

P O R T R A I T S O F
P R O M I S E

ISSUE 69

**at-risk
to thriving**

orphan'spromise

Anjali's Ambition



These are the stories.

These are the souls.

These are the portraits of
the lives we're changing.

Anjali is a bright, ambitious girl who lives in Aligarh, India. She has big goals for the future, but the hardships that come from living in an impoverished community almost stopped her. Read how your compassionate partnership empowers young women like Anjali to pursue their dreams.

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LIFE IN ALIGARH

Anjali is the middle child in a family of five daughters. She grew up in a remote village in the Aligarh district. Aligarh is a large city that is not too far from New Delhi. Like many families here, Anjali's father is a day laborer. Sometimes, there isn't enough work, and the low pay makes it nearly impossible for her parents to make ends meet. Therefore, every day is a struggle.

India tragically continues to perpetuate its caste system, dividing the population into four main groups. The caste a person is born into dictates the kinds of jobs they can have and the social interactions (like marriage) they are allowed to pursue. In Aligarh, about 50 percent of people belong to the lower castes and are not recognized in the community. They live in extreme poverty and have to beg on the streets.

Although life is difficult for Anjali, she was able to attend school, which brought hope to her and her family. Her parents see the value of learning, and Anjali is one of the few girls in the area who receives an education.

UNICEF SAYS THAT “GIRLS WHO LIVE IN RURAL AREAS OR COME FROM POORER HOUSEHOLDS ARE AT GREATER RISK OF CHILD MARRIAGE, AND A HIGHER PROPORTION OF CHILD BRIDES ARE FOUND AMONG THOSE WITH LITTLE OR NO EDUCATION.”¹



ACCORDING TO UNICEF, IT WAS ESTIMATED IN 2023 THAT 23 PERCENT OF GIRLS IN INDIA WERE MARRIED BEFORE THEY TURNED 18.²

EDUCATION FOR GIRLS IN INDIA

Only about 19 percent of girls in India can read and write. Many are married before they turn 18, and less than two out of 10 child brides will return to school.³

Education is key to equipping girls with the tools they need to determine their own future. The impact of education is far-reaching but, most important, it provides them with options. Instead of being relegated to an early marriage or a life as a low-wage worker, educated women earn more, can provide better for their families, and have a voice in the decisions that are important to them.

UNICEF reports that “girls’ education strengthens economies and reduces inequality. It contributes to more stable, resilient societies that give all individuals ... the opportunity to fulfill their potential.”⁴

Your partnership is directly helping vulnerable children around the world by giving them access to education, which unlocks a better future and helps safeguard them from being exploited. We’ve been working for the last four years to bring quality education to marginalized children in this community through the School of Life (SOL) center.

The SOL center offers holistic support for at-risk children, offering them a safe, loving environment where they can learn and grow. They receive help with schoolwork, enjoy daily nutritious meals, and are surrounded by a supportive community. It makes a difference when children have adults in their life who encourage them to reach their full potential. In a world where many of these kids are overlooked, your support makes it possible for them to feel seen and valued.

As Nirupam Jha, our Orphan’s Promise regional manager for South Asia, shared, “We are thankful to all our donors for their continuous support of the children that we serve. As a team, we feel happy when we see one life transformed at a time. Continued support definitely helps us reach more children and transform their lives.”

THE DISRUPTION OF THE PANDEMIC

One of the ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns was the damaging effect it had on education for children in impoverished communities. Anjali was doing well in school, but then the school shut down during the pandemic. Anjali had no way to keep up with classes on her own. Her parents were desperately trying to make sure their kids were fed and did not have any additional income to provide resources for her to take online classes. Anjali watched her days fill up with household chores instead of schoolwork. Her hope of passing the government exams faded as the weeks stretched on.



INCREASE YOUR *generosity*

The most effective way to give and maximize your gift is to give a recurring monthly gift. If you'd like to become a monthly partner with Orphan's Promise, please check out the information below. We'll count on you to ensure our commitment to these children is fulfilled!

IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE A SPECIAL GIFT TO ORPHAN'S PROMISE,
THERE ARE FOUR EASY WAYS YOU CAN GIVE:



OrphansPromise.org/Promise



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Call 1-800-818-4016



Mail a check made out to Orphan's Promise to:
Orphan's Promise
977 Centerville Turnpike
Virginia Beach, VA 23463

Thanks for your generosity.

We look forward to making a difference together.

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THE POWER OF EDUCATION

Thankfully, our team at the SOL center heard about Anjali. Compassionate partners like you helped provide her with a tablet so she could study online. Once the lockdowns were lifted, Anjali visited the center to get regular nutritious meals, help with her classes, and school supplies. When the time came for her to take the exams, she did an outstanding job and achieved excellent scores in every single subject. She was also a top-ranking student in her school and village!

Anjali shared with us: “I can’t even imagine where I would be right now if it weren’t for the support provided by Orphan’s Promise. Without their help, I might have ended up getting married and solely focusing on household responsibilities. I am truly grateful to the SOL center for giving me the opportunity to continue my education.”

She eventually wants to apply for a government job that will help her and her family build a better future. She said, “Thank you that I can take the first step in my life to get closer to my vision of a prosperous life.”

Anjali now has the education and tools she needs to pursue a career that will give her more stability and independence. This kind of change is multigenerational, but it doesn’t stop with Anjali. If she chooses to get married and have children one day, her kids will directly benefit from her education, the opportunities it gives her, and how it has empowered her to reach for her dreams.

Your partnership is the catalyst for this kind of transformation. Thank you for honoring the precious gifts of young people like Anjali!



1. “Ending Child Marriage: A Profile of Progress in India,” UNICEF, accessed April 17, 2024, <https://data.unicef.org/resources/ending-child-marriage-a-profile-of-progress-in-india-2023/>.
2. Ibid
3. Ibid
4. “Girls’ Education,” UNICEF, accessed April 17, 2024, <https://www.unicef.org/education/girls-education#:~:text=Girls%20who%20receive%20an%20education,strengthen%20economies%20and%20reduces%20inequality>.



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Orphan's Promise, a children's ministry of The Christian Broadcasting Network, Inc., serves orphans and other vulnerable children around the world, taking them from at-risk to thriving through the transforming power of God's love. CBN is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization and your contributions to our ministry may be tax-deductible.

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