

CUARESMA **40** días para cambiar el mundo

Capital: La Paz
Population: 9.694.231
Adult literacy: 87%
Life expectancy: 66



Tata is not an institution, it's a home

Something is changing in Bolivia

Bolivia is a country situated in the central-eastern part of Latin America. It has important natural reserves, principally mining, agriculture and the production of hydrocarbons, which account for 40% of economic activity. Despite this, it is the poorest of all the South American countries, since almost 80% of the population are without some basic needs. One of the principle problems within the rural zones is access to education and health protection, which fundamentally affects indigenous populations.



The "Tata Esteban" centre in Tiraque (Cochabamba) has been working since 1993 with young Quechua people, both male and female, typically between 15 and 30 years old, who were marginalised by the education system and did not complete their primary education.

This programme began with the objective of promoting the role of women, through personal development. Initially, the programme was attended by SIPASKUNA ("young women" in Quechuan), but in the year 2000 the the WAYNAKUNA ("young males") programme was launched, in order to also help young men improve their work prospects.

The centre has around 450 young people in technical education, where they also receive training in other areas such as values.

In order to meet the training objectives, they also attend to other needs of the students, such as providing a nursery for under 5s. This helps both teachers and students to participate in the education process without abandoning their family obligations.

The most notable success of the centre are the production classes for bakeries and food production. This allows people to find employment with dignity, and to maintain economic independence.

In 2005, a group of 15 women aged between 14 and 25 created the "Tata Esteban" cooperative. They produce craft textiles to sell in local markets and fairs. They also produce cotton clothing for the international brand <http://solidarityclothing.com/>.



With the help of agricultural organisations in the zone, a series of agricultural centres have been set up, using new technology and student help. This helps to maintain the Centre and to stimulate agricultural development in the region.

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Prayer: «There was consternation in the crowd because of Him. Some wanted to arrest him, but no one did so»

Lord, history repeats itself. You still provoke dissent in those that hear of You. You are not what is popularly referred to as a Saviour, but there are people that live for you. So what about me? I want to be like them.

John 7:40-53