



Suji was just two years old when she was abandoned by her parents outside an orphanage. Her parents did not want a girl child. Her grandparents came to her rescue. They fought tooth and nail with their children to bring Suji back to her home. But in a few months, they had to move out and look for a new home.

Left to fend for Suji all by themselves, her grandparents never complained once. Her grandfather ignored his advancing age and increasing health problems and started working on daily wages, hauling bricks at a construction site. Feeding and caring for Suji became her grandparent's only purpose in life.

Over the years, her grandfather's health took a turn for the worse and he became bedridden, unable to go to work anymore. Suji's grandmother instead took up a job in a factory. Not even once, have they asked Suji to go to work and tell her to only pay attention to her studies. Most of their money goes into her grandfather's medicines and the food for the family.

Today, thanks to the endless efforts of her grandparents, Suji is a bright and healthy child studying in Class 4 at Smile Foundation's Mission Education centre in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

"When I grow up, I want to give a good life to my grandparents and prove to my parents that girls are not a burden", she shares.