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Ev. Pfarramt Simbach/ VR-Bank Rottal-Inn/ BLZ 740 618 13/
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Keyword: "Pradip"

Anja Fischer

Camino del Faro No. 12/
BW 3003540 Alicante
Spain

Mobile: 0049/170/7318970

E-Mail:

anja.fischer@pradip.de

Ev. Pfarramt Simbach:
0049/8571/2366

Homepage: www.pradip.de

Annual report 2021**25 Years of Pradip - Partner One World**

Summer 2021

Dear friends of "Pradip – Partner One World"

This last year in the pandemic was very tough for our two partner organisations. In addition to the problems caused by Corona, a severe cyclone (Amphan) also raged over West Bengal in May. With tireless creativity and resilience, "Familia" and "Women's Interlink Foundation" continued to work for their protégés. I will inform you especially about that in this annual report. If you are interested in more details about our ongoing projects, please see our homepage: www.pradip.de.

In 1996 I was in India for the first time and got to know our namesake "Pradip". Since then, our initially very small initiative with the Protestant Church of Simbach

has developed into a rather large project. We are very happy about everything that we have been able to do for the better with the help of our partners in India. And we are also glad that over the years we have remained a voluntary initiative that can finance all administrative costs privately. We cannot and do not want to get any bigger because otherwise all the work would no longer be manageable on a voluntary basis.

How and whether we celebrate our 25th anniversary depends on the development of the pandemic. However, we will keep you informed (www.pradip.de).

I hope this annual report will reach you all in good health. I am aware that for many of you probably the main concern right now is dealing with the Corona crisis, but I am nevertheless addressing you with the latest information on our projects. The people in India who are in need of our help need it even more than in recent years and I hope you can continue to support us. We are currently very short of donations, which is also due to the fact that we financed some Corona emergency measures in the last financial year (see below).

In this annual report, as always, you will find a brief general description of the projects to inform new donors. In addition there is still up-to-date information. Some photos are from the last trip, because I could not travel to India in 2020 due to the pandemic. However, we have also received a lot of up-to-date material from our two partner organisations.

For 25 years we have been working as "Pradip – Partner One World" to give disadvantaged children and young people in India a chance to live a self-determined, dignified life. An incredible number of former students from the streets, slums and red light districts have made this step, a remarkable achievement given the living conditions in which they grew up. This sustainability of our projects confirms that we are in the right places.

However, the rapid urbanization of countries such as India does not stop the flow of those stranded on the streets or in slums, and our work is as important as it was at the beginning.

Only with your help can we guarantee the sustainability of our projects. Thank you very much!

Overview of projects for 2021- 2022¹

Projects	content	Costs in Euro	Partner
Centre for the Children of Prostitutes (Sonagachi)	50 children Vocational training: 6 young adults	10.768 1.180	Women ´s Interlink Foundation (WIF)
Centre for Street Children (Kumartully)	65 children	10.386	WIF
Centre for the Children of Corpse Burners (Kalighat - Sasan)	60 children	10.152	WIF
Home for children of prostitutes, victims of human trafficking etc. (Nijoloy)	Home costs and training programs for 85 girls, employee salary costs, renovations-measures	33.010	WIF
Orphanage Childcare Home	Rehabilitation and home costs for 16 young women	8.983	WIF

Project for people with disabilities	2 adults, including home costs for a man	1.376	WIF, Cheshire Homes
Police projects for street and slum children (Nabadisha)	Support for 6 young people in particular need	444	WIF
Orphanage Familia Home	There is currently no application	-	Familia
Preliminary total costs 2021-2022		76. 299	

¹ We currently expect an exchange rate of 1€ = 89 INR. Euro prices are only indicative, as the exchange rate fluctuates. Due to strong inflation, especially now due to the Corona crisis the salary and clothing costs have increased by about 10% each year.

Partner organisation "Familia": Partner since 1996

Since 1996 a deep friendship has connected "Pradip – Partner One World" with "Familia India". The organisation has a very special concept, which is unique in West Bengal. In four houses, ten to twenty orphans live with a married couple who are like father and mother to them. The children thus all have a family and keep close contact with their "siblings" and "parents", even when they are grown up. The home has a small farm with water buffaloes, pigs, goats and rice fields and more recently a poultry farm. In addition, there is an old people's home, a crèche and a school. "Familia" also supports needy children in the surrounding villages.

