide. The person who single handedly answered every question, and faced every hindrance was Julie's mother. Herself an ASHA worker today, Julie's mother had studied till class X before she was married off. She stood like a pillar for Julie and ensured that Julie not only completed her Higher Secondary but also went to college.

As her brother today accompanies her to college every day because it's a long way from her house, he is helping her move closer to her dream of becoming a doctor. Because she had dared to dream, today her two other sisters are also continuing with their studies. While one of them is in class IX, the other is in class VII.

JULIE HAS A LIST OF FIRSTS AGAINST HER NAME TODAY. IT ALL STARTED BECAUSE SHE DARED TO DREAM. IT WAS POSSIBLE BECAUSE HER MOTHER BELIEVED IN HER DREAM.

NISHA KUMARI

Fifteen year old Nisha Kumari lives in Beldih gram basti of Jamshedpur. Born to Saurabh Karuwan and Savita Karuwan, she has two sisters and one younger brother. She is the youngest of the sisters. Nisha is currently studying in the tenth standard and is a regular student of the Sakchi High School. Her father is a daily wage earner and her mother works as a part time sweeper in an office.

Nisha also trains regularly at the JRD Sports complex, a training unit of Tata Steel in Jamshedpur. She started playing Handball when she was 10 years old, back in 2011. Seeing her talent in sports, the school management gave her the space and opportunity to showcase her abilities and selected her in the school team. Her performance was appreciated by all in an inter-school tournament. It was then that Nisha started training at the JRD sports complex. Her skills developed and she got a chance to play at the district and state level tournaments. She represented her state thrice in the Handball championships. Her team secured the fourth position in one tournament, second in another and won the third one!

In the year 2015 she also participated in the Sub Junior Girl's National Handball Championship as the Vice-Captain and in the Senior Girl's National Handball Championship. Thereafter, Nisha never looked back in her life. She participated not only in Handball but also in rock climbing held at Mount Abu.

When asked how she manages games and studies, she says, "Education is most important whether you are in sports or any other field because education teaches us discipline which is essential to become a successful sportsperson."

"MY DREAM IS TO REPRESENT INDIA AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL," SAYS NISHA WITH A SPARK THAT LIGHTS UP HER EYES!

SAMYUKTHA'S STORY

Society for Rural Agriculturalists and Mass Awareness (SRAMA) from Andhra Pradesh is a CRY-supported project. It tells the story of a young girl who fought against insurmountable odds to pursue her higher education.

N. Samyuktha, was from a poor family from Alamuru Mandal in East Godavari district. She faced challenges similar to what millions her age, faced on a daily basis. Her father, a construction labourer, kept travelling between states in search of work. Her mother was deaf and suffered from a chronic illness, rendering her incapable of contributing to the household income. This dire situation led Samyuktha's aunt and grandmother to take up the responsibility of her education till Class 8.

In order to help with the situation, SRAMA took the initiative to assist Samyuktha in pursuing her higher education. Despite various familial obstacles, Samyuktha completed Class 9 and with the motivation of SRAMA, got accepted into Class 10. Although she faced obstacles every step of the way, she did well in her studies.

Samyuktha became a member of the children's collective by SRAMA to inspire more children to join school. She also actively participated in all their activities. The children's collective is a safe and open platform for kids in the village. It encourages them to come and voice out their opinions and thoughts about various issues. It also urges

them to discuss their dreams and aspirations. Being a natural leader, Samyuktha took up the responsibility of facilitating meaningful discussions among the members. The primary focus of these discussions were child right issues.

SHE PARTICIPATED IN SPECIAL CLASSES, WHICH HELPED HER FURTHER UNDERSTAND DIFFERENT SUBJECTS. WITH THE HELP OF THESE CLASSES, HER PREPARATION FOR CLASS 10 EXAMINATIONS WAS EXCELLENT, AND SHE ACHIEVED A BRILLIANT 9.5 GPA IN THE FINALS.

SRAMA offers career guidance to students interested in pursuing higher education to motivate them to study further. Its members helped Samyuktha realize her interest in the field of science, and inspired her to join the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT). Thanks to her high GPA in the Class 10 examinations, she secured a seat in the computer engineering course at IIIT, Nuzvid, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh, in July 2016.

Her ambition is to become a successful computer engineer.

Note: All the names above have been changed, in protection of child's identity.