



The Awake Mercy Home was founded in 2002 to provide family-style care and support for a small number of children in need. The home now houses 63 children and is run by a husband and wife team (Krishnamoorthi and Elsie), with the support of a local committee of trustees. HAPSI has supplied funds to this registered Indian charity since 2008.

Registered UK Charity No. 1122876

Newsletter Summer 2017



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## Climate Change and Sustainability

In Britain there seems to be much uncertainty about our future, and not just with regard to the impending Brexit. As I write this during the beginning of negotiations, half-truths and blatant untruths about the prospects of UK after the split from Europe, I am aware that for those children who we support there have so far been no such issues in their lives. The future that they foresee for themselves is probably the same as that their parents had at their age - a life of manual agricultural labour is all that they understand and day-to-day existence is the norm. With your help HAPSI is slowly helping to change the horizons of these children and giving them alternatives through education and the stable and loving home of Awake. They are beginning to see they have the possibility of control over their lives and can perhaps consider the wider issues of sustainability and climate change.

Barack Obama recently told the Seeds and Chips Global Food Innovation Summit that

*If people feel that they don't have control over their lives, or that their children don't have a good future, then they will resist efforts to deal with climate change because right now they're concerned about feeding their child. It's a luxury to worry about climate change; you have to have enough to eat before you start worrying about what's going to happen to the planet 30 years from now. If we do not pay attention to increasing inequality - and the fact that technology and globalisation are accelerating - there will be a backlash.*



*Technology is making many sectors of the economy far more capital intensive and far less labour intensive. We saw it in manufacturing, but it is now moving through large portions of the service and managerial sectors as well. This is going to be a major problem in the advanced world, and over the long term, in the developing world as well. It's one of the things I worry about most, because work does not just provide income - it also provides people with a sense of dignity and status in society.*



These photographs were taken before the tribal village was moved down to the plains and six children were brought into Awake

The ability to choose how they will make a living is the most valuable gift that Awake gives the children in its care. Continuous education which is not prematurely ended gives them the confidence to speak up for themselves and fight for their rights. As Obama says

*We have an expression in the US. "The squeaky wheel gets the oil." It's certainly true that politicians and governments respond to people making noise and making demands, and sometimes, if certain groups have not been heard before, they have to get the attention of those in power.*

With your continued support there will be more children able to speak up for themselves and make a difference to the inequality that exists to severely limit their career prospects and their ambitions.

### ***Akhilkumar***

Akhilkumar came to Awake when he was studying in the 3rd Standard. He lost his mother when he was very young after which his father remarried and has children with his second wife. His father has never given any financial support to Akhil and his two sisters, and left it to Akhil's grandmother to care for the three children. After living in Awake for eleven years he has now successfully completed his polytechnic engineering course.



Akhilkumar was very mischievous in his younger days. It was a great challenge to look after him in the Awake home as he was never interested in his studies or even appearance...so we had to counsel him often. Since he became very affectionate to us he slowly started to follow our teaching and guidance step by step. His behaviour at school caused many complaints and we had to share his family situation with his school teachers to explain the cause of his many behavioural issues. They understood his problems and gave him more attention. We were very happy when he passed in all subjects in the 10th Standard and also in his 12<sup>th</sup> Standard at the first attempt. We felt able to send him to enrol in a polytechnic course, expecting a good result.

Now he is working for an engineering company in Coimbatore and earning a good salary. His whole family is extremely pleased about his success and they also feel very thankful to Awake. Akhil visits us whenever he gets leave and is also very keen to celebrate festivals here with us. He counsels the children at Awake to use their opportunities in a good and meaningful way as he has done. Everyone in Awake feels very happy for him and we all wish to thank all the friends of the HAPSI Trust of UK for their financial and moral support.

Krishnamoorthi



## **Senthilkumar**

Senthilkumar is a student in the 10<sup>th</sup> Standard. He has lived with the Awake family for ten years from the 1<sup>st</sup> Standard onwards. He lost his mother when he was very young and he has one younger sister who is also doing her studies in another children's home near to Dindigul. Senthilkumar used to suffer from a seizure disorder and had several fits in his younger days. He had regular medical treatment for six years and now he is totally cured. His grandmother looks after Senthilkumar and his sister at her home but she is now too old to take good care of the children. His father married again and has no love, care or concern for Senthilkumar and his sister.



Senthilkumar was of a very average standard in his studies but he has tried hard to improve his performance. He is very interested in helping others and is a talented entertainer. He always volunteers to help in any way he can. He is going to write his 10<sup>th</sup> Standard public examination this year, which is very important for his future studies and job prospects. He would like to follow a technical course after his higher secondary schooling.

## Vignesh

Vignesh is a boy in the 12<sup>th</sup> Standard studying in a Government school near the Awake Mercy Home. He has lived in Awake for the past seven years since he was in the 7<sup>th</sup> Standard. He comes from a broken family; his father and mother separated and remarried other partners – they have no concern for Vignesh.

Vignesh was highly affected by this family situation. He was often hysterical in those days. He had no self-confidence and often used to cry without any apparent cause. His academic performance was also very average but he worked hard and began to develop some self-confidence. After continued guidance and counselling in Awake he now concentrates well in his studies. He spends more time in reading and has improved his general knowledge. As a result of this he scored a high total mark in his 10<sup>th</sup> Standard examination of 418/500. Now he has begun his studies to perform even better at 12<sup>th</sup> Standard.



He is also very interested in volunteering to help in any way, looking after the younger boys and also assisting in some office work. He is fully dependent on Awake Mercy Home for his financial support because of his family situation, and he hopes to study at degree level or follow a technical course after this final school year. He will need much financial help for his higher studies.

## General Data Protection Regulation

If we are still a member of the European Community in May 2018, there is a requirement for data protection which is no different to the Data Protection Act.

HAPSI will never release any data it has concerning any supporter to any other organisation. The data it stores is

- (a) processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to individuals;
- (b) collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes; further processing for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes shall not be considered to be incompatible with the initial purposes;
- (c) adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed;
- (d) accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date; every reasonable step is taken to ensure that personal data that are inaccurate, having regard to the purposes for which they are processed, are erased or rectified without delay;
- (e) kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the personal data are processed.
- (f) processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the personal data, including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction or damage, using appropriate technical or organisational measures.

HAPSI does not keep any personal data of children.

Any data of supporters it does keep is limited to name, address, email address, telephone number and details of donations.

### **HAPSI has no administration costs.**

All funds received are used to help needy children in south India. Remember that if you pay tax HAPSI can claim Gift Aid. Please ask for a form to

*giftaid it*

Send donations, cheques to **HAPSI**, to the  
**Treasurer, HAPSI, 23 Onslow Gardens, Wimborne BH21 2QG**

or visit the website at **www.hapsi.co.uk**

You can also give online through [JustGiving.com/hapsi](https://www.justgiving.com/hapsi)

or you can text a £10 (or more) donation through JustGiving by typing **HAPI32 £10 to 70070**. You will be asked if you wish to use giftaid.

The names of individual children have been changed to protect them.