



MOB LYNCHING 2024 RELIEF WORK 24

फिट नियर कापुर पेट्रोल
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Incident Overview

India is a pluralist country with a model of secularism that is framed to provide equal respect to everyone and all religions. With each passing day, however, the minority citizens of the country find themselves burning in the inferno of hatred, often in the form of mob lynching.

Mob lynching is the illegal killing of a person by a group of people outside of the legal process but in reality it contains more than that. The killing of these innocent people is a crime the aftermath of which can never be documented fairly.

The country has lately witnessed burgeoning cases of mob lynching. Reportedly, in most of the cases, Hindu mobs have killed Muslims and Dalits. According to the monitoring of the Centre for Study of Society and Secularism (CSSS) based on the Mumbai editions of The Times of India, The Hindu, Indian Express, Sahafat (Urdu), and Inquilab (Urdu), India witnessed 84% rise in communal violence incidents in the year 2024 including the mob lynching cases.

Junaid (Mob Lynching Victim)

Sajida (wife of Junaid) holding picture of Junaid. Image: Miles2Smile



“Allah, they killed my brother, my only brother. They killed him. I don’t even have a father, and he was the only one earning for us. They killed him too.”

“My son didn’t die a natural death; if he had, I would have found peace. But I feel no peace.”

The horror of the mob lynching can be chronicled in these few sentences.

“I’m suffering a lot; I’m crying a lot; how long will I keep suffering without Husband?”

“My brother video called with the children in the afternoon... nothing was supposed to happen to him... he was killed.”

These incidents include bovine related vigilantism, “love jihad” vigilantism, vigilantism around the rumours of child lifting, violence related to identity markers like skull caps and also forced to chant Hindu supremacist slogans.

Furthermore, rough research reveals that other cases of mob lynching are inspired by factors such as religious biases, witch hunting, the rise of cow vigilantes, illiteracy, unemployment, and the spread of rumors by social media.

With the surge in the cases of mob lynching, the help of the Miles2Smile Foundation to provide respite to families fallen prey to it has also increased. The intervention of the Foundation has played a significant role in transforming the lives of downtrodden families. From providing shelters to rebuilding livelihoods to rekindling happiness, Miles2smile has stitched the fabric of compassion, love, and warmth.

Established nearly five years ago, the Miles2Smile Foundation is dedicated to making a positive impact on the survivors of mob lynching, targeted demolition, communal violence, and other hate crimes. From the immediate response during the Delhi pogrom 2020 to ongoing efforts in education and advocacy, the Foundation remains steadfast in its commitment to creating a more inclusive and equitable society. We aim to create a world where everyone has a reason to smile and we are grateful that we have walked miles and earned many smiles. Delve deep into the report to learn how we walked miles to transform lives and earn smiles of those who lost the desire to smile.



SMILE STORIES

Intervention of Miles2Smile



01 Religiously Motivated Lynching, Hate Crime, Hope And Happiness:

Nasir (25) and Junaid (35) were two men from Ghatmika, Rajasthan, who fell prey to brutal mob lynching on February 16, 2023. The duo was attacked, beaten, and set on fire by cow vigilantes who suspected them of carrying beef. The incident raised questions about the justice and authority of such vigilantes, yet these questions soon faded, leaving behind shattered families. Nasir left behind a wife and an adopted daughter, while Junaid's family—his wife and six children—was torn apart. Tragically, Junaid's 15-year-old daughter passed away in May 2023 due to the shock of her father's death.

Junaid was remembered fondly by his friends and community, known for his kindness and support for others. His absence left the village feeling hollow. His wife, Sajida, was left struggling to provide for her five children. In their time of need, Miles2Smile stepped in, offering hope. Through collaboration with the Shaagird Foundation, Sajida's children were able to attend school, despite financial struggles.



**THE STORY OF
SAJIDA'S SMILE SHOP**

Intervention of Miles2Smile

Miles2Smile Foundation reached out to Sajida in her time of need, offering not just a handout, but a hand up. The Foundation helped her establish a small cosmetics shop, giving her the opportunity to earn a living with dignity and independence. The Foundation didn't stop there. Knowing the importance of education, the Foundation also stepped in to support Sajida's children's schooling, ensuring they could attend a private institution and have the best possible chance for a brighter future.



