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Malmö, Sweden



Every Child Has The Right...
Speaking Up For Young Carers In Low Income Settings

Anil Patil, Founder and Executive Director, Carers Worldwide

The vision of Carers Worldwide is a world in which the **needs** of every carer are routinely met in order to achieve **physical, emotional, economic and social wellbeing** for each individual





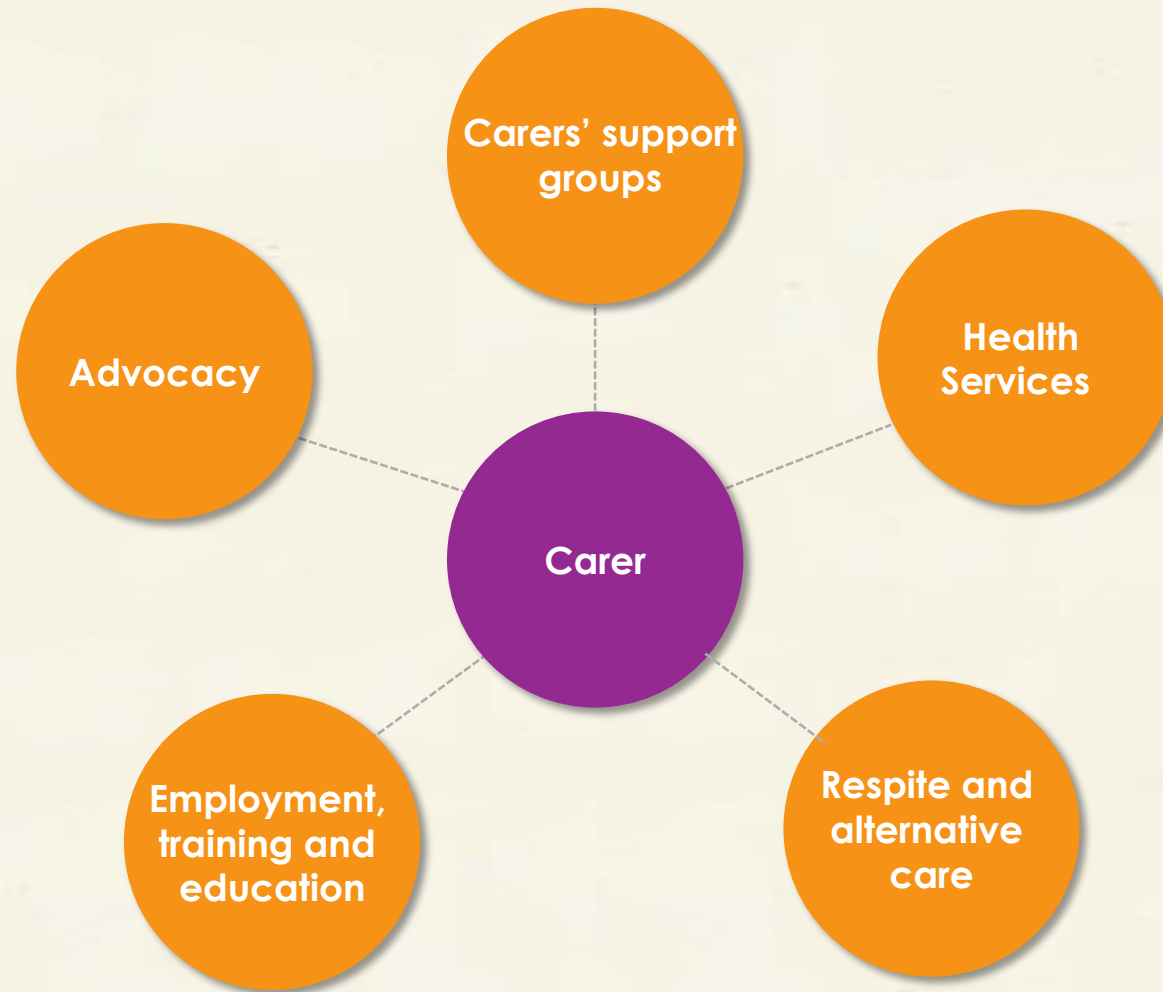
Our mission is to enable carers, service providers, policy makers and other stakeholders to **recognise and respond** to the **needs of carers** in the developing world, ensuring balance and equal value is given to the needs of the carers and the person receiving care

How We Operationalise Our Mission...

