Formal education

I am Kumar from the L.R.Nager slum area. My father left the family and went away. My mother is a domestic worker. I have two sisters, one older and younger. They are studying in a hostel. I grew up in poor circumstances where I couldn’t find anything to enhance my life except in joining rag picking work. I did this work for a year. I had many friends who urged me to use all the wages I got for drink and drugs. The days were passed meaninglessly. Whatever I earned I spent for my friends in ignorance. Later I came to know the value of money. During this period of time, I could earn money but I couldn’t stop using drugs and smoking pipes, I became addicted to that. One day, I met one of the REDS staff, Mrs. Shasikala, and then, I joined the REDS-STC. I was asked to choose a unit to learn some skills. I expressed my wish to the director of REDS that I would like to go to school when I joined. I studied hard and also changed my personality. Through the help and the encourage of the staff and the Brothers I completed my eighth standard. Now I am very happy here and having such good friends and the Brothers who are looking after me like my parents. I am very grateful to God for giving this REDS-STC.

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I am Naveen Kumar from L.R.Nager koramangala Bangalore. I have my parents. My father is auto- driver and my mother does the domestic work. I have my siblings’ one younger sister and one younger brother. My sister is studying 3rdstandard and my brother is not studying, he is at home. My father has two wives, therefore, he did not take care of us well. I am the eldest son in my family and I was left in the street where I was doing rag picking work for few months. In this time of bitterness I met one of the REDS Staff Mrs. Rani. Through her, I joined here. I was very happy here because I had good friends. The staff and the Brothers took care of me very well. I expressed my desire to study so they sent me to school then I completed my studies up to 8th standard. Now I am working in a private company and getting sufficient salary to live and to help my siblings. I thank God for bringing me here and showing me great love and care through the people with whom I live. God has given me this good future, Thanks to the Brothers and the REDS Staff.

**Plumbing unit**

My name is sathish from L.R.Nager slum area. My father is working as a laborer in Building contract. My mother is a domestic worker. I have one younger brother and sister. I am the eldest son in my family. I have studied up to eighth standard. Then I am stopped going to school because of my brother. My younger brother is Very wicked and notorious. Whatever my mother earns and keeps for family expense, he loots and spends the money uselessly and places the blame on me as if I have stolen the money. It happened on many occasions. Therefore, my parents decided to put him in a hostel but he wasn’t willing to go. Many days passed by, then one day my father met one of the REDS Staff Mrs. Shasikala, and explained to her about my brother. They brought him to Deepahalli. My brother was not willing to stay here because he needed someone to be with him and to help him. Therefore, I also joined here. In the beginning, I did not like to be here but then I was loved by all. I decided to stay here and I joined in learning tailoring. After few months I changed my unit and joined plumbing. I have now completed my training. Now I am learning an electrical course. I have been here almost for two years. I have been looked after vey well and also, I have learned many skills which can improve my knowledge and studies. I love REDS—STC and their works. Thank you all for giving this new life.

My name is Dillip Kumar from Mysore Road. My father is a bus- driver and my mother is working in a beauty parlor. I have my younger brother who is studying in 8th standard. I studied up to 8th standard, and then I dropped out because of my lack of interest in studies. I was forced to continue my studies and I was admitted to a hostel. I hated studying and ran away from the school. My parents got tired of forcing me to study. I spent a few months rooming with my friends and became involved in bad habits. Some times, I won’t go home I would just stay in the street corners. Many months were passed then I was asked to join REDS-STC by my uncle’ son who studied here and was working in a company. Through him, I joined here and continued my life. In the beginning I found it difficult to stay here and ran away many times. When I came back here, I begun learn some skills. Now, I have completed the plumbing course. I am very to go to my village, because the people respect me very well. The people who once called me rowdy and a thief now are astound to see me and that I am studying and have learned how to behave and respect others. Whenever I go to my house, many people ask me to take their sons to REDS. My parent is also very happy to see me. Now I am learning an electrical work in REDS. I hope next year I will get a good job and help my parents and my brother. I am very grateful to God for giving this wonderful life through REDS-STC.