



Columban Mission in Pakistan 2013



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The Catholic Youth Development Centre (CYDC) Hyderabad, Pakistan



Illiteracy for Christians in Pakistan means a life of street-sweeping, discrimination and segregation. Boys and young men also have the cultural responsibility to begin to earn as quickly as possible to enable their sisters to get married. Life for them is a long dark tunnel with little light or hope.

Since 2008 the Catholic Youth Development Centre (CYDC) has offered hope and the possibility of a better life to young illiterate men in Hyderabad in south-east Pakistan.

It is for young men who have dropped out of school or who have never been to school so that they can get from illiteracy to 10th Class (the last year of high school in Pakistan) through an accelerated programme of teaching and learning spread over two years, from primary to secondary.

All students have a full medical check-up and are vaccinated against Hepatitis B.

Many suffer from malnutrition. Most work before coming to the Centre. The annual cost to provide them with breakfast each day before classes begin is Rs.250,000 (AUD\$2,750).

In 2013, 73 young men are enrolled in CYDC. We ask nothing from them except 100% commitment. Thirty six have so far completed the CYDC programme.

The staff consists of the director and five teachers (2 male, 3 female). Education, moral guidance, personal confidence building and religious instruction and sacramental preparation are all seen to in the programme at CYDC.

They are now enrolled in three-year diploma technical courses at government technical institutes in Hyderabad. We have been able to arrange apprentice-based employment for them with companies and local factories.

The Catholic Centre of Academic Excellence (CCAЕ) Hyderabad, Pakistan

The Centre began seven years ago in Hyderabad. The goal of the Centre is to provide a sustained environment where academically talented but disadvantaged Catholic young men can be assisted to attain high academic grades. This ensures they can gain university entrance on merit.

Eighty two boys are currently enrolled in the Centre's four-year programme. They attend schools in the morning and come to the Centre Monday-Friday from 4:30-9:00pm. Nothing is asked from them except 100% commitment.

This year the 14 boys who completed high school received excellent results in the Sindh Government Board of Education examinations: 1 A+, 11 A, and 2 B.

By its focus on moral, spiritual and personal development, the Centre ensures that the candidates will be able to enter confidently into tertiary education and to successfully complete their studies.

This is part of the Centre's emphasis on preparing them to be committed and informed Catholics. We look to them for leadership in the Church of the future in Hyderabad.

We want them to be able to live and work effectively in Pakistan's multi-cultural and multi-religious society. Family poverty and anti-Christian religious discrimination are the two obstacles which the Centre seeks to overcome to achieve these goals.

To date, 23 young men have completed their four years at the Catholic Centre of Academic Excellence and are enrolled in universities in Karachi and Hyderabad. Most are enrolled in engineering, commerce and accounting. One is doing Fine Arts and another Archeology.

The Catholic Centre of Academic Excellence is staffed by its director and seven teachers (5 men and 3 women), all of whom are married.



St. Elizabeth School of Midwifery

Hyderabad, Pakistan



Seventeen students from St. Elizabeth School of Midwifery passed the final examinations conducted by the Sindh Nurses' Examination Board in 2013. All received an A-Division. These outstanding results continue the success story of St. Elizabeth's in contributing to the health needs of women and children in Pakistan and promoting the dignity and professional skills of Pakistani Christian women.

According to the Pakistan Economic Survey 2012-2013, Pakistan has the worst rates for infant mortality (59 per 1000) when compared to other South Asian countries. Health expenditure in 2012-2013 is just 0.35% of GDP. St. Elizabeth Hospital and St. Elizabeth School of Midwifery continue to make a difference in Pakistan.

Seventy young women from marginalized communities in less-developed areas are currently training at St. Elizabeth School

of Midwifery to advance their socio-economic position by enabling them to become trained professional and qualified midwives for mother, neonatal and infant care.

The School of Midwifery is unable to be self-supporting and needs financial assistance to carry out its work. Given the background of the trainee midwives, fees are kept at the barest minimum.

