I am in the eighth grade and, as my second year participating in Child Parliament, serve as Deputy Prime Minister of Morra School. I am also one of nine girls who participate in JIVA’s art exchange program, where girls from the JIVA villages exchange art and letters with a group of 8th grade girls who are taking art classes at the Figge Art Museum in the United States.

Through my involvement in Child Parliament, I have seen parents become more involved in their children’s education. Before JIVA, parents wanted their children to study but had hardly any interest – awareness of parent meetings was low and they were generally not engaged. When JIVA began organizing regular meetings and parents’ observed JIVA’s good work, they became more motivated and have really increased their involvement in their children’s education.

JIVA has also improved the condition of the ERC. The ERC is a place where children meet and study in a less formal environment than the school environment. Different activities conducted at the ERC have helped build the confidence of the children and improve their interpersonal skills. Along with significant improvements in the academic standards of the children, one of the most visible changes is in their cleanliness. Children have become aware of the importance of personal hygiene and cleanliness, as well as the cleanliness of the village.

As for the future of education in the village, though parents are engaged in schools presently, I am not sure whether the levels of engagement will remain the same or decrease. However, I am very sure about one thing – when I and other children studying at Morra School grow up, we will work towards achieving better education in our school and keep up the good work done by JIVA.

"Education is very important to me and I want to become a teacher when I grow up. I intend to run a coaching center to earn money, but I will also teach the poor free of cost.”