



### **DR. PRAVEEN NAIR**

#### **Recipient of the Award for Development and Welfare of Women and Children - 2017**

Born: September 27, 1931

Dr. Praveen Nair is a Founder Trustee of Salaam Baalak Trust (SBT). Didi as she is lovingly called in her Organisation, since childhood has been passionate about doing well for the less privileged children. Her involvement in the development sector spans six decades, during which she spent a considerable amount of time in Orissa, and headed various development related committees for Red Cross, DAV Public School and Deaf and Dumb Association, thus reaching thousands of children and families.

Her daughter, Mira Nair's film Salaam Bombay brought forth the harsh life of children living on the streets and motivated Dr. Praveen Nair to bring a difference to the lives of children living on the streets. Dr. Praveen Nair and Sanjoy Roy established the Trust with three staff and 25 children in 1988 in a small space provided by Ground Reserve Police (GRP) in New Delhi railway station.

Today, SBT runs 6 shelter homes. When SBT is unable to integrate the children with their family, children are provided safe shelter in its residential centre. There are six such residential centres viz. Aasra, Apna Ghar, Old Delhi Railway Station Open Shelter and DMRC Children's Home (for boys); Arushi and Rose Home (for girls). The children are provided shelter and care, healthy and happy environment, nutritious food, clothes, education, healthcare, counseling, recreational facilities, etc. The children go to formal schools and also receive education. SBT regularly conducts health checkups and camps for its children. Sports activities, educational tours and cultural events attribute to the holistic development of the children.

**Contact Points:** SBT contact points are like day care centres which are located near railway stations, bus stops, market areas and in the slums. Presently there are 21 contact points. It reaches and protects over 5,000 children annually wherein several team members who work at these points are former SBT children / beneficiaries. Children rest and refresh themselves and those who visit, they are trained in literacy and vocations viz. computer training, dance workshops, life skills education, language / communication skills etc.

City Walk Program was introduced to sensitize the general public on the life of the street children. The young beneficiaries of SBT enjoy being the Tour Guides, who share their journey of life and sensitize people about street life. This Walk has been cited as one of the ten things to do in Delhi by the Lonely Planet.

**Other Activities:** Praveen Nair's strongly believed that education linked with life skills and livelihoods is the answer for transforming the lives of street children. Hence vocational training is a critical link of SBT to mainstream their children. It imparts vocational training for employable skill development and capacity building of growing children. Some of the popular choices have been multi-media animation, film editing, theatre, music, dance, photography, graphic designing, etc. SBT has job placement and rehabilitation program for reintegration of the youth into mainstream.

In 2003, Mental Health Development Programme was initiated to address to the psychological needs of street children. SBT effectively runs the 1098-Child Helpline in New Delhi district Central Delhi district and Old Delhi Rly Station. Due to her compassionate nature and passion for child welfare, Dr. Praveen Nair is closely bonded to these children.

**Impact:** Children benefited through SBT's program in 29 years (from 1988 to 2017)

Total beneficiaries: 81,791 children

Shelter provided: 21,323 children

Children in literacy program: 50,841 children

Children going to school: 10,630 children

Restored back to families: 15,492 children

Admitted to Vocational training: 3,505 children

Job placement: 1,047 children

SBT has a team of 200 young, energetic people, including volunteers and consultants who are mentored by Praveen Nair's passionate advocacy of street and working children's rights in various policy and legislative forums of Delhi. Her extensive involvement in SBT's operation has helped in formulation of child-centric policies and programmes.

Dr. Praveen Nair's resolve and continued commitment over the years has helped the Trust grow and expand to cater to a large number of street children. She has led the organization by example and her zeal and dedication to work for children motivates one and all at the Trust.

#### **Awards & Association:**

Honorary Doctorate by Common Queensland University

- 2002: Making a Difference Award from Children's Hope, New York
- 2003: Delhi State Award
- 2004: Chirayushya Samman by the National Institute of Social Defense
- 2004: Anugraha by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- 2006: UNAIDS Civil Society Award for national fight against HIV/AIDS
- 2010: Kiran Life Time Award co-organised by Women International network, Indira Nirman Kendra and Yog Confederation of India
- 2012: National Award by Hon'ble President of India for contribution in the field of child welfare
- 2014: International Spotlight Award from US President's Committee on the Arts and Humanity to SBT, the only non-American NGO to receive it.

#### **Contact Details:**

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