



ANNUAL REPORT

1999-2000

Amreli, Gujarat

THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

300	70	10	10
Children in school	Joined Standards 6 & 7	Dropouts returned	Staff

This was the year Sardar Vidyalaya grew. Standards 6 and 7 opened for the first time, taking the school from primary classes to a full course through Standard 7, and a survey of the surrounding area brought ten children back who had already left. The Trust ends the year working in Amreli and Lathi talukas with ten full-time staff, all of them from the same locality.

EDUCATION, EQUALITY & EMPOWERMENT

A school that grew to Standard 7

Strengthening educational opportunities for children from underserved communities.

Sardar Vidyalaya, running since 1998 at Damnagar in Lathi taluka, teaches primary classes to children aged six to fourteen. Three hundred children were on its rolls this year.

In March the annual examination for Standards 1 to 4 was held; 195 students appeared. From May the Trust and the school's teachers began contacting parents about opening Standards 6 and 7, and in June the two new standards started, with a welcome programme attended by seventy students.

A July survey of the surrounding villages found nineteen children out of school: ten had dropped out and nine had never attended. After their parents were approached, all ten dropouts returned; the nine were counselled towards primary education and told they could join at any time.

In September a general-knowledge test was held for seventy-five students, and a meeting on the education system was held at the Vidyabharti school in Vakiya, conducted by Mr. Batukbhai Shiyani. October brought the games competition for Standards 1 to 4 — musical chairs and games of colour and object recognition — attended by Mr. Dhiraj Vagadia and Ms. Purvi Trivedi.

From November the teachers set tests every fortnight to prepare Standards 6 and 7 for their examinations, with an extra hour of separate tuition for students falling behind and contact kept with their parents. December brought a social and cultural programme, to which Mr. Prakashbhai Bhati, a primary school teacher from Chotra, contributed. In January a "Millennium 2000" programme was arranged for the students by the teachers, attended by Mrs. Kanchanben Vagadia and Mrs. Pushpaben Gohil. February's elocution competition for Standards 5, 6 and 7 carried prizes for the first three places, and in March a parents' meeting discussed how children were studying and how to prepare them for examinations. Mrs. Bhartiben Patel, a teacher from Khambha taluka, and ESC members Mr. Sureshbhai Gohil and Mr.

Dayabhai attended.

Independence Day and Republic Day were marked with drama, patriotic songs, a one-act play and elocution, and an excursion tour was organised for the children.

WELL-BEING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Self-help groups take shape

Enabling individuals and communities to live with dignity.

In August the Trust began forming self-help groups of men and women with the help of the school's teachers. The President of the Trust met the teachers to set the work going, and those present were assured of support in building groups of their own in their areas.

OUR TEAM

Ten full-time paid staff, all of them from the same locality as the communities the Trust works with.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Hostel accommodation at Sardar Vidyalaya for students from outside Damnagar, with places for at least twenty.
- An AIDS education programme in Diu, should the opportunity arise.
- Health education and awareness through a Reproductive and Child Health programme.

Hariraj Charitable Trust, Amreli, Gujarat. Registered under the Bombay Public Trusts Act, 1950 — Registration No. E/638/Amreli.

This edition sets the year's work under the Trust's three current thematic areas. The framework itself is later than the year reported;

the activities, names, figures and dates are as recorded at the time.