

November 2018

Update on Progress in Kalthana

Thank you, team members and friends of Sequoia, for your ongoing support in uplifting our adopted community of Kalthana, India. We are excited to share the progress that our efforts have made, in partnership with WE Charity, on the next few pages of this report.





Updates from Kalthana

- During the past 2 quarters, Kalthana's school has expanded to include 3 fully completed and furnished classrooms, with a 4th classroom under construction. The classroom that Sequoia started building back in February 2018 (construction shown in the picture to the left) is now complete!
- The school's computer lab is fully outfitted with furniture and computers, including 48 speakers, 24 solar powered computers, and 20 solar panels to support to support batteries and servers.
- With Sequoia's support, water & sanitation trainings are offered ongoing in the community of Kalthana, focusing heavily on the impact of clean water and water-related hygiene practices on children's health. Continuing health awareness workshops are also offered to the families in the community.
- Prior to Sequoia's support, the primary school lacked access to clean water for restroom usage, drinking, or handwashing. Four new latrines have been completed, allowing separate restroom facilities for girls and boys.



WE Village Testimonial Story



Meet Somlal..

Somlal is an 11 year old boy from the community of Kalthana, currently attending grade 5 at Kalthana Government Primary School, which he has attended since the first grade. Somlal's parents are farmers. Somlal explains that before his school's partnership with WE Charity, the school had smaller classrooms. The windows were too small, so it used to be dark and very hot in the summers. The classrooms used to leak in due to the monsoons coming in from different corners of the roof. Sometimes when the rainfall was heavy, the school would be shut down because there was no place to sit in the classrooms because of the leaks. There were no benches to sit, and all the children would sit on the floor to study. In winter, it became difficult to sit on the floor because of the cold. And, there was only one common toilet for both boys and girls, making it very difficult for usage.

Post project, Somlal's school has many new advantages - big class rooms with big windows, more sunlight, and big blackboards. There are chairs for students to sit in and study comfortably. The Government Primary School is seeing an increase in admissions each year. The new school allows students like Somlal to attend school more regularly, because the new build provides shelter from the monsoons, and allows students to study more peacefully. This has also shown an improvement in student grades.

When asked about how he feels about the community involvement and his new school, Somlal explains "I am also very excited about using the computers. I have never seen or operated any computers before and through WE Charity now there are computers in my school. I like the beautiful classrooms which have colourful drawings and pictures on walls. I am more excited to learn computers. In the trainings my mother learnt about the benefits of drinking clean water and from then we started using boiled water at home for drinking which has improved health problems for me and my sister. My sister and I do not get sick very often now and are able to attend school regularly. There is more variety food and pulses. I love eating pulses, now my parents don't buy much food from out and can save some money."

Somlal is also a member of the school environmental club, and participates in sport activities and environment trainings done at school by the WE team. His favourite subject is Hindi. He loves to study Hindi as it has lovely poems with beautiful meanings which he enjoys learning about.

Somlal's plans for the future are to complete his primary education to then go into secondary school at Vardara and get a higher education. He dreams of owning his own business of Sarees (traditional Indian wear for women) at Surat (a city in a different state). He explains, "I want to go in for business as it will give me more money and I will be able to help my family in future. I want my family to get rid of all their financial problems one day."



A Message from our Partners at WE Charity:

Thank You, Sequoia!

WE are deeply grateful to Sequoia for the incredible partnership we share. Thanks to your continued friendship and support, together, we are empowering families throughout Kalthana with the ability to build a brighter future. The impacts taking place in the community of Kalthana would not be possible without the generous support of our dedicated partners.

Through your commitment, we are working to ensure that all families in Kalthana have access to quality education, clean water, nutritious food, health care and a sustainable income.

We look forward to continuing our work in Kalthana with you, and providing more updates on the tremendous work happening in the community. Thank you, Sequoia!