▶ Click to Watch



Miles2Smile's support for Sajida goes beyond just the initial help, maintaining a close connection, regularly visiting her to check in and understand any unspoken needs. On a recent visit, the Foundation noticed her little cosmetics shop, the source of her renewed independence, was running low on stock. Understanding the importance of keeping her business thriving, the Foundation asked Sajida to list the items she needed. We promised to help her restock, a promise delivered with the hope of not just replenishing her shelves, but also replenishing her joy.



02 A Roof Over The Heads, A Smile on The Faces:

In November 2017, Umar Khan, 42, tragically lost his life to cow vigilantism. Umar was shot dead under the suspicion of smuggling cows while transporting them from Alwar to Bharatpur. Along with three companions, he was attacked, and his lifeless body was later discovered on railway tracks. His family, including his son Maqsood, was left shattered by this sudden and violent loss.

Before his death, Umar had dreamed of building a home for his family, a place where they could feel secure and comfortable. However, his untimely passing left those plans unfulfilled. The construction of the house remained incomplete, and the family found themselves struggling with financial hardships. For years, they lived in a rented house, enduring the emotional and financial strain of not having a permanent home to call their own.

The family's dreams of stability and a better future were left in limbo, with the echoes of Umar's untimely death lingering over them. Despite the ongoing struggles, his family continues to navigate life, holding on to the hope that one day, they will be able to complete what Umar had started and find peace in their own home.



**MILES2SMILE
BUILDS UMAR'S HOUSE**

Intervention of Miles2Smile



After Umar's death, the responsibility of the family fell heavily on the shoulders of his sons, particularly Maqsood. The unfinished house was a constant source of emotional pain for him. To ease his worries and provide the family with a stable home, the Miles2Smile Foundation took action to complete the construction. Miles2Smile became aware of the family's dire situation and visited Ghatmika to understand their struggles.



▶ Click to Watch



Maqsood, sharing the pain of his family, said, "If this house gets built, we will have a roof over our heads." Moved by their hardship, Miles2Smile made a commitment to help fulfill Umar's dream of a home for his family. Within two months, the organization successfully raised the funds needed, and the construction of the house was completed.



On the day of the housewarming ceremony, Maqsood expressed his gratitude, saying,

“I never thought this day would come.”

Finally, the family had a place to call their own—a testament to the support they received from the community.

Miles2Smile, we believe in offering more than just material help; we nurture emotions and love as well. To ensure the family felt truly supported, we organized a heartwarming housewarming ceremony. The smile we received in return is beyond words.



03 Broken Hearts, Lost Hopes and Rebuilding Hopes with Miles2Smile

The lanes of Shiv Vihar appeared peaceful as Miles2Smile returned after five years since the communal violence of February 2020. Yet, every brick and door in the area held memories of the bloodshed, arson, and destruction that claimed 53-54 lives. Aakil's family is one of those still suffering from the scars. Aakil, the sole breadwinner of his family, was killed during the riots, and his body was identified a week later. His death left an irreplaceable void in their lives.

Zahira, Aakil's wife, shared the ongoing pain with Miles2Smile: "Every day in these five years has been tough. My children still cry, unable to move on." Zahira's younger son, Umar, suffers from seizures and requires treatment the family cannot afford. "The doctor warned he could slip into a coma, but we have no money for his treatment," she said. Her daughter, too, remains distressed, avoiding guests for fear of hearing her father's name.

Zahira also revealed that the doors of poverty have been open since Aakil left. To close the doors, she demonstrated a need for a sewing machine for her to start the business of tailoring.

A photograph of a woman, Zahira, wearing a green shawl, sitting at a table. She has a somber expression. The background is a simple room with a light blue wall and a floral pattern. The image is partially obscured by a yellow overlay at the bottom left.

**REBUILDING
HOPES OF ZAHIRA**

Intervention of Miles2Smile

After the death of Aakil, Zahira's life was marred by a series of challenges, with financial instability being one of the most pressing. Struggling to make ends meet, she found herself in dire need of income. Upon learning of Zahira's need for a sewing machine, Miles2Smile stepped in to provide one, giving her the opportunity to earn a living. However, Zahira also revealed that her small ration shop was struggling due to a lack of stock.



Understanding her situation, we promised to help restock her shop, bringing a sense of relief and hope to Zahira. With a smile on her face and tears in her eyes, she expressed her heartfelt gratitude, saying, "Thank you for your support." Her tears reflected not just her struggles, but the immense relief and appreciation she felt for the help she received.



