



"I don't think my father will be able to send me to college. We are very poor, but I want to study and become a teacher so that one day I can help other girls like me."

**Monica, aged 17,
Kanchan Basti slum, Delhi**



'All these children need is opportunity'

Help us get slum kids like Monica into college - and to find a job

Monica is a bright and lively high school student, with dreams of studying at college and becoming a teacher. She talks about getting a good job so she can look after her father in his old age. Her hopes may not seem that different from those of many children in the west.

But Monica lives in Kanchan Basti slum, Delhi, where she is surrounded by the smells of smoke and burning rubber, and the constant sounds of machinery and hammering from local factories. Her father earns less than 2000 rupees a month (about £35), not enough to support the family of nine. She is the first girl from her community ever to complete high school; most children her age spend their days sifting through piles of rubbish looking for metal scraps to sell. Her parents want to support her, but they are taunted for 'wasting money' educating a girl.

Monica's determination to finish high school in such circumstances is extraordinary; her hopes of attending

university seem impossible. Yet, with help from Asha's higher education programme, Monica's dreams - and those of hundreds of other slum kids - are coming true.

Anil is proof of what is possible. Now 23, he has spent all his life in Dr. Ambedkar slum. With Asha's support from the age of 6 - when he joined a children's group and learnt about health and human rights - Anil has developed a passion for computers and design. Asha helped him get a loan to pay for a multi-media animation course, and to enroll for an Arts degree at the prestigious Delhi University.

Despite family demands, and the challenges of studying amidst the noise of the slum, Anil has now graduated, and has been offered an internship with the Canadian High Commission, in a pioneering Asha scheme to help graduates from the slums find work. Anil's dream? To get a good job, rent a house and help his whole family "live a life of dignity."

Turn over to learn how you can help children from the slums achieve their dreams



'Every time I hear the slum children speak, I am inspired and sometimes I am also moved to tears. All these children needed was an opportunity, a helping hand that would gain them admission to college or university. That, I think, is Asha's great achievement over the past few years. They are taking the children out of the slums, out of their poverty and their misery, and making them strong, confident citizens of India.'

P. Chidambaram, India's Finance Minister, February 2013

700 students from the slums have already been admitted to college through Asha's higher education programme. Your donation can help us achieve our vision of sending 5000 students to university in the next 5 years:

- £25 will cover one college preparation workshop for 30 children
- £45 will provide a student with new clothes for university
- £65 will buy books for one child for one year
- £185 will pay the university tuition fees for one child for one year
- £450 will cover all university expenses for one child for one year

Or become a Hope Giver and make a donation every month to help students like Monica and Anil.

DONATE TODAY - AND MAKE YOUR GIFT GO FURTHER!

If you are a UK taxpayer then Friends of Asha GB (Charity Registration No. 1085071) can collect an extra 25p for every pound you donate. To Gift Aid your donation, visit www.justgiving.com/friendsofasha and follow the simple steps to make your payment via a secure server.

You can also donate by sending the form below, with a cheque, to the Friends of Asha (GB). Contact the Friends on foasha.leighton@tiscali.co.uk.

Donations can also be made directly to Asha in India. Please visit our website www.asha-india.org for more information, or email us on info@asha-india.org.



Yes, I'd like to give a child from the slums the opportunity to study and work.

My contribution of £ _____ is enclosed.

I would like to become a Hope Giver and contribute £ _____ every month. My first contribution is enclosed. Please send me a standing order form.

I particularly want to contribute towards _____

Please keep me informed about Asha's activities. My email is _____

Full name & title _____

Organisation (if any) _____

Address _____

City and postcode _____ Country _____

Please send this form with your cheque, payable to **"Friends of Asha, GB"** to Phil Leighton, Coordinator, Friends of Asha (GB), Woodlands, 34 Knoll Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 4QU, UK

Distributed free of charge by Asha Community Health and Development Society

Ekta Vihar, R K Puram Sector 6, New Delhi 110022, India

Tel: 91-11-26196857 | Website: www.asha-india.org | Email: info@asha-india.org

Facebook: [facebook.com/ashasociety1](https://www.facebook.com/ashasociety1) | Twitter: twitter.com/ashasociety | YouTube: [youtube.com/ashasociety](https://www.youtube.com/ashasociety)