



▲ **ANISHA** (“from darkness to light”) works with the neglected children and women living in the slums of Bangalore City. A group of young advocates came together, pooled their resources and initiated work with these people in early 1998, formally registering as a Trust called 'ANISHA'.

Bangalore is known as the “Indian Silicon Valley” but it houses a large population of the poor. They do not have the means to purchase adequate and nutritious food. This group includes women-headed households and elderly persons. Since there is no food at home, the children pick up food from the city garbage.

PROGRAMS

The key programs of ANISHA are:

- To empower neglected women and improve their socio-economic status
- To provide pre-primary education for children
- To provide alternative non-formal education to working children
- To promote the effective implementation and enforcement of government regulations and plans that affect the lives of poor people through community development and education
- To develop a library and communications center to provide free access to knowledge and information
- To provide free legal services.

CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS

Child labor is a major issue in India. In Karnataka State more than 3.5 million children are working full-time. These children are losing their childhood and their physical and psychological development is stunted.

ANISHA strives to reduce child labor among the poorest families. Pre-primary classes and educational tours for children aged three through six years are provided so they are prepared to enter public school. Since there is high incidence of malnutrition among the children, there is a nutritious meal plan.

For the children’s healthy development, ANISHA provides medical screenings and services, organizes child health awareness programs and gives emotional and mental counseling.

ANISHA has started a weekly savings plan, providing a matching grant to the amount saved by the children. This money is used for their educational expenses.

WOMEN’S PROGRAMS

ANISHA’s main constituency is women-headed households. Women are dependent on unskilled labor particularly packing for retail shops, cleaning and rag picking. Their jobs are irregular and this forces them to take loans from private financiers to meet their family expenses. In order to reduce the loan burden, a savings and credit program is organized for women, along with support to become small entrepreneurs. There is also a plan to build a co-operative business for women.

ANISHA networks with other organizations to help women suffering from HIV/AIDS and those that experience domestic violence.

ACTIVITIES FOR THE COMMUNITY

ANISHA supports communities to form local associations to provide basic facilities and provides legal education about human rights and rights to shelter and land.

People who sympathize with the living conditions of neglected children and women in distress are asked to come forward to support ANISHA in empowering these people. [SD](#)

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