



Rishikesh Public School 9th Grade

Namaste friend.

My name is Neelam. I am 16 years old. I have one brother and one sister. I was born in Laxman Jhula, India and my parents are from India. I belong to a poor family. My mother and father use to fight a lot and he use to beat her because he used to drink a lot. No one was satisfied with each other. This all happened in front of us. Every day we had to face the challenges, we use to cry a lot and no one was there to look after us.

My mother had enough of that fighting every day, so she decided to take poison. She took the poison with her food and died in front of me while my brother and my father were out somewhere. Because I was only 3 years old I didn't know what happened to her or what to do when she was lying on floor struggling from the poison. Later when my brother and my father came back they saw her laying dead on the floor. Then my brother fell unconscious and my father took my mother's body to burn it.

All the neighbours were furious at my father because of this torture of my mother so all together they decided to take me and my brother to Ramana's Garden because they heard that it was a home for destitute children where everything is free. We were able to start a new life there. After that my father married another woman when I was 5 years old and my brother was seven years old and we got a new step sister. Our step mother treated us very badly. She hated us and loved her own daughter.

My brother and I came to Ramana's Garden when I was 3 years old and my brother was 5 years old. At first it was a bit difficult for us to live in a new place but we got everything we needed here. Everyone was so helpful to us. Prabha Ji treated us like her own children so that we wouldn't miss our mother. Then after a few days we got used to this place and have been living happily here. My younger sister comes to study at Ramana's school but she stays with our step mother. Our step mother is not as bad to her.

Ramana's Garden means everything to me. I have learnt so many things here, like to speak English, to dance, to do art and crafts, yoga and how to help people. I learnt so many things while living here. I get so much love from everyone at Ramana's Garden and I have a big family who supports me. Ramana's gives me a good education, good food, clothes, and all the things that it was impossible to get at home. This all happened only because of Prabha Ji who gave me a chance to grow and do well in my life.

Now I am in 8th class but will be starting 9th very soon. After I graduate from high school I want to study to become a fashion designer. I want to become a good designer and create fashionable comfortable clothes for children. I would like to make lots of money in my business so I can help poor children to get a good education and have a bright future like I got from Ramana's Garden.

Thank you very much!