

The Andrew Clark Trust

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2010

The Vera Thomson English School



As well as our 8 English classes a day, 6 days a week, we started a Pre-School class for 3 to 5 year olds on 1st October. This class runs 4 hours per day, 5 days a week. The reason this class was started, was that we found that quite a number of children, had to stop going to school, to look after their younger siblings. We have two teachers teaching 20 children, one of which was our sponsored student.

We sent her on a Pre-School teacher training course (free) and the other teacher is working as a volunteer for a year.

Our older sponsored students run Activity classes during the weekends. This helps our older children, to learn leadership skills and responsibility, and the younger children can play and learn creativity. A local artist teaches Art & Crafts each Sunday as a volunteer and also a Human Resources manager from a local hotel, is giving Vocational Training classes, voluntarily to the older students. During the past 4 months a young German man (who speaks very good English), volunteered to teach



English and has also been a very good role model for our older students.

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Some Children



Now there are 10 children aged from 7 to 15 years living in the accommodation above the school. All are from very poor backgrounds and all are very bright. They are able to have three meals a day, and have the luxury of study with no need to work to help their families. If they were not able to live at the school, these children would have to go out to work.

One boy has been having free keyboard lessons from the local pianist who plays at a hotel, and can now play some classical music beautifully. It is a pleasure to hear him, and when he has his summer holiday from school, he will teach another child.

Two boys who are very good at badminton are taking part in the National Badminton Championships. It is a wonderful opportunity for these boys to take part, as normally it is only the privileged as well as talented, who are able to take part.

Our brightest student is living in the city, so she can get the best possible education, as she wants to be a doctor, and so far she is doing well, and is very committed.

After High School

Due to our students learning English, more have been able to get jobs in hotels, IT, and engineering. We also have quite a number of students who come from the nearby town and surrounding villages, as they know that whatever job they choose, they will get more job opportunities and money if they can speak English.

Sadly quite a number of children are still dropping out of school, as their parents cannot afford for them not to work.

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Healthcare

Just one example of how we have helped with Healthcare in the last six months.

One of our brightest boys aged 10 years old, needed to have a blood transfusion, because he was malnourished. After coming out of hospital, his parents agreed for him to live at the school, as they were pleased to have one less mouth to feed, and now he is better and being well fed.



Library

There is an increase in library members, and we were fortunate enough to receive a grant from the Australian Embassy for English books.

OUR AIM FOR THE NEXT 6 MONTHS

To continue what we are doing.

For 2 more children in need to live at the school.

Also to help our brightest students to go onto further education and support them.

To be able to provide healthcare as much as possible.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HELP, WITHOUT WHICH, NONE OF THIS WOULD HAPPEN.