

for children

hello

INDIA

How do you say hello in Oriya?



johar

(Say "JO-hahr")

My name is Manoj Kumar Pradhan.

Age: 12

Lives in: Sinisingi, India

I live with my mother, father, three sisters and grandmother. I am in grade six and walk to school. It takes me about 25 minutes each way. I love to read and I especially like poems. One of my favorite poems is called "My Small Village."

When I am not in school, I help my father harvest corn and I take care of the cows. I like to cook and help my mother make rice.

I remember when people in my village dug channels to put in an irrigation system (through an MCC project) in 2013. Before that my family could only grow corn. Now we have cabbage, eggplants, beans and cauliflower, along with other things. Now I eat more vegetables.

Kabaddi is a popular sport in India, and it's my favorite game. (Kabaddi involves tagging members of the opposing team without being tackled.) I'm good at scoring points.

My favorite food: fried potatoes

My favorite subject: literature

What I want to be: mechanical engineer

Poetry and a favorite place

One of Manoj's favorite poems, "My Small Village," is by Sachhidananda Rautray, who's from the Indian state of Odisha, where Manoj lives. The poem is full of the sights of life in this region — from the sea touching the land to herbs, shrubs and forest. There are cows and goats, neighbors, harvests and songs.

If you were writing a poem about your town, or about a place you love, what five sights (or sounds or smells or things or even memories) would you describe?

