

SOS MESSENGER

September 2018



**TOGETHER
LET US ENSURE
NO CHILD GROWS
UP ALONE**





There are over 20 million abandoned and parentless children in India growing up all alone, without a home or shelter, living each day without adequate food and under constant threat of abuse.

When children grow up “alone”, without the love and support of a parent, they face a greater risk of discrimination, neglect and abuse. They are more likely to be deprived of opportunities to learn, mature and develop life skills, thereby unable to improve their condition or become contributing adults.

At **SOS India**, we build nurturing environments for children without parents so they can grow up in a stable and caring family in a supportive community, and have a greater chance to realise their full potential and lead an independent life. We ensure that they attend school and have access to essential services. Children are also better able to develop social networks, have healthy relationships, and find decent jobs.

The **#NoChildAlone** campaign is a step to ensure that once parentless and abandoned children, growing up under the care of SOS Children’s Villages of India, will never be alone again. For over 54 years, we have been providing long-term care to children in need of a home and family. But we cannot sustain the care on our own. We need the generous support of individuals and corporates like you.

**Support #NoChildAlone
so that no child has to grow up alone!**



Message from the President

Dear Friend,

Your generosity has facilitated many miracles in the lives of thousands of children under our care and protection. It has also allowed us to maximise our impact and reach out to some of the most vulnerable young children. Your commitment and support has enabled us to provide these vulnerable children the security of a home, love of a mother and siblings, quality education and employment opportunities. It is because of your faith and support that Dr Muruga Sirigere, Poonam and many other children grew up with dignity and were able to transform their lives.

When I look back and reflect on all the wonderful stories of transformation and miracles, I think of you as a kind hearted donor, supporter and a true friend, ready to help. **Today, I wish to say a heartfelt “Thank you” once again for the investment you’ve made in the lives of all these children.**

With your support and goodwill, we have certainly made great advances over the past

few years. We are constantly striving to strengthen our impact and reach out to more children. Our Country Strategy for 2030 has given us the impetus and direction to approach all programmatic interventions with the ambitious objectives of reaching out to and impacting more than 80,000 children and youth through our Family Based Care Programme and Family Strengthening Programme by 2030.

However, to achieve such ambitious objectives, we are counting on much greater support, not only from our existing supporters and patrons, but also from various corporates, citizens, governments and institutions. Let us be the ones who stand firm until all children lost in such obscurity, emerge empowered and filled with hope for a brighter future. Since ‘No Child Should Grow Up Alone’, together we can make that a reality.

I look forward to your continued support.



S. Sandilya

President
SOS Children’s
Villages of India

Message from the Secretary General

Dear Friend,

As another quarter ends, I would like to share that we have strived relentlessly to provide care to more than 35,000 vulnerable and underprivileged children and supported them with what they need to shape their own futures and fulfill their dreams. All of this has only been possible because of you. Your generous and continued support gives wings to the dreams of our children. When you take a step forward in giving, they take leaps forward in fulfilling their aspirations.

175 parentless and abandoned children were brought home to our Villages under our Family Based Care (FBC) programme and placed under the loving care of SOS Mothers. 65 youths entered into first time employment after completing their higher and vocational education and over 157 youths completed the process of settlement and were integrated in society.

With an increased focus on self-sustenance of families being supported under our Family Strengthening Programme (FSP), more than 551 Self-Help Groups are being managed across the 33 locations in which this programme is being run. The programme is impacting more than 36,500 direct and indirect beneficiaries (children and youth).

While we’ve made extraordinary strides for children, there is still a lot that needs to be done. I strongly believe that together with your support and help we can secure the best possible outcomes for our children who desire all opportunities in life. Together we can transform their lives, guaranteeing every last child the happy childhood they deserve.

Together, we can ensure that No Child Grows Up Alone!



Anuja Bansal

Secretary General
SOS Children’s
Villages of India

Before embarking on a new journey, Poonam reflects on her SOS family

Poonam Kaul is like many 19-year-olds who are getting ready to leave home and go off to college. She feels excited about what lies ahead for her at nursing school, as well as a bit sad as she is sure she will miss her family.



Poonam grew up in the SOS Children's Village in Faridabad, close to Delhi. Since the age of eight, she has shared her home with a total of 15 other children over the years, all of whom she considers her brothers and sisters. The person whom she credits the most with helping her become the confident, driven and happy-go-lucky person she is today is her SOS Mother, Madhavi Pal.

"She is a loving mother. She is very supportive of me. Whenever I need help from her, she is ready to help me in each and every way." Poonam adds, "She's the kind of mother I always wanted. She's loving, caring, supporting – guiding me and motivating me."

The most important role in my life is played by my mother. She has always guided me in each and everything, from the time when I was brought here, and as I'm leaving now.

Today, Poonam is a very strong and determined young lady. However, she admits that this was not always the case. When she was first brought to the SOS Children's Village in Faridabad, she had low self-esteem and was unmotivated. Growing up in the SOS family helped her to find her identity and become the person she is today. She credits her mother for pushing her to study and always emphasising the importance of education.

