

Jesuit Research and Development Society (JRDS)

CARING THROUGH SHARING

A JRDS Newsletter



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**Educate a Child TODAY
for a better TOMORROW**

Jesuits Collaborate to Provide Education for Underprivileged Students in India

YOU ARE THE REASON FOR MY SMILE...

I smile now because you made me smile with your helping hands. My desire is that so many children like me continue to smile as they get the opportunity to study.



The Season of **EASTER**
A reason to **FOSTER**
Care

MAKE OUR CHILDREN SMILE

We, the Jesuits of Chennai Province, help more than 8000 students every year through evening study centres. These are the children, prone to become school dropouts, without our intervention, due to the financial crisis in their families.

Jesuit Chennai Province (CCPN)
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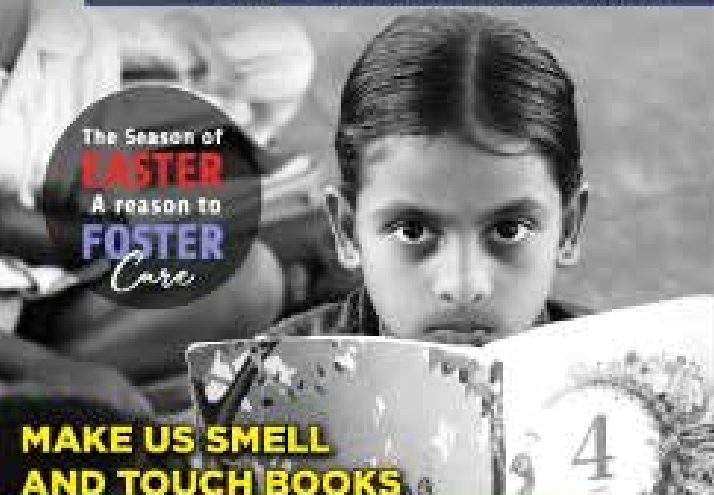
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India has a vast student population. Unfortunately, many students from poor backgrounds face obstacles in accessing education, and they run the risk of dropping out due to financial crises in their families. Without support, children may never have the opportunity to reach their full potential and achieve their dreams.

To address this issue, the Jesuits are collaborating with partners across India. The Chennai Jesuits support over 8,000 poor students annually through evening study centers that provide a secure and encouraging learning environment. The organization has initiated a digital campaign to raise funds for an education program as part of its effort. The campaign is aimed to provide access to education and vocational training, enabling students to join the mainstream workforce and create a brighter future for themselves.

ENJOYING THE SMELL AND TOUCH OF A BOOK

I can now hold the book tightly in my hands. Your willingness to support my studies made it possible. In my part of the world, very many students lack the opportunity to study. I am sure you would support them too.




The Season of **EASTER**
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MAKE US SMELL AND TOUCH BOOKS

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The Jesuit Research and Development Society, through its **Caring Through Sharing** initiative, expresses its gratitude to its donors for their ongoing contributions that make a tangible difference in the lives of these students. With continued support, the Jesuits aim to extend education and vocational training opportunities to even the most marginalized students, empowering them to pursue their dreams and achieve success.

Our Social Development Partner brings Relief to Rural Indian Village Savarde with Drinking Water Distribution Project



Access to clean drinking water is a basic human right, yet for many rural communities in India, it remains a distant dream. Savarde, located in Mokhada Taluka, Palghar district of Maharashtra, is one such community where lack of access to clean drinking water has been a pressing concern for years. Villagers had to walk for over two kilometers every day to fetch

water, risking their lives, especially during the blistering summer months. However, the inauguration of the Drinking Water Distribution Project at Savarde marked a momentous occasion for the villagers who had been struggling for years to access clean drinking water.

