

# दास्तान - ए - मोहल्ला

The Kutumb Foundation's Newsletter



Hum jis dil ko rulate hai,  
usi dil aur dhadkan ko  
apne sath hasate hai.  
Mit jaye woh jivan jo,  
kisi ki mout par gungunate hai.....

Jinse milti hai khusia humko,  
hum unhi ko dekh kr muskurate hain,  
torte hai jinka hum dil.  
baad main unhe he manate hain.....

Jinse hain hamara rishta  
hum dushmani bhi unhi se nibhate hai.  
Jinse karte hain hum pyaar  
najane unhi ko kyo hum tadpate hain.....

Dilse dil tak ki dor todkar.  
baad main unhi ko  
hum bandhwate hai,  
Jis maa ne janm diya tha humko  
aaj hum unse he mouh banate hain.....

najane ye kaisi niti hai,  
hum aaj us maa ko  
bura-bhala sunate hain..  
hote Mar jaye who insaan  
jo apni maa par haath uthate hai.....  
Thanks for all maa, I love you mom

-Divyanshu

Pitah.....

Pitah jeevan hain, pita he Shakti hai,  
Pitah bachey k nirman ki shrishti hain.  
Pitah ungli pakdhey bachey ka Sahara hain,

Pitah hain to ye ghar hamara hain.

Pitah palan hain poshand hain,

Parivar ka anushashan hain.

Pitah roti, kapda or makan hain,

Ek chotey se bachey ka aashman hain.

Maa hain to ghar me pyar hain,

Pitah he to bachoo ka ka intezar hain.

Pitah se hi to sapney hain,

Bazar k sab khiloney aapne hain.

Pitah hain to pariyar hain,

Pitah se he maa ki bindey or shuhag hai.

Pitah shurakhsha hain agar ser par hath hain,

Pitah nahi to bachpan aanath hain.

Maa baap k pyar ko koi kat nahi sakta,

EashVar bi ink pyar ko bat nahi sakta.

Duniya me her devta ka esthan duja hain,

Maa baap ki seva he pram puja.

-Atul Kaushik



-painting by Sara Hasan

## I am a 'GIRL' by PRIYA MANDAL

The very first identity that we get when we are born is our 'gender'. I am a girl. A lot of times I feel very proud because I am a girl. A girl plays many roles in her life like a daughter, sister, mother, friend etc. Society speaks of the beauty and respect of a woman. But why does it feel that my gender becomes my worst enemy? Why do I feel suffocated being a girl?

I never felt safe in my life because I am a girl. I always feel people are staring at me with bad intention. No matter where you are and when, you will always feel unsafe. When I think of Damini's case in Delhi, I get tears in my eyes. Nobody can imagine her pain. There have been many cases where beastly mobs have stripped off a woman and ravaged her and recorded it on camera.

Often we are told to dress 'properly', what does that mean? We are told to dress up in a way that it does not attract the attention of men. But even when I am dressed 'proper' they stare, they stare even when they know they have made us uncomfortable. What do they want? And for how long?

Now in these days people say that they want girls to be successful as men are but even when girls get that success, they don't get that freedom and credit which men are getting at that stage. Late Ms. Kalpana Chawla reached the moon but now in these days girls can't go shopping alone. In our Indian history we have had many great women leaders like Late Mrs. Indira Gandhi. She represented India to the whole world with her strong voice and open thoughts but today girls are not allowed to give their opinion in their own houses. On the road, bus, school, work place and many more places girls are unsafe. Parents think there is only one solution for everything- "don't step out of the house." There are many self protection products in the market for girls but girls are not aware of it like pepper spray, stun gun etc. but if a girl gets attacked by six boys so will that pepper spray help her? That moment of attack makes a girl totally stunned and motionless. By the time she could think of any reaction she finds herself totally trapped or the damage is already done.

There are many cases of acid attacks. Acid attack totally ruins a girl's life. In many cases victim girl gets forced to drink acid by her attacker who might be her ex-boyfriend or some stalker. The life after an acid attack is so painful that a lot of acid attack victims have pleaded for mercy killing.

