

The month of February was good for the children. The school functioned normally and all the children attended school. The tenth standard students were preparing for their board exams in March, and the ninth standard students gave a farewell party to the departing students. Also the students went for a one-day picnic to a Water Resort on the outskirts of Mumbai. Our orphanage children also went for the picnic, and they enjoyed themselves playing and having fun in the water. Some children knew swimming, and some learnt to swim in the swimming pools. Three buses were arranged for their transport, and they returned tired and exhausted.

This month there was an outbreak of measles in the Orphanage. About seven children fell ill with fever and body pain, and timely medications enabled them to recover quickly. One child fell ill with chicken pox, and she too had a quick recovery. God's grace protected our children and kept them safe and in good health.

We had a cool and pleasant climate in Panvel. The mornings and nights were cold, but the days were quite warm.

Our Church Youth group visited the orphanage and they had a wonderful program, interacting with the children, teaching them, singing with them and playing with them. The children love to hear stories, and they heard many stories and had a good time.

Shaheen is a 11 year old girl who came to our Orphanage in June 2015. Hers is a pathetic story where both her mother and father deserted her when she was a little child. The family are devout Muslims. They lived in one of the slums in Mankhurd, Mumbai. Her father deserted the family as he was in a relationship with another women, and then married her. Her mother also left home and married another man. The child was left with her grandmother, who herself had to struggle to feed herself. She works as a rag picker, picking up plastic and metallic pieces strewn around in the slums and in the garbage dumps and selling it in the scrap shop for recycling. One of our BRPB churches in Mankhurd met this woman, and shared with her the gospel message of Jesus Christ. She willfully accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior, and started attending church with Shaheen. We took Shaheen into our Orphanage, and truly she is a wonderful girl, full of laughter and fun, and wants to study well and complete her education.

