

# A BEACON OF HOPE: HOW ONE DONOR IS CHANGING LIVES



By Katyayni Champawat



Amidst these challenges, Siksha (11) and Kirtana (13), the youngest of the lot, have not given up on their dreams. Out of all the siblings, only they have managed to continue their studies showing resilience beyond belief.

India's independence from British rule came with the painful scars of partition. Even decades later, its impact lingers, especially for the Hindu families fleeing systemic persecution in Pakistan.

Settling in small, broken camps around Rajasthan, Gujrat, and Delhi these refugees are fleeing systemic oppression, blatant discrimination, and religious persecution.

Amongst these hundred thousand people, there's a family of 8 who arrived at the Signature Bridge Camp in 2017. When they arrived, they were amongst the lucky ones.

Thanking their stars, for at least all of them had made it- a rarity for those who make this journey. But life in the camp is far from easy and the family soon lost the sole provider, Ram Lal, to dengue. Ram Lal was a hardworking man who sold steel utensils to provide for his family.

His passing left a significant void in their lives, and his six children now navigate life with courage beyond their years. Fifteen-year-old Rakesh, the only son, took it upon himself to support the family. He dropped out of school and started selling mobile covers, ensuring his mother and five sisters had food on the table.

They also continue to nurture their interests in dancing and coloring, painting their world in hope. Their aspirations, however, were in constant danger of being cut short—until a generous donor stepped in to support them.

***In this journey of courage and hope, Mr. Mathukumalli Vidyasagar has stepped up for these sisters.***

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Through HAI's 'Sponsor a Child' campaign, he has been donating 3001 INR monthly to support the holistic development of both Siksha and Kirtana. This small but significant amount helps cover their educational materials, transportation, and other essential needs, allowing them to focus entirely on their studies. With every rupee of his donation, Mr. Vidyasagar is not just providing education- he is restoring dignity, hope, and confidence to these young girls.

The transformation is evident. Today, Siksha and Kirtana walk to class with their heads held high, dressed in neat, well-fitting uniforms. Their love for dance and art continues to flourish, proving that even in the toughest circumstances, dreams can survive when given the right support.

This Republic Day was particularly special for the sisters. With pride in their hearts, they stood alongside their peers to hoist the national flag, embracing India as their new home. They even showcased their love for dance, performing in front of their community with radiant smiles.

None of this would have been possible without Mr. Vidyasagar's unwavering generosity. His commitment to supporting the education of these young girls is breaking the generational cycle of hardship that once defined their lives.

***His sponsorship is not just an act of charity- it is an investment in a future where these girls can rise above their struggles and achieve their dreams.***



HAI is deeply grateful to donors like him who make it possible to build a more just and equitable society, one child at a time.

We thank Mr. Vidyasagar for being the beacon of hope in Siksha and Kirtana's journey. Every contribution, big or small, brings us one step closer to a world where no child has to choose between survival and education.



***Note: Pseudo names have been used to protect the identity of the refugee family. Name of the donor has been shared with explicit consent.***