

**Name:** Mary Tamil Selvi

**Age:** 12

**Favorite subjects:**

- English grammar

**Favorite hobbies:**

- Playing Coco (comparable with “musical chairs”)
- Skipping

**How was your life before you came to Sunrise Village?**

I have one sister, two older and one younger brother. I cannot remember my parents, our father passed away as I was very young and our mother disappeared. My young brother went to my uncle in Kerala (neighbouring state of Tamil Nadu) and I went with my other siblings to my grandmother, who lives in Sankarankovil. My grandmother made everything, she washed the clothes, cooked, cleaned the house. But it was too heavy for her, so a nun brought me, my sister Mariya and my brother Jesuraj to Sunrise Village when I was five. Sadly, I cannot remember the names of my two other brothers, but I know that my oldest brother worked in a hotel back then.

**How is your life in Sunrise Village?**

At the beginning, everything was new for me. I didn't know the concept of Christianity, how to deal with others and how to behave with adults and priests, so I called all people “brother”, even the fathers and mothers. I couldn't wash my clothes or help at home. And I also never made my homework when I lived together with my grandma, and at once I had to.

But this changed very fast, a girl, who isn't in the Village anymore, explained me everything and I got friends. For example, my best friend Rani. But she left Sunrise Village two days ago, to go back to her parents. Unfortunately, we had a quarrel three weeks back and we didn't talk after that, even when she went home. I had a bad conscience because of that, but as a sign for reconciliation, she presented me through another girl a rosary, so I am relieved now.

Another best friend of mine is Sheela. She is also my classmate in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade of Sunrise Nursery and Primary School. And Angel is like a sister to me, she helps me with many things and even washes my clothes, when I am too tired. In my cottage, I am like an example for the other children, because I do my homework and all things, which my mother delegates to me. But I don't like this position, since my mother praises me in front of the others and they are getting jealous of me.

I was one of the first children in the Sunrise Village Nursery and Primary School. Back then in 2011 I had a very good teacher, called Rani. She explained the subject matters very good and inspired me also. I was first rank in first and second standard. My class mates are still the same now in 5<sup>th</sup> standard

I have learned many things here, for instance dancing and good handwriting, reading and disputes with others. I enjoy my life here and like everything!

**How do you imagine your life, when you are an adult?**

I want to go to Bangalore, because it is a big, international city. And I want to become a doctor. I have this inspiration from my childhood and it is still there, since it is important to me to help others. I like to stay in India, yet there is no country which excites me.

