

Vikasaarth Annual Report-April'23-March'24



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Introduction

This is an annual report covering the period from April 23 to March 24. The report provides details on the activities and achievements under different projects and compiles details on all the thematic areas of the project. The details were gathered through observations of project activities, review of various reports and project documents, monitoring data and conversations with team members and key stakeholders.

Overview

The year was quite eventful for Vikasaarth. Besides the ongoing activities it entered a new partnership and became a part of the nationwide network to promote child rights. This was a new experience for the organization as it was assigned a new district with greater challenges.

Vikasaarth continued its partnership with Rainbow Home Program wherein it focused on improving the lives of underprivileged children, particularly girls, by providing comprehensive care including food, shelter, education, security, career guidance, and emotional support. Throughout the reporting period, the organization achieved significant milestones, highlighted in the main report. During the reporting period, Vikasaarth made notable progress in all the three programs/sections: CCI (Child Care Institution), CBC (Community-Based Care), and Future Program. Some of the key achievements include academic success, participation in extracurricular activities, career advancements, and community engagement.

Further, in pursuit of ensuring the basic rights of children in the state the organization has partnered with **Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (US)** for its programme, Access to Justice for Child Rights. Under this project three key issues are addressed to ensure that an environment for helping the children to exercise their rights. The key issues are child marriage, child labour and trafficking and child sexual abuse. Since all these three issues are at significantly higher stage in the allotted district- Lakhisarai the programme had a series of challenges to overcome. However, with new workforce and strategical moves it was able to present a reasonable performance.

This annual report also includes inspiring success stories of individual children who have overcome challenging circumstances and excelled academically and personally. These stories highlight the transformative impact of the organization's interventions on the lives of the children, from providing education and vocational training to nurturing personal growth and empowerment.

Vikasaarth Rainbow Home program

Summary of various thematic activities under Residential Care of Children

Education

- Children are regularly assessed through strict examination and their step-by-step improvement (letter-word-sentence-paragraph) is recorded and displayed on a notice board. They are given a target to achieve the next level in the coming examination. This assessment of learning level for children has been adopted from Pratham model.



- Out of 4 girls who appeared in the matric(10th) examination, 3 passed with first division. One got 81.2%, and the other two got 63% and 62% respectively. The fourth girl passed with 47%, second division.
- Initiative Daksh, started by the education department, Govt of Bihar, where comparatively weak children are given extra time by school teachers. our Rainbow children are being greatly benefited by this.
- Child-specific education plan was prepared for every girl as per their

learning level.

- A bridge course was set up for girls who needed extra help with their reading and writing skills. Currently there are 14 girls were enrolled in the course.
- The library facility was an added advantage for them with a variety of books.

Health and Nutrition

The health and nutrition of our children also come under our primary concern. We ensure that they receive nutritious food and purified water, and have access to clean and sanitized premises. Our daily routine includes yoga, exercise, and free play on our school campus, which promotes sound sleep and fosters both mental and physical health in our children.

In addition to our standard routine, Vikasaarth also conducted the following activities during the reporting period:

- A health camp was organized with the support of Inner Wheels Club, Patna, where all the children and staff underwent a thorough health check-up. The doctor provided detailed counseling to all the girls, explaining how they could boost their immunity and protect themselves from infections by maintaining proper hygiene.
- A camp for eye checkups was organized with the support of ASG Eye Hospital in Patna. All the children and staff underwent eye examinations, and many of the children were prescribed further

testing at the hospital. Additionally, we were provided with free coupons for the recommended checkups.

- On March 17, 2024, a workshop was organized by Bhoomi to educate girls on menstrual health and hygiene. During the workshop, the girls were taught about the discomfort they may experience during their periods and were advised on the precautions they should take during this time. The girls were encouraged to openly discuss the topic and not consider it a taboo. They were also given free sanitary napkins and chocolates as a gesture of support.
- To promote a healthy body and mind, girls incorporate exercise, yoga, and meditation into their daily routines.
- In order to sanitize our premises and make them mosquito-free, we call for fog spraying at regular intervals.

Extra-Curricular Activities

We strongly believe that extracurricular activities play a crucial role in our students' development. These activities are designed to foster social and intellectual skills, moral values, and character appeal. They are balanced with the academic curriculum, allowing each student to learn beyond their subjects. During the reporting period, we celebrated several important events with our students, including Earth Day, Mother's Day, World Environment Day, International Yoga Day, Teacher's Day, Hindi Diwas, Gandhi Jayanti, and Children's Day. Each of these celebrations holds significant importance as they impart many valuable lessons to children that can benefit them throughout their lives.



