

Impact Study :Madhumanti Mitra, 15 years old.

Madhumanti grew up in very difficult circumstances of poverty and utter neglect. Her family considered her a burden and took no active interest in her development.

The girl was abandoned by her immediate family and left in the inadequate and unloving care of an uncle who deprived her of food and most child necessities. Although she entered a formal school at some point, Madhumanti's education was considered a time waste and therefore not pursued. Her sense of loss, despair and rejection caused Madhumanti to become ever more detached from society and the people surrounding her. The plight of this young girl was brought to the attention of OFFER by other slum dwellers – what we found was a girl who would not connect to people, too shy to even express the most simple of communications. It was her vulnerability as a young girl that made OFFER decide to take immediate action. As Apanjan was ready to receive new girls in its midst, Madhumanti could be offered a new childhood and future.

An extended assessment confirmed cerebral palsy, paired with a hemiplegic condition and underpinned with serious trauma.

Progress with Madumanti has been remarkable since she moved into the Apanjan girls home. Her behaviour has improved to a degree that Madhumanti is now already a most sociable, approachable and productive member of the girls household. She is perfectly capable of going shopping and only now is it becoming clear how much Madhumanti actually managed to pick up when she attended school earlier in her life – the girl is capable of reading and even writing!

Although at times suddenly withdrawn and still very shy, Madhumanti succeeded in becoming part of the girl group and is fully participating in Apanjan's present pre-vocational activities that encompass food preparation and kitchen duties.

Apanjan is proud of Madhumanti's achievements and consider this girl a lighting example of the project's main objectives.