

# What is Shishya?

## History

The founders of the home, Ken and Frieda, who first came to India in 1974 as volunteers, were part of the "hippie trail" of the 70's. Arriving separately from Canada and the USA, both were seeking spiritual enlightenment, never expecting to find it in Jesus. However, meeting with Christ turned their lives around. After seeing the needs of the children, they stayed in India, married, and soon were looking after 25 children in their own two bedroom apartment.

In 1981 land was found and bought; 21 acres of dry riverbed, five trees and an abundance of rocks and poisonous snakes. Through hard work, patience and grace from the Lord, the home in Selakui was established. Now the campus boasts all of the above plus more buildings, dedicated staff and wonderful volunteers, who are highly regarded and very much needed.

The history of "volunteers" is also very colorful. The first volunteer arrived three months after the move to the village. He had heard that everyone had fallen sick with malaria (which was true) and thought he might be able to help. He

arrived much the same way that Yip and Frieda did...as a hippie, though he was uniquely garbed in loin cloth and playing the bamboo flute. However, to everyone's surprise, he pitched in with all his heart and his life changed forever. He went on to become a doctor so that he could serve the poor and needy of the world. He has now served in Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, northern Canada (Eskimos), and Nepal.

Another volunteer who was 18 years old, thought she would never be able to teach in school, but tried her best to do as she was asked. She went on to become the head of a school in Kenya, taking into her own house children orphaned from AIDS. Our volunteers make us proud.

Throughout the years, many volunteers have come and gone, and many have returned to visit again. They became Shishya "family." The children at the home have gained immensely from the love and skills that volunteers have given. It's the one with a servant heart who gains the most, as the saying goes; it's a win-win situation.



# Shishya School

Shishya  
Community is a  
**School & Family**  
Living, eating,  
working, learning  
and growing  
together  
through  
God's abundant



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Shishya School not only serves the children's home but also the locality. Students, both girls and boys, attend the school from the surrounding villages. Every morning three school



buses make double rounds to collect students and teachers. There are presently 17 classes in the school from playgroup, nursery and



kindergarten to eighth standard, aiming to take it to tenth class. Volunteers are needed to assist in the classrooms and give after-school tuitions. Volunteers fit in wherever the need is. Identifying a volunteer's special skills or hobbies is a great way to gain from everyone's individuality,

Don't be shy to share your talents.

School begins punctually, and all are expected to attend the assemblies and remain in the school throughout the day. The same rules for teachers also applies to volunteers. They should not be leaving the school without the knowledge of the principal.



Saturdays is more casual in dress; it is usually a day of PE. (physical education) and art.

# Learning the Do's and Don'ts!

## **Names!**

Sometimes names are hard to pronounce; try to pronounce names correctly. There are many boys with "hard" names to learn, but don't lose heart, you will learn them!

## **Dress!**

On the campus, girls are asked to wear Indian clothes, or trousers with the Indian kurta. Tops should always come below the hips.

1. Learn how to say the boys names
2. Dress culturally appropriate
3. Don't leave the campus without permission from campus staff
4. Observe the rules of the

At school, Indian dress is required. Swimsuits not allowed! Long shorts and long shirt (with bathing suit underneath if so desired) is great.

## **On & Off Campus!**

Shishya takes responsibility for your safety while on campus. Do not leave the campus without taking permission from the campus director. He should approve when and how you are leaving and when and how you are returning.

## **Respecting Rules!**

Houseparents live with the boys 24 hours a day all year long. They are with them through all their ups and downs... all the growing pains children face. They are the

ones who mold their lives and train them to love and serve in Christ's footsteps. We ask that volunteers cooperate with the rules functioning within the homes.

Play time for the boys is a great time for play, for sports, and for one-on-one relationships. It is a time to have loud, crazy fun.

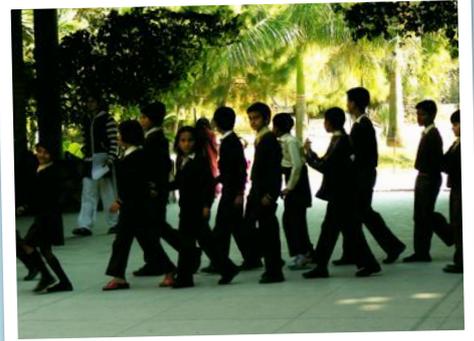
Study times are to be kept quiet. Even when a child has no homework, he should revise in his subjects or read a library book silently. Children should not be moving around during study time. It disturbs others.

The time to be out of the boys houses is set by the houseparents. Girls are not to go into the older boys bedrooms nor should they meet with them other than a group gathering.

No gifts are to be given without the permission of houseparents.

Cell phones, computers, other electronic devices are not to be given to the boys to use or play with.

Remember, your actions impact! Be a role-model!



## The teachers and 6 month volunteers of 2007



**We love the natural beauty and peace of our village setting. It is not a peace that comes without cost. It is the peace of following the One we love, by loving those He made us family to. We hope that you will find blessing with us at Shishya.**



The campus consists of three families of boys. Each family is cared for by a couple with their own children. One house has boys ranging in ages from four to thirteen. The other houses are for the older boys, ages thirteen to eighteen. A total of about 45 boys live on the campus while other boys off-campus are pursuing special training or higher education. The children come from a variety of backgrounds, all with the same need –family.

The biggest gift you can give the boys is your personal time; the sacrifice of love.

If you have any suggestions or ideas for improvements, we are ready to listen. If you have a compliant, please let us know.

We want you to enjoy your stay on the campus and hope that as you face trials and challenges you will let us help you along. Just as you are supporting the boys, we also want to support you. No need to be a hero and eat hot curries when your stomach is saying “NO!” Eat what you like and what you need. Just as your stomach needs filling, we trust that you will be filled spiritually!

*With much love,*

*Ken and Frieda McRae*

