



Kirti Katarmale

Age: 16 years

Present status: Studying for her tenth standard exam

Kirti initially used to live on the pavement outside Andheri railway station with her mother, two brothers and a sister. Kirti is the third child. Her mother was a rag picker. To make ends meet, her mother used to make Kirti beg at traffic lights.

VOICE met Kirti when she was just two years old, and put her in school. But there was stiff opposition. Each time, she was withdrawn by her mother who wanted her to continue to beg and did not at the time value her education.

Kirti was determined – she wanted to study and insisted on going to school, much against her mother's wishes. Thanks to her tremendous leadership skills, Kirti was elected head girl of the middle school.

When Kirti, an extremely attractive girl, turned ten, her mother was constantly worried of her being abducted. VOICE then helped the family with seed money to rent a room. Their lives changed for the better, and her brother even got a good job with the BMC.

Last year, Kirti shared her experiences with coordinators of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in Delhi.

Today, she lives in Sanjivani, teaches younger children, and wants to work with VOICE as a teacher.



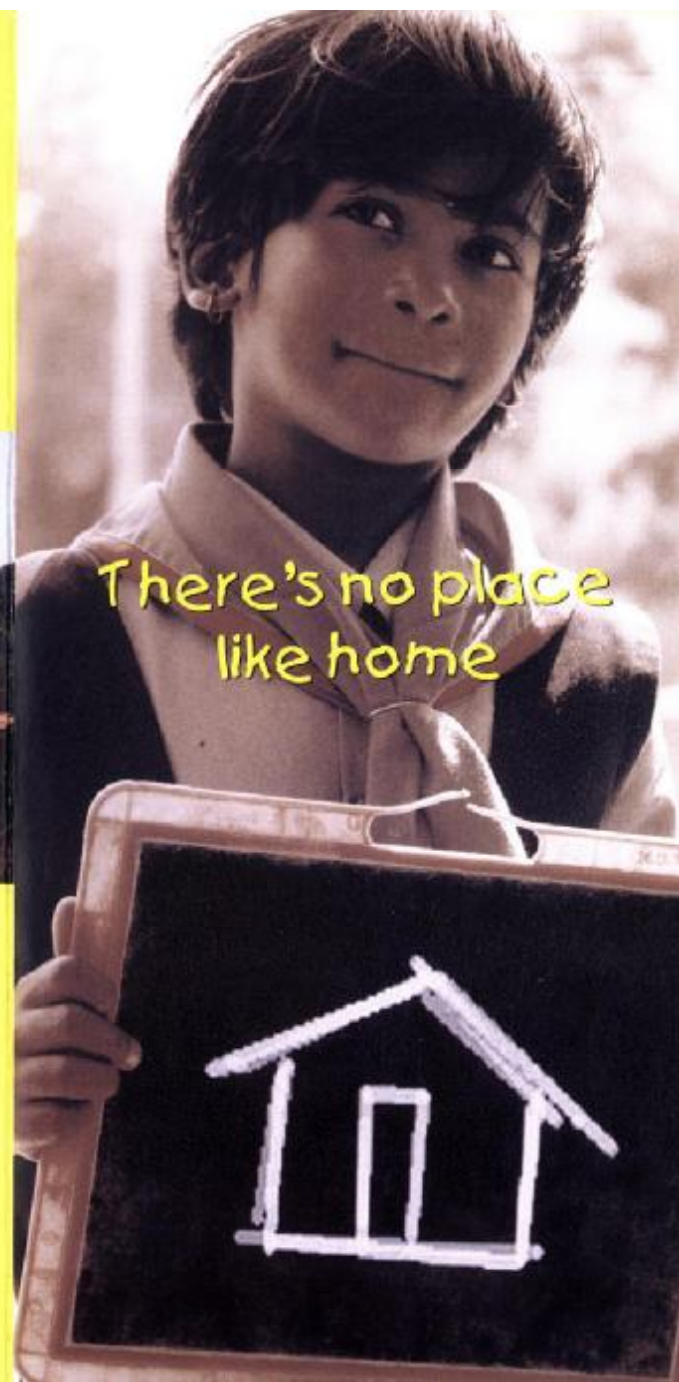
SANJIVANI
A VOICE initiative
For the girl street child



Helping children write their future



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VOICE – Helping children write their future

For over 15 years, we at VOICE (Voluntary Organisation in Community Enterprise) have been reaching out to vulnerable and neglected street children, especially girls, and through education are enabling them to become whole human beings and self-reliant, responsible, contributing citizens.



23 + 55. It all adds up in making my future rosy



Fairy winks. Sweet dreams.

During this time, we discovered that educating the street child is only part of the solution. Because, without the safety and support of a caring family and a structurally sound home, education becomes near impossible. This holds true especially for female children, who end up facing sexual abuse on the streets. We have found it difficult to retain young girls in recent years, since most of them are forced into childhood marriages for a mere 50 rupees, or more horribly, sold into prostitution.

A helping hand to keep her on her feet



Sanjivani – a home dedicated to rehabilitate and educate the girl street child.

Our new initiative, Sanjivani, is a home for the girl street child and will give her the benefits of our tried and tested programs in education and skill training.

Sanjivani is situated in Virar East and has been designed to provide a safe, clean, healthy and congenial atmosphere for the girl street child, thereby enabling her to live a life of dignity and respect.

The facilities offered include

- Nutritious food
- Clean drinking water
- Facilities for personal cleanliness
- A curriculum that includes academic education, strengthening of values, skill training, yoga, martial arts, physical training
- Loving care which the children yearn for.



Rejuvenation for body and soul



A taste of the good life

Operational from August 31, 2006, Sanjivani will eventually house 100 girls. We also plan to reach out to 500 children from nearby tribal villages and provide them with opportunities for education and skill training.

A little help from our friends.

Do help us help the needy girl street child. Your contributions won't just give her a roof over her head—they'll give her a life.



We're on top of the world

Read about the successes of some of our students:



Arti Pathak

Age: 14 years

Present status: Living at Sanjivani

Arti, the second child in her family, lived with her mother, father, three sisters and two brothers. Her father, a plumber, and her whole family have been living under a flyover bridge for over 20 years, and continue to live on the street. Arti initially lived her life begging and scavenging.

A daring and very bright girl, Arti has been with VOICE since she was three years old. She is determined to study and change her life.

Arti wants to become a teacher.