

## RISE UP FOR CHILD RIGHTS – RIGHT TO SURVIVAL

*"Where, after all, do human rights begin? In small places, close to home – so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person; the neighborhood he lives in; the school or college he attends; the factory, farm or office where he works. Such are the places where every man, woman and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world."*

Eleanor Roosevelt, the first chairperson of the UN Human Rights Commission

Dear friends,

Today I will tell you two stories –

Once upon a time, there was an autorickshaw-waalah in some suburb of Hyderabad. An honest, hardworking man who believed greatly in karma, he would try to help everyone he found on his journey every single day. One day, the auto-waalah got a young mother with an infant as his passenger – she was in trouble and had nowhere to go. Gentleman that he was, he offered her a free ride, some food and overnight shelter in his home. The next morning changed everything for him – he woke up to the cry of the baby, only to discover that the young mother had abandoned her child and disappeared!

The rikshaw-waalah's act of kindness ensured the child's survival because the CWC eventually put the child in an orphanage where she was cared for.

In the second story, Pragathi was born with cerebral palsy. Her birth mother and father abandoned her because they were unable to take care of her. But Rukmini, her grandmother, did not lose hope – she took care of the helpless infant and nurtured the baby through crisis after crisis – never once giving up hope. Some years later, a kind soul told her about the work being done by our partner SPASTN (The Spastics Society of Tamil Nadu) in Chennai. She gathered the courage, and with great love, brought the child to the organisation for consultation.

Now, Pragathi is able to sit up and make eye contact, and has begun to reach out for objects too. Her smiling grandmother daily brings the child to the Centre and dutifully takes her back home in the evening.



*The day four-year old Pragathi walked for the first time was a proud day for her grandmother Rukmini*

Tech Mahindra Foundation is proud to support SPASTN in Chennai, an organization that works with early detection of disability and multiple disabilities and supports parents and caregivers in looking after the special needs of such children.

Next time you are in Chennai on work, do make the time to visit SPASTN and see Pragathi walk.

Warm regards,  
Tech Mahindra Foundation