

Meri Kahani – Meri Zubani

HARISH*

“My name is Harish, I was born at Bareilly, U.P”. When I was 3 years old, my father married another woman and deserted my mother. My mother passed away in 2 years. I got disturbed because of the incident and went to Haridwar. I made friends there, they taught me to find coins from the river Ganga. Police and priests harass children. They even sexually exploit children like us.

Children are faced with various problems on the street. Securing proper food while living on the street is a problem and sometimes they have to sleep on an empty stomach. We are not able to work because police catch children who are picking rags, working at tea stalls or hotels, even sweeping in trains is also not allowed by them. As a result we are left without money and therefore can not buy food from outside. Our health also deteriorates and in the absence of proper medication and food we are faced with severe health problems. On the street due to bad company children get addicted to drugs.

Fortunately, when I came to Delhi and heard about Aashray Adhikar Abhiyan. I joined their computer classes and also learned Corel Draw, M.S-Office, Excel etc. It was my dream to go to school and Aashray made it possible by becoming my legal guardian and admitting me in formal education.

I have an appeal from society not to look at us as someone down because we do not get good clothes while surviving on the street. We do not even have bathing soaps. Hence do not hate us but love us and support us so that we can also progress in our life.