04 A Merciless Mob Lynching, A Heartbroken Family, A Promise and Everlasting Smiles with Miles2Smile

“My son didn’t die a natural death; if he had, I would have found peace. But I feel no peace,”

- The ailing mother of Saddam Qureshi (23) on speaking to Miles2Smiles.

Saddam Qureshi (23) along with his two companions was traveling via private truck loaded with buffaloes when he encountered mob lynching. The mob persuaded them for approximately 54 km, assaulted them, killed two of Saddam’s companions on the spot, and gravely injured Saddam. Twenty-three-year-old Saddam eventually succumbed to his injuries a few days after the incident.

Saddam left behind a heartbroken mother, a devastated father, and two grief-stricken sisters. The incident blurred the lives of Saddam’s family, with sadness running all across their bodies. To channelize their sadness and bring respite, Miles2Smile traveled to Lakhnauti, Saharanpur and listened to the heartbreaking story of Saddam’s death. “My young son, my young son was killed,” Saddam’s father said with eyes full of tears.

Saddam was the sole breadwinner of the family, and his death took away the ease of four people. How could we sit calmly when four innocent souls are battling a battle they don’t deserve? A question circled in our minds. “Our brother is gone, no one saved him, he left, he was killed,” Rubina, the other sister of Saddam said, bursting into tears.

While talking to Saddam’s family and feeling their pain, we made a promise to ourselves first then to them. A promise to help them in every possible way, to provide respite to them.



**REKINDLING
A BROKEN FAMILY**

Intervention of Miles2Smile

True to our promise, we traveled various times to Lakhnauti Saharanpur, to understand their problem and provide tangible solutions. To provide them financial assistance, we purchased two healthy buffaloes for them to facilitate a milk supply business.



On our recent visit, we saw the buffaloes and experienced the happiness of their families. They told us how healthy their buffaloes are and how smoothly they run their business, making them financially stable. In addition to this, Saddam's mother seemed satisfied this time; a mere promise gave respite to a devastated mother.

“Allah had chosen you all and made you a means to help me, to ease my difficulties,”

she said with a smile on her face.



05

**Providing Education, Rebuilding Dreams,
and Earning Smiles through Miles2Smile**

In September 2021, 20-year-old Sameer, a Muslim mechanic, was lynched to death in Shamli. Just two months into his new job at Tata Sales, his promising future was brutally cut short. While on his way to open a bank account, he was attacked by a mob, his head repeatedly smashed against the road until he lost consciousness. Despite eyewitness intervention and a rushed hospital visit, Sameer succumbed to his injuries.

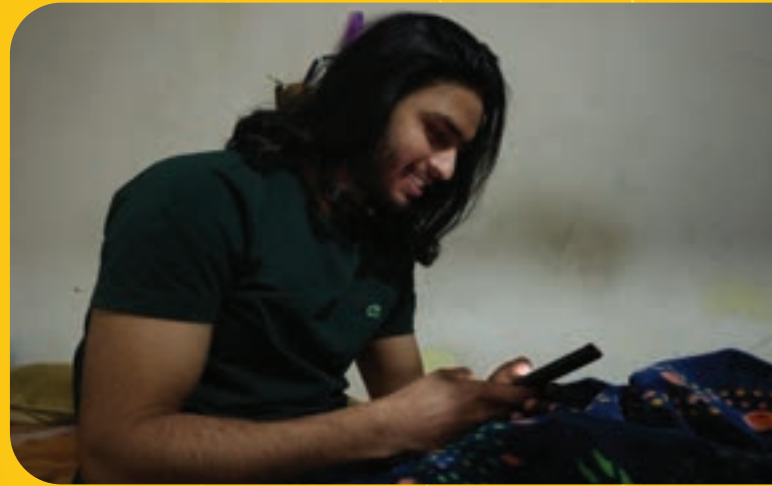
Miles2Smile visited Sameer's family in Banat, Shamli, finding them utterly devastated. His sister's cries of grief echoed through their modest home. His brothers, Aasif and Rihan, wept silently, their pain profound. The scene was heart-wrenching.

Weeks later, Miles2Smile returned to speak with Rihan, who expressed the family's despair. Sameer's income had supported them all, including Rihan's education. Now, with Sameer gone, Rihan's schooling was in jeopardy. He worried about his future, asking, "Will I be able to continue going to school?" The pain of the family was palpable enough to make us feel it. We decided to provide respite to them.

