

The journey home...

Tia's case came to our radar, when Vihaan's social worker was visiting a shelter home in New Delhi to follow-up with our survivors. Tia was introduced to the social worker by one of our survivors as a co-resident and her friend. Upon further enquiry, the social worker was informed that Tia had been staying at the home for three months and undergoing psychiatric treatment. Tia was 29 years old, originally from Tamil Nadu and a B. Tech. graduate from Vellore Institute of Technology, a reputed university in India. Post the discussion, the social worker shared the information with the welfare officer at the shelter home and left.

Nearly a month later, when the social worker enquired about Tia's whereabouts with the Superintendent, the latter requested the social worker to speak to Tia again. This time the social worker collected more information about Tia's family, their contact details and address. Tia requested the social worker to assist her return home. Unfortunately, neither the phone number provided was operational nor the address was complete. But we did not give up. Through different contacts, the social worker connected with several police stations in Nammakal district, Tamil Nadu. By evening, her hard work had paid off. She received a call from one of the police stations and was informed that Tia's family had been traced.

Her family was overjoyed to hear about Tia who had gone missing from Salem district, Tamil Nadu almost seven months back. Her parents were aged and economically backward, hence, they could not actively look for Tia. But once they heard about their daughter, they immediately made all arrangements to visit Delhi and take Tia home. The social worker assisted with the paper work for Tia's restoration, arranged for travel tickets and dropped them at the railway station for a safe journey home.

Currently, the social worker is in regular contact with Tia over phone to ensure her safety and health.