What I think is that this is the time when girls and their families should take a stand against this never-ending violence. Be self-dependent. The safety products should be provided by schools, colleges and government institutes and train them how to use those. So they will be ready for any attack at any moment. I don't want to stop myself from doing anything in my life just because I am a girl and I believe that girls can fight with any kind of situation in their life. Respect women, tomorrow the victim could be your mother, sister, daughter or wife.

"Be proud to be a GIRL!"

# प्राकृति

प्राकृति है इस पृथ्वी की शक्ति  
ये सभी जीवों की देती है शक्ति

यहाँ है कछुने की अनेकी दुःख  
कसने, समुन्द्र पहाड़ और उम्रको दुःख

सुबह सवेरे यहाँ गाने है पक्षी  
जैसे कहीं बज रही ही मधुर सी बंसी

यहाँ नदी की धाराएँ भी बहती है राती  
जो है हर प्राणों को माती

जैसे हर उच्छे पर होती है  
मौ की समता की भाषा  
कैसे ही वृक्ष देती है  
हर पक्षिक को छाया

यहाँ खेतों में होती है हमें खा हरियाली  
जो सबके जीवन में लगी है सुशुभासी

यहाँ होती है अनन्त रेतों  
जो हमें खाने को अन्न देती

न ही प्राकृति ही ही जासगा  
जीना दुःखरि  
क्योंकि कोई भी ही जैसा भी ही  
हर प्राणी है इसका निररि

**'The world that I want ' by Nandini Mazumder**

I want a world where water will not mean disease,

And there will be enough to quench the thirsty.

And no one will have to walk miles in search of water.

I want a world where food will nourish and satiate the hungry,

A world where food is not a bio-chemical poison.

I want a world free of wars, weapons and arsons.

No more Hiroshima-Nagasaki, no more Chernobyl's, no more Bhopal's,

I want a world free of holocausts and partitions; a world free of mindless violence.

A world without the countless killing fields from Sri Lanka to Syria.

I want a world where the air will not be toxic-fumes – fatal and rancid.

I want a world where rain will still mean water and not acid,

Rain, under which lovers can celebrate the heavenly bliss and the Taj can glisten in all its splendour.

A world where sunshine will not mean Cancer,

And summer will not be an unbearable reminder of the calamity called global warming.

Sunshine will inspire songs and bring playful joy; summer will be full of possibilities and new beginnings.

Where the value of land is not at the cost of human life.

Where land and home is not snatched away with money and might.

Where the forest will belong to people, animals and the nature alike.

A world where the ocean is a pure, blue reflection of what the heavens must be like,

The very womb that protects and nurtures life.

A world with clear blue skies.

A world where rivers may or may not be worshiped, but certainly cared for, respected and protected.

A world where rivers are allowed to flow into the ocean unbound and unpolluted.

I want a world where innocents are not systematically and regularly butchered.

A world where children are allowed to be children.

And as they grow into adulthood, they look back and rejoice at an amazing childhood!

A world where people live as equals, without the fear of the rich and the powerful.

A world where we share our joys and make memories with family and friends.

A world without hunger and pain,

A world free of unjust suffering, bloody killing and untimely deaths.

I want a world where human life and rights are above all narrow interests.

A world where the humanitarian values will determine laws and the governments.

Where laws and governments will serve people and not the other way around.

Where people aren't treated as rats – made to race, run or hunted down.

In my ideal world, all people and animal and the whole of nature are treated as one.

A world free of communalism and sectarian politics; a world free of discrimination.

I want a world without borders and boundaries.

A world where identities aren't trapped in passports or nationalities.

I want a world united and free, of one humanity

A world beyond race, ethnicity and national identities.

I want a world where love will not mean murder,

Women will not be the property and the men their owner,

A world that accepts people irrespective of the sexuality and gender.

I want a world without honour killings and sexual violence.

A world of consent and not of rape.

A world where women will neither be deified nor be dominated.

A world where women will claim their rights but not in relation to men.

