

Hero Profile (Bio)

In Nepal, whenever parents are incarcerated and have no one to leave their children with, they have to take their children to jail with them. This means that many children in Nepal have to live in poor conditions inside the jail, never getting a chance to live outside prison walls in normal conditions. However, there is one brave and courageous woman who is striving to change all that. That woman is 28-year-old Pushpa Basnet.

Pushpa, who is studying for her bachelor's degree in social work, visited the jail one day and was saddened by how the children were having to live inside the prison. She was also deeply moved when a little girl inside the jail pulled on her shawl and smiled up at her. She could not get that little girl out of her mind after that. She finally decided to start a nongovernmental organization in which she would use to take care of these children.

Pushpa was 21 when she first started her day care program, and she didn't have much support from anyone. Everyone thought she was too young to be able to handle so much work. She ignored the doubters, however, and did what she could to give these children a chance at a normal life outside the prison. She would go to the jail to pick up all the children and take them to her place. There she would take care of them like any mother would and also provided them with education. By the evening, she would take the children back to the jail to be with their parents. Though it was hard work, and she never got a day off, she continued to persevere. She used the smiles on the childrens' faces as motivation.

Now, several years later, Pushpa has assisted more than 100 children whose parents are incarcerated, and she continues to do so. "This is what I want to do with my life," she said, "I want to fulfill all their dreams." Pushpa heard the call to help these children and made the effort to make it happen. She is a true hero.