

# Tanzil's story

Tanzil is confident far beyond her 11 years.

'I want to be a pilot in the future,' she says, 'because I want to know what the sky is like.' She knows that education is important in achieving her dream. 'Education for girls is important.

I like history because I want to know more about what happened before our city, she says. I also like maths because it is very useful in real life.'

'I'm really proud of my school,' she explains, 'I think the teachers are brilliant. They talk to us like friends and they always explain things that we don't understand.'

When it comes to values, respect is key for Tanzil, 'respect and helping each other makes people friendly,' she says, 'we also need to respect our environment. I'd like to send a message to everyone to stop cutting down trees as they give us oxygen.'

## **About Reality Gives**

Reality Gives is nonprofit organisation working with urban slum community in Dharavi, Mumbai and in Sanjay Colony, Delhi, providing quality education to youth and children.





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## Hiten's story

Hiten is 10-years-old and loves coming to school.

His favourite subject is maths. 'It's because the teacher is very nice,' he explains, 'she isn't strict at all and I like multiplication best, but I know all of the different sums.'

'There is always a good project happening and I like to learn using stories. At the moment my class is learning all about teamwork and how we can work together to clean up our cities.' Outside of school, Hitin likes South Indian dancing and is looking forward to performing at his Aunt's wedding soon – but his long-term goal is to become an engineer.

'I like it because I like maths and I think I would be good at studying for engineering.' 'I'm my teachers' favourite student,' he says proudly.

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# Danish's story

"I moved to Mumbai from a village for a better life and a solid education," says Danish.

The three years he has spent living in the city have certainly been productive. A student on the Youth Program, Danish is taking his Level 3 English for the second time. "I wanted to do it again to make sure I get the grammar right," he explains.

But the Youth Program isn't the only studying that Danish is doing. "I'm in my second year of studying for a BA here in Mumbai. All the lectures are in English – I couldn't have

managed it without learning English through the Community Centre."

For Danish, taking on a new language has opened a lot of doors. "I now have my own food business in the city. When I meet with banks and clients they take me seriously because I can speak English to them. Knowing the language gives me a real confidence that feeds into how I talk, think and even how I carry myself." "My experience at the Community Centre has been unforgettable, the centre provides opportunity for people without options. It's a great place."

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## Sharda's story

Meet Sharda, a student on the Reality Gives Youth Program.

Originally from Karnataka, Sharda moved to Mumbai 15 years ago and lives in the heart of Dharavi with her husband and sons. "I come from a village," says Sharda, "things are different in Mumbai. City life moves so quickly. It's hard to keep up when people around you are speaking English. I needed to find a way to understand what was going on."

"A friend recommended this English class to me," she explains, "I love learning English – especially in class where we get to read aloud and do drama – that's probably the most fun part."

For Sharda, learning English was about more than just getting to know the city around her. "I have two boys at home and their English was much better than mine. I wanted to communicate with them more – now they practice with me so we can all improve together."

The confidence and skills Sharda is building on the Youth Program have propelled her towards a new career. "I dream of being a teacher", she says. "I need good English to achieve it. My family have been a great support to me.

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