



We have been informing you about the construction work for the second phase of the *Saint-Anthony School* building. This part of the building has 9 class rooms and one library cum conference hall. Since we had a lot of difficulties in getting the work done on time by the previous contractor, we have employed our own people to supervise the work, now the construction is going on as we planned. We expect it to be ready by April 2007. See more pictures on next page.



## Christmas in Dugawar

The population of our project area is predominantly *Hindu* with some concentration of *Muslims* in certain villages. The region where the school is located is a traditional sector where the life style of the people is based on deep traditional and religious beliefs. These villagers have lived in isolation, with little communication with outside world for many years. There were no educational facilities except perhaps some primary schools run by the government department. The cultural impact and the general outlook of people is more self oriented. For some reason, their religious convictions, philosophy

of life shaped them more a self centred form of life than altruistic social one. There is no institution like a school, however small, no hospital, no orphanages nor other institutions of common interest or use. Such thinking is not there among people where «*me and mine*» forms the center for the act of living.

The society that has emerged in course of time, for some intricate causes has become such that there is little thought and concern for others. This has paved the way for the ensuing division in the form of *caste*. The powerful deprive the weak and make them perform undignified and hard labour. Women are deprived of the human rights and dignity. There are high castes and low, large landholders and landless labourers and many such inhuman divide in the society have become normal in the social fabric. Religion has developed teachings, providing sanctions upholding this social norms. Every one is born in the particular situation as the result of his *Karma* (fruit of his actions in the previous birth) and to live within that particular condition is his religious obligation, *Dharma*.

The above conditions are the primary reasons to choose this location to set up the school for the region. People in the area knew that no one sets up a school of this kind in this area. However some among them have heard of *Christians* doing such strange things. A school of this kind, we be-



There are many girls who study with full fee concession because they come from poor families.

lieve would be a powerful source for change. Besides what it will accomplish through its operation among the people of the area. By its very presence, the school is a constant reminder of a thought pattern different from that of theirs. In an area where it is not common for people to think of investing on something for the service of others, the presence of *Saint Anthony School* constantly proclaims that there are people who devote their life, energy and earning for the good of others. The School has a fee structure which is very low. Poor children who are capable of continuing education are given full fee concession. There is no difference in treatment of the parents on basis of their socio-economic conditions.

Thus the school, by its approach and activities imparts the message of equality between men, of a sense of justice etc. The school takes special care to educate and empower women. It devotes special attention in the education of the girl child and treats them with due respect. On the whole by its presence and operation the school stands for and presents a value system that is more human which gives more meaning and fulfillment for life, a value system that makes people to be concerned about others and *brings peace to men of good will*.

*Saint Anthony school in Dugawar* does not aim at making Christians, nor does it do anything with the motive of preaching Christianity to a people who are strangers to it but the school lives and function on the basis of a more human value based activities. These values are what *Christmas* brings to the world; *Peace to men of good will*. All are equal because all are God' children and the peace and joy of *Christmas* is for all men. Merry Christmas !

The price of materials have gone high recently and the budget has gone beyond our original one. However, we are happy to let you know that we can finish the work with your support. Once this part of the building is done, we can accommodate altogether 800 students.

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