

Celebrating National Girl Child Day!

INCLUSION | JANUARY 2023



Dear Supporter

Nengneiching, 12, was not allowed to play football because she was a girl. Her parents did not think it was necessary for a girl to play sports. When we introduced Football for Life coaching in Teiseng village in Churachandpur, Manipur, Nengneiching longed to be a part of the training but was not allowed.



Our staff in Manipur conducted an orientation for parents on the importance of training girls in football and how it would help them. They encouraged Nengneiching’s parents to let their daughter be a part of the football team. Today, her parents are proud of Nengneiching as she is becoming a very promising player. In the recent witness group matches and friendly matches, she has played better than many girls and boys. Her determination and resilience have brought her this far. Inspired by her growth in football, Nengneiching’s parents send her to the training every day without fail. *Small wins like this create big*

change, and we are excited for the many other girls at our Oasis programmes who are creating change in their own capacities.

NATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY



Today is National Girl Child Day, a day initiated by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Government of India, to spread public awareness about the rights of girl children and the inequalities they face. At Oasis India, we work closely with girl children who are deprived of their basic rights and are often treated unfairly. We work with community members across India, changing mindsets and stereotypes to help these young girls break down the social barriers.

In Chennai, Santhiya, in the 8th grade, is learning to protect herself and those around her from human trafficking and sexual predators. She is a part of our Project Sarika programme where we teach young girls self-defence, fitness, and football. This programme, as a whole, empowers young girls with skills to be safe and fit. Santhiya lives in a community called Kannagi Nagar. **A recent study by Voluntary Health Services (VHS) found a high incidence of violence, both physical and sexual, against women and children, with more than 85% of the women being victims of domestic violence. In Kannagi Nagar, 62% of women have faced sexual violence, 53% are forced into child marriage, 71% experience child abuse, and 79% face sexual harassment.**

This reality makes programmes like Project Sarika crucial for young girls in Kannagi Nagar. Santhiya says, "I am learning football, self-defense, life skills, and most importantly, how to live safely in the community. Through Oasis, I also have a mentor to guide me in the right direction in life."

Mentoring is an important part of working with girl children. Many lack role models and a support system in their families and community who can guide them through the challenges of life. Najiya, 14, from Nalasopara, Mumbai, is a part of our after-school

programme (ASP). During the COVID-19 pandemic, she lost both her mother and her elder brother. This devastating loss took a toll on her and her family. Najiya says, "Many days, I came to ASP with tears in my eyes and a heavy heart. After losing my brother and mother, we lost our house in the recent cyclone as well, which pushed me to the lowest point in my life. If not for Oasis India's staff who encouraged me to study and guided me through this difficult time, I would not have had the courage to move forward in life."



Young girls at Oasis India are playing sports and becoming change agents & socially conscious individuals who contribute positively to their communities. **Become a member of the 500 Club, where you can give a minimum of Rs.500 to help girls across India become empowered women of the future.**

Join our 500 Club

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