Special programs

Some of our extracurricular programs have been particularly special, with larger celebrations and greater exposure. These programs are listed below:

International Day of Street children

International Street Children's Day was celebrated at the city level by Rainbow Home in Patna with all five hostels participating. The event featured dignitaries from the government and civil society who shared their views and strategies for the welfare of street children. Parents of the children were also invited to attend. The program not only included speeches from guests and parents,



but also featured a panel of children who shared their experiences, achievements, and suggestions for improvement.

Yoga Day celebration

On 21st June, children celebrated Yoga Diwas and got the opportunity to learn yoga from a knowledgeable teacher named Sarika. She introduced the children to the concept of yoga and explained its various benefits for our overall health and well-being.



Independence day celebration

We celebrated our 76th Independence Day at school with speeches, patriotic songs, and refreshments. A group of children participated in a program called "Ek Shaam Vir Saputo ke Naam," while younger children enjoyed a drawing competition organized by Bhumi NGO.



Gandhi Jayanti

Team members and Children of all the hostels celebrated Gandhi Jayanti by participating in the "Under the Star Program" at Digha Ghat. The program included speeches, poems, a Nukkad Natak, and a candlelight march in honor of Mahatma Gandhi. The children promised to uphold his principles and values.



Women's day

On International Women's Day, a wide-level celebration was organized by Rainbow Home where all the women of the organization were acknowledged for their great contributions towards children's life and given presents as a token of respect.

Participation in a competition "Nakshatra"

Bhumi, an NGO in our network, recently organized the Nakshatra program with an aim to bring out the hidden talent of underprivileged children who hardly get a chance to showcase their skills. In total, 29 children participated in the program and took part in various activities such as dance, music, Natak, story-telling and Rangoli making. Notably, the girls who participated in the program won the first prize in Rangoli making and singing, and the second prize in Nukkad-Natak. The Nakshatra program proved to be very entertaining and motivating for our children.



Demonstration on tie and dye by Bhumi

Volunteers from Bhumi taught children an interesting arts and crafts activity - tie and dye. They demonstrated how by tying a piece of cloth differently and dyeing it, we can create various designs on the cloth. Children were thrilled to learn this new skill and later tried making various designs on their own.



International Girl Child Day

International Girl Child Day was celebrated at home. The girls were told about the amazing achievements of females all around the world, but also about the big disparities and hurdles that still exist in the path of development. In order to completely abolish gender inequality, we need to stay motivated and work hard to achieve success and prove ourselves.



Exposure of girls in 41st softball association of Bihar

Our girls had the opportunity to perform in 41 National Softball Tournament in Patna organized by the Softball Association of Bihar, which was first time held in Bihar. The Softball Association is a non-governmental organization that is active all over the country, and it aims to help boys and girls who are skilled in sports but are unable to pursue their passion due to a lack of support.

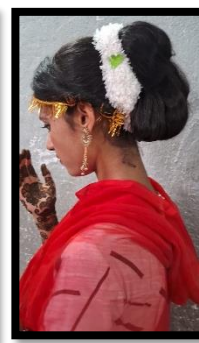


Holidays and Summer camps

Holiday celebrations bring joy to children. Our goal is to ensure they have fun and something to look forward to. At home, we celebrate all holidays with enthusiasm. Children participate and learn the true meaning behind each festival.

Summer Camp

During summer holidays, every year summer camp is conducted to let children enjoy with fun-filled activities and to channelize them in the right direction. Summer Camp was inaugurated on 5th June by Pinky Ma'am, Sunita Ma'am and Pravin Kumar Singh (Karate Teacher). All activities at the camp were planned to keep children's interests and safety in mind. In this camp, children took part in several activities like Best from Waste, mehndi, dance, music, painting, and kitchen ka kamaal and bridal make-up. During this camp, children learned various things and enjoyed a lot. Children participated in each program very enthusiastically. It lasted for 15 days.



Perspective building and Value education

Responsible Sister group

There is a system for girls called the sister group system, where girls are divided into groups of three based on their age. Each group consists of a younger, a middle-aged, and an older girl, who are referred to as a sister group. The girls in the group are encouraged to take care of each other as if they were sisters, and they call each other by that name. The older sister is responsible for looking after the younger sisters' studies, health, and providing help wherever needed.



