

Bethel Hostel - Gujarat

Annual Report 2023-2024

Jesus said, "Let the little come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these. Mat 19: 14.

Jesus loves children and orders us to take care of them. Resurrected Jesus instructed Peter. "If you really love me, take care and feed my lambs.

God has special concern on children. So SISU started child care program among tribal children of South Gujarat through hostels and education development program. It runs hostel for boys and girls in Valsad and Vyara. Many little children of migrant labourers and tribal families make use of the SISU Bethel Hostels. Both the Bethel hostels are situated in south Gujarat.

South Gujarat is well known as the tribal belt of Gujarat. This region has Kukna, Kotwaliya, Vasava, Tubla, Chaudhari, Warli, Bhil and Gamit tribal communities. Tribals who depend mostly on migration labour works for their livelihood, wander during two seasons in a year to the nearby cities. During the migration period the children would also accompany their parents. So their education will be affected.

SISU runs Bethel hostels in south Gujarat to educate such children. It makes the use of government free education and offers free boarding. Bethel provides free education to the children of migrant labourers. These hostels are a great help to the poor tribal communities.

Children stay in these hostels and study in the government schools. Children from Valsad, Navsari, Dangs, Surat, Tapi, Bharuch and Narmada districts are studying here. Now South Gujarat tribal region is getting to be more known as the literate region of tribals in India.

The academic year of 2023 – 2024 started by June 13th. School was reopened after summer vacation. All our hostel children returned back safe to our hostels.

The details of the children in our hostels.

- No. of children in Bethel Hostels

| Hostel | Children |
|-----------|----------|
| 1, Vyara | 90 |
| 2, Valsad | 25 |
| Total | 115 |

- Children with their Sponsorship

| Sponsor | Children |
|-----------------|----------|
| 1, F.M.P.B | 75 |
| 2, C.N.I Vyara | 15 |
| 3, C.N.I Valsad | 25 |
| Total | 115 |

- Family status of children.

| Family | Vyara Hostel | Valsad Hostel |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|
| Fully Orphan | 01 | - |
| Fatherless | 08 | 09 |
| Motherless | 02 | 02 |
| Divided Family | 03 | 08 |
| Poor Family | 76 | 06 |
| Total | 90 | 25 = 115 |

- Standard wise Children strength.

| Class | Vyara Hostel | Valsad Hostel |
|----------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Primary 1- V | 01 | - |
| Middle V-VIII | 52 | 16 |
| High school IX-X | 15 | 06 |
| Higher secondary XI-XII | 09 | 02 |
| Higher education (College) | 02 | - |
| Nursing | 07 | - |
| ITI | - | 01 |
| Computer | 02 | |
| Tailoring | 02 | - |
| Total | 90 | 25 =115 |

Main Activities of the Bethel Hostels:

Educational Activities :

Children in both the Bethel hostels study up to XII STD in nearby government aided schools. They get education at free of cost.

Morning and evening studies were conducted in the hostels. Staff conducted the study hour and helped the children to learn well and complete their home works and learn their daily lessons. School uniforms, books, notes and educational stationeries were provided to our children. Schools were visited by staff and progress of the children and regular attendance were checked and clarified with the class teachers.

In this academic year Seven students were in 12th Std and eleven students were in 10th Std. Total 18 students appeared for the board exam. Among them 13 passed and got good marks. After the Divali holidays Maths tuition was arranged for the 10th STD girls in Vyara hostel. The school also provided extra classes for the 10th STD students. Our children worked hard for their educational progress and good results. Long absentees were visited in their villages and brought back to hostel by our staff.

Alvish bhai a member of C.N.I church Vyara arranged a sponsor family who provided stationeries to all our hostel children.

C.N.I Vyara Church also gifted our children with needed stationeries.

Achievements of our children:

- Aryan- 6th Std, Rohan, Sahil, Uday, Aryan, Rohit, Gitesh- 7th Std, Aryan- 8th Std got A grade in their annual exam.
- Hiraj, Rohit - 12th Std got B grade.
- Priyansi – 10th Std got 70% marks
- Kavya and Divya – 9th Std got respectively 74% and 70%.
- Sweety of 9th Std got first rank in Dakshanapath school.
- Nancy, Archana, Pooja got A grade in their respective classes 5th, 6th and 7th Std.

Spiritual Activities:

Books of the Bible were taught in devotions. Children attended Sunday school and Sunday Church service in the C.N.I churches of Valsad and Vyara on every Sunday. They wrote Sunday school exam conducted by C.N.I diocese. V.B.S programme for children was conducted by C.N.I Valsad Kristi Mahila Sangad on 17-04-23 to 22-04-23 at Valsad hostel. Jesus film video was shown during the festival holidays on 19-09-23. One day retreat was conducted for Valsad hostel boys on 28-09-23. Speaker Mrs. Arunaben P Mistry was invited to share the word of God.

