

Tibetan children's Village School, Suja

Following the limited liberalization policy of the Chinese regime in 1980s, Tibetans by the thousands crossed over to India to seek freedom from suppression and persecution. Among the escapees there were a sizable number of illiterate young adults who needed basic education and life skills. For this purpose, the Central Tibet Administration (CTA) established an adult education school, named New Tibetan School in 1986 at Bir, 75 km from Dharamsala. The first group of 68 students initially lived and studied in rented houses.

Later in 1990, the responsibility of running the school was entrusted to TCV, as it had the required experience and capacity. At the time of takeover, there were 322 young adults with many joining every day. For TCV, it was a moment of great challenge. Everything had to be reorganized and restructured in a systematic manner, keeping in mind the special needs of the students. New policy guidelines were made aimed at standardizing the education and opening other opportunities for further education and training. New arrivals from Tibet, mainly in their early teens, are admitted to a special Opportunity Class for two-year duration where they undergo accelerated course work and on successful completion join class VI directly. In spite of the considerable difficulties encountered in the effort to create a new kind of school within the TCV system, the school which was renamed Tibetan Children's Village School, Suja became a huge success.



The school is affiliated and has adapted well to the new system of education in accordance with the Central Board of Secondary Education. Its 1st Class X batch with 78 students appeared in CBSE Board Examination in March 2005 of which 63 students passed (80.76%).

School education is based not only on the textbook curriculum but also on moral values and cultural aspects through child-centered learning activities for sound development and awareness in every field of knowledge. Equal importance is given to games, sports and other co-curricular activities. Also, a Vocational Training Center is in place at the school for non-academic students to help them become self-reliant.

Currently, the school has an enrollment of 1129 students, all boarders and residing in separate dormitories for boys and girls. The school has a faculty consisting of 57 teachers and 41 general staff. Presently, the school is led by Mr. Pema Tsultrim, the Village Director and Principal Mr. Sonam Sichoe.