Active Children Committees

All the girls in the hostel are divided into nine committees, with each committee having a specific name such as Health, Welcome, Education, Sports, Discipline, Food, Purchasing, Cleaning, and Security. Each committee consists of five girls, whose duties are determined by the name of the committee, and the groups are rotated among girls every three months. This system helps the girls learn a sense of responsibility, how to manage tasks, and develop leadership qualities. For instance, when a new girl joins the hostel or a donor visits, the welcome committee takes responsibility for welcoming them, as shown in the picture beside.



Counselling

The girls received counseling from a professional career counselor who advised them on how to choose a career path based on specific criteria and how to prepare for it. The counselor motivated the girls with several examples of women who created history despite many obstacles. He explained that hindrances should not be a concern and that opportunities should be sought after. The counselor also emphasized that in the current era, there is a lot of support available and that with single-minded focus, one can achieve their goals.



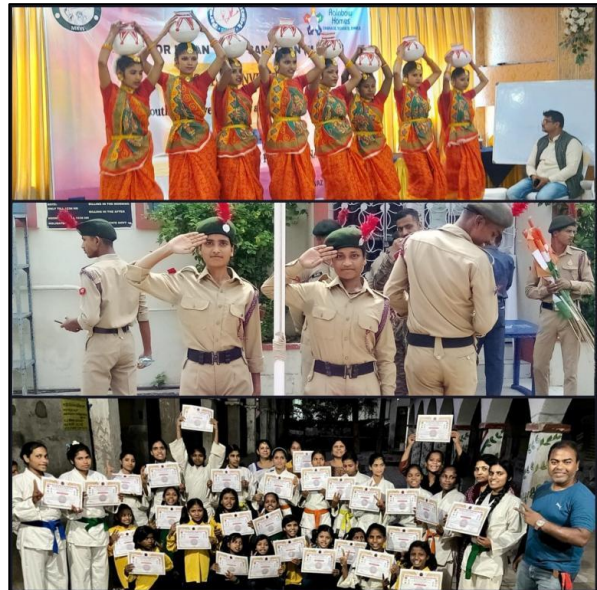
World Mental health Day

On World Mental Health Day, children were taught about the significance of mental health in one's life. They were motivated to keep their mental health well by following a healthy diet, engaging in exercise, and practicing meditation. The children also expressed their creativity by drawing various pictures related to the topic.

Talent Coaching

We have a major objective of providing talent coaching to children, which is regularly carried out at our hostel. The coaching covers a range of areas including Dance, Music, Jude Karate, Computer Skills, and Arts and Crafts. We take note of the children's interests and provide specialized mentoring in their chosen fields. Below are the details of the talent coaching program:

- Three girls from our home completed a 10-day basic NCC training course in Saidpur, Patna.
- Four girls who are good at computer skills are taking a course on photo editing by a computer teacher.
- Girls who are interested in drawing have learned it professionally and are doing well. In the picture below, Tanisha is presenting her own creation to the governor of the state.



Engagement with children of Community Based Care Program

The CBC program supports children who were in our residential care but are now with their families or in a government residential home. The program assesses whether the child's family is ready before reintegrating the child. The program continues to support to all of them. If a child goes to a government residential home, the CBC program provides them with necessary items. Currently, the program covers 25 girls, 13 of whom study at KGBVs. The CBC Coordinator visits these schools every month. The rest of the girls live with their parents and receive essential items such as dry ration, sanitary napkins, school stationery, and books.

"The RCCLC is an important component of the CBC program, which has the objective of providing education and support to underprivileged children in the community. In addition, the RCCLC strives to create awareness about the challenges that hinder development and encourages the community to utilize their rights and privileges for their own progress."