A world where women and men and the others, will all be equal participants.

A world of unity and not of hatred.

A world of faith and not of rage.

An equal, egalitarian world.

A free world.

Bound by the common destiny,

A world not divided into the rich and poor anymore,

A world where reality is based on facts and not on myths, legends or folklore.

A world of peace and not of weapons.

A world where life is not hostage to power and money,

Where jobs will have accomplishment and labour will have dignity.

Work will have security, inspire and hone ones creativity.

A world where everyone will have 'enough' and be happy.

'Enough' itself will be mindful of other forms of life and the planet itself.

I want a world where people reach out to each other in full justice and honesty.

A world free of false divides and hierarchy.

Where coloured terms like 'fair and unfair' aren't used to explain good and bad.

Where finally we acknowledge and accept, good and bad have no shade, no colour and no creed.

Where we finally open our eyes to see that bad is always born of greed.

Where we finally have the courage to fight the greed within.

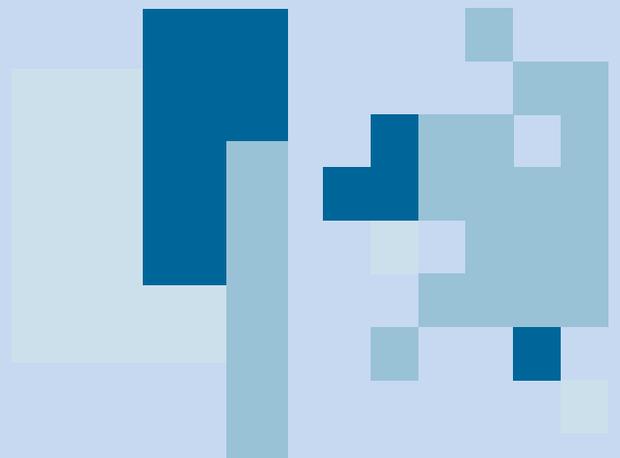
I want a world where the lowest of the low can rise up and lead.

A world inherited by those who have been left behind.

An equal, egalitarian world.

I want an equal and a beautiful world, just as it should have been.

I am Nandini. I worked with Kutumb from 2010 to 2013 but my attachment with Kutumb and its various initiatives, goes beyond the 3 years of officially being a Kutumb employee. The attachment is strong and continuous because of the amazing young people I worked with in Kutumb and the Kutumb Team. We are an enthusiastic, inspiring and honest bunch of people who shared the vision for a beautiful and just world (and apparently strongly believe in self-appreciation!). This poem was written sometime back but I am now re-dedicating it to this shared vision for a better world.



## STEREOTYPES by Tanya

Sometimes we meet people who are very different from us. We may find them strange and unfamiliar. Maybe we don't understand them or know why they are different from us. People also form certain attitudes and opinions about others who are not like them. There are stereotypes, like we also think villagers are dirty and ignorant etc. and see people in cities as money minded, lazy and successful. When our opinions about certain people are always negative- such as above-then these are prejudices and stereotypes. Let us learn more about this.

Prejudice means to judge other people negatively or see them as strangers. When we think that only one particular way is the best and way to do things we often don't respect others. For example, if we thought English is the best language and other languages are not important. We are judging these other language negatively. As a result, we might not respect people who speak languages other than English. We can be prejudiced about many things like people's faith, color of their skin, the region they come from, clothes etc. We don't want to make friends with them; then we may even hurt them.

Let us talk about stereotypes. Stereotype is when we fix people into an image. All of us are familiar with gender bias; what does it mean to be a boy or a girl? For example that boys don't cry. You will see that this is a quality that is generally associated with boys and men. As babies or children when boys fall and hurt himself, there parents and other family members tell them don't cry, you are a boy. Boys don't cry. They are brave as they grow up. They believe that boys don't cry so that when boys feel like crying they stop themselves he also believe crying is a sign of weakness. This is the way boys are treated. And let's see how girls are treated; girls are soft spoken. They are more smart than boys but they don't have full freedom like boys, and they are expected to behave accordingly. We fit all boys and all girls into an image that society creates around us.