**REBUILDING
DREAMS AND HOPES**

Intervention of Miles2Smile

Miles2Smile recognized Rihan's desire for education after his brother Sameer's tragic death. We enrolled him in a private school in Banat, Shamli, covering his tuition fees. Now a 7th grader, Rihan's two-year journey has been remarkable. From a worried boy unsure of his future, he has blossomed into a happy and engaged student.



On a recent visit, Rihan eagerly shared his excitement about learning and reading. His positive transformation inspired us to broaden their mission. They envision building "Smile School," a place where children of victims of violence, like Rihan, can receive the education they deserve. This school will offer hope and opportunity, empowering these children to pursue their dreams despite the hardships they've faced. Miles2Smile is committed to making this vision a reality.



06 A Shop of Hope:

The summer of 2024 brought renewed warmth and growth to much of India, but for one family, it brought only devastating loss. Guddu Khan, along with Saddam Qureshi and Chand Miya Khan, was brutally killed in a suspected case of mob violence. The three men were allegedly targeted by cow vigilantes and chased for over 50 kilometers before being attacked and killed.

The impact on Guddu's family is heartbreaking. His four young children, aged 2 to 10, are left without their father. His wife has lost her husband, his mother her son, and the family their sole provider. Months after the tragedy, Miles2Smile visited the family, and their pain was palpable.

Guddu's mother recounted the horror, describing how Guddu had video-called his children just hours before the attack. She detailed the extent of his injuries, her voice choked with tears. "His entire leg was injured," she shared, "all his ribs were broken... his arm was twisted and broken." Overwhelmed with grief, she pleaded for help, explaining how even basic necessities like food and water were now a struggle. Miles2Smile, deeply moved by their plight, resolved to support the family in every way possible.



**REBUILDING
GUDDU'S FAMILY'S LIFE**

Intervention of Miles2Smile

Following the tragic death of Guddu Khan, his family was left in a state of profound hardship. In response, a fundraising campaign was initiated by Miles2Smile, and with the overwhelming support of donors, sufficient funds were raised to assist the family.



However, the objective extended beyond mere financial aid; the aim was to secure a sustainable future for the family. Guddu's brother-in-law operated a small garment shop, which, with the necessary support, was reopened and restocked with a full range of clothing and cosmetics.

Situated in Jammu, the shop has since become a crucial source of income for Guddu's wife and children, providing them with the financial stability required to rebuild their lives. While this intervention may appear modest, the shop stands as an essential step in their recovery, offering renewed hope and a path toward a more secure future.



07 Sewing a New Future: Nargis's Story of Resilience

A plethora of heart wrenching stories unfolded during communal violence that swept in northeast Delhi in February 2020. The violence lost as many as 54 lives, caused damage to properties and livelihood of people. Nargis (28) is one among the sea of survivors. The horror of the violence still sends shivers down her spine even five years later. Nargis lost her husband in the violence, unaware that it was even unfolding.

"I didn't even know that riots were happening, I wasn't even here."

"I called Mursaleen, but he didn't pick up the phone... For three days, we didn't know anything about him... Then his body was found." she said.

Mursaleen, her husband, was brutally attacked. He was beaten, shot in the chest, and then slashed with a sword. These injuries proved fatal and Nargis lost her husband.

"First they hit him, beat him, shot him in the leg, then shot him in the chest, after that they killed him with a sword, and he died" she said

She further stated that Mursaleen's body was so severely mutilated that she was unable to identify him until she recognized the thumb on his right foot.

"He was completely unrecognizable; I recognized him by the thumb of his right foot, then by his clothes," she added.

In the inferno of hatred, Narsaleen not only lost her husband but the only source of income. With Mursaleen's death, the family members found themselves grappling with financial issues.

Intervention of Miles2Smile

When Miles2Smile first encountered Nargis during a survey, she appeared deeply distressed and disheartened. Aware of her financial hardships and the challenges surrounding her children's education, we provided respite to her by enrolling the children in Sunrise Public School, our relief school.



When asked how we could assist Nargis financially, she expressed the need for a sewing machine to help her earn a livelihood through stitching. In response, we provided her with an electric machine to make the process easier and more efficient. Previously, Nargis had been renting a sewing machine from a relative, but it was inadequate for her needs and didn't allow her to work efficiently. Now, with her own machine, she can earn a steady income without the added stress of relying on subpar equipment.

"I am very happy that I have received my machine now. Now I can work comfortably. The machine I had earlier over there wasn't suitable for the work. Only when I have the right machine can I do the work. Now, I can work easily.



