

# *Karishma Girl's Home and Karishma Sewing School*



**Karishma Girl's Home  
Agra, India**

*Loving Underprivileged Women  
and Girls in India who have been*

**FORSAKEN BUT  
NOT FORGOTTEN**

**[www.markandersonministries.com](http://www.markandersonministries.com)**

# Mark Anderson Ministries and Its

*Caring for the least of these!*

*Reaching underprivileged women and girls in India with love*

## **This is how we care for the least of these:**

- By running Karishma Girls Home where we house girls who are without parents or have been abandoned and neglected - **Agra, India**
- Teaching women sewing skills - **Agra, India**

*“Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’”*



More than 750 girls have been taught at the sewing school.

## **Why women and Girls?:**

The majority of women and girls in India are neglected and treated with contempt. How do I know this? I (Sharmila Anderson) am an Indian, born and raised there.

Among Hindus, in India the birth of a girl is often viewed as a curse, while the birth of a boy is heralded with tremendous celebration. One of the reasons, is the dowry system that holds a majority (middle to upper casts) of the Hindus in bondage. The dowry is a huge financial undertaking for the bride's parents as they have to buy their daughter a husband. Often the girl's parents will promise the groom's family financial amounts they cannot possibly meet. They do this because an unmarried woman is a stigma to her parents. Only too often a young bride is set ablaze and burned to death by her husband and in-laws, because her parents were unable to pay the dowry. This act of murder is performed behind closed doors and is passed off as a kitchen accident. The authorities do nothing about this as these homicides are not reported. The women have no option but to succumb to the domination of their husbands and in-laws, because they are not qualified to be in the work force and support themselves.

In the Hindu culture, many newborn baby girls are abandoned after birth in garbage dumps or killed on a daily basis all over India. My mother, who oversees the Girl's Home has picked up babies from the garbage. Why? Simply because,



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*ve and acceptance!!*



Girls from Karishma Girls Home ready to head to School. These girls are in the top of their class academically.

the baby is a girl! Some little girls who are permitted to live are never really treated like their brothers. They are often deprived of food, shoes and education. First the sons' needs are met, then if anything is left over the girl is tended to. Often nothing is left over. A little girl may even be sold by her parents to a man 60 years or older by her parents.

Women and girls living in slums (lowest caste) are abducted and sold into prostitution subject to humiliation. These women are illiterate and have no way of supporting or defending themselves. Women from this caste are often forced by their husbands to work in construction while they (the men) do not work. They are normally alcoholics. We reach out to these precious souls, lost in the moral and physical filth of a nation entrenched in Hinduism. Together we can change one life at a time!

## Karishma Girl's Home – 2011 Progress Report

The construction of the second floor is progressing smoothly. As construction costs in India have risen rapidly the budget is now at \$38,000. The Lord has met half of the construction budget. We need to raise the remaining for the final leg of construction. Once the 2nd. floor is completed we will be in a position to house another 20 girls.

We are now raising 17 girls. 14 girls are children of persecuted Christians who have lost all their possessions due to militant Hindu violence (killings and destroying Christian's homes) in Orissa State.. The girls are doing well and are quickly learning Hindi and English. Our workers report that they are opening up and laugh a lot more than when they had just arrived.

For more updates visit us at:  
[www.markandersonministries.com](http://www.markandersonministries.com)



It was Sharmila Anderson's vision to begin these outreaches to women and girls.

## Outreaches in the Slums

We also run a sewing school where young women from the slums are taught to stitch. Arrangements have been made with tailoring stores to hire these girls to stitch for other clients as well. We also give some of the women sewing machines. More than 750 girls have gone through this school.



Girls from Karishma Girls Home



Sewing school - changing lives!

*"What we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But I think the ocean would be lesser for that missing drop."*  
- **Mother Teresa**

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