



Columban Mission in Pakistan 2017



FR ROBERT McCULLOCH
St Columbans Mission Society

Together we can make a difference



This booklet is my annual report about human development, education, professional training, and healthcare works in Pakistan which are made possible by the generosity of donors and in a special way by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Two of the education works, the Catholic Centre of Academic Excellence (CCAЕ) and the Catholic Youth Development Centre (CYDC), focus on specific needs of young Christians in Pakistan.

This year is the 10th anniversary of the beginning of the Catholic Centre of Academic Excellence and I have prepared a separate booklet to mark its outstanding achievements. St. Elizabeth Hospital reaches out to the wider Pakistani

community through its Mobile Medical Outreach Programme, School of Midwifery and Home-Based Palliative Care for the terminally ill. The report on the Bethlehem Shelter Society is about responding to the reality of landless and homeless people in the southern Pakistani province of Sindh.

These works are good examples of the practical and open-hearted compassion to which Pope Francis calls us all. The Catholic Church in Pakistan is small in number (the 2017 census will show that Christians in Pakistan are close to five million) yet rises above financial difficulties and ever-present cultural and religious discrimination to manifest the compassion of God. A characteristic of this report is the harmonious collaboration

of Christian, Hindu and Muslim male and female doctors, health care professionals, teachers and many others. Some are members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Hyderabad, a major city 170km northeast of Karachi on the edge of the Sindh desert. All are committed to caring for those in greatest need.

What we have achieved is the fruit of the generosity of our donors. I hope this short report will show you how much you enable us to do: care for mothers and infants, hope through education for

boys and young men, relief for the dying, training of young women as midwives, water in the middle of a desert, homes for the homeless, health care for tens of thousands. Together we make a huge difference.

Thank you.

Fr. Robert McCulloch

Fr Robert McCulloch
4 August 2017



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works



St Elizabeth Hospital Hyderabad, Pakistan

St Elizabeth Hospital in Hyderabad continues to contribute significantly to healthcare in south-east Pakistan. Acknowledging that public sector expenditure (federal and provincial) in Pakistan in 2016-2017 was just 0.46% of GDP, the Pakistan Economic Survey 2017 noted that “despite a significant investment in the health care sector over the year (2016), the rate of progress is lower than in most other countries.”

Most hospitals and doctors are in big cities and the ratio for the rural population is unsatisfactory. The government health departments recognize the important role of the private sector in providing health care but provide zero financial assistance and minimal tax concessions.

St. Elizabeth Hospital in Hyderabad gives the best possible care at the lowest possible cost to those in greatest need. Responding to the increasing incidence in Pakistan of cancer as a major medical issue (Pakistan Economic Survey 2017, p.191), St Elizabeth provides **home-based palliative care** to terminally-ill cancer patients.

Through its **Mobile Medical Outreach Programme**, St. Elizabeth is sole medical provider to nearly 50,000 impoverished Muslim, Christian and Hindu people who are agricultural labourers in the most appalling and unjust conditions.

Although Pakistan has shown improvement in the Infant Mortality rate of 62 per thousand from 66 per thousand in

2015, the maternal mortality rate of 170 per 100,000 is still very high compared to other countries in the region (Pakistan Economic Survey 2017, p.190). **Mother and child care and neo-natal care** are prime issues in the health care given at St. Elizabeth which is a major contributor in addressing these issues in interior Sindh.

The School of Midwifery attached to St Elizabeth continues to make a difference in maternal, neonatal, and infant care in Pakistan through the training and annual graduation of midwives and female health visitors. At the same time, young women from marginalized communities in less-developed areas of Pakistan who train at St. Elizabeth School of Midwifery advance their socio-economic position by enabling them to become skilled professional and qualified midwives.

Christian, Muslim and Hindu professionals, doctors and nurses work

together at St. Elizabeth Hospital in the best tradition of Catholic healthcare. A new administrator has been appointed this year due to the retirement of the outgoing administrator and a qualified chartered accountant has been appointed as internal auditor and financial controller. This demonstrates the commitment by the Administrative Council of St Elizabeth to financial transparency and accountability at all levels.