Each student is requested to provide only Rs.40,000 (AUD\$440) for the full course. Each student is provided with subsidized tuition fees, enrolment fees, examination fees, subsidized food and lodging, medical care, uniform, shoes and stationery.

The total cost to educate one midwife is Rs.280,000 (AUD\$3,100). We receive no assistance from the Pakistan government.

St. Elizabeth Hospital

Hyderabad, Pakistan

In 2012-2013 Pakistan spent just 0.35 of its GDP on health for its people. According to the Pakistan Economic Survey 2012-2013, the rate of improvement in health outcomes in Pakistan are low compared to other countries in South Asia.

St. Elizabeth Hospital in Hyderabad is a major source of health care for impoverished people in the desert areas of Sindh in south-east Pakistan. It is a 100 bed hospital which provides the best possible care to those in greatest need at the lowest possible cost. Many patients receive totally free care. The government of Pakistan provides no assistance.

Mother and child care is a specialization of St. Elizabeth Hospital and it integrates

the students at its School of Midwifery into this work.

Through its mobile medical outreach, St. Elizabeth is the sole provider of free medical care to over 20,000 men, women and children who live in harsh conditions as bonded agricultural workers in the control of absentee landlords.

In 2012, St. Elizabeth commenced home-based palliative care nursing for terminally-ill cancer patients. This is a first in Pakistan. Our nurses have received training in palliative care nursing through attachments with Catholic hospitals in Australia and Singapore.

Although St. Elizabeth can cover its running costs it depends on donations



for capital developments, purchase of new equipment and to meet the costs of the home-based palliative care nursing. The hospital has its own Administrative Council. An independent external audit is carried out annually.

Christian, Muslim and Hindu doctors and nurses work together at St. Elizabeth in caring for those in need. In January 2013, Governor Ishrat ul Ebad of Sindh praised St. Elizabeth Hospital as an outstanding example of harmony and professional care. He said that it presents compassion as the best response to ethnic terrorism and religion-based violence in Pakistan.



Nurses prepare linen at St. Elizabeth Hospital.



Patras Inayat looks after a small patient at the hospital.



One of the three operating theatres at St. Elizabeth Hospital.



Preparing to wash the laundry.



Newly constructed diagnostic laboratory.



Patras Inayat caring for Rattno.

Fr Robert visits badly burned Rattno in February 2013.

Rattno's Story

Twelve-year-old Rattno was lucky to survive in November 2012 when the shack their family called home burnt down. Rattno is a Hindu boy of the Parkari Koli tribal people in south-east Pakistan who lost everything they had during the floods of 2010 and 2011.

Rattno's parents moved to Jhirruk, 40km south of Hyderabad, when they heard that St. Elizabeth Hospital was building houses to re-house flood affected people. Although the hospital had constructed 820 houses in other places, only 30 could be built in Jhirruk until more funds became available.

Shivji and Shonti's hope turned to disaster when their children were lighting a kerosene pressure lamp which exploded. Saiba, Lakhnu and Shonti, aged from 7-15, died in the fire. Rattno survived.

St. Elizabeth Hospital arranged for Rattno's extensive skin grafts and medical

care. Although he is recovering well, he has been in the hospital since February. St. Elizabeth Hospital wants to continue his good medical care, to ensure infection control and to provide the food and comfort which he would not get in the desert settlement of Jhirruk. His mother and father take turns to remain at the hospital with him.

Happiness and hope come back to Rattno. I often ask myself: "If only we had the money then to build all the houses in Jhirruk so that Rattno and his family would have had a permanent home?"

The skin grafting on Rattno's legs, face and left hand is a success. He still needs extensive orthopaedic surgery on his left leg. The total cost of his care will be Rs.831,935 (AUD\$9,787).

Since May he has commenced his school education while in hospital.

Homes for the homeless in Sindh



Tribal families waiting for their homes to be constructed.

Many people in Sindh province in south-east Pakistan are still homeless after the floods of 2010-2011. They belong to impoverished tribal communities, Hindu and Christian, and the others are equally poor Muslims.