My opinion is that stereotypes stop us from looking at each person as a unique individual with his or her own special qualities and skills that are different from others and we don't fit large number of people into one pattern or type because we don't have right to comment on others.



## THE ABANDONED SOUL

I stopped at the corner of that skyscraper,

To take a glance of an enlightened soul,

Its eyes were tingling like the shine of summer,

Standing at the edge of the chamber, erect like a pole

Its hands were like a raging ball of fire,

Contrary to it, its face seemed sinless,

His lips were wanting to enquire,

About the only person he calls the sole eyewitness.

I tried reaching up to him to know it all,

The last thing he saw was a fading shadow,

The imagination of the silhouette is still on the wall,

There goes his mother and he tries to follow.

He cries for wanting to go along with her,

Her refusal has left him with nothing but despair,

She said "your ears are just like your visions are blur,

We don't want you as people always stare."

The little mind was boggled with his mothers words,

Never he thought would be abandoned by that godly figure,

His life had taken a wrong turn and now it moves backwards,

He wished to me to get a gun and pull the trigger.

The ultimate happiness and togetherness was taken away,

Because in his world, he was named 'The Unwanted Soul',

He still could forgive the people who betray,

But no one was there for him to console

I understood the plight of that innocent boy,

Still a lot left to make him feel better,

To love him like a mother and give immense joy,

One day this soul will be the sole getter.

-Namita Shiv Kumar

## *STUDENTS SPEAK UP ABOUT KUTUMB*

- Karishma, Class VI says,  
"Main yahan 3 saal se hun,  
mujhe English mei bohot  
fayday hai, football mei bhi  
English seekhti hun.  
Theatre se kafi social issues  
ki jaankari milti hai."
- Sachin Kumar, Class IV says,  
"Main 6 mahiney se araha  
hun yahan. English mei kafi  
fark padha hai. Mai English  
Certificate Course ko  
achey se pura karna chahta  
hun.. Apne school ke baki  
bachon se kafi acha  
football khel leta hun."
- Sagar Dhal, Class V says, "I  
have been coming to  
Kutumb since 1 year, I like  
the activities and sessions  
here a lot. It has helped me  
improve my English. I speak  
in English sometimes with  
my sister and classmates."

## Human trafficking in India by Ashish Kumar

Human trafficking is the trade in human beings for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation, forced labour or slavery, organs trade etc.

Child trafficking is a very common source of human trafficking. Child trafficking is the trade in children as recruitment and transfer for sexual exploitation for commercial use. It can take many forms like forcing the child into prostitution or child pornography. It is done by fraud, threat, or force.

It is emerging and growing because of poverty and globalisation. According to the worldwide research the top 2<sup>nd</sup> largest growing crime is human trafficking. At the time of the British in India, human trafficking was legalized and licenses were issued for prostitution. The British recruited Indian girls as prostitutes and gave them licenses to work as prostitutes.

But I am not here to present the global story of prostitution. I want to express only about India and its states. Why it is growing here?

Trafficking between Indian states is rising due to increased mobility, rapid urbanization and growth in a number of industries that use forced labour, such as textiles, biscuit factories and floriculture.

Globally, every third person is Indian and hence India is a good source and destination for trafficking. There are countries, which are a good source of trafficking for India like Nepal and Bangladesh. Most of the victims are from here. The majority of victims are children. The number of women and girls from Russia, Kazakhstan and Afghanistan, subjected to sex trafficking in India, is increasing.

The Indian victims are found working in brick kilns, rice mills, agriculture and embroidery factories. 90% of victims are used to sexual exploitation in India. 20% of all domestic workers also complain about sexual abuse.

Increasing reports of women and girls from Odisha and northeastern states say that they are being sold or coerced into forced marriages and there are some states like Haryana and Punjab where some of them are forced into prostitution or labour by their families.

India has some ways of prosecuting trafficking. India has two penal codes as Sections 366(A) and 372. The Government of India made an act, ITPA (Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act) for sexual exploitation and also prohibits bonded labour through Bonded Labor Abolition Act, the Child Labor Act, and the Juvenile Justice Act.

