

'Poverty and hunger is a curse when you are old. I work in a brick factory. I carry bricks on my shoulder under the burning sun. I have no other option. Who will take care of this innocent girl? She is my granddaughter. Her parents passed away when she was young. I still remember how delicate she was, when I first held her in my arms. Unfortunately, she does not know how it feels when a mother feeds you, or when a father buys you a toy. My life revolves around her. From cooking food to going out to work, I try my best to give her parental love, care and protection. Due to old age, I get tired – both physically and mentally. But my dream gives me strength. I want her to get educated and live a life of dignity. I will keep struggling till my last breath'

- Natarajan (Kalaimathi's Grandfather)

(11-years-old Kalaimathi studies in Grade 7 at Mission Education centre MAEGA Trust in Chennai, Tamil Nadu)

