



Raju goes back to his family

In Tamil Nadu's Trichy district, the local social worker found a little boy called Raju peddling handkerchiefs with his mother in the street market. Upon inquiry, she learned that Raju's father had left for work in Gujarat — and never returned. The mother and child faced utter poverty, forcing them to become street peddlers to earn a basic living. Raju was not in school either. All this prompted the local Child Welfare Committee to pass an order for the child to be admitted to a Child Care Institution (CCI) nearby.

Once at the CCI, the social workers quickly identified Raju as someone who could be successfully reintegrated with his family. The team first identified Raju's predominant needs, concerns, and areas of strength. The assessment found that Raju shared a loving bond with his mother and wanted to return home. He needed emotional and psychological support, nutritional food, and a way to return to school.

Based on the assessment, the team at the CCI — ably supported by Miracle Foundation — started planning Raju's return to his family. In keeping with the needs identified for the child and his family across five well-being domains as per Miracle Foundation's Thrive Scale™, we provided some critical help: a support package, education support, and a tablet for Raju. Additionally, we gave them a small grant to buy a wheelbarrow to help them earn a living. Miracle Foundation paid their house rent for six months to help the family settle in. Both mother and child were found to have low Haemoglobin — a common symptom of nutritional deficiency — so they were given a nutrition support package as well. Most importantly, Raju was re-enrolled in school!

From the Thrive Scale™ scores, we can make out that the family shares a strong bond; this also remained constant throughout subsequent assessments. On seeing the support they were getting, Raju's elder brother stepped in to help with a monthly stipend.

The team continues to follow up regularly with Raju and his family. Such follow-ups will continue till the child is settled at home and there is no chance of separation in the future.

Today, Raju is thrilled to be home. He is studying and also helps his mother around the house. After schooling, he wants to grow up to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. This dream seemed impossible just a few years back: but it is now within reach — with some help. Raju's mother, too, is happy and relieved to have Raju home. With the support she is getting through the CCI and Miracle Foundation India, there is finally some hope to look forward to.

(The photograph used is for representational purposes only. The name of the child is changed to protect his privacy per Miracle Foundation India's Child Protection Policy)



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