There are some NGOs who are working on trafficking and child labour. They have rescued victims from all over India. Also, India's Central Bureau of Investigation incorporated anti-trafficking training, with help from the Interpol Trafficking and Organised Crime Division.

**Human trafficking is the second largest growing organised crime after weapons smuggling.**

## 'Scared to step out' by Champa Arya

I want to talk about girls. Girls are not safe anywhere. Whether they are in cities or villages, they are not even safe at home. They are not comfortable. They are afraid of travelling by bus since the Damini case on 16 December, 2012; that case shook us. Rapes and gang rapes had happened before but that case shook us because it taught us two things- even if you are walking with a male relative or friend it is no guarantee that you will be safe and you can't believe what you see. They saw passengers in that bus, but those were not passengers. We are afraid since then we cannot trust anyone. We are not safe in buses or anywhere.

Girls are afraid everywhere. I am also afraid to take unknown paths and I am even afraid to take the usual routes I used to walk before. If I have to speak to strangers I feel terrified. People stare at you all the time. Even girls as young as 5 years or old as 80 years are not safe. The government made many laws but there is no punishment. The innocent girls die every day because of this menace. When girls are born then parents are afraid. I think this is very big issue in our country. Trust is broken all the time, and we see everyone with suspicion. We cannot trust anybody, not even relatives, not even school bus drivers or conductors.

I will tell a true story to demonstrate this. My niece attends a private school and her bus driver used to give chips and chocolates to students. He did that to my niece's friend. My niece told her mother. My sister called her mother and talked about her. Her mother left private bus and joined school bus. After some time we found that the same driver gave chips, chocolate etc to some other girls and someone found out that he molested someone. The children met together and told their school teacher. She immediately called their parents. Everybody came and beat up the driver and called the police and he was arrested. This incident was reported on TV. Parents left the private bus and some children joined school bus and some parents decided to pick and drop their children. I think children did a very good job. We should also make groups and take immediate action against such people. Government should make strong laws and even stronger punishment.

## 'What is Child Abuse?' By Arun

What is child abuse? That is a big question. Do you know about child abuse? Let's find out together. Do you know India is home to more than 12.6 million children who are forced to work in order to survive? These children are working as domestic help, on streets, in factories and farmlands, silently suffering abuse. And there is sexual abuse. At a global level, child sexual abuse is at 19.7% for females and 7.9% for males. There are many types of- physical, sexual, emotional maltreatment or neglect of a child. India has the world's largest child population at 400 million. The presence of a large number of child laborers is regarded as serious issue in terms of economic welfare. Children who work fail to get necessary education. They do not get the opportunity to develop physically, intellectually, emotionally and psychologically. Children working in factory, hotel, shop, etc. is also child abuse.

I'm going to tell you about a kid who lives in Delhi, in Savda-Ghevra J.J. Resettlement Colony; his name is Rashid. Rashid is a boy and he has seven members in his family. When he was 12 years old he dropped out of school and he started working at a stationary shop. He has three sisters and two brothers now he is 20 year old he's still working at same shop; his life has been very rough. He never gives up. Rashid is not only one child who's suffering from child labor, there are million children who don't have home, food, education etc.

Have you seen any child abuse with kids?

That is a big question; we all are responsible for this. What is the solution of child abuse? There are many solutions, like we can give information to children how to save themselves from someone who might harm them. We can spread more awareness in children through workshops on child sexual abuse. If we can spread information and help children in our neighborhoods first, step by step, one day we can make our society free of child abuse.

## 'Child Abuse' by Anand

The biggest problem is that when a child gets sexually attacked, because of his or her innocence he or she does not understand the situation. But child knows something is wrong and feels helpless. He becomes so scared that he or she can not even shout for help. This attack might happen in his or her own house, when family might be in the next room. If he or she try to shout so he or she could be safe. But he or she can not try to shout because of the fear of the attacker. Forget about shouting the child does not even speak. But the attacker speaks sometimes. What does he say? It has been reported that in many cases the attacker threatens the child in many ways. For example he tells the child that if he tells any one so he will – "kill his parents or kill him or her, or the child's siblings", he might even tell the child that no one will believe him or her. Some times the attackers continue doing this to the child. And the child can not tell any one because he feels very traumatic .

