

# Dampura School Newsletter

February 2023

Welcome to the CFDC Dampura School newsletter for February 2023. Thank you for your continued support in helping make possible the changes included in this update.

cfdc

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Registered charity number: 1108952

## *A note from CFDC*

Dear sponsor, we visited Dampura school in January specifically to provide you with a personal update on your sponsor child following a difficult world pandemic.

We are happy to tell you that all the children and families are doing well, with exception of little Gayatri who passed away during this period due to other medical conditions.

It has been over four years since we started the program and in that time some of the children have grown into young adults.

Overall, the village environment remains the same. Dampura is a farming community made up of field after field of lush green vegetation which many of the families work on for landowners and grow a small variety of seasonal vegetables for themselves.

At this time of year, most of the harvest is tobacco which earns land owners a premium but as expected, this is not matched to the meagre salaries paid to the families.





## Two years on...

Dampura community is isolated and generally self-sufficient which has helped to keep Covid cases in the village very low due to their limited interaction with people in the nearest major town.

There have been a few infrastructure changes in the village where we see more dirt roads being paved by the government, making access easier.

This story is completely different when looking at individual homes, many of which are still built from cow dung with only holes for windows or doors.

Cooking facilities are basic and most families continue to cook on open fires. This adds to the pollution and fumes can be unbearable in the evenings with multiple households all contributing to the choking smoke.

Luckily due their self-sufficiency, the world financial crisis has impacted some families to a lesser degree but the cost of essential supplies such as wheat, rice, dhal, oil, tea and sugar has become unaffordable for some families so we will be starting a new initiative to help these families with a monthly provisions pack.



Our visit in January was aimed to give you an update not only on the children's education but also their living standards.

We did this where possible by personally visiting each sponsor child in their home. Before anything, we must celebrate the huge success we have achieved over four years with the children's education. For the first time in Dampura's history we have children in further education. Currently there are two children now studying nursing, three on electronic courses, two learning to become seamstresses and three studying to be beauticians.

We met each child and their family at home with our principal, Chiragbhai. Most of the children live within a large radius of the school and some walk a great distance to school.

Our visits were eye opening not only for us but also the headmaster who had not seen where some of the children live. Most of the homes are deep within farm land and could not always be reached by car, so we travelled as passengers on the back of motorbikes, which was quite an experience!

It was humbling meeting families who could not be more welcoming and open with us. The message echoed over and over again was their gratitude for your sponsorship and their hope that their children succeed to climb out of poverty. These families have so little but want to share what they have.

We asked each family if there was anything else we could provide them with to help them or the child's education. Such an open-ended question would normally be open to abuse but our families wanted for nothing other than support for their child's education. The only additional items requested were by Nassem who wanted a bicycle as she walks 5km alone to school, a general knowledge book for Rita and a starter beauty kit for Heena who had secured her first job getting a bride ready for her big day. We will of course continue the great success we have had with our child sponsorship program and from 2023 we will also start the following new initiatives, which you can also be involved with.

- Children teaching Children – students currently attending further studies to be beauticians and seamstresses will hold classes in Dampura school to teach other children who are not allowed by their parents to travel to college.
- Morning snack – the government provides children with boiled chickpeas for breakfast twice a week. CFDC will start to match this for another two days a week.
- Food packs – we will start to provide the most poorest families with key essential food supplies once a quarter, consisting of wheat, rice, dhal, oil, tea and sugar.
- Period poverty – this program was paused during Covid but will now start to supply 200 girls in four different schools with sanitary towels.

In addition, other sponsors have already pledged the following:

- Building a secured frame over the staircase to the assembly hall at Dampura school. This area is plagued by monkeys who harass and scare the children.
- Covering the lower school classroom walls with educational material
- Buying a second-hand bicycle
- Providing world general knowledge books
- Buying a starter beauticians kit.

## *Feeding the homeless...*

The team at Deed to Feed continue their great work feeding the homeless in the Anand region.





Neha



Asmita



Manisha



Jaymioni



Niyati



Ajay



Rita



Sailesh



Deepka



Kajal



Rupal



Apexa



Ramji



Jaydeep



Swara



Nasheem



Riya



Bhumika



Bhavisha



Toral



Hetal



Shakti



Anita



Hetal



Rihdi



Rekha



Bharti



Rita