



*This is a report which Margaret Connor has received from Mark Munshi of the Christian Service Society of Bangladesh – the Mission project which the House Groups are supporting through prayer and fundraising*

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Believing in the core dignity of mankind, CSS started its Home of Blessing Program with the provision of shelter, food, cloths, medical care and the scope of education for these destitute children. Dacope Home is one of the homes of CSS which is for these girls.

The campus of Dacope Home covers an area of about 14 acres where there are five quarters. In those quarters, there lives permanently, the dean of Home, the accounts officer, two teachers and two cooks with their families. Beside this, there are a one storied building (for Credit Officer), a sick room and the office of the Home with a primary school. Along with these, there are six ponds in the Home: big and small, where fish cultivation of various kinds is done. They meet the need of the fresh fish for the Home and every morning, the fish of those ponds is also sold to the local businessman. On the bank of those ponds, there are trees of numerous species like the mango, blackberry, jackfruit, lichee, coconut, date, banana etc. The fruits of these trees are used for eating in the Home and moreover, they add to the beauty of the Home's environment. Every Thursday, in the evening after the end of the prayer, a cultural ceremony is held named Evening of Joy. The girls of the home participate in the ceremony and they perform various dances, songs, poems, acts, general knowledge competition and Bible quiz etc and enjoy themselves. Every week, there is Church and the Sunday school is every Saturday. Beside these celebrations, many cultural functions are arranged on the occasion of all kinds of state or organisational issues. Local valued persons are invited to those functions.

At present, there are 205 girls in the Dacope Home, of which 23 are in nursery group, 32 in class 1, 15 in class 2, 20 in class 3, 18 in class 4, 12 in class 5, 18 in class 6, 18 in class 7, 13 in class 8, 6 in class 9 and 10 are S.S.C examinees. For guiding, imparting education, looking after, cooking and safety of the girls, there are a dean, an accounts officer, three teachers, five governesses, three cooks, five sentries, two supervisors, and a matron-cum-nurse.

The girls of the Home get up at 5.30am and start their daily activities. In the morning at 6 o'clock, their prayers and choruses awaken the neighbourhood. They have their breakfast from 6.30am to 7.00am. They study and get themselves prepared for the class from 7.00am to 8.20am. At 8.30am they come to the school in a queue; the school starts at 8.30 am and breaks up at 1.30pm.



The 53 girls of class six to nine go to the High school outside the Home with their governesses and return back at 4.00pm. These girls are provided with Tiffin for eating or taking lunch in the school. At noon, the junior girls of the primary section take their lunch at 1.30pm and rest till 3.00pm. They study from 3.00pm to 4.00pm. From 4.00pm to 5.00pm it is games time. From 5.00pm to 5.15pm they wash their hands and feet, 5.15pm to 5.45pm they take their Tiffin. They start their evening prayers at 6.00pm and this continues till 6.30pm. Then they study till 8.00pm, after which they take their supper from 8.00pm to 8.45pm. After that, all the girls have their own time and prepare themselves for sleep. When the clock strikes ten at night, the light turns off and all the girls go to sleep.

The Dacope Home is running smoothly, fulfilling its desired goals but sometimes it faces some hurdles. One of the major problems of the Home is the presence of salt in the drinking water. With the cycle of the seasons changing, the salinity in the water gets intense. Especially from January to July (in total 7 months), this salinity in water occurs most. During this time, different diseases such as fever, cold, coughing, itching, pox and other contagious diseases break out and there arises extreme scarcity of drinking water. For this reason, if there was a reserve tank in the Home, then it would be possible to face that crisis by reserving the rain water.

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#### **CSS Mission Statement**

*“To share the sorrow and hold the hands of the suffering and neglected people and minister them with word and deed regardless of race, religion or ideology”*