Inspired by the life of Mother Teresa, Poonam has decided to become a nurse. She has chosen a profession where she can use her knowledge and skills to help people. "As a nurse, I can help the injured, even save someone's life," she says, adding that one day she would like to work abroad as a nurse.

Her SOS Mother, Madhavi, says "I'm feeling sad that she is going, but I'm also very proud that she has chosen such a noble profession."

INDIA HAS 10 MILLION 'CHHOTUS'

Parentless or abandoned children are vulnerable to child trafficking, child labour and child abuse. By supporting **SOS India**, you can ensure that children not only grow up in a secure and loving home but also receive quality education to pursue their dreams.



Spices bring opportunity for a better life to women entrepreneurs

As Rani drops the dark yellow pieces of turmeric root into the grinding machine, the production room quickly fills with a strong curry-like smell. For her and the handful of other women packing and labeling bags of spices, this is the sweet – or rather spicy – smell of success.

Thirty-year-old Rani, a mother of three children, starts her day with grinding turmeric roots on a grinding machine, along with 11 other women who are packing and labelling bags of spices, for their newly started spice business.

All the women of the group shared a similar background – of not being able to feed the family or educate the children on their meagre income. Seeing their plight, SOS India, under its Family Strengthening Programme (FSP), helped the women form a Self Help Group (SHG). As a way to increase the family income, each woman who is part of the SHG has access to a bank account with 75% of the funds coming from SOS India and 25% from their own pockets. The women can borrow from the account individually to start their own business or join together to do something entrepreneurial, like starting the spice business.

In March 2018, the FSP staff helped them to start a spice company in their village in Tilak Nagar, Delhi. Currently, the company is selling small bags of ground turmeric, cumin, kasoori methi, coriander and hot pepper. As part of the



Programme, SOS India staff connected the women with other spice operators, provided specialised training, as well as supported them in getting necessary certification and developing a viable business plan.

With Rani acting as an overall manager, the women have divided the work among themselves, from grinding and packing to marketing and selling. If all goes well, after six months they will qualify for government loans to expand.

Being associated with SOS India for the past two years has made a big difference in the life of Rani. Initially, the FSP programme helped increase her income from INR 750 to INR 7,000 through a small sewing business and now she is confident that the spice business will further help her and the other women become financially independent.

Supporting women to start their own businesses is one way that SOS India, through FSP, has been helping more than 60 families – with a total of 200 children – in this marginalised community where the 6,500 residents are essentially cut off from any basic government or social services. A preventive community intervention programme, FSP is designed to prevent children from losing parental care and being abandoned. FSP's two pronged approach provides essential services to children, such as education, health and nutrition, while also empowering the women, who are the primary caregivers, with the capacity to protect and care for their children and become self-reliant.

A CHILD IS ABUSED EVERY 15 MINUTES

A child abandoned and living on the streets faces a greater risk of abuse. **SOS India** Family Strengthening Programme is designed to prevent child abandonment by making families self-reliant. Support us to ensure that no child grows up alone.



St Mark's Schools, Delhi

Creating a better world for SOS India children

St Mark's Schools, Delhi, have gone beyond the responsibility of fostering world-class education to instil enduring values in its students. The institution has been associated with SOS Children's Villages for over a decade, and has greatly contributed towards transforming the lives of many parentless and abandoned children under our care.

Such commitment would not have been possible without the efforts, vision and dedication of Ms Anjali Aggarwal, the founder Principal of St Mark's School. She fosters the spirit of peace, compassion and harmony in her students, helping them become capable and responsible global citizens. Over the years, she has encouraged and led her schools, teachers and students to engage with the cause SOS India espouses and visit the various Children's Villages in Delhi NCR.



“ Love only grows by sharing. You can only have more for yourself by giving it away to others. I have observed that our students develop higher self-esteem as they realise that their actions have a great impact on the world. As the Principal of my school, I encourage all my students to volunteer for community service and I believe, working with SOS Children's Villages of India is one step towards the same.

Ms Anjali Aggarwal



Jithesh Manickoth

Managing Partner,
Epsilon Diagnostics

Sponsoring a girl child in SOS
Village Kochi since 2009

“ In the present world where the word 'charity' is synonymous to gaining wealth, SOS Children's Villages of India stands apart with its noble vision and soulful deeds, carried out by a dedicated and selfless team. The wholesome upbringing has prepared these children for a brilliant and beautiful future.



Sister Lour Joseph

CWC Chairperson
Belagavi, Karnataka

“ It was a very good experience to learn and know the activities and the service rendered at SOS India towards the welfare of children. The visit inspired and strengthened my passion to serve the needy. Best wishes and blessings to all the people who contribute towards the welfare of these children.

