



## Friends of Cross Roads for Human Development, UK, Reg Charity no: 1116524, UK; SOR; 129 Karnataka State, India

CRHD Newsletter January 2018

**Dear Friends,**

Now is the time of the year, when we receive updates from the project in India. On behalf of Kids Paradise and the Tailoring Centre, I would like to thank you all for your continued financial support that has enabled the work of the CRHD to complete its 15 years without too much difficulty. Your kind and sacrificial donations have paid the staff, provided uniforms, books, mid-day meals and transport for the staff and children. It has also trained more than 600 women in the tailoring Centre and empowered them to know what it means to live when they have skills, stand on their own feet and see life from a different perspective.

I am informed that the school held a Christmas celebration in the new multipurpose hall. Both the staff and children were excited as usual to dress up for the nativity play, practise Christmas carols, dance and recite bible verses relating to the Christmas season. They were very proud to demonstrate their gifts and talents not only to the whole school but also to the parents, visitors and friends. It gave the audience and the school a chance to hear, see and experience what it meant for God to love so much that He gave his only begotten Son.



The most wonderful thing about the programme was the young mother Mary and her baby Jesus. This reminded the young girls that if they had not come to school, by this age their parents would have compelled them get married and no doubt they would have carried their own little baby. So the school is grateful for all your prayerful support that not only gives children an education, but has also

liberated them from child labour and girls from an early marriage.

As you can see, the school is colourfully decorated for the Christmas programme. Throughout the advent season leading up to the Christmas programme, they were singing traditional carols, reading the Christmas stories and taking part in various activities that display the different characters of the Christmas story.



You can see how proudly and safely children are seated in the new hall this year; in previous years they were exposed to wind, dust and rain, which often interrupted their activities. Another great joy is the see all of the staff and children who come from different castes and religious backgrounds gathered together to participate in the seasonal celebrations. In this way, the school, along with education, provides the opportunity for them know the love of God through assemblies, where Bible lessons are read regularly and prayers are offered.



We are pleased to learn that all of children have done very well in their mid-term exams and there is always some extra help available for those who struggle to cope with difficulties in understanding their lessons. Here, we especially thank the staff that take an extra interest in those children who struggle.

We are grateful for our dedicated staff that does all that it can so that the children can excel in their exams. Most of them are non-Christian but understand that they are welcomed into the Christmas environment not only to teach but also to learn further. They are, in return, grateful to the school for the opportunity to have teaching experience, as they prepare to move on in different directions.



There is now plenty of water on site and that enables the children to grow their own vegetables such as greens, tomatoes and different kind of beans. It is very encouraging to see how each class has been assigned to look after a particular plot, not just to grow vegetables but also to maintain it daily as a part of their extra curricular activities. The produce continues to add significantly to their daily mid-day meals. Some of them also are taught to help the dinner ladies to prepare all that is needed to cook the dinners as part of their cookery lessons.

As part of their environmental studies the children are able to plant trees and grow plants. This is only possible because of the protection of our new compound wall that prevents animals or passers-by from spoiling our crops.

I am sure those of you who have visited the tailoring centre have witnessed the group of women and their enthusiasm to be part of the training scheme. They are always grateful for all that they have received from the centre and some of them have gone to open their own centres in different places including Bangalore City.



Due to government initiatives, I have been informed a good number of vocational training centres have opened in the city and as a result our Tailoring Centre is, at present suffering a lack of students. However, the staff are prayerfully considering the next step forward to see what and how something new can be offered

that is both productive and attractive to those who need help. This also reminds us that it is almost 14 years since Sundra Daniel started the tailoring centre which has seen so many women

complete the training which has enabled them to stand on their own feet.

We are grateful for those who have given money specifically for the purpose of constructing toilets for the school. Hopefully this work will start once the children have completed their final exams so that the construction work will not disturb school activities. I think it will also be time for some other jobs like repairing windows, replacing broken wooden frames, painting and decoration and etc to be carried out. This will cost around £2800, for which I ask you to pray that Lord may provide so that this work also is completed during the forthcoming holiday.

**Please pray:**

1. Praise God for all those who have been supporting the project through their prayers and finances.
2. The CRHD Staff who continue to work hard to serve children while receiving a very small stipend.
3. CRHD needs £20,000 per year to pay for the staff, provide the midday meal for the children and maintain the School as well as the women's centre.
4. That CRHD may be a great witness for God's love and faithfulness in the caste dominated society.
5. That CRHD may find the necessary resources to carry on the vision and to expand its work.
6. That CRHD may have more 'friends' outside India to pray, promote and to raise the necessary finance.
7. That the dream of CRHD to see an Education Centre built for God's glory may one day be realised.
8. For the safety and protection of the school
9. School may continue to thrive to be a model school for others to follow.
10. Installation of CCTV and construction of the toilet blocs
11. Summer Vocational Bible School which costs £. 1100 which would cover all Christian resources, mdi-day meal, books and etc.
12. Summer conference for rural young people to be aware of their rights, health, first- aid, learn about salvation and Bible.
13. Tailoring to Centre to flourish in ore rot reach out women who otherwise will not an opportunity to have an interaction with others.

The Indian CRHD committee expresses its heartfelt gratitude to the friends of CRHD both in the UK and Switzerland for their love, care and prayerful financial support without which the project would be impossible. We are aware of your prayers and also your personal interest for the development of the vision of CRHD to serve the marginalised community in India.

With much appreciation and prayers,

Yours sincerely,  
Gill and Joseph

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