MPSM (Maharashtra Prabodhan Seva Mandal), a social development partner associated with Bombay Jesuit Management in Nashik, became aware of the severe water scarcity experienced by the villagers due to inconsistent supply and frequent power failures. After a thorough survey of the area, MPSM planned an innovative idea to establish a Water Distribution System that uses solar energy to provide potable water and meet other domestic needs. The initiative was sponsored by the Shrine of the Infant Jesus in Nashik.

The completion of the project brought immense joy to the community of Savarde, who had worked hard to make it a success. Their long years of struggle came to an end, and the relief was visible on their happy faces.



Breaking Barriers: How Jesuit Schools are Empowering Dalit Girls in Jharkhand



In Jharkhand, Dalit girls face multiple barriers to education and social mobility. However, Jesuit schools, such as St. Joseph's in Tarwa, are breaking these barriers by providing quality education to Dalit children from nearby villages in Hazaribag.

Nisha, an eighth-grade student at St. Joseph's, has excelled academically and is a dedicated student. Alongside her studies, she also takes joy in playing volleyball and kho kho. Her aspiration to become a nurse is

noteworthy, especially considering that she is the daughter of a daily-wage laborer and a housewife.

On the other hand, Sangita, whose father was against her education, is determined to continue her studies. With the guidance and support of the Jesuits, she persuaded her father to allow her to attend school and continue her education.

Our mission is to empower and provide a path to success for Dalit children in Jharkhand by offering them quality education, accommodation, and meals. With the help of Jesuit schools, girls like Nisha and Sangita are breaking free from the cycle of poverty and discrimination and realizing their full potential.

Jesuit Partners Help Rescue Distressed Migrants in Telangana



We are delighted to share a heartwarming success story that had taken place in Jagathpally, Telangana. A group of 167 migrants, including 117 adults, 50 children, and 47 females, were brought to the RRR Bricklin area by a local employer. Initially, the employer had agreed to pay each family rupees 40,000 for six months of work. However, things took a turn for the worse when the rains started, and the migrants expressed their desire to return to their native places. Despite this, the employer denied their request and asked them to work for a few more weeks without fully paying them.

When the migrants decided to leave and walk back home, a concerned citizen saw them and informed the police. Two constables were sent to investigate, but due to a communication gap and fear, the migrants began crying loudly. This incident was posted on Twitter, and the Jesuit partner (CITRA) Centre for Information, Training, Research and Action promptly intervened. They involved the local police and labor departments to rescue the distressed migrants.

The migrant workers expressed their gratitude to the authorities and to the Jesuit partners CITRA and Migrant Assistance and Information Network (MAIN) for their support, which made the employer, pay the migrants their due amount and allowed them to return to their native places.

The Jesuit Research and Development Society (JRDS) is proud to share that Rajani from MAIN, Hyderabad team, met the Telangana Additional DGP, who valued Rajani's pivotal role in the rescue operation. He appreciated the work of Jesuit Partners and promised to support any migrant distress situations.

Jisu Niketan School is a Beacon of Hope for Underprivileged Children in Matigara, West Bengal



The Jisu Niketan School, established by a Canadian Jesuit, Brother Robert Mittelholtz SJ in 1974, is situated in Matigara, a part of the Jesuit Province of Darjeeling. The school serves as a ray of hope for the underprivileged children in the region who come from families of stonebreakers, refugees from Bangladesh, and landless laborers. Many of them are Indigenous Rajbanshis who migrated from the Cooch Behar district of West Bengal.

The Jisu Niketan School provides education to these children from underprivileged families free of cost, along with breakfast and lunch. It also extends its services to the children of leprosy and tuberculosis patients who receive treatment at the nearby Jesu Ashram or the former leprosy patients of that hospice.

Apart from the regular academic subjects taught in the Bengali medium, the school imparts quality education to its students in music, dance, elocution, and ecology. The school adopts a holistic approach to providing education and encourages the students to develop their talents and interests beyond the mere academics.

Thanks to the generous contributions of our donors, the Jisu Niketan School can provide quality education and hope to the underprivileged children in Matigara, West Bengal, India.

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JRDS Development Programs

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