Summary of the key interventions carried out by Community-based care and RCCLC from April 23 to March 24

Community Based Care	
Children were given school bags, books, notebooks and sanitary napkins: All CBC children were provided notebooks, books and school stationary and sanitary napkins as per their requirement. 	Nutritional support: CBC children living with their family were provided a dry ration every month containing rice, wheat flour, pulses, potato, soya chunks, chickpea, salt, Mustard oil, shampoo, soap, detergent soap, and toothpaste. 
Community visit: Community visits are a regular activity aimed at building a rapport with the community. We motivate parents to send their children to the center regularly and encourage them to obtain all necessary identification documents for their children. 	Parents collective Meeting: Parents' collective meetings are regularly being conducted every three months in both clusters at Naya Tola and Digha Mushahari. The aim of these meetings is to strengthen the women's committee, so that they can improve the quality of life for themselves. 
Sick children were given medical treatment: During the reporting period, we conducted a medical camp where we provided medical assistance to the CBC children, the children of our learning center, and their parents. We also took Rakhi, a CBC child with limited eyesight since birth, to ASG Eye Hospital. Doctors concluded that her eyesight could not be improved as it was a birth defect, but she was advised to undergo regular check-ups every four months to monitor her condition. If she complains of any eye problems, she will be given laser treatment. 	Life skills training: As part of our program, we provide life skills training to girls, where we teach them essential lessons for a happy and dignified life. Recently, we conducted sessions on various topics such as gender equality, modern-day relationships, the ability to say no, and how to maintain a dignified life. A resource person conducted these sessions at KGBVs in both Kurji and Maner. 

Rainbow Community Care Learning Centre

Regular classes

Regular academic activities started with prayer and body exercises is regularly being carried out with our 40 admitted children.



Mother's Day

Mother's Day was celebrated at the centre. children expressed their gratitude for their mother's love and care. They wrote "Maa" on small pieces of paper and decorated them.



Four days of summer camp:

Summer camp was conducted to let children enjoy with fun-filled activities and to channelize them in the right direction when their school is closed. Girls learned some arts and crafts and applying mehendi designs.



Medical camp:

The medical camp was conducted by three doctors who checked up on all the children and community members. Some individuals were recommended for further tests based on the check-up.



Parents meeting:

Every month, a parents' meeting is conducted at our center where many mothers attend. During the meeting, we encourage them to share their feedback about their children or any other relevant matter. As per our pre-set agenda, we also discuss with them about their children.



Social Justice Day

Social Justice Day was celebrated in Digha Mushahari, where all team members, including two young adults from Future, gathered in the community. The residents, including Vikas Mitra from that ward, were also present. The topic of the day was addressed by the Project In-charge, Sunita Singh. She explained that we all have the right to equality given by our constitution. Furthermore, the young adults from Future



communicated with the people present over there about their rights and entitlements.

Annual sports meet:

Children participated in the annual sports meet, and two of them won third prize in the Jalebi race. Being part of such a significant event was a matter of great excitement for them, and it enhanced their confidence level.



Nutritional snack everyday:

Every day, children at the Learning Centre are provided with a nutritious snack after completing their classes.



Awareness campaign against child marriage:

"Since child marriage has been prevalent in our community, a campaign was planned to raise awareness. Many women, including our cluster members, were invited to participate. They were all motivated to take an oath against child marriage, promising to never let it happen."



CPC meeting:

Child Protection Committee meeting was held at learning centre. This committee consists of five members. They talked to children and encouraged them to stay confident and study well. Children were explained the importance of health and hygiene.



- Children were shown a national-level consultation on CPCI that took place in Hyderabad on YouTube.
- Bhimrao Ambedkar Jayanti was celebrated, during which children were educated about his life journey. They also made pictures of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar and pasted them on chart paper.
- Environment Day was celebrated at the learning center to raise awareness about how to protect our environment.
- Child Labor Against Day was celebrated at LC to remind children about the dangers of child labor.
- A meeting of CCPC was held at RCCLC.

Future Program

Future program is designed to support young adults (18-23) specially to make their future shaped and bright. Children who have been there in the Child Care Institution, after the age of 18, They are given separate living arrangements from the CCI and their basic needs are met along with assistance in completing higher education and learning vocational courses. The programme also provides career counseling to these young adults and helps them become self-reliant according to their abilities.

The Future Program currently supports 34 girls, out of which 16 are between the ages of 18 and 23. The educational expenses of girls between 15 -18 age group are also covered under the Future Program.