We serve as a **catalyst** to:






- **Bring about systemic change** in the work of various stakeholders so that they recognise and respond to the needs of carers in the developing world
- **Facilitate the provision of support** for individual carers and their families in the developing world, bringing them better health, wellbeing and economic security



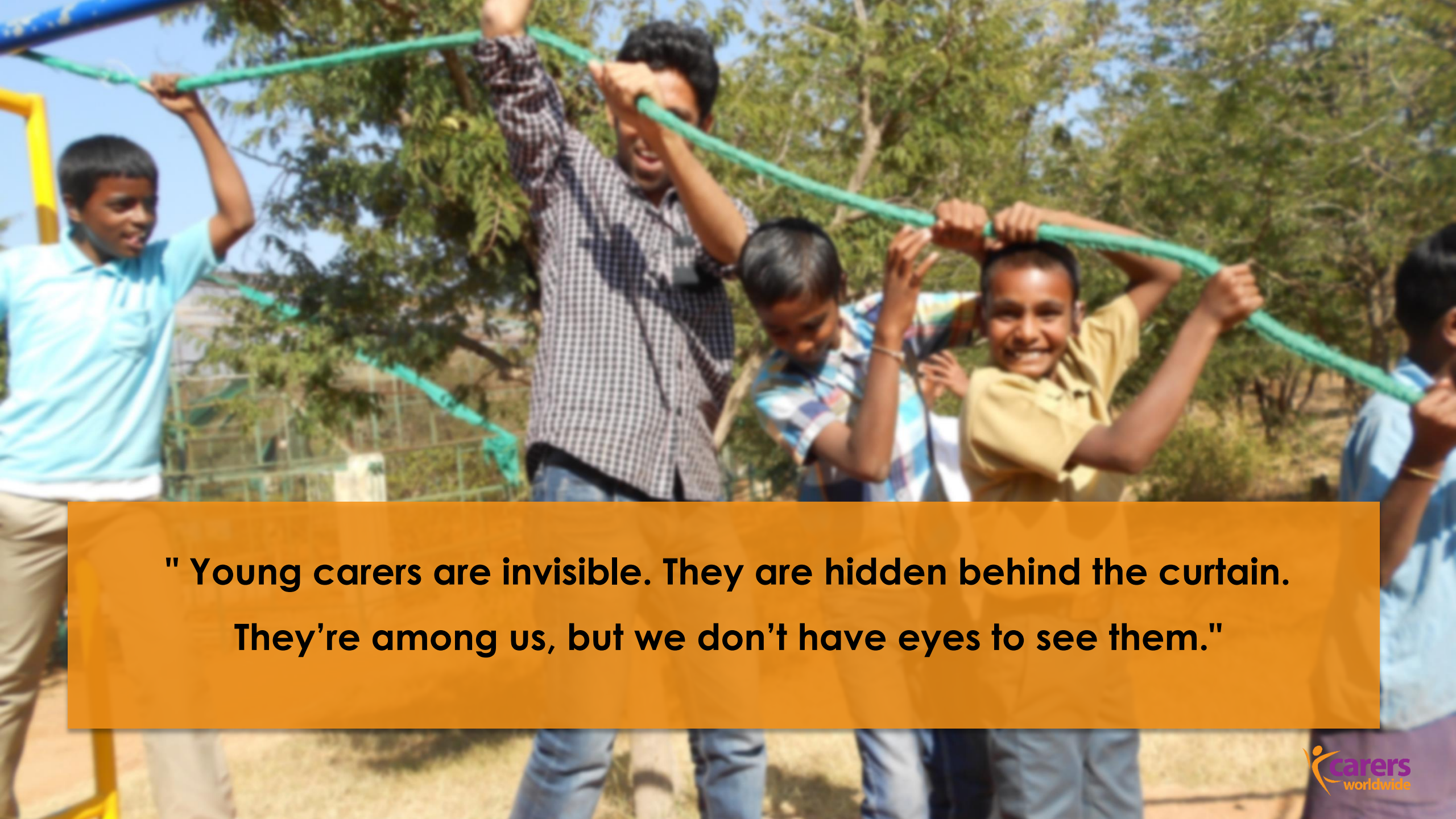


The Carers Worldwide **model** ensures **positive change** for carers

What We Do For Partners...

