

Sambhota Tibetan School, Manali



The school is picturesquely located on the bank of River Beas at Rangri, 4 kms away from Manali town in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh. It began in 1962 as an adhoc nursery school with 20 children and a teacher in a tent set up by Tibetan road construction workers near the town's Nyingma Monastery. Later, as the number of children began to increase, the school shifted into temporary tinned roof wooden rooms at Buda Camp built with money collected by the parents and running classes from kindergarten to grade two. In 1978, the Department of Education CTA took over the running of the school on the request by the parents. Subsequently, a headmaster and necessary teaching staff were appointed and gradually upgraded to middle school level, with classes up to eighth grade. The school also began to receive grant in-aid from the Government of India to cover cost of textbooks, midday meal, stationary and the salary of one teacher.

In 1994, the school was relocated to the present site on the land provided by the Himachal Pradesh State Government. A new school complex with hostels for boarders and few staff accomodations was built by the Department of Education and formally inaugurated by His Holiness the Dalai Lama on 4th July, 1996. In 1999, the school was placed under the administration of the newly created Sambhota Tibetan Schools Society, an autonomous body under the Department of Education, CTA. In 2002, it was downgraded to a primary day school, with the establishment of a new boarding middle school at nearby Bhuntar the same year. At present the school has 79 children with 7 teaching and 6 non-teaching staff.

In the year 2006, like any other STSS schools, Manali school adopted the implementation of the Basic Education Policy and follows the grading system of evaluation. The school has a library, a sports room, dance & music room, activity room etc. Most of the classrooms are integrated for shared learning experience among the students and school environment fosters the child to look to a teacher as his friend, philosopher and guide. Corporal punishment is prohibited in the school.

The school receives full support and cooperation from the Parents Teachers Association. A parent member is present daily in the school to help in buying food rations and assist school cook in preparing midday meals. Mrs. Chime Dolma is the present Headmistress.