

‘God had different plans for me’

Children’s Hostel impacts hundreds of young lives

In 1998, New India Evangelistic Association (NIEA) started the Sneha Bhavan Children’s Hostel (SBCH) in Narayanpur, present Chhattisgarh state. The hostel would serve neglected and orphaned children mostly from the remote villages of the Gond, Roj Gond, Haliba and Yadav people groups. The school began with just 16 students.

Since then, hundreds of children have come through the hostel. Most have received their secondary school certificate at the end of grade 10. Some have received their pre-university certificates at the end of grade 12. A few have gone on to complete college degrees. Many of these children are the first from their communities to receive these levels of education.

Arriving at the beginning of SBCH, young boy Sanau Mandavi was part of that first group of 16 children. His broad smile and friendly eyes are evidence of the positive transformation that took place in his life while at SBCH.

“I was born in a very poor family,” Sanau says. “I had a very turbulent childhood at home. My father was an alcoholic and abused everyone in the family.”

His mother struggled to care for her children while also trying to protect them from their father’s abuse. She began attending a local church and talked with the pastor

“

I am thankful to NIEA for all the support and love that helped me to become what I am today.

”

Sanau Mandavi



about Sanau’s future.

“Pastor and Aunty (his wife) loved me as their own son,” Sanau says.

When the pastor suggested to Sanau’s mother that she consider SBCH for Sanau, she agreed. That her decision changed Sanau’s life.

“I learned many things about life during my stay there,” he says. “I ate nutritious food and lived in healthy surroundings. I made good friends in the hostel. During that period, I accepted Jesus as my personal savior and got baptized. That gave a new direction in my life.”

Sanau stayed at SBCH through grade 10. After graduation he went on to work for a charity. Then in 2017 he became a teacher at a public school.

But what brings him the most joy is how he’s seen God at work in his family. All of his family members, with the exception of his father, now follow Jesus.

“If I had not joined SBCH, I would have ended up as an alcoholic like my father. But God had different plans for me,” Sanau says.

In addition to teaching, Sanau is active in his local church. He is grateful for how God used the ministry of NIEA in his life.

“I am thankful to NIEA for all the support and love that helped me to become what I am today.”

SBCH continues to provide a safe haven for children like Sanau to grow in the image of God. It has helped many students go on to become productive members of society serving in the government, military, police, business, banking, schools and in Christian ministry. SBCH alumni are known for their integrity and strong work ethic. Most are also close followers of Jesus.