

VIDIYAL NEWS July 2009

We thought you would all be interested in hearing the exciting news of the successes of our young people at Vidyal. This year 7 of the children passed their 10th standard exams which was 100% success rate. The children can then go on to A-levels or join vocational courses and Jim and Sharmila have been advising them and finding appropriate places for them.

Another 6 children have completed their plus 2 exam (A-level equivalent) and will be looking to go to higher education.

2 young ladies have qualified in nursing and are now working, one in a care home, work she loves, and the other in a hospital. 2 of the young men have gained apprenticeships, so all 4 of these are now independent.

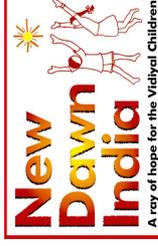
Needless to say, everyone at Vidyal and NewDawn India is delighted—that is what the sponsorship scheme is all about. We are able to encourage and support these children through the happy times and through the difficult times. The following is an excerpt from an e-mail from Jim:

“Nandhini has passed with 416 marks out of 500 in the 10th standard. She stood 2nd in her school and first among the Vidyal kids. We are very pleased with that and I am sure all of you will rejoice over this. Nandhini is looking forward to joining computer science and we are finding her a good school for the plus two course. We hope she will be a shining star in the future. Nandhini has been attending Vidyal since she was 6 years old and she did not have a proper sponsor. I still remember the day Lynn decided to sponsor her and the amount of joy it brought in her life. Lynn played such a powerful role in Nandhini's life which lifted her to this level. She underwent some difficult times for the past two years. But all through this period Lynn's love was the leading light which helped Nandhini to overcome the trials.”

We hope that serves as encouragement to all of you to keep sending those postcards and letters to your sponsor children and, if that is not enough, please think about the life the children may lead without your support. A further e-mail from Jim:

“As I am typing this letter, my heart feels heavy and my eyes are filled with tears over a sad news that we encountered today. As you know we relate very closely to the slum communities and people just feel part of Vidyal. Yesterday we received a sad news on the sudden demise of a boy called Lakshmanan. We were shocked over the news as he is a very young chap and just got married a few months ago. He hails from the village where our shelter home is located and I know him for many years. It is more shocking to know that he died in an accident. Being born in a dalit (the so called untouchable) family he was engaged in cleaning sewage and making out a living. Yesterday also he was hired by a family to correct the underground drainage connection in which he was suddenly hit by the poisonous gas formed in the sewer. Though we hear such accidents now and then I was so upset over a thought about the kind of social order we are living in. Caste in India kills millions of people and subjugates many many children. Here is another tragedy.”

KEEP WRITING!



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