



# 2010

## Annual Audit Report



**Nivasa Foundation**

June 2010

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**Nivasa Foundation**

June 2010

Sri Lanka

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## Table of Contents

Introduction.....	4
Slavery Facts.....	5
Our Mission.....	6
Background.....	7
Objectives	
Methodology	
Acknowledgement	
The Families.....	8
Madushani & Dulanjana.....	9
Lilan, Pema & Nilan.....	10
Rukshan.....	11
Nimesha.....	12
Manoj & Madushanka.....	13
Askar & Asni.....	14
Viewpoint & Suggestions.....	15
Exposure.....	16
Conclusion.....	17

## INTRODUCTION

In Sri Lanka, critical poverty, warfare, and natural disasters are endemic to the region and have forced men and women to leave their homeland to seek employment in other countries in the hope that they will be able to provide for their families from afar. Thousands have returned to Sri Lanka from experiences of enslavement and abuse instead of employment, most of them penniless and with large accrued debts. Despite their traumatic experiences, many Sri Lankans return to domestic servant positions overseas out of desperation, not realizing or even in spite of the realization that it might mean continued slavery.

Employment agencies have responded to this demand by increasing in number and expanding their advertising campaigns. The process of enslavement begins when women borrow money at a high interest rate to pay the employment agency, leaving her family in debt. Once a woman has left the country to [take] a position facilitated by the agency, often she is not paid, she is overworked, and sometimes she is even abused. Women who are exploited or enslaved are generally unable to escape the slaveholders or return to Sri Lanka. When women do manage to return home alive, any mistreatment she has endured, including rape, pregnancy, and torture, is stigmatized and is therefore silenced. Without support, these women suffer psychologically, socially, and financially. With little means to pay off their debts, many Sri Lankan women choose to return to these domestic positions for employment, hoping to land a legitimate job, pay off the family debt, and provide for her family. As a result, a silent cycle of enslavement persists in underdeveloped communities in Sri Lanka.

**SLAVERY IN SRI LANKA:**

- The population in SL, is 18.5 million and right now 1 million is working outside of SL, among them, 600,000 thousands are housemaids, and 20% of them will be the victims of modern day slavery.
- According to the Federal Employment Bureau: the bodies of 215 women were returned to Sri Lanka in 2002. 217 in 2003, 245 in 2004, 203 in 2005. Their deaths were reported as natural, accidents, or suicides.
- Fact Book on Global Sexual Exploitation: 10-12,000 children are trafficked and prostituted by organized crime circles. 5000-30,000 SL boys are used by sex tourists in SL
- A child activity survey, by the department of census and statistic's, found 450,000 children employed by their families in agricultural work throughout the country.
- The International Labor Organization Report 2005, had estimated 9.8 million people working in the global forced labor Market, generating US\$ 33.9 billion in profit every year, And \$27.8 billion is made by exploiting trafficked persons.

<p><b>SLAVERY FACTS</b></p>	<p>Contrary to popular belief, slavery didn't end in 1865. Experts estimate that today there are <b>27 million people</b> enslaved around the world. Source: iAbolish.com</p>	<p><b>600,000 to 800,000 people</b> are trafficked internationally every year. Approximately <b>80%</b> of them are women and children. Source: iAbolish.com</p>	<p>It is estimated that trafficking produces more than <b>\$31 billion each year</b> in illicit profits - half of it in <b>industrialized countries</b>. Source: BBC</p>	<p><b>64%</b> of modern-day slavery is exacted for economic exploitation - including <b>bonded labor</b> and <b>forced domestic work</b>. Source: BBC</p>
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### **OUR Mission:**

Our vision is to see in our lifetime the manifestation of a society with no slavery of any sort, where all people, especially women and children, will be able to live with dignity and freedom, enjoying their rights to justice and peace. Furthermore, Nivasa Foundation seeks to ensure the economic empowerment of victims of human trafficking. To that end, Nivasa Foundation has created a unique two-pronged, direct aid approach to the problem.

### **Current Programs:**

In the three year cycle of the project, Nivasa Foundation has sponsored 10 children of human trafficking victims to whom we provide financial support to continue their education. The children are required to maintain good grades and the family must be willing to share their story to promote public awareness. An independent auditor hired by the organization monitors the families, makes biannual reports and manages the disbursement of funds in Sri Lanka. The campaign serves to prevent victims of trafficking from becoming victims again, as well as educate Sri Lankan society of the ills of human trafficking and the methods used by traffickers.

