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**About Us**

LIGHT is a not-for-profit organization which is dedicated to provide a safe and secure environment for orphan, poor, abandoned, neglected and underprivileged children of India. Since 2006 we have been actively involved in the holistic development of children and the community.

Our main focus is on Dalit (Untouchable) children and communities as they are the underprivileged and poorest in Indian society.

The word “Dalit” means “broken, downtrodden, or oppressed”. Dalits are people born into families in the lowest rung of India’s rigid social system. 250 million Dalit men, women and children face normalized prejudice, abuse and oppression everyday.

Though laws in India give everyone equal status, Dalits still endure segregation and are considered ‘Untouchables’ due to ingrained cultural standards. The label of being Dalit determines the jobs they are allowed to perform, such as handling dead bodies, animals, street sweeping, or removing human waste. It keeps them as the lowest in society, and in the cycle of poverty. The Dalits are constantly robbed of their dignity in the name of ‘tradition’.

**Our Mission**

We are committed to helping India’s Dalits overcome oppression, realize their human worth and dignity and gain self-reliance. Our mission is to bring hope and to empower the Dalit people by providing access to quality education, healthcare and vocational training. We believe everyone should have a chance at a bright future.

We give every Dalit child the chance to develop their full potential by realizing their human worth, social equality and dignity. We train Dalit children and women, enabling them to escape poverty and build a brighter future for their family.

We strive to change attitudes around this practice and to give the Dalit people what every human being deserves: to live free of discrimination, economically, socially and spiritually.

We work among various communities and do not discriminate on the basis of caste, ethnicity, nationality, or religious identity.

**LIGHT Home**

In 2003 a dream was planted in our Founder Brother Elisha’s heart to start a Home to look after orphan, poor and needy children.

After nearly four years, it came into reality. On 1st August 2006, he started a Home called LIGHT Home with a neglected boy in his parent’s two room house. They lived in one room in one room and children in another room. That humble beginning was the inception for greater works. Currently we have 55 children in our care. We provide food, shelter, clothing, education and medical supplies to children.

We try to create a community of children who feel loved, nurtured and safe. They need our love and care. Over the years we have helped children to have a hope and better future.

Ten years ago, an elderly woman (who was in her seventies) brought a four years old little girl to us. She lost both parents. Girl was pale, shy, looking so innocent and had no life on her face. She had only one long gown which was torn out. She probably didn’t where she was and why her grandmother brought her to us.

We have invited the little girl into our LIGHT Family. Manasa has received love, care, support, education and hope for the future. Now she is studying Intermediate (Year 11).

Her dream is to become teacher. She is studying well and confident of her dream to come into reality.

We have lot of children whose lives have been changed through our committed work.

**LIGHT UP School**

***“Ours is a battle not for wealth or for power. It is a battle for freedom. It is a battle for the reclamation of the human personality-* Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Indian Dalit Hero and Father of Indian constitution.”**

India is the biggest democratic country in the world with more than 1.2 billion people. India gained Independence over 70 years ago. Many things have changed in India since its Independence but not Dalit’s and poor people lives.

***“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world,”* Nelson Mandela.**

Poor people’s lives will not be changed unless they are educated. A quality English medium education will change their lives forever.

Dalits and poor want their children to be educated in English-language schools, recognizing that the greatest opportunities in Indian society and around the world are offered to those Indians that have been educated in English. But due to poverty, they are not able to send their children to high paid expensive schools where they learn English. In most cases there are no quality English medium schools in the rural areas for rural poor children. So there is no opportunity for poor children to be educated in English medium schools.

Children are the future of a nation. For an emerging and developing country like India, development of Dalit underprivileged and poor children holds the key to the progress of the nation itself.

To address the need, in 2012 June we have established an English Medium School called **LIGHT English Medium High School. We have 187 children in the school.** We are hoping to build children ready to face tomorrow’s challenges, while being proud citizens involved in the county’s decision making. We want to see children participating in the development of this country and world if possible. Our school is open for all irrespective of caste, creed or religion.

### Women Empowerment through Tailoring Centers

Women have always been marginalized and downgraded to the status of subjugated class in the Indian society. Women have not actively participated in their emancipation due to their lack of economic independence and illiteracy. There is a need to address the issue by raising the status of women. Keeping this issue in mind, LIGHT Family has started running training programs for the empowerment of women.

The main objective of this tailoring training program is to enhance the quality of life of women and teenage girls through enhancement of their skills and knowledge. Due to poverty, these teenage girls drop out of high school to get married and work as temporary farm workers, sweepers and manual scavengers. They needed to learn newer vocational skills such as tailoring (sewing) which can help them earn more income and become economically self-sufficient and independent. This will alleviate poverty, help them support their family needs without being dependent of husband and parents. In order to help them, LIGHT started free tailoring (sewing) training centers in various locations.

In these training canters, tailoring skills are taught. Students are trained by a qualified professional tailoring teacher. These tailoring classes enable women/girls in rural village to earn on their own, making them self-confident and self-dependent. After successful completion of 6 months training, women are given sewing machine to take home with. Women start their own tailoring shops and make money. So far we have trained 460 women and all of them sewing machines and doing their own little business.

Your help towards empowering poor women will be life changing opportunity for a better future.

### Feeding the Poor Widows & Elderly

Old age in India is a big problem. There are 81 million old people in India. Nearly 40% of senior citizens living with their families are reportedly facing abuse of one kind or another, with only one in six cases actually reported. According to government officers the incidences of elderly couples being forced to sell their houses are very high. Some elderly men have also complained that in case of a property dispute, they feel more helpless when their wives side with their children. Many of them suffer in silence as they fear humiliation if they speak up. A phenomenon called ‘grand dumping’ is becoming common in urban areas these days as children are being increasingly intolerant of their parents’ health problems. After a certain age health problems leading to losing control over one’s body; not recognizing one’s own family owing to Alzheimers, are common. It is then their children begin to see their parents as a burden and may throw them out of their homes. Some put their old parents or grandparents in old-age homes and forget about them. So God put these dying old people on our heart to look after them and feed them.

In February 2009 we have started feeding widows and elderly people. Daily we are feeding two hot meals a day – lunch and dinner.

### Find Us

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### Get In Touch

Top of Form



Bottom of Form

Together, we can build a world where everyone has the safety they deserve. Join us.

World Change Starts with Educated Children

“Education is the most powerful weapon which we can use to change the world,” Nelson Mandela

**Empowering the Poorest of the Poor to become Self-Sustainable and Live with Human Dignity**

**Help us support hundreds more children from their first day of school to their first day of work.**

# Shanti Bhavan empowers children from India’s lowest socioeconomic class to ****break the cycle of generational poverty**** through education, leadership, and compassion.

**Journey from Poverty to Possibility**

## Education transforms lives.  Sponsor a Dalit child today.

## Help Dalit children and their families build a brighter future today!