



Rishikesh Public School 9th Grade.

Namaste,

My name is Ankita and I am 17 years old. I am from Rishikesh. I have two younger brothers and a father in my family. My mother died when I was 7 years old. My father has a mental problem. He does whatever he wants. He fights with the neighbors. He drinks a lot and use to beat us very badly. Sometimes my father would not come home and we didn't have anything to eat so we would have to ask the neighbor to feed us. Sometime the neighbor would ignore us and send us away. He was unable to take care of us. Even though I was so young, I had to take care of my younger brothers. It was very hard for me to take care of them because I was just a kid.

Then one old man who was a neighbor heard about Ramana's Garden which is just for the destitute children. It is a home for children who need care and it's all in free. I came to Ramana's Garden when I was 9 years old. I came here with my brothers. When I first got here it was a bit difficult for me because it was a new place. But later on I got used to it. I got the chance to study with others kids and get an education. I also did not have the responsibility of taking care of my brothers anymore because Ramana's Garden takes care of them too.

Ramana's is like a family to me. I feel safe and happy here. After I got here my life totally changed. It's important to me because it gives me everything that I need like: love, caring, food, clothes, shelter and freedom. It's my home. It is a wonderful place.

I'm starting 9th grade next month and I want to continue to study until I graduate from high school. After I finish school I want to go to a good university where I can study social work. When I finish university, I will help children in need, like I have been helped here. I want to study social work so I can help kids and be like a mother to them. I want to support those children who don't have the love of a mother. I understand how it feels since I have been through this situation myself. I have empathy and compassion for them and feel I can help them because of my experiences.

Ramana's Garden has given me everything. I am thankful to Prabha Ji and to all other people here who have helped me. Because of Prabha Ji I am here and I have the opportunity to study and fulfill my dream. She gave the love of a mother that I never got when I was small. She gave me a new life.

Thank you very much!