All of the children being sponsored by Nivasa Foundation are children of women who were previously enslaved and who are currently committed to remaining in Sri Lanka, finding legitimate employment, and raising their families at home. Our plan to sponsor children falls in line with many recent programs which recognize that by providing for a child's health and education, most parents will exhibit an investment in gainful employment and will maintain healthy lifestyles which provide for the needs of their families. In the end, the entire family prospers. All of the families supported by our work are also associated with other local non-profit organizations which are dedicated to rehabilitation efforts for the parents. These programs provide health and psychological care, employment services, skills training, micro-credit, and other services which survivors of human trafficking need.

## **Background**

The Nivasa Foundation's Sponsor a Child Program is administered with the cooperation of the Jesuit Fathers in Sri Lanka. The Fathers have volunteered to communicate with the families and the children in the program as well as oversee the distribution of funds from the Nivasa Foundation in the United States. An auditor supervises the program and provides the Nivasa Foundation, as the donor agency, with his/her observations. This report was compiled by Olga Wijetunga upon completion of her March 2010 audit of the Sponsor a Child Program.

## **Objectives**

Through interviews and conversations with the parties concerned, Mrs. Wijetunga updated and reviewed the present sponsorship process of the Nivasa Foundation's Sponsor a Child Program in Sri Lanka. The audit serves two functions: 1. as an independent validation that program logistics are fully functioning, and 2. that the program is effective.

## **Methodology**

Mrs. Wijetunga, presently work as a resource person at the Presidential Secretariat- Sri Lanka Foundation Institute (SLFI), Colombo, and a private piano music tutor. She was assigned to carryout the auditing process in Sri Lanka. She gathered information through personal interviews with the parents and their children in their home settings, visual observation at their home settings.

## **Acknowledgement**

We offer our gratitude to Olga Wijetunga, the Board of Directors of Nivasa Foundation, Dexter Gray S.J./ Province Treasurer Jesuit Fathers – Galle mission in Sri Lanka, Mr. Anil Panditharathne, Mr. Ajith Gamage, and the families for their support and corporation to complete our forth year audit report.

## CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

### Madushani & Dulanjana



Madushani and Dulanjana are growing quickly and each day they seem even healthier. The two are also doing very well in their extra-curricular activities. Using the funds provided by Nivasa Foundation's Sponsor-A-Child Program, the family was able to buy a helmet to go along with Dulanjana's recently bought bike. Dulanjana rode on this second-hand bike in a race called, "All Island Race" and, despite his recent injury and breakdowns that occurred during the race, he managed to win fifth place out of the many that had competed. Dulanjana hopes to participate again in 2010 and win first place.

Madushani is also doing very well. She is showing a keen interest in dancing so her mother decided to send her to local classical dancing classes. Madushani is enjoying her classes and is grateful for the new opportunity that is arisen for her.

Anusha, the children's mother, has decided to open a children's club at their local church. The children in the neighborhood get together at the church and discuss Christian matters while also socializing with each other. Madushani and Dulanjana get the opportunity to spend time with friends and family, which makes Anusha very happy.

Madushani and Dulanjana both appreciate the new items that they have received such as clothes, food, and school supplies. With the struggle to make ends meet slowly going away, the family has more time to spend with one another.

The parents are eternally grateful for the time they have to spend with their kids. They use this time to draw colorful pictures, eat ice-cream, and help the children with their homework. They are grateful to the Nivasa sponsors who have made all of this possible for their family.



### Lilan, Pemal & Nilan



Champa is a mother who's is really strong in her heart. She had to nurse her son Pemal when he became paralyzed below the waist. Though her income is her only source for a living, she gave up work for many days and devoted her life to tend to her son. Her prayers were answered and Pemal is thankfully back to normal. Pemal is advised to continue with medical treatments by taking an assigned vaccination until he is 18 years of age. His vaccinations cost Rs. 2,500 each because they are imported from abroad, and they are required every three months. The amount may increase in future. Although his frequent absence at school is making work more difficult, Pemal is doing his very best and working his hardest.

Lilan being the youngest likes to be around his mother all the time. He is promoted to grade four and the new term commenced from 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2010. He loves to attend school and has lots of friends.