Impressions from the home:



On Sunday evening all the children meet.



outdoor play



Kavita and KC Thomas, founders of "Familia"



homework

School of Sustainability - Familia School

About 15 years ago, KC Thomas, the now 82-year-old director of "Familia India", had the idea of founding an English language school. On the one hand he wanted to finance the running costs of the home in the long-term in order to become independent of foreign donations, and on the other hand, he wanted to give children and young people in the countryside the chance of an English-speaking education. The school has now state recognition and is registered under the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education. Pupils can attend Familia School from the nursery up to the twelfth grade and take their Higher Secondary Examination there.

Impressions from school:



morning School Assembly 2020 on the verge of the pandemic



with my colleagues Fiona O'Leary and Bhavini Lad in the library of the school



creative school work



poem recitation



The old age home is right beside the kindergarten, so that the seniors can watch the children play.

We support "Familia" every year with special purchases, e.g. the lowering of the wells or the construction of biogas plants, the construction of classrooms, the kindergarten or with a generator for the school. We have also co-financed the basketball court and the playground of the home.

"Familia" in the Covid Year - unique special help

With the first strict lockdown in India starting on 23.3.2020 "Familia" also had to close their school and kindergarten. For almost a whole year the teachers taught online. It was not until February 2021 that some classes were allowed to reopen. The most problematic thing for "Familia" was that, despite the ongoing online education, many parents were simply unable to pay the school fees in full. Some didn't pay at all. "Familia" then lost a large part of its income and the teaching staff could no longer be fully paid. In addition, other donations were no longer received, which would otherwise be used to finance the running costs of the home. As late as December we received a letter from KC Thomas, communicating that for more than two months they were only able to buy all the food for the orphanage on credit.

We then decided to support the home with the running costs for four months **(23.300 Euros)**.

This and donations from other friends helped "Familia" to survive this difficult time. KC Thomas informed us that in the meantime further donations were also received. The debts in the transactions have been settled. They continue to try to operate as cheaply as possible, for example by shopping in the wholesale market or by growing or producing many food products themselves.

Life in the home continued as normal. Since the children have a lot of open space there, the lockdown was not perceived as too bad. The school children took part in online lessons using computers.



Life goes on. In March 2021 the children celebrate the traditional colour festival Holi.



Some classes have been allowed to return to in situ classes in the school building since February. Here, the annual exams are written under special hygiene measures.

Help for surrounding villages and migrants

Despite their own massive difficulties, "Familia" helped the families in the surrounding villages during the first months of the strict lockdown. They distributed food rations, masks and disinfectants to those most in need and also took care of the stranded migrant workers. After cyclone "Amphan" families were given tarpaulins to provisionally repair their destroyed houses.

For these measures we supported "Familia" with a total of **15.000 Euros**.



distribution of food in the surrounding villages during the first hard lockdown



After Cyclone "Amphan" KC Thomas and Pradip Mondal distribute plastic tarpaulins among the families whose homes were destroyed.

Self-help project: Poultry farm

As always, the employees at "Familia" are extremely creative when it comes to helping themselves. Now they have opened a poultry farm and hope to raise money for the home as soon as possible.



A sustainable programme. Eggs and the meat are supposed to help the home.

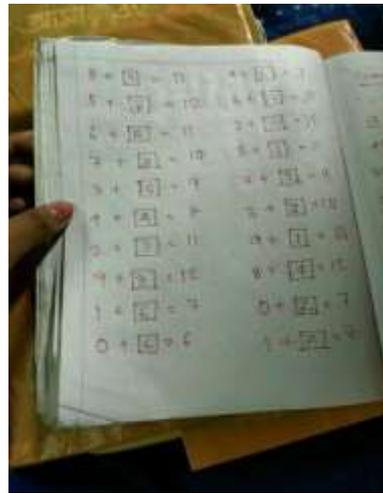
Partnerorganisation „Women ´s Interlink Foundation“(WIF): Partner since 1999!

In addition to the "Familia" orphanage, "Pradip - Partner One World" has been working with the Indian non-governmental organisation "Women's Interlink Foundation" since 1999. The 81-year-old Aloka Mitra, founder and head of WIF, has been tirelessly engaged in voluntary work for disadvantaged people in India for more than 50 years now.

For "Women's Interlink Foundation", the last year was also determined by the pandemic. With incredible creativity, the social workers and teachers tried to support their protégés. Only since February were the centers allowed to reopen on some days. Until then, daily meals were replaced by longer-lasting food donations. On the streets and also in the slums there was a wave of solidarity from neighbours, some of whom provided food for the poor.

I found it impressive that some wealthy residents bought food and offered it to people on the streets for them to resell. They were then allowed to keep the proceeds.

Our social workers and also the teachers kept in regular telephone contact with the individual families and also tried to visit them as often as possible.