There is a lot of people predator of child labour, abuse etc. but it seems to me nobody is taking it seriously. Like, according to the constitution everybody has the right to education. While doing child labour innocent lost children loose their childhoods. Parents make excuses that because of poverty the children must work to make money for the family. But they don't know if they send their children to a government school so they can get good education and live good life and they can do any job. If we want to end child labour we should raise awareness among the people and also take proper action against child labour. You can see child labour everywhere, like restaurant, hotels, shops etc. Lots of children work there. And children face abuse at the hands of others, and sometimes that abuse is sexual. These predators do not have any heart.

# माँ की समता



माँ का सातलव होता है अज्ञानता माँ  
अपने बच्चों को बहुत प्यार करती है  
और उन्हें पाल-पोषण करवा करती है,  
और उनकी शांति कर देती है।

लेकिन  
बच्चों का सपना होता है कि बच्चे  
माँ की सौद में खेलें और माँ का  
आँसु पण्ड-कर माँ के साथ रहें-  
और माँ उन्हें तरह-तरह की परियों  
की कहानियाँ सुनाए!!

यह है "माँ की समता"

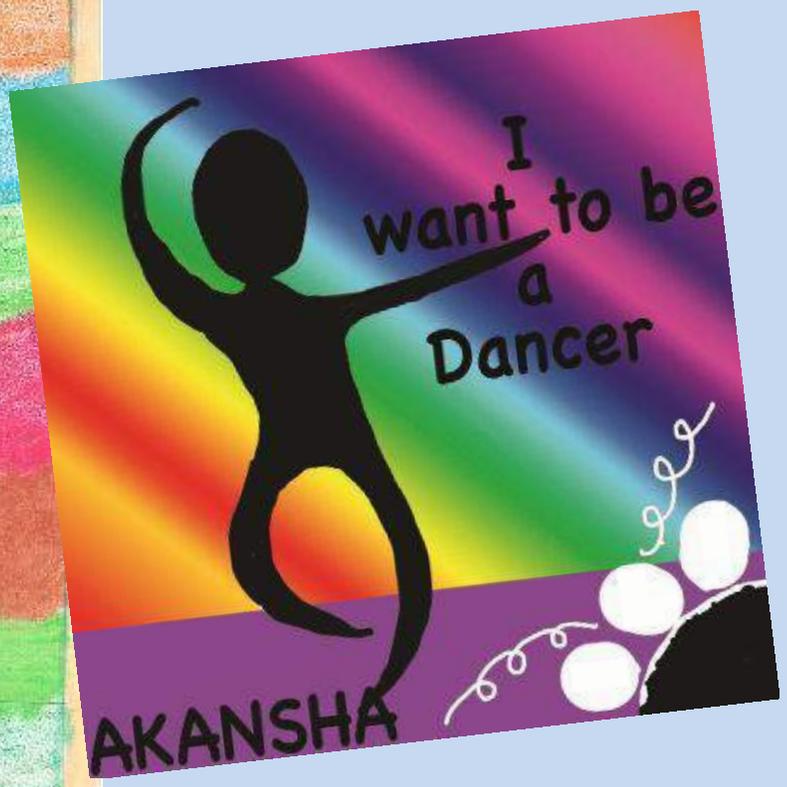
Thank You

(From) Tanu and Khushbu

Save  
the  
Education



Name -> Ankit singh  
class -> 7th  
School -> ...



