



“After our parents passed away - all we were left with was each other. We now live with our aunt, but we miss maa and baba a lot. I still remember how tiny my sister was when I first held her in my arms. She has not known the selfless love and care of maa and baba. So, I try to give her some of that love. My entire life revolves around her – from cooking food to helping with her home work, I always keep her first.”

Vaidehi (Grade 7) and Vibhuti (Grade 3) study at Smile Foundation’s Mission Education centre in Tamil Nadu. They lost their parents in an accident when the younger sister was only one and a half year old. They were inducted at the centre by their aunt, whose own children also study there.

When the sisters first came to the centre they could neither read nor write. They were shy and never interacted with other children. But gradually, with the support of their teachers and counselors, they opened up and now have many friends. Vaidehi is training in classical dance and hopes to become a doctor when she grows up, while Vibhuti’s favourite pastime is painting.