

Murgesh, Ganesh and Saroja



All grew up on the streets of Mumbai in Kala Ghoda. Growing up in such an unstable environment, never quite sure of where to sleep next and where the next meal was to come from, wasn't the best start to an academic career. However, after years of living on the streets, the siblings were found by Sister Felicity Morris founder of the charitable organisation Prem Dan which is dedicated to helping the underprivileged children realise their full potential.

She brought the three of them to the Garden School, part of Prem Dan located in South Mumbai. The three children studied at her school and began to develop their academic skills, then were placed into local schools when they had reached the required level. Saroj went to St. Anne's in Apollo Bunder, and Ganesh went to St. Joseph's in Colaba.

However, they did not settle well. During their time at their respective schools, all ran away at some point seeking the freedom that only the streets could provide. Said Saroj " I just couldn't understand and cope with the various rules. Until then I had been Queen of the pavement, where I slept, ate and played as and when it suited me. Nobody ordered me to do anything." From the unrestrained liberty of the streets to the confines of the classroom was not an easy transition for any of the siblings.

Each of the children got adopted in time and was taken abroad. Murgesh went to the USA, adopted by a Russian Orthodox priest. Ganesh went to Belgium to join a family, as did Saroj. Each child flourished in their own respective countries.

Saroj studied hard in Belguim and coped well with the transition, becoming fluent in French and English as well as becoming competent in Flemish. She now works in the travel industry as a travel agent and says she wishes to give the same opportunities she had to other children in India, so is contemplating adoption. Ganesh too stayed in Belguim with aspirations of becoming a printing technologist as well as travelling the world.

It is perhaps Murgesh who prospered most out of moving abroad and getting a comprehensive education. Whilst in the USA he attained decent grades and later began studying to become a dentist in Washington D.C. In 1994, a few years before qualifying, he returned to India seeking the affections of his childhood sweetheart, whom he had met and studied with at Prem Dan, Michelle. Soon they were married and Murgesh returned to America to enable his wife to follow him out there and begin their new life together with his new found wealth. " I'm rich you know."

So truly a story of rags to riches as three siblings have discovered, that through hard work, perseverance and a little dose of love and care, anyone can create a better life for themselves that may far exceed their wildest dreams.