

India Service Tour 2019



Educate and Empower

“A quality education has the power to transform societies in a single generation, provide children with the protection they need from the hazards of poverty, labour exploitation and disease and give them the knowledge, skills and confidence to reach their full potential.”

Audrey Hepburn

In December 2019, six Scotch students and three teachers travelled to Maharashtra, India and spent a week working at Mukti Mission, which was founded by Pandita Ramabai to educate disadvantaged and marginalised women and children. Ramabai established this school in 1889 in Mumbai with the opening of the Sharada Sadan, a school of learning for child widows. She then proceeded to establish a residential community in Pune; providing a home and loving community to all women in need. The intention was to ensure that women were accepted, nurtured, respected and equipped to take their place in Indian society.

Mukti Mission continues to be a place of empowerment and transformation; a Christian community committed to Christ’s teachings. This community still provides shelter and a loving community to over 500 destitute women and children. The Mukti campus also has a hospital, nursing home, dental clinic, two primary and high schools, a Special Needs School, a Nursery for abandoned babies and a church. It is estimated that Mukti has helped over 100,000 women and children since Pandita Ramabai started the mission in 1889.

At Mukti, the Scotch boys and teachers were blessed, as they were given the opportunity to participate in the educational programmes and be a part of the Mukti Community. They experienced an organisation that cares for all: children loved and protected from merciless exploitation; children empowered by education; children with hope for a better future.

Upon their return to Perth, the boys and College staff have committed to entering into a partnership with the Mukti leadership and teachers to develop educational resources that will be beneficial to all who are involved. To that end, the boys have proposed the following:

- ♦ *Create a website that links Scotch and Mukti. Guided by Mukti teachers who will specify their academic needs, Scotch teachers and students will create teaching resources and make them available to Mukti teachers and students via this website.*
- ♦ *Fundraise to provide data projectors, improve internet facilities, transport textbooks.*
- ♦ *Curate secondhand laptops to be used in Mukti classrooms by teachers and students.*
- ♦ *Provide Professional Development for teachers through links with Scotch teachers*
- ♦ *Devise and create support mechanisms for Mukti students struggling with the curriculum.*
- ♦ *Devise support mechanisms to assist Mukti students to improve their proficiency in English, which is a language that provides more job opportunities in India.*

This is a Community Service proposal that has been fashioned by these six Scotch boys who have come to realise that they have been blessed by their Scotch education and, as a community, we possess the intellectual and physical resources to be a blessing to others. We invite our Scotch Community to join us in this commitment that will “transform societies in a single generation, provide children with the protection they need from the hazards of poverty, labour exploitation and disease and give them the knowledge, skills and confidence to reach their full potential.”

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