Visit of the teacher to the children of the Sonagachi Center: Help with distance teaching.



distributing the food ration



educating the parents of the Kumartully Center about Covid

Nevertheless, many parents of our children lost their jobs during the lockdown. For example, a typical informal job is "domestic helper" (household help). Since they were no longer allowed to leave the neighbourhood, they could not get to their place of work. Also, some employers could no longer afford these household aids. Many were able to survive to some extent through food donations, but still had other expenses, for example, medicine. As a result, many people in the slums have become

heavily indebted to local money lenders and are unlikely to get out of this debt trap. A loan of a few hundred Euros means a lifetime dependency! Unfortunately, our social workers have not been able to prevent many children from starting to work again to support their families. They accept every job opportunity, e.g. cleaning at tea stalls, washing vegetables, selling vegetables or fish on the street, etc.

Our coordinator, Tanima Roy, said: "Corona has set us back in our work for ten years."

Since I was unable to travel to Calcutta this year, we held interviews and meetings online. The teachers and children came to the central office for this purpose.



These children came to the office for some interviews.



Online meeting with teachers and social workers.

Sonagachi (Centre for the Children of Prostitutes) financed by us since 2000

For years, we have been focusing on the topic of human trafficking and forced prostitution. Sonagachi is the largest red-light district in Calcutta, with 10.000 forced prostitutes, most of whom are victims of human trafficking. These can be hired there for less than one Euro.

To prevent their children getting caught in the sex-trade, they are looked after by our partner organisation during the mothers' working hours. We are pleased that these children can learn in a protected space and we are delighted to report that we have not lost any of the children to prostitution since the project activities started in 2000.

They are taught in our centre, receive homework help, medical care, a balanced meal, clothing and the opportunity to play in a protected room after class. Occasionally excursions are also made. Once a month there is a meeting with the mothers, during which they are informed about HIV and other dangers. The mothers' greatest concern is the future of their children. Already from the age of eight years, children could get caught in the trap of the pimps. The rooms where the mothers live with their children are also used for prostitution. Mostly they are small sheds for which a large part of the income is given to the "Madam" as rent. On holidays the younger women have to serve up to 15 clients.

Unfortunately, the retired prostitutes are rarely fortunate enough to find paid work in another field. Some of them work as cleaners, but the fate of most of these women is just to loiter in the alleys of Sonagachi when they are "worn out". Such "Grannies", as they are affectionately called by the social workers, are to find a place in the new retirement home on the Nijoloy site in the future (see below).

Sonagachi in Corona Times

The first hard lockdown was announced and carried out within four hours. Many mothers could no longer earn anything and could no longer pay their rent to the owners of the brothels.



Nishi Kanta Nayak, Nijoloy's social worker: "Many tried to return to their home villages, but they were often not welcome. There they had no earning potential, so about 90% have come back in the meantime."

During the curfew, the teachers tried to teach their protégés via WhatsApp. Of course, few had smartphones, so they could not keep up with the pace of the class.

Impressions from the Sonagachi project:



Tanusree is now in 12th grade and came to WIF's office for an online interview. She wants to study dance therapy and psychology after graduating from high school.

The picture on the left is from the year 2020. She says they were informed of the first lockdown just four hours in advance and were then not allowed to leave the house for four months.

Annual cost for 50 children:

approx. 10.768 €

Vocational training for young people in Sonagachi
financed by us since 2010

These young women learn to tailor, embroider and make dolls and stuffed toys. This should give them an alternative to the profession of their mothers.



The teacher Anjana Mal (2nd from the left) with her students of the courses for tailoring and embroidery.

Annual costs:

Tailoring and embroidery (6 participants):

approx. 1.180 €

Home for the children of prostitutes/victims of human trafficking/ victims of exploitative child labour (Nijoloy)
co-financed by us since 2004

There are currently 85 girls and young women living in the home. Many of them were rescued from child prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation or child labour. Some have never attended school but were locked up in a brothel for years. They are now being rehabilitated in Nijoloy. Other girls could be saved from this fate by transferring them to this home in time, because the girls who are in danger of falling into the sex business are brought here to shield them from the direct influence of their mothers' pimps. Still others have been rescued from exploitative child labour, for example as illegal workers in rich households. Many also have experienced sexual assault in their own families.

The teenager and young adults all receive vocational training or the possibility to study. Some of them produce cloths, others become cooks or bakers, and still others are trained as nurses. All of them have their own bank account in which they can deposit their income.

Cyclone "Amphan" destroyed the home's playground. They also had no electricity for days.

