

Life Rebuilt: The Remarkable Transformation of an Indentured Child Servant



Radha at the police initiation with her proud parents

Born in a remote village in western Nepal, “Radha” grew up at a time when it was common for impoverished Tharu families to reluctantly

bond their daughters into servitude to subsist. Before friends like you helped NYF end this form of child bondage in 2013, hundreds of girls as young as six were sent to work in wealthy homes each year.

Radha spent much of her childhood in desperation as a household servant. For six years, she ate only scraps and suffered inhumane treatment. She begged her “master” to let her to attend school. He refused but eventually relented enough to allow her to take exams, as long as her parents substituted for Radha’s absence. On those eagerly anticipated days, her parents traveled from their village to fill in for Radha – it was all they could do for their beloved daughter.

When her master moved even farther away and her parents weren’t able to substitute for her, Radha couldn’t even take exams anymore.

Rescued by NYF at 16 years old, Radha was overjoyed to finally attend school. She was especially inspired by civic studies because she saw the potential to right societal injustices.

Fellow members of the Freed Kamlari Development Forum nominated Radha as their President in 2013. She led more than 12,000 freed Kamlaris for three years with remarkable compassion and courage. While continuing her academic studies she completed a 9-month training course in the police force, and was initiated into service in September 2018!

She says, “I would have never had this opportunity to fight on behalf of the entire community of Freed Kamlaris had I not been rescued into this life of freedom. I used to feel that I was living inside a cage. But my life has changed beyond my imagination.”



Radha's mother congratulating her with sweets