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# Mala News

## ***Patrons***

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Greetings!

## Story of a past student

In the beginning, Project Mala only offered three years of primary education, so pupils left us after completing class five. Recently a past pupil from those early days, a boy called Sibü, wrote to our Facebook site and said

“Hi I am sibbuali I Old student, I miss you school, I love you my school

And proud my school and my teacher name is asiya hazra and Kamlesh sir and bhैया hi i love my miss and sir i miss you”



Sibü attended our Guria school for just three years, having joined in 2000 and passed out in 2003. There were only a few schools then offering secondary school education and they were not of a high standard, so Sibü started work, joining his father, Husnain Ali, in his village barber's shop. It was a very small place and the shop made very little money. There were eight children in the family, so they were very poor and some days the children went to sleep without having supper.

Sibü tried to find a school where he could continue his education and enrolled at another village school. He was not there long before choosing to leave to try and get a job. He decided he needed to be in a large town and went to Pune where he followed his father's profession and found a job as a barber, where he earned Rs 500 (£5) a month. When he became more confident at hairdressing, he started his own shop and earned about Rs 11000 (£110) per month. The business prospered and he built up a chain of six shops where he employed three of his brothers and the husband of one of his sisters.

Now Sibü has streamlined the business to just three shops and earns Rs 70000 (£700) per month. He said he saves about 40% of his income. He bought a piece of land for himself and his brothers in Pune and replaced his mud room for a cemented house with four rooms in a village. He was married on the 21 May 2012 in Varanasi to a girl who had achieved a class ten pass. They have two children and he is aware of his children's education and is sending them to an English medium school in Pune.



We are very proud of the way Sibü has made the most of his education for the betterment of himself and his family.

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

Robin Garland MBE