

## Editorial

*“Why do you look for the living among the dead?  
He is not here. He is RISEN!” - Luke 24:4*

Easter in Delhi, India, never ceases to amaze me. A couple of months back, Delhi was in the cruel grip of a cold wave. From humans to flora and fauna, all were covered under a blanket of grey skies and cold winds.

And suddenly it is a riot of bright colours all over with strong scents of jasmine, lily, roses, and bougainvillea, radiant and splendid all across the city.

As if the earth burst forth with so much energy, so much like the resurrection of Christ.

Also, so much like the girls we help through Disha Foundation. Traumatized from birth, unwanted, unsafe at home as well as outside their homes, struggling through life, without hope, cursing the day they were born. And suddenly, they see light. The light of Jesus' love makes way into their lives, through the efforts of Disha Foundation. They are encouraged to stand up, learn a skill, gain an education and embark on a journey towards dignity and selfreliance.

The darkness gives way to light. Despair is replaced by hope. The power of the resurrected Christ roars into their lives, transforming them forever. A new creation in Christ. Their destinies stamped for eternity. Whoever they are, trafficking survivors or rescued from their guardians, they have a hope in Jesus.

Please pray for us as we take the love of Jesus to encourage and empower the economically weak sections of the Indian society, particularly girls and women.

Vinita Shaw  
*CEO, Disha Foundation*

## Mrs Vinita Shaw to the UN, New York, USA

Mrs Vinita Shaw, CEO of Disha Foundation was invited to lead a workshop at the United Nation 58th Commission on the Status of women in New York, USA on the topic - Violence against pregnant women in India.

Invited by Endeavour Forum, Australia, Mrs Shaw was able to create awareness about the growing gendercide in India which is leading to a skewed sex ratio and increase in crimes against girls and women.



*Outside UN Building*

**Below are some of the excerpts from her speech at the United Nations:**

“Also, a country of great paradoxes where shedding of blood is considered a sin.”

“Where cows are worshiped as are millions of goddesses, and yet female fetuses are increasingly being found lying scattered across fields, wells, rivers and trash cans.”

“A country where the honor of the family is tied to the honor of the girl and yet where girls have no honor.”

“It has been reported that in the last 30 years, 12 million baby girls have been missing - aborted before birth.”

“Unfortunately, the deep seated patriarchal system, which has been encouraged by certain religious institutions that propagate and promote that sons attain salvation for their parents, have used the huge influence

of a mother in the family to promote and, from generation to generation, propagate hatred for a girl child, thereby making a woman the greatest enemy of a woman.”

“Poverty, illiteracy and superstitious beliefs fueled by religious institutions further prey on the minds of the populace turning them into mindsets carved in stone.”

“WE ARE BATTLING AGAINST A MINDSET, not against a government or a certain group of people. The Indian masses are doing what they are doing, because they have been doing so for centuries. Without insulting them, they have to be provoked into thinking.”

“Men and women have to combat this together.”

“Women empowerment does not mean that power is being taken away from men. Together, men and women can become agents of transformation.”



## RADIO BROADCASTS - A Report



**KHUSH KHABRI** Every Wed. at 4.15 p.m.

**BAAT PATE KI** continues Every Tue. at 3.45 p.m.

**AASHAR ALO** continues Every Sun. at 8.30 a.m.

### Program responses

**KHUSH KHABRI** (Hindi) - Encouraging a gender equal society

Naziya Pravin – “We are four sisters. From childhood we have been pitied that we do not have a brother. There was no one we could celebrate brother and sister festival with. We were considered unlucky. BUT ever since we have started listening to your program, we have developed confidence. Now, we feel proud to be females. Thank you.”

Pankaj Kumar from Bhagalpur - “We love listening to your program and also tell others to listen because we get to learn much from your programs. They are a new way of thinking and we encourage our children also to listen to the new way of thinking.”

“Hello Vinitaji! I have two daughters and I encourage them to listen to your program every Wednesday. I am teaching them self defense so they can protect themselves.”

**BAAT PATE KI** (Hindi) - Preventing trafficking

“We listen to your programs very carefully. Please continue to keep broadcasting. The bad systems in our society have deep root which will have to go. Thank you for the information you give. Please extend the time of your program.”

“We like your program very much. Thank you for teaching children to be careful”

**AASHAR ALO** (Bangla) - Prevention of trafficking.

Ilias from Caning, border of Bangladesh- “My own sister was trafficked. Thank God we were able to find her and now she is safe with family”

Arun from Kolkota- “We are grateful that you share stories of girls who have been trafficked with us. It helps to know how girls and being allured and duped”



## NEW RADIO BROADCAST BEGINS FROM APRIL, 2014



A Hindi broadcast for 15 minutes will begin airing from the first week of April, 2014. A program aimed to create awareness among children and young people. The format is in a story form, which makes it very appealing for young people.

## GRADUATION DAY



*Mrs Vinita Shaw, with Mrs Anbu Rani, the Founder of Shakina trust, lighting the lamp at the graduation ceremony*

## VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER - 25 GIRLS GRADUATE IN PATPARGANJ, NEW DELHI

Disha Foundation has been supporting Shakina trust to train 25 girls in English speaking, Computer Tally training, Tailoring and Beautician courses.

On April 5, beaming and excited, in the presence of their family members, 25 girls received certificates and words of encouragement from Mrs Vinita Shaw.

“Let your light shine inside and outside. Never consider yourself inferior. God has made you an influencer. Use the power of your influence to transform your family and society”, encouraged Mrs Shaw.



Graduates seen here with their teachers and Mrs Vinita Shaw

## NEW PROJECT



### VOCATIONAL CENTER BEGINS AT PATPARGANJ VILLAGE IN NEW DELHI

An addition to the Patparganj Village Vocational Training center in New Delhi. Already there are 100 girls learning tailoring in this project and are rearing to go forward with their own business enterprises.

Now, these girls will also have opportunity to learn beauty skills.

Come April, the Beautician course will be starting at the Patparganj facility where already tailoring course is in progress.

Seen in the picture in right are women showing their handiwork. Some of them are illiterate and given below are the backgrounds of the beneficiaries.

**FARHANA** - I am 28 years old. I came to Delhi with my husband and children. I studied till grade five because there was no school in the village. My leg is bad and I cannot afford to treat it. That is why I want to learn sewing so I can get myself medically treated by stitching clothes

**SAHABZADI** - From a young age I have taken the responsibility of my family because my father is handicapped. I got married at a young age and have children and responsibilities. My husband is a driver. If we go to a tailor, we have to pay ₹ 200 for each dress. I am learning so I can make clothes for my family and myself, and even save some money to run my household.

**NITU** - I am learning tailoring so I can have my own machine and start my own business from home. I support my family and my husband's family also. I also want to educate my children.

**FARZANA**- My husband is a laborer. We have eight children. It is very difficult to manage the family. That is why I want to equip myself



## PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Please pray for the production of our 5th weekly broadcast.
2. Please pray for the Beauty training center that will be starting in Patparganj village of New Delhi where girls and women will be trained.
3. Please pray for the follow up of all our radio programs that there will be a change in the mindset of the people and crimes against girls and women may be arrested.
4. Please pray for the networking efforts post the visit of Mrs Vinita Shaw to the United Nations.
5. Special Good Friday and Easter programs.
6. Pray for teams preparing to come later this year.