St. Elizabeth Hospital cared for many of these people through its Mobile Medical Outreach, remained with them during the floods when they lost everything, and responded to their needs after the floods.

With the help of Columban and other benefactors, St. Elizabeth Hospital has built 850 new homes and included solar power, water pumps, bathing and toilet facilities and extensive tree plantings.

Where the people do not own the land, the houses have been built in a traditional style but using modern materials for roofing, doors and windows. This enables the houses to be easily dismantled and reconstructed elsewhere if a landlord should throw the people off his land.

Where communities have actual or customary ownership of land we have built permanent buildings on raised foundations.

In December 2011, we were able to purchase four acres of land at Jhirruk, 30km south of Hyderabad. Thirty permanent two-roomed houses have been built on one acre of the land.

Dr. Ishrat ul Ebad, Governor of Sindh, presented the deeds of ownership to the heads of the families during a ceremony held in the Darbar Hall at Government House Karachi in January 2013.

The well-publicized ceremony broke through existing caste and cultural barriers and the governor praised the lead that the Catholic Church and St. Elizabeth Hospital were making in caring with compassion for those in need in Pakistan.

The total cost for purchasing the four acres of land, building 30 houses, the clinic and the bathing facilities, installing the water pumps and tree planting was six million rupees (AUD\$63,158). One acre has been set aside for the clinic (already

completed) and a school (still to be built).

We now wish to build 60 more homes on the remaining two acres of land. The cost for each house is AUD\$2,050.

Families are waiting patiently to move into their homes. For the time being they have built temporary straw shacks (*read Rattno's Story*).

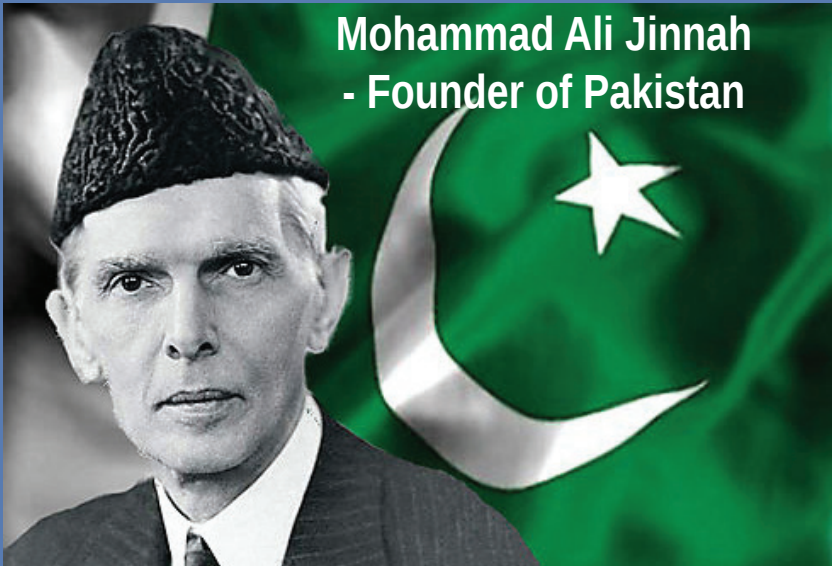
Reshma, the woman who is head of the new community at Jhirruk, said that her tribal people have become accustomed to waiting after 3,000 years of being dispossessed and having to move from place to place.



The newly constructed homes.

Mission in Pakistan





Address to the Constituent Assembly - August 11, 1947

You are free to go to your temples, you are free to go to your mosques or to any other place of worship in this State of Pakistan. You may belong to any religion or caste or creed - that has nothing to do with the business of the State.

We are starting in the days when there is no discrimination, no distinction between one community and another, no discrimination between one caste or creed and another. We are starting with this fundamental principle that we are all citizens and equal citizens of one State.

Message to the Nation - August 15, 1947

The creation of the new State has placed a tremendous responsibility on the citizens of Pakistan. It gives them an opportunity to demonstrate to the world how can a nation, containing many elements, live in peace and amity and work for the betterment of all its citizens, irrespective of caste or creed.



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