08 Shattered Lives, New Beginnings, Rebuilding Hope with Miles2Smile

In June, the ongoing violence against Muslims in India claimed the life of 23-year-old Chand Miya Khan. Chand, along with two companions, was transporting buffaloes when they were pursued and violently attacked by a mob, allegedly cow vigilantes. This tragedy left his family in a state of profound grief. Chand was the primary breadwinner, leaving behind his wife, Henna (name changed), whom he had married only seven months earlier, and their unborn child.

Henna's grief was overwhelming as she spoke about the emotional and physical toll of her loss. With tears in her eyes, she questioned the senselessness of Chand's death and the injustice her family faced. The sorrow was shared by Chand's parents, who now found themselves struggling with both emotional devastation and financial insecurity following the loss of their son.

Miles2Smile visited the family in Lakhnauti, Shamli, where they witnessed firsthand the depth of their suffering. Aware of the urgent need to address both the emotional and financial aftermath of this tragedy, Miles2Smile pledged to assist Henna, her unborn child, and Chand's parents in rebuilding their lives. This commitment aims to provide much-needed support during their difficult journey of recovery.



**REBUILDING
DREAMS AND HOPES**

Intervention of Miles2Smile

After the tragic loss of their primary source of income, Chand Miya Khan's family faced significant hardship. In response, Miles2Smile, with the generosity of compassionate donors, intervened to make a meaningful impact. The organization covered the rent for a year and stocked the family's shop with essential goods, providing them with an opportunity to regain financial independence and rebuild their lives.



This support has been a source of vital relief for the family. Chand's father expressed deep gratitude to Miles2Smile, noting that the assistance with the shop rent had greatly alleviated their financial burdens. The visible joy on his face reflected the immense relief they felt, underscoring the profound difference the support had made. The shop now stands as a symbol of hope, offering the family a clear path forward following their immense loss. It serves as a powerful reminder of how community support can empower individuals and families to recover from adversity and regain stability.



09 Overcoming the Odds: Waqeel's Journey to Recovery

A small, cozy room with sunlight streaming through the window has become Waqeel's permanent dwelling. The calm atmosphere of the room contrasts sharply with his tumultuous life. Waqeel is both an acid attack survivor and a victim of the Delhi Pogrom 2020.

On February 23, 2020, riots engulfed his neighborhood, Shiv Vihar, in Northeast Delhi. This area bore the brunt of the violence, with burned homes, destroyed properties, shattered windows, and scorched walls telling the grim story of the destruction. Each home and every survivor carries the emotional and physical scars of that day.

Waqeel was at home when the violence erupted. Peering out of his balcony to assess the situation, a splash of liquid struck his eyes and face. In an instant, his world turned dark, his eyes burned, and blood poured from his face. It was acid. The pain was unbearable, and he lost consciousness. When he woke, he learned that he would never see again. For days, his life consisted of injections and medical treatments.

A few days later, Miles2Smile spoke with Waqeel about how the attack had changed his life.

“What can I say about life now... it's completely different. Now, I can't see anything anymore,”

-Waqeel



**REBUILDING
DREAMS AND HOPES**

Intervention of Miles2Smile



Waqeel shared that while an organization is covering the cost of his eye surgery, he struggles with the expenses for travel and accommodation. As the primary earner in his family, his loss of vision has made it impossible for him to continue working, leaving the family in financial distress. Although his health issues and constant headaches limited our conversation, it was clear that he needed financial assistance.



In response, we enrolled three of his children in Sunrise Public School, a relief institution for survivors of mob violence, communal riots, and hate crimes. To further support him, we have taken on the responsibility of covering his travel and accommodation costs for medical treatment. Waqeel's wife runs a small shop to support the family, and we have promised to restock and expand the shop, adding a stationery section.

We also plan to enroll his daughter in our school, with a focus on her education. We believe a sense of love and belonging make the survivors merry. To spread happiness we also delivered ration boxes in the month of Ramadan to Waqeel house. With these little efforts, we plan to build a world where everyone has a reason to smile.



Miles2Smile was established five years back as a not-for-profit organization, based in Delhi. The organization works primarily in relief activities and brings smiles to the faces of victims looming over penury and distress. Livelihood creation, healthcare and educational empowerment are also some core areas of work by the organization. In the past two years, the organization has made commendable service in delivering solace to the people languishing in the heap of despair. The organization is on an assiduous mission to revive happiness to the people ripped after communal tensions.



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