



THE BATEMANS TRUST



Supporting disadvantaged children in South India

Batemans Children



Mohan's family lived a precarious life sheltering on the construction sites they worked on. After his father and brother disappeared, his mother, an illiterate site-worker, brought Mohan to Batemans determined he should have a better life. She had heard about our work through our managers spreading the word in the construction community. Mohan was 4 when he came to our boys' hostel. He is now studying in II std in Little Lambs School and enjoys reading books, playing football and swimming lessons.

These are just a few of our children's life stories. We treat every child as an individual, tailoring the support we give to create independent, confident and happy young people. Many have Western names as they are from the Anglo-Indian community – a disadvantaged minority in India. Some of the names have been changed to protect their identity.

Eileen's grandfather brought Eileen to us when she was a little girl only 5 years old. Her grandfather lived in a rural area with little work and access to education. He knew about St George's through the Anglo-Indian community and Batemans agreed to fund Eileen. She had no father and her mother passed away just after she finished high school. Eileen was very bright and did well at school. After school, Batemans arranged for Eileen to stay at their girls' hostel and funded her further education: A-levels equivalent, Bachelor degree and a Masters Degree which she successfully completed whilst working part time for a communications company. Eileen is now happily employed full time and funds another child's place at the girls' hostel.



Eileen says "Batemans has been one of those very brightly lit stars that guided me and showed me the way to success and I can't thank them enough. Batemans have always encouraged me in all the hard battles of my life. I will always remember Batemans and their unconditional love and help towards my upcoming and for what I am today."



Catherine's mother committed suicide when she just a girl. Her father took ad hoc jobs and had neither the time nor money to give Catherine any help. Catherine was a troubled soul and very unhappy teenager when her grandmother brought her to Batemans in total desperation – Catherine was on her last chance, heading for a juvenile detention centre. She joined the open school and did well, she was academically capable but not suited to the formal school system. After courses and work placements in hairdressing and tailoring it became clear that Catherine was most secure and happiest within the open school and hostel. She now helps out at the girls' hostel, using the tailoring skills she learnt to take in work to earn her keep. A far better scenario than a troubled life in an institution.

Mervyn says "I am so grateful to [The Batemans Trust] for what I am today. I have grown in confidence and I am proud that I am independent now and able to look after myself."

Mervyn and his two brothers lost their father, a lorry driver, in a work-related accident. Shortly afterwards their mother disappeared. Mervyn was dyslexic and had to leave school because he couldn't keep up with lessons. But Mervyn was a bright boy and deserved a chance to make something of his life. So Batemans gave Mervyn a home in the boys' hostel and enrolled him in the Batemans Open School. The Open School gives children the chance to study for exams at a level and pace appropriate to them regardless of age. In the caring environment of the hostel and school, with the right support Mervyn passed his 10th std and completed his hotel management course. He is now working in a Radisson hotel. The extra care and attention Batemans gave – like teaching Mervyn to swim – gave him loads of confidence.