## एक WASH बच्चों की...

मेरा नाम अकांक्षा है। मैं अभी स्कूल में पढ़ती हूँ। जब मैं अपने पहले स्कूल में पढ़ती थी, तो मुझे वहाँ पर पढ़ना बहुत अच्छा लगता था क्योंकि वहाँ पर टीचर्स बच्चों के साथ बहुत धुल-मिल कर रहती थी और बच्चों के साथ खड़ी बर्हव नहीं करती थी और मुझे ही नहीं वहाँ के सभी बच्चों को वहाँ पढ़ना अच्छा लगता था। पर इस स्कूल में यहाँ की टीचर्स बच्चों के साथ खड़ी बर्हव करती हैं। मतलब अगर यहाँ किसी बच्चे से अगर कोई गलती हो जाए तो ये नहीं की बच्चों को समझाए बल्कि मैं सुनते ही की बच्चे को गलती करी है तो उसी समय उसे मारना शुरू कर देती हैं। बिल्कुल इसका उल्टा मैं पहले वाले स्कूल में था। वहाँ अगर किसी बच्चे से गलती हो भी जाए तो उसे मारने की जगह उसे पहले समझाते हैं। अगर वो बच्चा पहली बार नहीं सुनता तो दूसरी तीसरी बार तो सुन ही लेता है, पर मैं अभी के स्कूल की टीचर्स तो बच्चों को इतना मारती हैं की बच्चा डीट हो जाता है। फिर उसको लगता है की अगर मैं गलती करूँगा तो क्या होगा ज्यादा से ज्यादा तीन-चार थपड़ ही तो खायेगी।

मैं बस चाहती हूँ की हमारा स्कूल हमारे दूसरे घर जैसा हो, जहाँ हमें मम्मी की तरह टीचर्स प्यार करे और प्यार से समझाए।

Thank you (Akansha)



Study..



# Priya Mandal

My name is Priya. I have been coming to Kutumb since 2001. I learnt a lot of things in Kutumb like theatre, music, dance, football, art&craft, candle making etc. These things have added a lot of values in my life. With the help and support of The Kutumb Foundation, I applied for a one year scholarship program provided by The U.S Government in 2012 and I got selected too! In U.S I had a wonderful experience. I was studying photography over there. Now after coming back from U.S I am working in The Kutumb Foundation as a photographer and documenting their events & evening programs at Indradhanush. Along with this I am working as a freelance photographer and have started an event management company



Dance..



F. tball



## The Mirror Theater Group



Photo Exhibition...





the kutumb  
foundation

*-Special thanks to all our contributors this issue: Ashish, Arun, Champa, Sara, Nandini, Namita, Atul, Divyanshu, Vikas, Anand, Tanya, Tanu, Kushbu, Riya, Akansha and Ankit. Thanks to Priya Mandal for her special contribution and design efforts!*

---

*The Kutumb Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation registered under Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860, Registration No. S/15761 of 2003. The Kutumb Foundation is registered under the Foreign Contribution (Donation) Act of 2010 under section 11 (1) of the Act, Registration No. 231661341(Cultural, Economic, Educational, Social). All Cheque/DDs to be made in favour of 'The Kutumb Foundation'. Donations to 'The Kutumb Foundation' receive tax exemption under Sector 80G (5) (VI) of Income Tax Act, 1961.*

For Donations to Kutumb please find our Bank details below:

Bank Name: Axis Bank

Bank Branch: Khan Market Branch

Account Name: The Kutumb Foundation

Account Number: 120010200000851

Account Type: Current Account

You can also donate online, through Kutumb's website!

---

#### ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

Kapil Pandey-President; email: [kapil@kutumb.in](mailto:kapil@kutumb.in) & Phone No: +91 98107 57852

Manjima Chatterjee-General Secretary; email: [manjima@kutumb.in](mailto:manjima@kutumb.in) & Phone No: +91 98107 38157

Austin Mobley-Programme Coordinator; email: [austin@kutumb.in](mailto:austin@kutumb.in) & Phone No: +91 97186 44676

Sara Hasan-Programme Coordinator; email: [sara@kutumb.in](mailto:sara@kutumb.in)

or visit our website (<http://kutumb.in>) or our Facebook page

([www.facebook.com/kutumbfoundation](http://www.facebook.com/kutumbfoundation))