Highlights of the activities in the reporting period are as follows:

- Two young adults are currently pursuing a B.Sc. degree on scholarship from Azim Premji University.
- Out of five girls who appeared in 12th board, 03 of them secured first division and two of them secured second division.
- One girl, Dolly is currently pursuing her B.A from Loyola College in Bangalore and working as an intern at AAR-TAS International School.
- Another girl Chanda completed a diploma course in Interior Designing from Bosch in Bangalore by WELIVE. Currently, she is working part-time at SBI Credit Cards.
- Kiran is doing a diploma in arts and crafts from Bangalore by WELIVE and receiving a stipend.
- Champa is graduating from ITI Masaurhi (near Patna).
- Vibha and Neha completed a vocational course (House Health Aid) from ICCI Foundation. They are admitted to Gardanibagh College to pursue a B.sc graduation.
- Three girls completed 10 days of NCC training from a NCC camp, Patna.
- Four girls are taking coaching for SSC and banking preparation.
- Girls had an opportunity to interact with a team from CSEI, Delhi who provided career counseling based on children's interests.



- Girls participated confidently in a program at Raj Bhawan and were awarded and appreciated by the Governor.
- Visit of National Team from Future Programme, where all the girls were counseled and motivated for their career aspirations.
- Twice in the reporting period, girls had the opportunity to participate in a program organized by the Lions Club.
- Puja got the opportunity to participate in national-level consultations on CPCI
- Puja and Asha got the opportunity to play a role in a documentary on Child Participatory Review and Reflection.
- Kiran and Gunja received counseling from a professional twice to boost their strength and motivation.
- All future Girls were provided training on financial literacy and digital literacy.
- All the young adults and some of the team members attended the Udaan workshop where they received guidance on goal setting, preparation strategies and future planning. The girls were individually counseled, given ideas and motivation to pursue their dreams. They were encouraged to never give up and to always chase their dreams. As a token of love and acknowledgement, all of them were presented with gifts. The girls had a great time at the workshop.
- Capacity building workshop was organized in Patna, where Rashmi Jha from UNICEF helped children understand their problems through examples and suggested ways to overcome them.
- A career guidance workshop was organized by Zaheer & Satyaendra from National Youth Forum.
- Young adults recently took part in a youth convention organized by Rainbow Home at the Golden Palm Hotel in Vijay Nagar, Patna. In this convention, the children discussed their fundamental rights, with a specific focus on motivating young girls about their rights. As part of the convention, girls from women's college, Patna performed a Nukkad Natak, highlighting how children are often the victims of trolling in the current social media landscape.
- A workshop was organized by Rainbow Home on the People's collective for protection of children. Young adults from all the Homes were invited along with team members to participate in a discussion on child abuse, sexual harassment, domestic violence, and other related topics. The girls were grouped into teams of four and given a task to present their views and ideas on how to protect themselves from these evils.

Access to Justice (A2J) program



In its second phase the programme, Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (KSCF US) Vikasaarth has been entrusted to implement the program in the Lakhisarai district of Bihar. This programme aims to prevent and eliminate child marriage, child sexual abuse, and trafficking for labour and sexual exploitation through community engagement. In its second phase the program KSCF US and its partners aim to achieve the following:

- A Child Marriage Free India
- Increase conviction rate in cases of child sexual abuse by 10%
- Increase the prosecution rate of child trafficking cases by 10%

A snapshot of the progress in the reporting period is given in the table below;

The key activities performed under the program are as under;

Child Marriage Free India

The campaign activities included:

- ✚ Awareness programme in Lakhisarai district on 30 July 2023 to mark World Day against Trafficking in Persons. Awareness was created on child trafficking and child labour among school children in primary and secondary schools, gram panchayat members and households.
- ✚ Celebration of International Day of the Girl Child in Lakhisarai district on 11 October 2023. The celebration was done at the Zilla Parishad office conference room.
- ✚ Speeches in the schools
- ✚ Rallies
- ✚ Drawing competition
- ✚ Media interaction



World Day against Trafficking in Persons

Marking World Day against Trafficking in Persons that falls on July 30 every year, Vikasaarth conducted awareness programmes in the Lakhisarai district. As a part of the programme, Vikasaarth has been creating awareness against child trafficking and child labour at grassroots levels from primary and secondary schools to gram panchayats and various households.



These consistent efforts are to ensure that there is ample awareness among people about child trafficking and child labour. While there have been stringent actions and initiatives both at the state as well as central government levels in the last one decade, combating child trafficking has been a challenge for the country considering the lack of awareness and knowledge among the masses.

Music for Change

Vikasaarth Trust was engaged in the nationwide campaign on Child Marriage Free India led by Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (US). Several events to generate awareness among the people about Child Marriage were organized in the Chanan and Suryagarha blocks of Lakhisarai district in Bihar.