Nilan sat for his GCE exam in December 2009, conducted by the Government of Sri Lanka and awaits his results. He follows a mechanical course in Colombo.

The boys are grateful for renovating their house and the new clothes they receive from the Nivasa Funds. Their house is kept clean and tidy. The teachers have no complains for the boys with the school supplies. All the family members wish for electricity connection so that they can have more time for school work and a better life. Nevertheless, the family is doing very well.

### Rukshan



Rukshan is a boy who is attentive to his parents as well as to teachers. Earning good grades proves his hard work towards his goals. He keeps his grade level to becoming first or the second in his class of students of thirty or so. The funds provided by Nivasa Foundation allowed the parents to buy a new bicycle for Rukshan so that it is convenient for him to travel to back and from school and after school tuition classes.

Rukshan's favorite hobby is building and creating things. "Having electricity will pave way for more innovative ideas for the creative work and more time for education," says Rukshan. The lack of electricity makes it harder for the boys to do schoolwork, housework, and even just playing around the house. However, the boys make the best of it, and their schoolwork is a great example of that.

Their mother Rangani prepares healthy food and makes sweetmeats for the family. The two younger brothers keep the big brother busy when he's around. The boys are so happy when they get to go to the city mall to buy new clothes and school needs. Their father finds it difficult to go fishing during monsoons, however. Rangani found a job in the city where she was employed as a cleaner, although she is still on the search for a babysitter.

## Nimesha



Chandrasena and Ayesha are wonderful parents who would dedicate their lives in order to give a better life to their daughter Nimesha. Her walking has improved after the in-house treatments taken from South India. She is attending physiotherapy where the doctors have advised her to walk by herself. The funds provided by Nivasa Foundation helped Ayesha to pay the transportation fee for the physiotherapy sessions. The walker they bought for Nimesha helps support her to walk by herself. Her mother is always behind to watch over her.

Although her medical needs are preventing her from attending school, Nimesha finds countless things to do. She loves to draw and color, watch TV, play with toys, and identify objects around the house.

Nimesha loves to eat ice-cream. In fact, she's gained an improved appetite for food. The mother is concerned about her meals and she is given healthy foods only. Nimesha is making the best out of everything and is recovering quite well.

The parents have moved to another town where they can earn more to support for both Nimesha and their own financial needs. They are renting a little store that sells daily meals which is a common type of business in Sri Lanka. However, their own house is on sale so they rented a house close to the store. This decision has made it convenient for physiotherapy visits. The family also travels to India for better medical treatment to support Nimesha and improve her walking ability

## Manoj & Prabodini



The family is blessed with Subodani Nimsarani Pathiraja, a sweet baby girl who's just five months old! She keeps all of them busy and happy. Anusha's home business of making sweet treats is put on hold for the time being due to the new baby. Their father, Karunasena, still continues to work as a laborer. The children are grateful for the new clothes and nourishing food they receive.

Prabodini has entered into first grade and she enjoys it. Her parents are proud of her effort and determination to succeed in both home and school. However, Anusha complains of Manoj's grades and he is advised to do better. Manoj seems to show strong interests in reconstructing toys and other objects in the house.

## Askar & Asni



The grandmother, who is taking care of for the twins, makes sure that their needs are fulfilled. She gets up early to prepare a home-made Sri Lankan breakfast for the two children before they leave to school. There are no more complaints about needed school supplies or lack of clean clothing. Nivasa funds are their only source of income that provides all of the daily needs for the two children.

Unfortunately, the situation in the house is not improving. The mother's mental illness is increasing; she is refusing to meet with doctors or accept treatment. She had once run away when she was taken to see a psychiatrist. The grandparents are frustrated but they remain patient as they care for the twins. The situation is greatly affecting the children. Asini and Askar have started to become distracted with all the events going on at home, and this has resulted in poor grades. However, the twins are determined to push away their distractions and focus on school. They promise to work hard and do well next year.

The grandparents have noticed a difference in Asni's behavioral pattern and have consulted a psychiatrist. Although she is under supervision she is accustomed to daily work. She is very careful, tidy and takes good care of her belongings. Her handwriting is outstanding and she is often appreciated by her teachers.

