



## EDUCATE - EMPOWER - EQUIP

"If you empower a child in India, you empower the Family, the Village and the Community - Forever"



### A Child Changed

"Watch out Nana!" Her father bellowed as the six-year-old rushed through the doorway, nearly bowling over her mother and father in her energetic haste. Her clothes were all amok, and her dark hair streaked with sand. A bright smile lit her face.

"Nana! My goodness, what happened to you?"

*"Nana was six years old and had never been to school. When we learned about her, we raised support to send her to one of our schools."*

Aren't you supposed to be at work today?" Her mother chided her.

Instead of answering her parents, Nana looked down at her feet twirled her dress



back and forth, the smile never leaving her face.

"Nana," Her mother said in a stern tone.

Finally, she looked up, not quite meeting her mother's eye. "Well, I was supposed to help the other women with laundry today, but some of the other girls wanted to sneak away down the river and listen to the schoolteacher. They got bored and left, but I stayed for hours. There's a place deep enough to almost hide me where I can hear in the window."

"Nana! You shouldn't do things like that! You could get us in trouble. You know you are not supposed to be there, and besides, if you don't help the women with their chores, your father and I could get in trouble."

"I know mama, but chores are so boring! Why do you need me to wash clothes?"

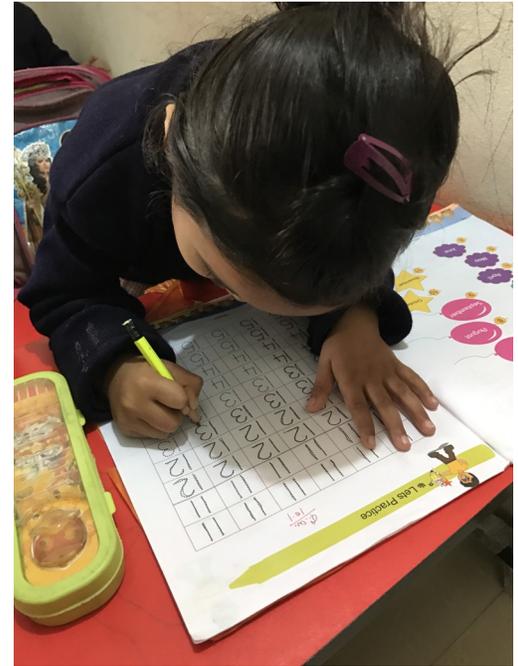
"You know why, dear Nana. A rupee or two or a little extra food goes a long way."

Nana studied her feet again. "I know." She looked up and immediately brightened. "But you should have heard what the man was teaching! Do you want to know what I learned today?"

"Besides not wandering off where you aren't supposed to go?"

"Yes, mama."

Her mother couldn't help a smile. "Alright, Nana. What else did you



learn today?"

"Mama, he taught me...uh...the class...how to give greetings in English. Do you want to hear? Do you want to hear?" By now, she was bouncing with barely contained energy.

"Yes, dear Nana, of course, I do."

"Hello, how are you doing today?" See! English! Mama, did you hear? Did you hear?"

**Nana was six years old and had never been to school. She had never had the opportunity to learn before, and her excitement and enthusiasm when she started at our school brought joy to the teachers and her parents. She studied diligently every day, and we soon learned her love of learning was accompanied by a brilliant mind. Our partner gives her a ride to school every day.**

*Written by, Michael Eash*