



**SRI ARUNODAYAM**  
Home for Mentally Challenged Destitute

## Banu's Story

*This child is a ward of the Government of India and her identity is recognized and protected. Using her picture or story without permission from Sri Arunodayam Charitable Trust is a punishable offence.*

Banu was just 3½ years old when she was abandoned together with 1½ year old baby sister, Fatima, at a railway station in Villupuram, Tamil Nadu. The sisters were rescued by the Railway police. When traced, their parents refused to accept them, and so began their journey from home to home until they came to us via a CWC order in July 2017, when they were 13 and 11 respectively.

Banu was restless, moody, aggressive, and showed signs of being stressed. She had a lot of behavioural issues and was emotionally unstable. The movement from home to home had indeed affected her deeply.

Today, Banu is 16 years old and the rehabilitation therapies that were customized for her are now beginning to show results. Receiving a nutritious diet, special education, and psychological/psychiatric care, Banu has shown immense all-round improvement. She appears healthy and vibrant (as you can see here). She is beginning to find her identity and sense of worth, which is probably a key reason for her radical change into a happy and motivated young lady. Placed in our vocational tailoring program, Banu has learnt to sew and embroider clothing. She weaves colorful baskets and shows signs of becoming a good seamstress. On reaching 18, we plan to provide her community-based employment opportunities under supervision, until she becomes independent.

