

"Little Flower", Association for the Promotion of Women and Children in India e.V.

Report of the Board of Directors for 2021

I welcome you to the general meeting of our association.

This year we have to vote on the annual accounts and the budget for the new year.

As every year, we first want to thank everyone who so generously supports us with money so that our wonderful projects in India can continue. Especially in a year when need has grown in many places here too, this is admirable. Thank you also to all those who are doing their work in India. They had and still have a very difficult time.

For us, the past year brought the loss of great pillars of our association.

First, Heidemarie Kern, who worked tirelessly for Little Flower here, but especially in India, died in September 2021.

In March, Ulrich Jänsch, who managed the finances of our association for many years, left us. He followed our work with great interest until the end.

In May, the death of Ursula Dietzel came as a surprise to all of us. Whether it was collecting donations or auditing the finances. She was always ready to help.

And then, at the end of July, the news of Alosanai's death hit us all. Her importance for Little Flower cannot be overestimated. Now we have to find ourselves anew, which will be especially difficult for our partners in India PEARL and Little Flower.

For us it can only mean to continue our work in the spirit of the deceased.

Finances

Last year we received about the same amount of donations as the year before. The total for 2021 was about 131,840 EUR. So far, things are looking good for this year as well. The good result comes mainly from some large donations.

The transfers to India in 2021 were 130,777.83 EUR, far above the average of the last years. The costs of the association were again very low and amounted to 449.38 EUR, which is 0.33% of the donations.

Report from India

Unfortunately, we were not able to travel to India last year. However, we were and are in constant contact with our partners via emails, Skype and telephone.

The covid situation in India has improved, but as here too, infections continue to happen, as we were able to experience with our master.

The schools were able to reopen this spring after almost two years of closure. First it was only the higher classes and in February it was the same for our kindergartens in Perumalmalai and Paramakudi. Tuition classes have also started again. This tuition is of great importance now, because the big deficits of the past years have to be compensated for, so that the children and young people do not lose touch with the schools.

In Leelavathinagar, the village of the bird catchers in Paramakudi, PEARL's new "Learning Centre" was opened in April. It has become fantastic and is being used for a variety of tasks.

Through a variety of activities, efforts were made to ease the suffering of the people caused by the pandemic. At PEARL, several vaccination campaigns took place in cooperation with the municipality. Poor families were supported through food parcels. Blankets were distributed in winter. Children received school uniforms and stationery, and hot meals were regularly provided for Riverbed children and the elderly.

I very much hope that I will be able to travel to India again next year and tell you about the situation at first hand.

Sponsorships (Barbara)

This year, until recently, 117 children were sponsored by sponsors from Germany, Switzerland, France, Denmark, Holland and Austria, each receiving 150 Euros per year.

On 8 June this year I received a report that 13 children had been withdrawn from the sponsorship programme for various reasons. Only three children had dropped out. I then informed the sponsors, and 5 sponsors immediately took up sponsorship again.

Fortunately, Christa agreed to take over Ursula Dietzel's sponsored child. Lilo also agreed to take over one of the 2 sponsored children of Inge Hogg. I am still looking for the other child of Inge.

In addition, I lost my identity card this year while hiking in a river valley, an honest finder found it in the meadow. She searched for me in Google, found my phone number on our website and decided to take over a sponsorship.

Now we have 104 children we support.

Report Greeting Cards (Sonja)

In the last financial year, a total of 1022 orders were received by the greeting card project in Paramakudi. The demand for cards, probably due to the pandemic, has dropped sharply. Amala had written to me a few months ago, saddened that she had no more orders for cards and that the young women were therefore without work and so without income. We contacted some loyal card buyers and a few orders were received.

Yet this source of income is so important for these women. Especially during the pandemic, when many of the husbands had no work because of their occupation (day labourer, auto rickshaw driver), the salary of the embroiderers was the only source of income for the families.

Thus, for 10 families, as 10 women are employed in the greeting card project, livelihood could be provided. Amala sent me a report which is also available outside. One embroiderer reports: "The embroidery-programme has given me a helping hand to overcome my financial crisis." This woman was able to work from home, embroidering greeting cards, during the pandemic when she was also pregnant. This way she was also able to pay for the costs of the hospital stay that resulted from the birth of her second child. Another woman reports that she earns 3500 Inr (about 44 Euro) per month by embroidering greeting cards and can still take care of her child. With this money she is able to pay the rent (2000 Inr) for the house.

The purchase of the cards is help for self-help. Amala writes that it would be nice and encouraging if we could spread the word about this programme among our contacts.

I have brought a lot of cards. I would be happy if you would take plenty of them. Similarly, I have ordered many Christmas cards in India which you can get from me from November.

Budget 2023 (Proposal)

Bank charges	50,00 EUR
Postage	300,00 EUR
Office supplies	50,00 EUR
IT	50,00 EUR

	450,00 EUR