



## **Choosing to adopt**

*An adoptive mother, New Delhi*

It was a misty morning when my husband of three days had gently said, “I would like to adopt a child. What happens to children who lose their parents – does every child not need a secure childhood and loving environment of a family.” This had come as a surprise as never in the three months that we had been engaged, had he mentioned anything of this kind.

As months rolled by, we had discussed this at length. Whether we would be up to it, whether would we have any regrets later in life, would we be able to do justice to the children and how will our families take it. Our respective parents had started looking forward to being grandparents the moment we were married. The more we discussed, the more convinced we became. Why bring more children into this world when there are already millions who deserve love, care and security of a family? We felt we had met and married to do this, build our family this way.

When we brought this up to our family, there were many doubts and many apprehensions - Is there a medical problem? How would the family tree expand? They worried that we were getting into a very uncertain territory. After much discussion over the next couple of years, our family relented.

A mother prepares herself for nine months but I prepared myself for five years. My baby grew in my heart. Quietly we prepared for the arrival of our baby, buying musical soft toys, dresses, fluffy blankets from our journeys. Finally the day arrived and we welcomed our baby with relief and joy. The nuns in the adoption agency said a prayer in their little chapel and gave our three month old a tearful sendoff showering their blessings.

A nun on parting had given me the feed schedule of my baby. That night I had put an alarm to remind myself, lest I remain sleeping while my little one is hungry. How silly I had felt, as exactly two hours after his last feed my son gave a mild cry and there I was, ready with his feed. That day on, he became my teacher. I learnt like a good student and he rewarded me handsomely with his smiles, cackles and squeals...and yes he started winning over everyone in the family with all his innocent charm.

It has been more than ten years since we commenced our beautiful journey and have even expanded our family with adoption of our daughter and our home resonates with giggles and laughter.