GIFT A LOVING FAMILY TO CHILDREN IN NEED

SOS India provides long-term care, in a family-like environment, to children, including education, to empower their future and facilitate their successful re-integration into society. Support us to ensure the happiness and future of underprivileged children.



Dr Muruga awarded Hermann Gmeiner Award 2018

Dr Muruga Sirigere, who grew up at SOS Village Bengaluru, has won the Hermann Gmeiner Award for 2018. The award recognises inspiring young men and women from SOS Children's Villages, who have gone on to become role models to many in their communities.



Laurels come easily to SOS Begusarai handball players

SOS Village Begusarai's handball players won top positions at the district handball championship held in Kamruddinpur, in May 2018. While the boys' teams won the under 14 and 19 categories, the girls' team won the runner-up trophy in under 19 category.



Children from SOS India celebrated Yoga Day with utmost zeal

On International Yoga Day (June 21), children and adults from both Family Based Care and Family Strengthening Programme participated in yoga and health awareness sessions with great enthusiasm.



Fun & frolic marked SOS Day celebrations across all locations

Energetic performances of children and co-workers were the highlights of SOS Day celebrations on June 23, across all SOS Children's Villages. The day marks the birth anniversary of Dr Hermann Gmeiner, the founding father of SOS Children's Villages.



Anudhi

An SOS Buddy

“ In June 2018, I

visited the

SOS office for the very first time, and since then my journey with them has been a beautiful one. As part of our internship, we visited the SOS Children's Village Faridabad, which was an eye opening experience. **Having interacted with children who are parentless and abandoned helped me sensitise with their feelings and experiences.** I can't thank SOS enough, for during the process of raising funds, I honed my business and communication skills, and got the opportunity to interact with high officials in many industries. Thank you SOS for giving me a lifetime experience.



SOS India's Internship Programme recruits energetic youngsters from top schools and colleges across Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru. A three-day training, which includes a field visit to a local Children's Village, experiential workshops and role plays equip these youngsters to raise awareness and build understanding and support to ensure that every child has a loving home in India.

Interested in being an SOS Buddy?
Write to Shruti.dwivedi@soscvindia.org

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

Donation Form

We cannot visualise a world without our loved ones. Imagine abandoned or parentless children surviving daily battles of life without love, care or support from anyone. Give a child a loving home so that no child has to grow up alone!

Please accept my gift of:

- ₹ 10,800 a year to sponsor a child
- ₹ 21,600 a year to sponsor a child and his education
- ₹ 1,08,000 a year to sponsor 10 children
- ₹ (any amount)

I am an existing sponsor / donor Yes No

If yes, my Donor ID is

Name (Mr./Ms.)

DOB:

Address

..... PIN

Phone

Email

I wish to make my gift by:

- ➔ Authorising SOSCVIndia to charge the indicated amount from my credit card



Card No.:

Expiry Date:

Date: Signature

- ➔ Enclosing my cheque no..... drawn on (bank) in favour of 'SOS Children's Villages of India'

All donations are eligible for 50% tax exemption under section 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961

NOTE: You can claim your tax exemption via the donation receipt.

SOS Children's Villages of India

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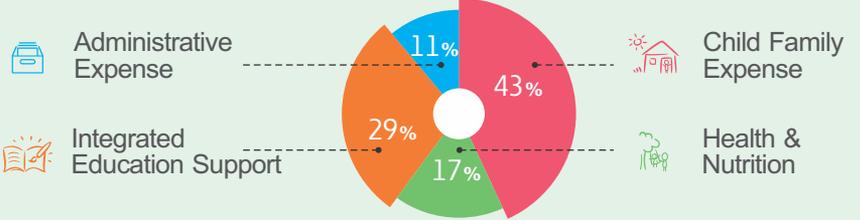
Scan to donate to SOS Children's Village



Committed to financial credibility and transparency

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How your Donation is Utilised



35,000+

children are being cared for by SOS India annually

32

 SOS Children's Villages across India

4 generations

 of children settled since 1964


There are many ways in which you can make a difference and help change the lives of vulnerable children across the country.



Provide for vulnerable children through your contributions

We cannot visualise a world without our loved ones. Imagine abandoned or parentless children surviving daily battles of life without love, care or support from anyone. To provide these children with the best chance for a fulfilled and happy life within their own family environment, we need YOUR support.

DONATE NOW



Share your sponsorship story with us!

We need more donors like you to impact the lives of millions of abandoned and parentless children. By sharing your sponsorship story, you can help maximise our impact and help us reach out to the most vulnerable and at-risk young children.

Share your sponsorship story with us at Barnali.das@soscvindia.org



Spread the word and share the hope

Whether you are donating or spreading the word about us, you are part of the movement to protect and care for abandoned children. You can be the spark others need to get involved.

Like, follow and share SOS India on social media

www.soschildrensvillages.in

[twitter/SOSVillageINDIA](https://twitter.com/SOSVillageINDIA)

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[instagram/soschildrensvillagesindia](https://instagram.com/soschildrensvillagesindia)