

Once upon a time, there was a large pond full of various creatures like - fishes, frogs, swans, ducks, kingfishers and lots of other animals. The pond was surrounded by various types of greenery. There were tall trees and short trees and lots of other trees with bright and colourful flowers. The flowers attracted bees and butterflies of vivid colours throughout the year. Thus, all year round, the place was full of life and colour.

Now, in a nearby house, lived a little girl called Chinni. Chinni was five years old and was a friend to all the animals who lived in and around the pond. Often on holidays and weekends, Chinni would visit the pond with her parents and spent hours over there feeding the ducks, swans and fishes.

Of all the animals in the pond, Chinni's favourite was a family of goose. There was a papa goose, a mummy goose and three lovely baby geese.

Chinni used to love watching the baby geese learn fishing from their parents. And above all, Chinni learned from her parents that all the life survived in and

around the pond because of the perennial water in the pond. Chinni loved the idea of water supporting life and even at her tender age understood the deeper meaning of preservation of water.

Then one day, when Chinni was visiting the pond with her parents, she saw a lot of people gathered around and arguing about something. She was too young to understand, but learned from her mummy that the people gathered were protesting against a decision to construct a shopping mall at the site by filling up the pond.

The owner of the builder was himself present and kept arguing with the protestors who were all neighbours from the vicinity. However, in spite of all the protests, Chinni saw to her dismay, that the builder was relentless and refused to give up.

Then Chinni had an idea, she quickly spotted the backpack of the builder lying on a bench nearby and from the sidepockets was peeping a large bottle of drinking water. Chinni quickly ran and fished out the bottle

while the builder kept arguing. He never noticed that Chinni had hidden it behind a tree. Finally, after several minutes of shouting and arguing, the builder came to have a drink of water from his bag, but could not find the bottle. He kept searching, but only grew more angry, as he was very thirsty, but could not drink water.

It was then Chinni, brought out the bottle from its hiding place and told the builder, "Uncle, if you cannot survive without one bottle of water, how do you expect all these creatures to survive without this whole pond?" And then, as if by magic, the builder stood motionless listening and looking at the little girl. What a horde of people could not do, a little girl of 5 did. The builder slowly took the bottle from Chinni's hands and patted her head. He then turned towards the crowd and said slowly, "Let me see what I can do to preserve the pond," and he left in his car.

Within a week's time,  
the builder withdrew the construction  
notia and to Chinni's utter surprise,  
even helped to plant new trees all  
around the pond to support the  
lives that depended on water.

Chinni was happy & so was  
the family of goose and all the  
other animals who lived in the  
pond — and they lived happily  
ever after.

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