On October 3, 2023 Sri Amrendra Kumar (IAS), District Magistrate of Lakhisarai sent off the cultural team and volunteers for the events in villages of the district. He encouraged the team for the noble work and also signed a pledge against Child Marriage.

In this campaign music was used to generate awareness among the masses for the prevention of child marriage and promoting child rights. One song was used in all the campaigns conducted by the partner organizations of the programme in all the states of the country.

The events attracted large number of people in the villages that included women men and children.

“When Children Have Children”-Blueprint to Free India from Child Marriage

On the occasion of the International Day of the Girl Child on 11 October 2023, Vikasaarth Trust, unveiled a book entitled ‘When Children Have Children: Tipping Point to End Child Marriage’, as part of the ongoing nationwide Child Marriage Free India campaign.



The author, Mr Bhuwan Ribhu, is a noted child rights activist and one of the most prolific lawyers in India working for the protection of women and children. Mr Ribhu is the advisor to Vikasaarth Trust which works for the safeguarding and protection of child rights in Lakhisarai. The book puts forth ideas, a framework, and an action plan to eliminate child marriage from India and is a key milestone in the Child Marriage Free India campaign, which is led by civil society

organisations and women activists in more than 300 high prevalence districts.

The book was released by a child marriage survivor from Barmasia Village. Shri Amrendra Kumar (IAS), District Magistrate Lakhisarai, and many dignitaries were present.

There has been a marked progress in the way India has been handling the issue of child marriage but the road ahead is still long and the country still hasn't reached the tipping point of child marriage.

Pledges to end Child Marriage



In a unique initiative that could play an instrumental role in ending child marriage completely from the grassroots, 50 villages in 16 panchayats of Lakhisarai district of Bihar took a pledge to end child marriage and make the entire district free from child marriage. All the panchayats across the district organized awareness campaigns in their villages, with the villagers across all age groups, genders and communities taking pledge to not be a party to any child marriage in their village, with the ultimate goal to make entire Bihar child marriage free.

Conclusion

The reporting period has been very rewarding and fulfilling. Our commitment to our community to provide a better tomorrow has been a success. We are dedicated to ensuring the complete development of every child we bring home. Girls are receiving basic education, higher education, and vocational training courses that suit their interests and abilities. We are helping them become responsible individuals. Our dedicated team and donors are the reason for our success, and we would like to express our sincere gratitude to our kind donors. Your contributions enable us to continue our work, and we want to thank you on behalf of all the children we care for. "YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE."

A snapshot of the progress in the reporting period is given in the table below;

No. of villages covered	No. of child abuse cases registered	No. of child labour cases registered	No. of child marriages prevented	Total pledges taken
50	61	29	134	76,274

Success stories

"From Dung Cakes to Dreams: A Story of Hope and Education"

“Two sisters, Priyanka (9) and Priya (7.5), were making dung cakes when our social mobilizers saw them. They lived in poor conditions with their father as the only earner, and their mother struggling to manage their five children. We convinced the parents to send the girls to our learning center, where they learned Hindi, English, and basic maths in just eight months. They also excelled in arts, crafts, and sports. In April, they were admitted to a government school, and their younger sister began attending our center. Now, the sisters attend school and our center regularly, and their mother is more relaxed and content.



"The journey from rag picking to becoming the best in the class."

Julee was eight years old when she came hostel in July 2021. She had been living with her grandfather in LCT Ghat, Mainpura. Julee's father had passed away due to an illness, and her mother had remarried and left Julee and her brother behind. Ever since her mother left, Julee's grandfather had been taking care of them. Unfortunately, her grandfather had poor eyesight and was unable to work.

When our social mobilizer reached out to them and explained the objective and approach of Rainbow Home, Julee's grandfather agreed to send Julee with them. Before coming to Rainbow Home, Julee used to rag-pick with her grandfather and cooked food for themselves by burning wood.

Although Julee didn't know a single letter when she first arrived, her keen willingness to learn and her quick grasping capacity allowed her to learn letters and numbers quickly. She was soon admitted to school and is now a student in class 3. She is one of the best students in her class, smart, and active, and takes part in many activities at Rainbow Home. Julee is keen to learn new things, and her transformation from a rag-picker to one of the best students in her class is a very motivating example for us as well as her community.

