



June 2018 Newsletter

Dear friends

I hope you are all well. Two weeks ago, the schools in Manvi and Pannur started their new academic year. I thought it might be nice to share some heart-warming news I have recently received, and also details of another project I am currently considering supporting.

Pannur boarding hostel

I was very moved to see some photos of the children at Kapepaladi school hostel who have just been bought some mattresses to sleep on, rather than sleeping directly on the floor as they have always done. The mattresses aren't very thick, but the children are so happy with them - photos attached.

ITI - Industrial Training Institute, Mangalore, for students who have completed their PU (Sixth Form)

I have written to you about this excellent Technical Training College in Mangalore, several times over the past few years, after visiting it with Father Eric. It has really impressed me with the courses it offers, and how hands on the learning is. One of the great advantages is that there are jobs waiting for the students after their 2-year courses, as Father Eric has twinned up with several companies who are impressed by the quality of training and who wish to give jobs to these ITI students. The salaries offered can vary, but it is typical for a plumber, or a car mechanic, or an air conditioning engineer to earn 28,000 Rs – 50,000 Rs per month (that's how the Indians quote their salaries, not annually as we do), which is approximately £330 - £585 per month. This might not sound very much, but it might also astonish you to hear that teachers and lecturers on the whole in Manvi, earn between 12,000 and 25,000 Rs per month which is nothing in comparison to these technical salaries! I think it's also really important that these students who have been completed their sixth form at Manvi PU College, are now given the opportunity to leave their homes and villages and make that break from their families. The jobs they will end up with will ultimately mean they can support their families to a much greater extent which is the whole purpose of us supporting these students. Invariably there are some students who succumb to pressure from their fathers mostly, and go back to their villages to work alongside them in the fields, even though they have just got a really good, English based education that could give them so much more as far as a salary is concerned. I feel so sad when I hear that some students have slipped through the net like this. Looking ahead, it's so important to support these students and encourage them to make that step to another

town or city, and to use their education to its maximum potential. I am currently working with Father Eric to support up to 15 young men and women from Manvi who are all extremely poor, and who wish to join the ITI college. Registration is in early July and the 2 year courses start mid-July, the cost is approximately £160 per student per year. I will be running an Appeal for this in the next couple of weeks so watch this space!

That's all for now, and will be in touch again very soon,

With best wishes, Dinah

