

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We are back today with warm greetings and new impressions from India, and to report about our work here on site, in Karnataka, the state in which we operate.

Corona pandemic is no longer an issue for most of the people here in India and all the measures from 2020 and 2021 are now for both - locals and foreigners – a thing in the past. However, storms and floods as well as enormous inflation and increasing prices in the country currently determine the day-to-day problems and fears of the people here.

You often hear about children whose parents lost everything during the pandemic, due to lockdowns or for other reasons, and then were unable to pay the school fees. The schools refuse to issue a so-called TC (Transfer Certificate) until the debts haven't been paid. As a result, these children can't even continue their education in a free public school, because a TC is required if you want to transfer your child. There are countless examples of interrupted or destroyed school careers of children, blocked by their old schools, which insist on paying outstanding school fees. Together with SARF, we at SEEDS have been able to help in several cases, through talks, agreements, postponements and sometimes even partial payments, so that the school life of some of these children can continue.

We learn of old women from the poorest class, who were banished from their families because there was absolutely nothing left for them in the time of pandemic. Their middle generation family members, who were mostly day laborers and servants, have lost their jobs due to long lockdowns. Most families have managed somehow, but there are also those many losers, who were left with nothing. Once again, children and older women are the ones, who suffer from the long-term effects of the anti-pandemic measures the most. And none of them have even ever seen the vaccination.

On the positive side, you notice that the country's economy is gradually getting back on its feet and recovering and for most of the people their new everyday life, but with the usual old challenges, has again become a reality. Despite all the consequences of pandemic, this applies also to our project and us.

After two extremely difficult years of pandemic for all students, teachers and our staff, the usual activities such as sports festival, Independence Day celebration (see photo below) and school trip were finally possible again in 2022.



We are happy today to be able again to give you some insights into the activities of the children. But we also want to report to you about other challenges, and share our impressions on the following pages.

Without your constant support, we would not have been able to continue our work up to this day!

All the children, our entire team, board and staff of SEEDS and our Indian partner organization SARF thank you for your support and help!

WE THANK YOU ALL FROM THE BOTTOMS OF OUR HEARTS!!!



Gardening on our project site in Guttahalli



Emergency situations



This is Priya (35) with her daughter Flora, her son Kevin and their grandmother. Her husband, who had fallen badly in an accident while working as a painter, is now incapable of working, and became an alcoholic. Priya herself has asthma and diabetes. The school fees arrears interrupted the school careers of both of her children. This summer we accepted Flora (9th grade) and Kevin (4th grade) to our educational program. Since then, they have been able to attend school regularly again, which brings them back the perspectives for the better future.



This is Kamala and her daughter Bindu. To the Family belongs also her son, Varun. The father of the family is an alcoholic, and the family experiences the domestic violence on the daily basis. When the father tried to sell the last food supplies in order to buy drinks, a violent argument broke out again in the family. Kamala came to us with injuries and asked for help.

We support the both children, who attend public school (10th and 11th grades), in all the necessary expenses for school materials, and their mother Kamala with a monthly amount of money.



Kantkamma, 75, used to work as a day laborer and maid. Today she is no longer able to work, has no family, carries all her possessions in a bundle and sleeps on the street.

We support her with a daily meal, a monthly fee and medical help.



We reported about the little Vedaanth in Newsletter No. 14. He is the son of Pramila (30) and the brother of little Rani. We were able to arrange a job for Pramila, who works now as a maid, and we included Vedaanth in our educational program. Today he attends the Sri Datta International School.



Muniyamma, 78, also worked as a day laborer. During the Corona period, her family threw her out of the house and she has been living on the streets ever since. She came to us with open inflamed wounds on her legs. We took care of her medical care, provided her with clothing and support with a monthly amount of money.



Sakamma (77) has a similar story. She too was banished by her family during the pandemic, because there was nothing left to provide her with.

