

Are you learning to do anything here, Ruth?

I suppose you go to school and learn things just as we used to do. I learned to read, sew, crochet, and very nice drawn thread work, as well as Ayah's work, besides many other things of great value to me, now, that I am out in the world again earning my own living.

Yes, we go to school here yet. You see new girls come in every little while, because somewhere, some girl so often slips and stumbles, and if she wants to be good the Amma Garu here is glad to help her. But we have one woman now who does not care to learn to read no matter what Amma Garu says to her. Nor will she sew or crochet, but she will pound or grind the grain and carry water and cook and help look after the little children.

What are you doing now, Nagamah, and do you get money every month?

Oh yes, I am working with a Railway Dorasani Garu and she pays me Rs. 15 per month. But I work hard, help look after the house, and the other servants, and the children, and sew and darn or do anything the lady tells me to do. It is fine to know how to do many things. So many servants only want to do one kind of work, and I was that way too, before I came to this Home. Now I do all I can, and try to help. I hope I will never get into trouble again, but I'm afraid sometimes, as that Palasa is a very wicked place or there are many bad people there.

Did you have any children, when you first came here Nagamah? Yes, I had two, a girl and boy. You know when I first became a Christian I had an awful time; my husband and his people put a case against me in the court, but at last the Sub-Magistrate said that if I wanted to join the Christians, there was no law to prevent me, so the case was dismissed, and I had to leave my village on the Tuni field, and went out to work, and came here from there.

And is the boy we call Chinna Appadu

your son Nagamah? Yes, he is my boy, and I send the Amma Garu six rupees a month for him and she looks after him and he is going to school here. Do you think he is a good boy Ruth?

Well, sometimes good and sometimes bad. He buys our curry some days and grumbles because he has to carry a basket; says the school boys make fun of him.

And where is your girl now?

She is in Bobbili going to school.

Did you know that one woman from the Home died in the Hospital this summer, Nagamah?

Yes, I heard about it. And one woman who was here when I was, died, but she had been sent to her own home, because she had lung sickness and Amma Garu said she must not be here. Then another woman also died, but she had cholera.

Yes, Nagamah, I have not been here very long but have heard about her; all say she was a good woman, even if she did get into trouble, and was a help to other women who came here. Her name was Akkama. Have any other gone out to work as you have Nagamah? I think I would like to work in a hospital some day.

Yes, others have gone out to work and are doing well, and a lot have got married, a dozen or so. You never saw Seethama did you Ruth? Well, Miss Blackadar sent her here and she improved so much, and married a preacher, and by and by had twin baby girls, and she was so proud of them. But she died some years later, and her husband is married again; you know these men can get married as often as they want to, and I think this man has been married about five times.

Ruth, do you know, that they say, they are not going to keep this Home here always?

Yes, we know that, for Amma Garu says this is not a proper place; it might do very well when girls really want to

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