Morning and evening devotions were conducted for children in these hostels. Syllabus prepared specially for Bethel staff was followed. V.B.S sisters and our staff taught the children Bible stories and prayed with them. Christian magazines and devotion books like Upper room, Daily bread, Chistubandhu Balwadi etc...were purchased and given to the children.

During government holidays VBS was conducted for five days dated on 12-08-23 to 16-08-23. VBS theme was Arise and Shine. Our children learnt songs, stories and Bible based skits. Every Sunday evening special talent hour was organised by our staff for the girls and boys. In which Bible quiz, singing song, skit performance and so many other activities will take place. Special training was given and visual aids were purchased and given to our staff. They use these materials in their regular sessions.

C.N.I pastors visited our children with C.N.I members on this Christmas day. Festivals like Christmas, New Year, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday were celebrated in our hostels. Our girls were encouraged to write TWR exams. Diwali vacation FMPB arranged youth camp in Jawada in which our children also participated. Every Saturday, there will be a special Bible study for Junior and senior girls. Thanksgiving prayer meeting was conducted on 31 December 2023. Every month a special meeting or one day re-treat was conducted for the children to grow in the Lord Jesus Christ. Puppet show, Flannels, Flip charts such as visual aids were used in these special meetings. Child evangelists were invited as speakers.

Benefits of the above programs:

1. Children have grown in the knowledge of God and His word.
2. They have learnt to depend on God to overcome difficult circumstances.
3. Children memorised many psalms on Sundays.
4. Children have learnt to play Dolak drum and harmonium by themselves by singing during devotion time especially for Sunday worships.
5. Children get a chance to sing as a group in C.N.I congregation on every Sundays.
6. Systematic Bible study is going on every Saturday.
7. Children learnt to live a Christian life through following Bible characters .
8. There is no major discipline problem in the hostels last year and children cooperated with staff in the daily routine of the hostels.
9. Sweety got first prize and Hency got second prize in TWR exam.

Health and Emotional care:

- Children are fed with balanced food according to the menu with meat egg, vegetable etc. Tea and Tiffin also were given to children in the morning and evening.
- Soaps, oil and other toilet things were given to them.
- Sick children were taken to hospitals and proper medical treatment was given.
- Common cold, cough and viral fever affected children received immediate medical help and personal care in both hostels.
- The children who were affected by eye sore were taken to hospitals and treated.
- Sick children were taken to hospitals and special food was given to weak children.
- Two sets of dress, one uniform in June and Christmas dress in December were given to children.
- Common cold, cough and viral fever affected children received immediate medical attention and were cured in both hostels.
- Filariasis Vaccine was given to our 10th Std girls from the government school.
- Sickle cell test was taken for every student of 10th Std.
- Blood group test was done for our primary students.
- Iron tablets are given on Wednesday regularly to our children.

4, Special Events and Extracurricular Activities:

Our children's birthdays were celebrated. Jayesh bhai from C.N.I Vyara church provides cakes to all our children regularly.

Christmas program was conducted on 23rd December, in which Mrs. Salma Ben child evangelist and Rev. Tushar Bhai Pastor were our special guest. New year midnight service was conducted.

15th August and 26th January respectively Independence and Republic Day were celebrated in our hostels.

Games articles were provided to children to play in the evening. Every evening children have their play time, Sports day was celebrated on 15th August. Career guidance program was conducted on 23rd March by Mrs. Salma Ben for 10th Std and 30th March for 12th Std children, as well as parents meeting.

Children's day was celebrated on 14th November – 2023 in which children did mono acting and fancy - dress competition. They gave a speech on Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

21st July Bethel Day was celebrated. The brief history of SISU was shared to the children. Mr. Jana bhai and Mrs. Salma ben shared about the mile stones of SISU and the children who benefited through this.

Staff Training was conducted. VIVA curriculum was used for the training. Staff from both Valsad and Vyara attended in this training. Mrs. Salma ben Child development worker conducted this.

A film screening program was arranged by Mr. Jebaseelan. Both Junior and senior children enjoyed the programme.

Adivasi day was celebrated in school. Our children have participated in many programs.

National level drawing and essay writing competition held in school. Our children participated in these competitions.

Anjana, Dhuruvika, Asmitha and Sradha participated in the Teachers' day program.

Bethel Hostel buildings repair and Renewal work was done during summer holidays.

Outstanding performance

Valsad Hostel boys won prizes in kho-kho, musical chair

Dileila Ben from Vyara hostel won first prize in 100mtr race.

Dileila Ben won second prize in Kabadi.

Srusti Ben won second prize in race.

Ravina and Angel won first prize in 100mtr race in their class.

Priyansi won first prize in musical chair.

Conclusion:

Praise the Lord O' my soul. And forget not all His benefits. Ps 103: 2

We staff and children thank God for all the blessings that He showered upon our ministry. We are grateful to the sponsors and well-wishers involved in the Bethel Hostel ministries.

People will speak of the power of your awesome acts, and with gratitude and submissive wonder I will tell of your greatness. They will overflow like a fountain when they speak of your great and abundant goodness and will sing joyfully of your righteousness. Ps 145: 4-5