He's been living on the streets ever since. She can barely see, and came to us with head injuries, after she fell. We have taken care of the medical supplies and clothing for her, and she receives from us a daily meal and a small monthly amount.



This is Thrishuvall. His father was a driver and died in a car accident. His mother has a small job in the diner, but that's not enough to support a family. Members of her community have forced her into prostitution.

We have included Thrishuvalla in our educational program and he attends now the 4th class at Sri Datta International School.



We have already reported about Dhanussree in our Newsletter No. 14. Last summer she ran away from home and her father. As it later turned out, she had taken the bus to Tirupati, one of the most popular pilgrims' destinations in South India, about 150 km away. Most probably she lived there for three months in a kind of public orphanage in humiliating conditions and was abused. Therefore, she ran away again and was picked up by the local police, who asked her for possible relatives. Dhanussree decided to tell the policeman about Uma and Mahesh from SARF and the officers contacted the local police station in Guttahalli. After that we were finally able to welcome her here and somehow arrange for her to live with her grandmother. The violent father of Dhanussree is being protected by vicious characters in his community and it is impossible to break through such a collusion in the rural India. As far as possible, we take care of her regular school attendance and cover the expenses for school materials in the seventh grade of the public school, where the girl attends. If possible, after regular school hours she sometimes comes to our supplementary homework supervision class, which we offer to the group of children between 4 and 6 p.m.

SPORTS FESTIVAL



Our protégés also took part in the annual District Sports Festival in September 2022: a competition in Kabaddi, cricket and athletics.



Celebration of the Independence Day on the 15th August 2022



After a two-years long Corona break, finally great parades took place everywhere, to celebrate the Indian Independence Day on August the 15th. The Sri Sai Datta International School of our protégés was also a co-organizer.





CLASS TRIP OF THE 10TH FINAL CLASS

A blessing of the bus before leaving school and a prayer (Poojah) for all travelers.

Before the evening departure from our CHG Children's Home in Guttahalli to school (from left): Rohit, Hemanth, Pradeep, Martin, Ganesh and Nikhil



Morning prayers also on the trip day

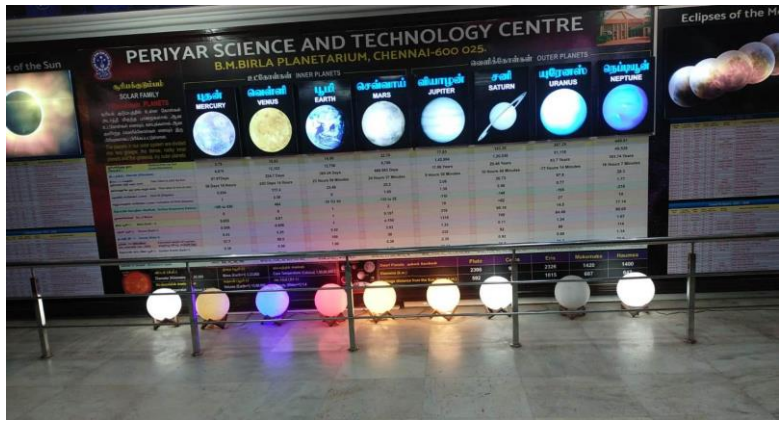


... on the way in a bus



A visit in the Golden Temple in Vellore

A visit in the Chennai Planetarium



Excursions to Chennai Marina Beach and Pondicherry Beach



Celabration: Birthday of Rohit in CHG



Handing over one of the donated laptops to a collage student. Great joy!



A class photo of the girls sportsgroup

Ganesha Chaturthi – celebration of Ganesh' Birthday in August





.. and sometimes it`s good to see the world upside down





From the bottom of our hearts from all of us to all of you

THANK YOU!

We wish You, Your Friends and Your Families
beautiful Christmas time
and ALL of us a peacefull New Year 2023!

BANK ACCOUNT FOR DONATIONS SEEDS e.V.:

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