-  Raise awareness
-  Design and develop programmes appropriate to the people they work with
-  Carry out research to help 'build a case'
-  Help them to work at a broader policy level
-  Carry out training and capacity building





**" Young carers are invisible. They are hidden behind the curtain.
They're among us, but we don't have eyes to see them."**

A photograph showing a woman and three young girls standing in front of a yellow brick wall with a blue door. The woman is on the right, wearing a green top and a pink and purple shawl. The girls are on the left, wearing school uniforms. One girl is looking down, another is looking forward, and a third is partially visible on the far left.

“In developing nations, the specific issue of young carers has not been identified as a concern for public or social policy.”

(Global Perspectives on Children's Unpaid Caregiving in the Family, 2007)

How Carers Worldwide Addresses This



Sensitisation and training to partner organisations and other stakeholders who come into contact with young carers



Services for young carers



Advocacy and policy level work

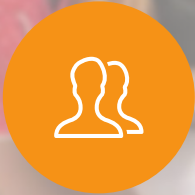


Research



Training

Partner Staff



Teachers









Local Health Workers



Community Volunteers



Services

-  Identification and discussion with family members/community
-  Counselling
-  Integration back into school
-  Support with uniform, books, tuition
-  Young carers clubs
-  Alternative care facilities



Our Work in Action...

This is Gowri with her father, Srinivas.
Her story is just one of millions...

- Her mother left because she couldn't cope
- Gowri became carer, cleaner and cook
- The family became destitute and Gowri had to abandon school
- She became ill through lack of female guidance and care



Now Thanks To Our Work With Our Partner Organisation...

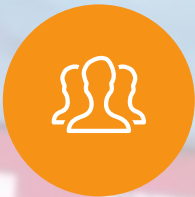
- Gowri has finally been able to return to her schooling
- Srinivas has an income from selling mobile phone cards
- Both of them are part of their local community again

“Life is still hard, but now we are better able to cope and finally feel we have a future...”



Advocacy and Policy

Community



Local government



National and international NGOs



Carers movement



Research



The work of young carers within the home is yet to be fully investigated.



Over the past sixty years, the number of children has doubled and the elderly population increased six-fold, yet the adult carer population only three-fold (UN, 2010).

The global burden of unpaid care appears to be increasingly falling on children and affecting their everyday lives.



We know very little about the individual and social costs associated with children's care work or how best to support young carers.

Addressing the human costs borne by young carers is a complex task.

Costs include:



Missed
education



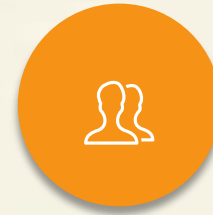
Effects on
Health



Emotional
Wellbeing



Stress



Isolation



Possible
exposure to
situations of
violence

At Present...

Young carers are:

Unprepared

Undervalued

Unsupported

Unrepresented

This needs to change to
young carers being:

Resilient ✓

Recognised ✓

Supported ✓

Represented ✓



What Is Needed

Research agenda urgently needs to be put into place



International and collaborative



Governmental and non-governmental



Academics, practitioners and families



Support systems that are replicable and transferrable



" It's like a drop of ink in a bucket full of water.

You don't need a whole bottle of ink to change the colour."



Final Word

Now that my mother has stabilised on medication, I feel as if I have my mother back. Other girls were always able to go to their mothers if they had a problem, but I could not. Now I can talk to her and it makes me very happy. I am also back in school and so pleased to be with my friends again.


Sharmilla, Young carer, Baglung district, Nepal



Thank you!

For more information about Carers Worldwide:

www.carersworldwide.org 

www.facebook.com/carersworldwide 

www.twitter.com/CarersWorldwide 

