

The Diocesan Boys' Hostel, Mirpurkhas, Pakistan

Raja comes from a tiny rural village, his mother is a widow and the family have no resources. When six years old Raja's was recommended and accepted to come to live in a hostel, so that he could attend school and get an education. He is now one year away from matriculation. Raja was all ready to take his end of year exams when lockdown meant his school and hostel had to be closed. He stays in touch to know when he can return to the hostel... but already five months have passed.

He has spent his summer working in the fields in 45 degrees heat to support the family. If Raja is not able to return to school, he may never have a qualification to enable him to get other types of work. The life of a day labourer for a feudal-type landlord is insecure and hard.



Daud: (a student leader from 2019) "I have learnt so much about leadership from living at the hostel. I have learnt about leading meetings, sharing stories and the importance of routines and discipline in our life. When we have a fun night I have the opportunity to sing, to lead, speaking in front of others. I also have learnt how to give a message and I've gained confidence from doing dramas. This year I am writing the drama."