St. Elizabeth Hospital depends on the generosity of donors to upgrade its facilities and to provide care to those in great need. It continues to cooperate with the provincial and federal governments of Pakistan in developing and monitoring health-sector strategies to achieve the health-related Sustainable Development Goals that UN member states are expected to achieve in the period 2015-2030.



Mobile Medical Outreach

Sindh, Pakistan



Through its Mobile Medical Outreach Programme (MMOP), St. Elizabeth Hospital is the sole medical provider to many impoverished semi-nomadic tribal people who are bonded agricultural workers in Sindh province in south-east Pakistan. The majority are Hindu although many are marginalized Christians and Muslims. They are economically enslaved to landlords who control every aspect of their lives. Pregnant women are forced to work in the fields to the very last days before delivery; small children are forced to work beside their parents because the landlords insist that every member of the family is responsible for the family debt.

The outcomes this year in patient care by the MMOP on a primary health care level are impressive. A total of 46,930 people were cared for: 14,079 male; 21,119 female; 4,693 male children under the age of five years; 7,039 female children under the age of five years.

Common healthcare issues are those related to mother and child care, malnutrition, malaria, typhoid, gastroenteritis, respiratory tract infections, anaemia, jaundice, viral infections, dysentery, dehydration, UTI, skin diseases, and TB prevention and control. In addition to providing free immediate primary healthcare, MMOP refers patients for further care to Hyderabad and Karachi for which St. Elizabeth accepts financial responsibility and which it monitors through its nursing staff. Eleven such referrals were made this year to St. Elizabeth Hospital.



MMOP at St Elizabeth Hospital is an outstanding example of inter-faith collaboration in Pakistan. Dr. Sajid Hussain Naqvi is a Shia Muslim, the Head of the MMOP Department, Mr. Eric Siraj is a Catholic, Dr. Vedwiyas Lohana is Hindu, and all the nursing staff are Christian. The patients seen are Muslim, Christian and Hindu.

MMOP will continue its work of compassion through the commitment of St. Elizabeth's medical and nursing staff and the generosity of our donors.



Building homes for the homeless



Bethlehem Shelter Society (BSS) was founded through St Elizabeth Hospital Hyderabad in 2012 to respond to the havoc caused by the massive floods in Sindh Pakistan in 2010 and 2011. It takes its name from the incident in the gospel when the Holy Family were without shelter when they arrived in Bethlehem. BSS is a government-registered society and has an annual external audit. Its results depend completely on the generosity of donors.

To date 895 homes have been built in many locations for impoverished Hindus, Muslims and Christians. A special focus has been the planning and development of a settlement at Jhirruk 40km south of Hyderabad. Ninety permanent homes have been built there, a permanent

water connection has been made and large water storage tanks have been constructed throughout the settlement both for drinking and cooking purposes and separately for bathing and washing. We plan to extend and increase these water tanks and connections this year to cope with the extra number of houses which will be built.

A major achievement at Jhirruk is the development of positive community participation and responsibility among the people who live there. They are led by Reshma who, although illiterate, is an effective co-chairperson of the Bethlehem Shelter Society. Reshma overturns the convenient stereotypes about Pakistani women.

In 2016 a two-roomed clinic was built so that St Elizabeth Hospital may provide regular medical care through its Mobile Medical Outreach Programme to people of Jhirruk and the surrounding area. The generosity of donors will enable us to complete and furnish the clinic this year and to purchase equipment and a generator.

Negotiations are under way with the provincial government authorities for them to build and maintain a school in the area while St Elizabeth sees to health care. This is another area of good collaboration in Sindh between the Catholic Church and the government of Pakistan.



Catholic Centre of Academic Excellence (CCAIE)

The goal of the Catholic Centre of Academic Excellence in Hyderabad 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 and tertiary education on merit. We want them to be able to live and work effectively in Pakistan's multicultural and multi-religious society. Seventy four students are currently enrolled in CCAIE's four-year program.

