

Siloni's story is unique, because she was saved from a fate that millions of children never escape from: child trafficking and prostitution, slave labor, drug addiction, and other dark paths that all of us dare not imagine. Neither you nor SOS can solve this problem alone. We need each other to offer this helping hand. Every day we take in another child, work with another parent to prevent child abandonment, and introduce another young starving soul to the love of a mother and family.

In the world we live in . . .

- **50 million births** go unregistered every year.
- **317 million children** become economically active between the ages of five and seventeen
- **1.2 million children** are trafficked every year.
- **More than 250,000** have been coerced to serve as child soldiers.

Help SOS extend a helping hand. SOS works in the spirit of the UN Convention on the Rights of the child and advocates for the protection of all children from abuse and exploitation.



SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES

A loving home for every child

SOS Children's Villages - USA • 1001 Connecticut Avenue NW • Suite 1250
Washington DC 20036-5520
888.SOS-4KIDS • www.SOS-USA.org

*My name is Siloni and
this is my story.*



Feb 6, 1978

My story with a happy ending

I come from a remote village of Nepal called Sirohi. My parents died when I was a young girl. My father was a policeman who was killed when he was fighting criminals and mother died while giving birth to me. I was raised in Kathmandu by my grandparents. They are very poor people and could not afford to send me to school.

Started working as a child

When I was six, my grandfather took me to work at a rich man's place. There was a lot of household work - all the washing, cooking and cleaning. When the man saw I was too tired to work, he threw me out on the street. I cried a lot. It was the worst night of my life.

Scared of bigger people

That night I spent sleeping at a nearby construction site. One of the workers tried to get close to me. I was scared and I ran from there. The next day some boys found me sleeping on a bench and took me to a house where there were lots of other girls. They said that I can make good money here. I was really scared and I begged one girl there to find my grandfather to take me home.



April 4, 2009

Reaching SOS

One of the neighbors told my grandparents about SOS Children's Villages of Nepal. My grandfather took me to SOS Children's Village Sunkhet. It was so beautiful, the gardens were well kept and the staff was very polite. They kept my records and took my picture. My grandfather looked at me with tears in his eyes and said, "I am leaving you here for your better future, do well in life remembering every difficulty you have faced."

My new life at SOS

In the meantime a lady came, held my hand and took me inside her house. She told me to call her mother. For me everything was new, I had never slept on a bed before nor sat at a dining table. Looking back, I could never imagine this life in my wildest dreams.



I have an SOS mother who is always positive about the future. I feel I am lucky to have escaped the kind of life I saw other children facing. I have promised my mother that I will be a good student and do my best to help other children like me when I grow up.