## **VIEWPOINT & SUGGESTIONS**

1. The Nivasa Foundation has conducted its audit report of their Sponsor a Child Program for the fourth consecutive year. This year the auditor did not travel to visit the families but gathered them all in one place giving them the chance to get to know one another. It was very encouraging to learn that all of the families made it to the workshop that was conducted at the house of the auditor, Olga Wijetungha.
2. The parents and the children participated in an awareness building program. The idea was to help the families interact with one another, build a relationship and work as a group to help each other in time of need. The workshop also gave them a chance to share their problems, ask questions and learn about solving problems as a family. The program taught them about their responsibilities as parents, what to expect from their children and how to support them. Lastly, they were given an understanding of how the Sponsor a Child program works, their responsibilities as recipients, and the expectations of Nivasa and their sponsors.
3. An annual gathering may help all families improve and educate them to help keep the children in good standing. If Nivasa plans to add more children to the program, there could be a team meeting where all can contribute ideas and address questions and concerns.
4. Despite the hardship the children face within the families, the children are working hard to get good grades, participate in school activities and achieve their goals. The parents render their fullest cooperation to keep the children well fed, clothed and educated, yet they need our support for further development.

## **EXPOSURE**

1. The collected receipts and the conversations with the children and parents prove that they all have improved and more nourishing meals since being in the Sponsor a Child program. Parents can now request the children to make a choice for dessert which they never had previously. In addition, the children now have clean school uniforms, as well as casual and formal clothes. A day out with the children, field trips and social activities are now possible for these families since becoming recipients of the Nivasa Sponsor a Child program.
2. Children who are now able to afford after-school tutoring (for a fee) have seen a significant improvement in their school work. Rukshan had previously had to walk after school tutoring in the scorching sun, now the bicycle helps him to have more time and energy for his studies. During the monsoon season, Rukshan's family has no income since fishing is their main source of income. Micro Credit loan would help this family start up a small business and get them back on their feet.
3. In case of Nimesha Sankalpani, she is walking with support. God has blessed her abundantly and answered the prayers of the parents. . Yet, she still has many challenges ahead of her.
4. Pernal was suddenly paralyzed and was hospitalized last year. It has come to light that he was born with a deformity in the skeletal structure. Although Pernal is back home with his family, he is required to take a course of vaccinations that will continue until he reaches 18 years of age.



## CONCLUSION

The economic downfall has cost us to lose some of our sponsors who have been with us from the beginning. Nivasa Foundation has depended entirely on our sponsors and the donations we receive during our events. This year we have had not any increase in sponsors or donations, but our dreams and hopes are growing strong along with the children we support. To help us better use the modest funds we receive, we have decided to minimize our expense even further by conducting only one evaluation of families and children per year. Nivasa will continue to gather information from the families and their children yearlong, but home visits with an audit report will be prepared only once per year. **This report will serve as our 2010 year report.**

During our evaluation process this year, we managed to bring all the families and their children together in one place. They were treated to a good meal and were presented with an awareness-building workshop. During this workshop parents had the chance to ask questions and discuss their concerns or issues they face in their lives. They have learned how to interact with their children, what to expect from them and learned additional responsibilities as parents.

Some of the information gathered highlighted how families worked together to better their lives. Some of the activities were gardening with their children to grow vegetables that they can use and sell at the markets, children taking part in drama, sports and other after school activities to be part of the community. In addition, some parents tried to save money for their children's future by putting away a couple of rupees in savings accounts. The gathering also helped the families to come together as a group and make connections with each another and to form long-term friendships.

Three trained individuals conducted the program and were able to provide information and answer questions. Although Nivasa Foundation has fallen through hardship due to the economic downfall, it has managed to continue to support the children already in the program. **We have lost many sponsors this year** but we are planning to fill those spots and hopefully more to help our deserving children who are waiting in line to enter our Sponsor a Child program.

Due to the support of our sponsors and donations, we have been able to rebuild a victim's home, transforming it from a condemned shack to a livable, safe, family home, and we have helped cover the medical bills for a child in need of a surgery. The best news is that the little girl who was unable to walk now has begun her journey one step at a time.

Our dreams are the dreams of these children, and we look forward to making many more miracles in their lives and bring many smiles to their faces. **Please continue to be their angels** that they can depend on. When you are feeling down and thinking about giving up your sponsorship, remember that you are helping to *break the cycle of slavery*. Your donation supports these children; you are taking action to prevent their mothers and fathers from seeking foreign employment and falling back in to the hands of trafficking. If you did not watch the YouTube video on our Nivasa blog, please watch it by going on to the link.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OE36RiaK4e8>