

## STORIES OF SUCCESS FROM THE FIELD....

Dharma Singh is 14 years old and an elementary school drop-out. He had started school in the first standard (9 years old, beginning 1st grade) in a local government primary school near Alwar, Rajasthan, in north India. He took to smoking and chewing tobacco, ditched classes, and despite his parents' objections, eventually quit going to school entirely. He quickly became involved with drinking and taking drugs. His family considered him a lost cause until one of the teachers at Adviata Garden School, run by the Nirvanavan Foundation, noticed him during a community outreach visit. The teacher coaxed him to see Adviata Garden. This school uses an innovative teaching approach that engages the children with a mix of educational games and hands-on learning techniques. Dharma became interested. He now comes to school regularly and has given up his bad habits. He takes part in school activities, is learning, and is loved by his teachers. His parents are proud of him. Best of all, Dharma now has a future. He wants to become a teacher!

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Smaraami Foundation, a local charitable organization in south India, runs a state-of-the-art medical diagnostic lab in Niloufer Government Hospital in the city of Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh. Niloufer Hospital serves the medical needs of local women and children. The Smaraami Foundation lab provides free diagnostic tests to patients 24 hours a day, every day of the year, to demonstrate the importance of these facilities to the state's hospital administrators .

Ten year old Samreen Begum is an active child and at the top of her class in school. Her father, Syed Hazi, sells vegetables to support a family of six. In November, Samreen fell ill and was taken to a local hospital. When she didn't improve after several days, the hospital staff recommended that she be transferred to Niloufer Government Hospital. By then, her father's meager savings had been spent and he feared he wouldn't have the means to save his child. At Niloufer Hospital, the doctors drew blood samples and told Syed to get diagnostic tests done outside the hospital because the hospital's lab was closed. The relatives who had travelled there with Syed told him that the private diagnostic centers around Niloufer were too expensive. Fortunately, he shared his concerns with a duty doctor. She laughed and told him that the lab in the hospital operated by Smaraami Foundation was always open and would not charge him anything. He went there immediately, had the lab work done, and Samreen's treatment was begun. Shortly after, she was on the mend and met the manager of Smaraami . She told him: "I'm fine now. I want to go back to school with my sister."