

For thousands of children forced to work in South Asia's hand-made rug industry, GoodWeave provides an education and a better future.



CHAMELI TAMANG

“...the GoodWeave inspector came to my factory and persuaded them to let me go to the GoodWeave rehab. Centre. GoodWeave has changed my life. Now I am studying and love it”

My name is Chameli Tamang I am 12 years old and come from a remote part of the Central Development Region of Nepal. My mother left us and remarried, and my father now lives with my step mother who has three daughters, and they all go to school. I was not allowed to go because they said that I had to work to earn money to support them.

I was always hated and scolded by my parents and when I was just 10 years old, they sent me to work with my relatives in the carpet factory. It was dark and dirty and I lived in a small room close to the factory with a female relative. I had to wake at 5am every morning and start weaving rugs straight away with no tea or breakfast. I wasn't allowed to take a rest until the first short break at 10am when we had a quick meal. I earned about 500 Nepalese rupees (£3.50) per month, and if I was slow, I would be severely scolded for my work. I didn't believe that I would ever be able to stop working - I didn't have enough clothes to wear, I was always hungry, and I missed my mother badly.

Education is so important to me, because now I can train to be a teacher, and I will have my own money, so nobody will mistreat me again. If GoodWeave was not in Nepal, many children like me would have to work in rug factories - they would be deprived of love, care and education.

Former child weaver, Chameli Tamang, 12, now lives in the GoodWeave rehabilitation centre, Kathamandu Nepal

