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WOMEN
IN NEED

Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice – Nelson Mandela

Thank you for helping WIN provide justice to those who need it most xx



COVID-19 exposes India's Inequities

As India struggles to contain the world's third-largest outbreak -- adding over 40,000 new cases every day, the chronic inequalities in quality healthcare are exposed.

Covid-19 remains largely a disease of the poor in India, with hot spots concentrated in slums and tenements where social distancing is all but impossible. Many there depend on daily wages and

cannot work from home. And even if beds are available in private hospitals, few can afford them. But in a country of 1.3 billion these inequalities are now making it extremely difficult to stem the spread of the COVID-19 pathogen and this is affecting everyone – rich and poor



WIN remains a beacon of hope to many during these uncertain times - offering food, medication, and support. During lock down we continue to ensure lifesaving treatment is available to those with cancer, mental illness, sickle cell anaemia and HIV



Sakshi is winning her fight against cancer

15 year old Sakshi is fighting stomach cancer and appears to be winning. But this scenario could have been quite different had WIN not intervened.

Though poor labourers, Sakshi's parents consulted a private practitioner better standard of care for their ailing daughter, that He misdiagnosed their daughters' condition; wasted valuable time and extorted thousands of rupees out of them.

With our support Sakshi received the right diagnosis and treatment and is already

feeling much better.

What did WIN provide?

The cost of CT scans, blood tests, blood transfusions, symptomatic treatment following chemotherapy, nutritional supplements, and food to help with her recovery during treatment

Support and guidance from WIN's trained staff have also been invaluable



Sakshi is now well enough to prepare for her 10th standard exams, which she hopes to take at the end of the year



The devastation of mental illness – Sangita’s story

Sangita is an educated woman from a reputable family. Her father worked in Nagpur University and her brother was an engineer. Sangita had a degree in Economics, with plans to do a PhD. Compared to most, they seemed to have it all. But when Sangita’s mother died suddenly, the shock of her death had a devastating effect on everyone.

Sangit’s brother developed psychosis, transforming him from an articulate, respected member of the community, to a volatile vagrant.

Tragically Sangita also began to experience symptoms of psychosis, causing her to withdraw and neglect herself. Her father sought advice from the regional mental hospital, but Sangita, refused to take medication and the hospital didn’t have the available bed space to admit her. Two years later when her father died, Sangita’s health spiralled out of control.

Sangita’s uncle tried his best to help, sometimes bringing food or trying to keep the place clean whenever he had time. Neighbours would complain of her stripping naked and going into the garden to toilet herself. The smell of urine from within the house could be smelt outside the property.

When WIN met Sangita she was agitated, afraid and uncooperative. But gradually over 6 months, our daily visits of bringing cooked meals, medication, and companionship, have created tangible improvements in her wellbeing and personal care.

Below left: Sangita receiving hot food prepared by WIN. These meals are delivered to her home every day

Right: Today Sangita is making tremendous progress



Psychiatric treatment, cooked meals and home counselling have been the perfect recipe for Sangita's recovery. Though early days, she is regaining her confidence and self-respect

According to the WHO, mental illness makes about 15% of the total disease conditions around the world. The same estimate also suggests that India has one of the largest populations affected from mental illness.

As a result, the WHO has labelled India as the worlds "most depressing country"



Siddhi – growing up with HIV

13 year old Siddhi is HIV+. Her parents died from AIDS when she was 7, leaving her grandmother to take care of her. But it has been a struggle. Siddhi's grandmother earns a meagre income selling sweets outside a local school. This barely covers the cost of food, let alone the cost of the symptomatic treatment Siddhi needs, or travel to the ART centre once a month.

WIN provides Siddhi with the medicines and nutritional support she needs to maintain good health. Free, safe transport to hospital ensures she meets her appointments on time.



Recently we surprised Siddhi with a present and cake for her birthday!



Siddhi aspires to become a teacher one day

WIN provides food to women unable to work during COVID -19





Would you like to sponsor Chetan?

Featured in our December 2019 issue, Chetan Patne and his mother Ranjeeta are both HIV+ and have struggled with discrimination and poverty over a number of years.

WIN supports HIV+ single mothers and their children by providing good nutrition, symptomatic treatment, and information. In addition to which the charity arranges social outings to combat loneliness and has always been at the end of a phone offering guidance when needed.

Over the years it has been an absolute privilege to watch some of these children grow into young adults. They have lived through tough times – sadly, some didn't make it to adulthood.

In the early 2000's those known to be HIV+ were denied hospital treatment while ART's were too expensive for the poor. Shunned by neighbours, friends, and family the charity witnessed thousands struggle to remain in employment while their children faced discrimination at school.

Today these young adults are hungry to escape poverty and want to provide a better future for themselves and their mothers. They know education is the key, but further education isn't free in India and they need our help to achieve their goals.

17 year old Chetan is clear on what he wants and is ready to work hard. But he needs sponsorship to cover the costs of his Bachelor of Commerce.

Can you help him?

First Year BA Commerce

Total cost £475

Includes admission and exam fees, books, and tuition



Chetan today

