

## Story of Dolly

Pinki Chowdhury stays in a remote village far away and far south of Lakshmikantapur. She gave birth to one child when she was 15 years old. Every day her husband used to come home completely drunk and beat her, and often she had to stay without food. One day she was driven out of their house with her child, and she took shelter in a neighbour's house. Staying nearly four days without food, she came to town in search of a job / work. She took a small hut in a slum and worked as a maid servant in the area and somehow managed her family with occasional starvation. Then a man came to her and told that he shall get her a good job and brought her to the red light area and sold her there. Then after working in different red light areas, she ultimately came to Baruipur red light area.

After a few months of arriving at Baruipur, she gave birth to her second child. Then only NISHTHA had just again started working the Night Shelter with support from **Asha for Education**. As the eldest daughter was growing up fast, in order to provide safety, Pinki sent her two daughters to the Night Shelter. NISHTHA agreed to take care of all her children but laid a condition that Pinki will not send her daughters to any other place under any circumstances. Because sending daughters to some other place in the name of job/marriage and forcing them in the same profession is very common in the red light area. Without any hesitation, Pinki had agreed to the condition immediately. Still today, they are here in Night Shelter.

Dolly, the eldest daughter of Pinki is very sweet and has a very charming face. She is studying in a very reputed and renowned school of Baruipur where girls form well to do family study. Now she is thirteen years old and studying in Class VI. As she is pretty and sweet, the environment and the surroundings are much more dangerous for her. Thus, to provide protection to her from the eyes of the devils is even more tough and hard.

Her mother has a dream and aspiration that Dolly will become educated one day, she will stand on her own feet and become self-dependant and keep herself away from the life of her mother. This dream and aspiration of Pinki is encouraging NISHTHA and giving confidence in its endeavour. Dolly's home is the Night Shelter; she does everything here and goes to see her mother on her way to school. On her back from school she goes to her mother again and returns back to the Night Shelter. From here she goes to a tutor who has been arranged to help her in a few subjects and helps to her next days study. From there comes back to the Night Shelter. Her younger sister stays and studies in the Night Shelter.

Dolly is very intelligent, attentive and joyful. She is very happy and not anxious about anything as she has a very secured home, her own home, night shelter. She is also nourishing a dream similar to her mother to become self reliant one day. She is not only soft spoken, she possesses a charming personality and polite while behaving with others. This character is absolutely uncommon in this area, because generally the children of the red light areas are very rude in behaviour and uses slang languages and use abusive words. Her attitude and behaviour is developing and getting polished as she is growing up. NISHTHA has experiences of having a number of complaints from the school authorities regarding other students admitted there, but for few years the school raised even a single complaint against her.

Had there been no Night Shelter, where would have Dolly gone, who would have provided her security, who would have taught her the alphabets and slowly brought her up as own child and got her admitted in a mainstream High School, who would have taught her proper manner and etiquette and helped to grow her hygiene habits, who would have given her to nourish a dream, which is a right of every child.

It is the Night Shelter that is bringing up many Dollys from darkness of hell to the enlightenment for the first time in Baruipur red light area.