CCAIE began in 2007 with hope but no money, with good planning but few facilities. However, since our beginning we have been able to provide through the support of benefactors an environment of education and personal development that has matched the enthusiasm of the students. Compared to the opportunities available for most Christians in Pakistan, the students at CCAIE know that their seemingly impossible dreams for their future can come true. This is what our graduates speak about when they return to the CCAIE to encourage and motivate the students to set and maintain high academic and personal and moral standards for themselves. They all share the same inspirational motto *"I can because I'm Catholic."*

Most CCAIE students come from large extended families where living arrangements are cramped and space for study is unavailable. Intensive English is a high priority to ensure that each boy achieves excellent speaking, writing and comprehension language skills. We now have an excellent computer facility which was upgraded in January 2017. Religious instruction and moral formation are essential to the CCAIE program.

The outstanding personal achievements of our CCAIE graduates are the fruit of our hopes and initial planning 10 years ago. We ask nothing from CCAIE students except 100% commitment. The financial assistance of the St. Vincent de Paul Society has been outstanding in enabling CCAIE to give these young Catholic people not a handout but a hand-up in life. We struggle to operate within the annual budget of just on AUD\$40,000 which is internally and externally audited. We continue to depend upon the generosity of our benefactors.



Catholic Youth Development Centre (CYDC)

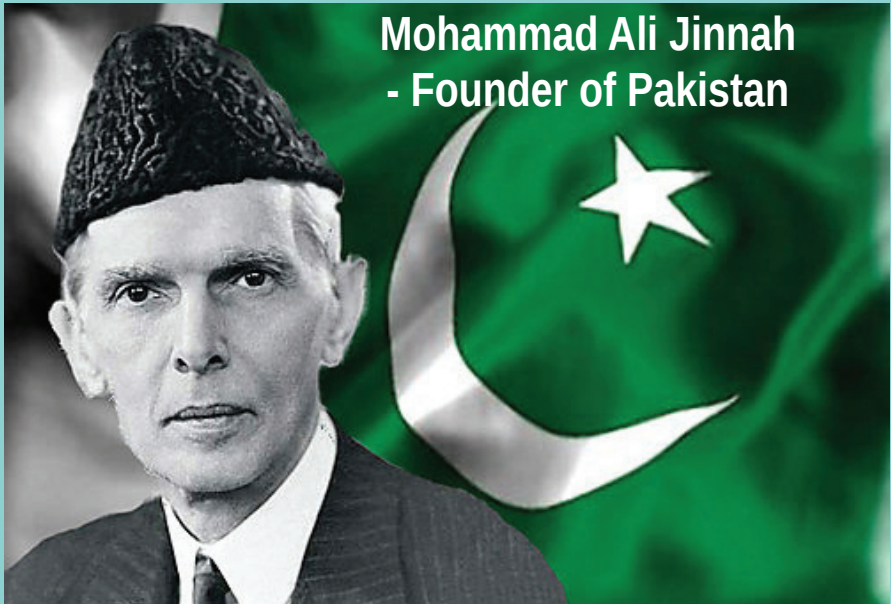
The Catholic Youth Development Centre (CYDC) offers the possibility of a better life to young illiterate men in Hyderabad who have dropped out of school or who have never been to school. CYDC enables them to get from illiteracy to 10th Class (the last year of high school in Pakistan) through an accelerated programme of teaching and learning spread over two years, from primary to secondary.

One reason for the high level of illiteracy among Catholic boys and young men in Pakistan is 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. CYDC began in 2008 following on the success of the Catholic Centre of Academic Excellence (CCAIE) which began the previous year. This year 65 young men aged from 15-21 years are enrolled in CYDC. Most work either before or after the CYDC sessions and all are self-motivated to attend. They know the sort of the work they are confined to without education and are eager to grasp the possibilities before them. Fifty-four young men have successfully completed the program of studies at CYDC and are now well-employed or enrolled in continuing studies.

Because the morning-scheduled CYDC uses the same rented premises and the same facilities as CCAIE which is held in the evenings, it runs on an annual budget of AUD\$20,000 which is internally and externally audited. This covers staff salaries, medical care for students, enrolment for government Board of Education examinations, and a good morning tea each day. The financial assistance of the St. Vincent de Paul Society has been outstanding in enabling CYDC to give these young Catholic people not a handout but a hand-up in life.

We struggle to operate within the annual budget and continue to depend upon the generosity of all our benefactors. We ask nothing from CYDC students except 100% commitment.





Address to the Pakistan 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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