



## Riya's Story

Riya Minz is a fourth grader at the Khunti Adventist school. She has attended since she was in first grade, when someone told her parents about the school. Since then, she's loved her time at the school and she especially loves hearing the Bible stories that her teacher tells. But what she doesn't love is her classroom.

Fourth graders at the Khunti school study in one of the oldest buildings on campus. It's almost eighty years old! The windows no longer have glass—they let cold air in during the winter and hot air in during the summer. The roof has holes, so if it rains, students have to move their desks to avoid getting wet.

"In winter season we feel very cold," said Riya. "And in summer season we feel very hot. In rainy season some places collect water from the leaks."

All of this is changing. Maranatha is constructing a large building full of classrooms on the Khunti campus.

In December, the first group of volunteers arrived to start constructing the walls of the new school building. Arielle Abalos visited the campus as part of that first group. The condition of the classrooms made her think about her classroom at home.

"They have no way of heating up the classrooms, they have no way of cooling down the classroom," said Arielle. "They have to pray that it's going to be the perfect weather outside for the classroom to be comfortable to sit in. I think [about] the classroom that I sit in every single day—if it's too hot outside, 'Oh, we'll just turn on the A/C. Oh, if it's too cold outside we'll just turn on the heater.' They don't have that privilege. So I think that it's very different seeing the way that they learn compared to the way I learn."

Things are changing on the Khunti campus, and Riya and the other students couldn't be more excited. When asked about the new building, Riya's eyes got really big. She can't wait for the new building to be done.

"I'm so excited about the new classrooms and new building, and have so much happiness and joy!" said Riya.

You are helping to bring joy to Riya and hundreds of other students at the Khunti school. They will no longer have to study in hot, cold, or wet classrooms. This new school building will also give them a large auditorium for worships, assemblies, and a place to play on rainy days. Thank you for being missionaries right where you are!