



Progress report on LAFTI hostel – August 2011

Following our report of February 2011, we are writing to update you about further developments at the hostel. One of the trustees spent two weeks with LAFTI, including a week with the children at the hostel during August 2011.



On 15th August, the children celebrated the Independence Day at the hostel & attended the school ceremony. One of the children was a prize winner for achieving the highest mark in his year.

There was a delay in the construction of toilets & bathrooms, as LAFTI applied to a local charity for funding for all the three LAFTI hostels, hence no cost was incurred by Omid International. At the time of the visit, the construction was underway & has now been completed.



Due to the popularity of the hostel, many parents wish for their children to join. There are now 46 children including some older boys up to age 15. The hostel continues to provide after school tuition for the children. During the visit, it was clear that the warden was unable to provide tuition for all ages, so a decision was made not to admit more children for the time being. We have also employed a part time female teacher to look after the elementary school aged children.



The headmaster of the secondary school was enthusiastic about the hostel bringing improvement to the children's education, & wished to have a closer liaison with the warden. On his advice, we purchased books & resources for science & maths. The warden also began to work as a volunteer supply teacher during the school hours, both to gain experience & to have a closer supervision of the children.

Although LAFTI does not encourage the worship of the deity & follows the religious interpretation of a 20th century sage, prayers are an important part of the children's routine. The daily programme is highly structured, based on Indian society's values & principles of good conduct, focused on discipline, study & work. We have introduced the importance of play in learning, especially for younger children.



As usual, the children are treated to weekend trips once a term, for fun & contact with their society & culture. This time they were taken to Boombukar, a seaside town & visited the local museum. During the visit, a short film was also made for the website.



Despite a sharp rise in the price of food & oil, we are still within budget, thanks to LAFTI's prudent management of finances. Your annual contribution of £300 per child for 2011 is due in October. Those of you who have kindly set up a standing order, the monthly contribution of £25 will be deducted as before. Please contact me if you would like more information about the project.

Once again, we are extremely grateful to you all for your continued support. A special thanks to Popli Khalatbari Charitable Foundation for their generous contribution this year.

Kind regards

Kami Saedi
On behalf of the trustees
Omid International