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An action programme for the elimination of child labour in rural India

Greetings!

Pre-schools success

Mala schools are experimental in nature and innovative in style. One of the greatest innovations has been to establish pre-schools for girls. This has been a great success with the girls from pre-school doing exceptionally well in the primary entrance exams.

Admissions to Primary school				
Applications		Admitted		Total admitted
Mala Pre-schools	External	Mala Pre-schools	External	
62	1326	57	172	229

We started pre-schools for girls only, as we were not getting enough girls into our primary schools. This was because boys were performing better than girls in the entrance exams.

As you will see from the chart for this years intake, out of the 62 children (all girls) taking the entrance exam, only five failed to get a place. What is more impressive is that the marks scored by the girls were well up on those of the boys.

One young girl, Rajpriya, did particularly well and came top of all the girls applying. She scored 27 out of 28 possible marks. This was the second highest amongst all children (girls and boys) and the best ever position for a girl in this exam.

The pre-school experiment started in 2012 with just one pre-school attached to our Turkahan school. From the start it has been an amazing success. After two years in pre-school, most of the girls pass the entrance exam to join our primary school with ease.

Today we have five pre-schools attached to our schools at Turkahan, Mujehra, Hasra, Amoi and Patehra. We don't feel we need one at Guria and also we don't have enough space, as Guria encompasses primary, middle, secondary and intermediate boarding college.

Mala pre-schools are much like an English play group but, as the children are a little older, we prepare them for school a bit more. The lessons are aimed at developing their confidence to respond to being spoken to, to say how they feel, what they would like and to talk about themselves. It is also a way of enhancing social skills and personal hygiene, which unlike many of our boys, they may not acquire growing up in the villages. These skills enable the girls to get the most from their subsequent schooling.



This short (5min) video was made some time ago but shows the work of the pre-school and how we find the girls and encourage the parents to send them to us. [Pre-school video](#)

The first pre-school girls have reached middle school level and we confidently expect some to make it all the way to our intermediate college. Maybe some will even reach the success of our past student, Ranjana, who I wrote a newsletter about last year [Ranjana newsletter](#)

We are still looking for sponsors for some of our pre-school girls, so if you know of anyone who would be interested, please pass this newsletter on to them.

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