

Gujarat Journey 2020 - NL 10 - Rajkot and Sidhpur

Our last stops were Rajkot and Sidhpur, where we visited our senior girls. Two of the girls in Rajkot are now ready to exit Grade 12 and move on to further studies in college. Career counselling will be based on their Grade 12 board exam results.



Afsana, a senior student in Rajkot.



Sonali, a senior student in Rajkot.

Since last year, Rajkot Girls Academy Hostel has been inviting us to visit their hostel and Aga Khan Girls School. We were finally able to visit them and were impressed with both the school and the hostel. We already have two girls from Ishwariya studying there, and we look to build our relationship with them further.



Nancy and Mahek -Ishwariya girls at the hostel.

We vividly remember our trip to Ishwariya in 2014 wherein, and we were presented with the opportunity to assist this small village which is not too far from Jamnagar. We were sitting in the Jamatkhana courtyard and Mukhisaheb mentioned to us that Hazar Imam's guidance is to send children to English medium schools. They had no idea how they would accomplish this, and we solved their problem by taking in ten children into our program.



Photo of the 2014 group.

This takes us to our last stop, Sidhpur hostel, wherein we visited our senior girls. We had a lovely lunch with them and were given ample time to meet with all 28 of our sponsored students on a one on one basis. Once again, all the board members were there to receive and meet with us to discuss the future of the institution. Since many residents have moved from Sidhpur to Texas, the board mentioned that they are starting a pilot program and will be bringing between five to ten students from Texas to come and stay at Sidhpur and interact with the students. They have a very good response, to date, 80 students have applied from the USA. We suggested we could assist in recruiting students from Canada to join this program as well. Razia also met with the principal of the school to discuss our sponsored children.



Board Members.



Lunch at the hostel.



Senior girls in our program at Sidhpur hostel.

This year Munira Nagji, founder of Acts of Love Canada, accompanied us to Sidhpur hostel. We plan to collaborate with her in the future specifically to assist us in housing girls who don't have any place to go during summer vacations. She has graciously agreed to have them stay with her so that they can get the much-needed nurturing.



Munira Nagji, Founder of Acts of Love Canada

We would like to highlight one of our Sidhpur students, Khushi. Her family moved from Ahmedabad to Surat because there wasn't enough room at their relative's house where they were living. The family is so ultra-poor that the father could not even afford \$10 worth of expenses. Unfortunately, there are several other similar cases wherein we have been able to assist. Kushi's parents are highly appreciative that their daughter is studying at a prestigious school and staying at the hostel.

Stay tuned for more.

The Gujarat Team