



WOULD THE WORD HUMANITARIAN DO JUSTICE TO THE WORK YOU DO?

My primary aim in life is to help at least one billion people around the world to gain access to basic healthcare, education and opportunities that allow them to break the cycle of poverty, and eradicate illiteracy about human right issues. To honour my father in 2002, I laid the foundation of *Anannke Foundation* (previously known as *Saba Family Foundation*), which serves as the umbrella organization for all my philanthropic work globally. My father always used to tell me that money is not to be taken for granted, it's a privilege given by God and if I am ever able to make a lot of money I must always give back to society. Having grown up the hard way, putting myself to school, working part-time and doing all sorts of odd jobs I am aware what it is like to not have money, struggle for food, pay rent and take care of siblings. This keeps me humble and I believe strongly that my role in this world is to help others. Thus, I work hard to make money to make sure I am able to manage the foundation and give back. We don't raise money at the foundation. At the end of the day, I do not look for glory or praise, my main goal is to make a difference in the world and to ease the plight of people who have little hope.

YOU ARE SOUTH INDIAN BY ANCESTRY — HOW ARE YOU CONNECTED TO THIS REGION IN INDIA AND WHAT PROMPTED YOU TO WORK FOR THE COMMUNITY-IN-NEED HERE?

My mother is a South Indian and I have grown up listening to South Indian mythologies. Our idea of a perfect vacation was travelling around the region, visiting temples and enjoying South Indian delicacies over the weekend. My goal is to have an impact on hunger and poverty and to create balance in the world. I am connected to the land here; it's a place that connects to your soul and shows the extremes that life has to offer and bathe



you in spiritual awakening. One of the reasons South India differs from the rest of India is its literacy rate, as per the 2011 census, the average literacy rate in South India is approximately 80%, considerably higher than the Indian national average of 74%. Despite this, social development continues to face several challenges and that is what prompted me to work in the region. It is mostly agrarian issues and water scarcity that affect the area. In many rural parts of the region, nutrition and sanitation issues still persist along with a creaky public health care system.

WHAT ARE THE KINDS OF HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES YOU ARE CURRENTLY DOING IN INDIA, SOUTH INDIA SPECIFICALLY, AND HOW DO YOU PLAN ON CONTINUING THESE EFFORTS?

We have worked with *Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA)*, for encouraging the formation of several collectives, primarily comprising women and children, *Aman Movement* to promote justice, freedom, respect, community and responsibility in society. We fund and mentor at an all-girls school, focusing on the secondary wing of around 2,500 girls, run by the *Maharani Gurcharan Kaur Euro Group* in Nabha, Punjab. We recently also worked with *Save The Children*, and donated dry white rice for 20 lakh children and their families living on streets of Delhi, J&K, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana and Odisha. We work with the *Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC)* and donate 10,000kg dry white rice every month. In South India, we work with *Mother Teresa Foundation*, where I also work as an advisor on their Board of Directors.

YOU ARE VERY CLOSELY CONNECTED TO YOUR CULTURE, AND HAVE ALSO WRITTEN BOOKS ABOUT THE CULTURE OF YOUR HOMELAND ETC — DO TELL US A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT THAT?

Influenced by South Indian food culture I wrote a book, *The Abbreviated Cook*, which is a compilation of quick and easy recipes that offer a twist on traditional South Indian dishes which can also be found on my website www.sereendipapice.com. I believe we must all hold on to our cultures, it is what defines us and makes us all uniquely