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Greetings!

Survey shows trend towards smaller families

Each year when we invite children to apply for a place in our schools, we also take the opportunity to collect more information on the children and their families in the 80 villages in our catchment area.

Over the years we have been happy to notice some positive changes, for example, the number of children coming to us with various illnesses like polio. At one time we counted 10 children in one year at Guria with post-polio deformities. This year there were no new ones and only one amongst our total school population.



Another noticeable change is the number of children that are married. Anil recalls that when he joined Project Mala in 2003, we only had primary schools and there were five children in Guria alone who were married. Now in our total schools covering pre to secondary level, there is only one girl, Sanju, who is married but she is in the final years of our secondary school.

I covered marriages in a newsletter in 2014. To read it follow this link [Arranged marriages](#)

Total Siblings	No of Children Including the admitted child							
	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2010	2005
10	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	2
9	-	1	1	2	-	1	4	3
8	1	4	2	9	7	5	5	4
7	2	6	4	5	6	8	21	17
6	14	17	11	19	19	20	54	42
5	47	34	34	39	34	33	66	54
4	67	63	70	70	71	71	77	73
3	82	100	117	105	78	88	55	35
2	56	43	55	36	25	36	11	11
1	5	5	4	9	4	3	3	2
Data for No of children (A)	274	274	298	295	245	265	297	243
Total Siblings (B)	972	1,008	1,034	1,120	964	1,013	1,385	1,141
Average (B / A)	3.55	3.68	3.47	3.80	3.93	3.82	4.66	4.70

More recently family sizes have been decreasing. The chart shows that even over the last 10 years the average number of siblings per family is down.

India has been trying to halt the population growth for years to reduce the birth rate, from free contraceptives to

paying women to be sterilised.

One thing that is not decreasing is competition for places in our schools. The intake chart shows that we have almost six children for every place.

School	Applications		Total Applications	Admitted		Total Admitted
	Project Mala	External		Project Mala	External	
Pre-School	0	125	125	0	62	62
Primary (Class 1)	56	1143	1199	55	168	223
Middle (Class 6)	235	520	755	120	22	142
Secondary (Class 9)	133	408	541	66	1	67
Higher Secondary (Class 11)- possibility	63	190	253	40	8	48
Total	487	2386	2873	281	261	542

You will see from the results of the entrance test, that the children applying from external schools are still falling well below the standard of the Mala children, so Mukesh has to rely on

Avr Result % in Entrance Test 2020		
Class	Project Mala	External
1	55.20	28.22
6	60.81	32.85
9	47.16	17.99
11 first test	60.34	28.89

the IQ test to have any chance of offering places to the outside children.

We still have a number of children available for sponsorship. Below are three - Gudiya, who has just entered pre-school at our remotest school, Turkahan, Om Prakash, who has just joined our Hasra school situated in one of the tribal areas, and Rajnandini, who is a very bright girl having made it all the way to secondary level, which only 10% of our children do. If you know a friend who would be interested in sponsoring one of these children, please let me know.



If you know anyone who you think might be interested in this newsletter, please forward it on.

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