



This is the season of metamorphosis! The process by which a caterpillar transforms into a butterfly is a great metaphor for the change and self-transformation we find in the individuals and the communities that we work in. They undergo a cycle of change that leads to regeneration, renewal, and growth just like a beautiful butterfly. Here are some beautiful stories of transformation!



In today's society, a tailor is seen as someone who is busy chalking and peddling endlessly to sew the fabric, away from the glare of modernity. Somehow we have never seen them as forerunners of technology. Our team at Hallegudahahalli, Bangalore is always excited to see how the use of technology can develop and add value to our programmes.

With the introduction of Usha Fashion Designing at Oasis, a 3-month advanced learning course, two additional electrical sewing machines are used to teach women. These machines help to learn advanced features such as different types of stitch to make blouses, patterns for dresses, gowns etc. Trainees get an equal opportunity to use both machines during the course and it helps them to learn the different functions of these automated machines. This has greatly encouraged the women to utilise their gained knowledge for entrepreneurial and livelihood opportunities.

The purpose of these machines is to not drift away from the old method but to incorporate advanced technology with a mix of old and new machines to learn improved methods of designing.

Ranita Sarma, Relationship Officer  
& Philip Devaraj, Project Coordinator



For the first time, our Chennai team organised an Annual Day for the after-school

programme (ASP) children from Basin Bridge and Kannigapuram. The main objective of this event was to bring out the many talents of children and to create a platform where they can express themselves. This served as a great boost of confidence and the children felt appreciated.

Ebenezer, ASP coordinator and event organizer says, “This day was an eye opener for many of our children as they all got an opportunity to find their talent. One of the major changes I witnessed since then is the children have started encouraging each other. For most of their lives, they were not motivated to have healthy competition. Through this initiative, they have started becoming more competitive. I believe that this will help them look beyond their situations and to work harder to reach their dreams.”

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## 5 lessons to learn from the butterfly life cycle

If we do not allow ourselves to go through the whole cycle of change, we will hinder ourselves from changing and eventually flying. In order to come into form, a butterfly develops through a process called metamorphosis that has four stages; each stage is fully dependent on the other.

Everything we are taking in will be fuel and nourishment for our new form. During the first stage, the “feeding stage,” the caterpillar’s job is to eat. Trust that the process of nourishing yourself with experiences is ultimately feeding your future form—even if the experiences are particularly challenging.

Shedding of old patterns are necessary. As the caterpillar grows, it “splits its skin” and sheds it 4 or 5 times. This is a mandatory process of shedding and expansion that must occur repeatedly.

Solitude provides space and time for internalisation. When the caterpillar is full-grown and stops eating, it becomes a chrysalis. What is significant about this stage and important for our own emotional and personal transition is that while visually it may look like nothing is going on but big changes are happening within.

Sometimes a “breaking down” must occur in order for restructuring to begin. During this phase of rapid internal growth, the caterpillar has to “break down its parts” or “liquefy” in order to attain another form.

Source: [www.psychologytoday.com](http://www.psychologytoday.com)

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Through a former SHG member, Vasanthi, a 23-year-old transgender has become a part of our new self-help group in Chennai. In a society where transgenders are marginalised, often disowned, illiterate, unemployed or forced into sex work. Our women in the community have come together to set an example of being inclusive.

A few of Vasanthi's well-wishers suggested for her to join a self-help group to become financially secure. Although she feared rejection from the group, she wanted to take the chance to build good relationships in the community. When this was discussed among the SHG members, they were initially hesitant but unanimously decided to be inclusive of everyone. Tanya Verony, Programme Manager in Chennai says, "Including transgender women in the SHG groups will open the door for the community to embrace everyone and treat them equally." This is yet another breakthrough for Oasis.



“What the caterpillar calls the end of the world, the master calls a butterfly.” — Richard Bach

After completing 8th grade in 2015, Arshiya’s parents forced her to discontinue her studies as they feared for her safety. The school was far off and as daily wagers, the parents were not able to afford the transportation as well.

Arshiya heard about Oasis India’s dropouts project from her friends who had completed their 10th and 12th grade there. Our team visited her family and counselled them to help Arshiya register in the Andhra Pradesh Open School Society. Now she is preparing for her 10th grade exam. She said, “I am thankful to Oasis for helping me continue my studies. I did not like being at home. My friends and the Oasis family played a huge role in inspiring me to take this up.”



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