The students took part in online lessons during the lockdown and the older ones continued their education in the home.

Here are some impressions:



Dance training is always welcome.



preparations for a festival



lesson in blockprinting



training in spice production

The government supports the home, but not enough to cover the costs. Therefore, "Pradip – Partner One World", among other sponsors, finances the remaining amount. This includes, for example, vocational training programmes and the salaries of the employees.

Annual costs for 85 girls and women:

approx. 33.010 €

On the site of the project area, a retirement home is being built, the construction of which we are co-financing with the help of the Oswald Foundation.



In the meantime, despite the difficulties with lockdowns, etc., the construction work is already well advanced.

The idea is similar to "Familia" that children and seniors give each other joy of life. Some of the new residents are to pay their own subsistence costs and thus contribute to the financing of the absolutely penniless "Grannies", for example from the red light area.

Kumartully (Center for Street Children)

financed by us since 1999

The children of this centre are mercilessly exposed to the influences of the megacity. They live on the sidewalks in the Kumartully district and hide under plastic tarpaulins at night. Despite the adverse conditions, our social workers and teachers have succeeded in placing all 65 children of this centre in the public school and to keep them there.

The children are usually taught in the centre, do their homework, receive a balanced meal, clothing and medical care. Once per week, a doctor visits the project. A dance teacher makes sure that they can forget their inhospitable environment at least from time to time. Excursions are also regularly made, e.g. to the zoo or museums.

Kumartully in Corona Times

Unfortunately due to Corona many children have started working again in order to support their families. But we very much hope that they will be able to finish their school nevertheless.

If you look at how these children live, it is hard to imagine distance lessons over a year. However, the teachers and social workers of the project have tried everything to ensure that their children are not left behind. Some parents who are a little better off have a smartphone. The teachers of Kumartully passed on the assignments of the schools to the children on the street and later sent their answers back to the schools.

Impressions from the project:



These children and adolescents came to the office for an online interview. Some of them work hard and attend school at the same time to ensure the survival of their families.

Some of their parents are now heavily in debt because they borrowed money on extremely high interest rates.



meeting of the teachers and mothers on the street



New dresses are distributed for the Durga Puja festival.



Life on the street is extremely hard. The government now pays these people health insurance. For registration however, many had to return to their home village.



Annual costs for 65 children:

approx. 10.386 €

Example of an annual budget

35 Schoolchildren (Group 1)	annual Euro (rounded)
Salaries	
Social workers	1.093
2 Teachers (part-time)	913
Dance teacher	326
Accountant	456
Health insurance for female teachers per year	68
Equipment for the school	
School supplies and school bags	389

School uniform	283
Food	696
Health	
Doctor's expenses	296
Medicine	74
Hygiene material for children	86
Clothing	129
Free Time (Excursions)	95
Administrative costs in India (rent, telephone, travel costs, etc.)	444
total	5348

Euro prices are only indicative, as the exchange rate fluctuates.

Explanation of the budget:

The fiscal year always runs from the 1st of April to the 31st of March. For each project we pay proportionally the salary costs for a social worker because he/she is not only active in one project. The administrative costs of the partner organisation are also shared proportionately.

One principle in selecting teachers is that they should come from the same neighbourhood as the children, so that they can better understand their needs. The teachers have completed a secondary school leaving certificate and have subsequently undergone a training programme to be able to teach children in the most important subjects.

Kalighat - Sasan (Centre for the children of corpse burners)

financed by us since 2000

The families of the corpse burners belong to the lowest social group in India. They live in small, self-built shanties or tents on the banks of a Ganges canal. The hygiene conditions are catastrophic. But there are also very positive developments in this centre. The status of the corpse burners has been improved by the fact that their work is now partly paid for by the state. Many have also been given permanent housing. New families have moved to the neighbouring slum, whose children we now also look after. The influx from rural areas of India or Bangladesh never stops.

Almost all the children in our centre are now going to school. At the beginning, nobody wanted to have anything to do with them. There were even schools that refused to accept them because the corpse burners were so badly regarded. This attitude has changed more and more year after year.

In the centre the children get tutoring, medical care and a meal. Support with homework is also important, as many of the parents can hardly read and write. As in many other projects, a dance teacher teaches them traditional Bengali dances once a week. Every month there is a meeting for the mothers to inform them about their children's learning progress. They are also given hygiene and health tips. The number of people getting married in their early teens has greatly decreased due to the influence of our centre.

Sasan in Corona Times

As in the other projects, many parents have lost their jobs. The children try to get jobs with which they can support their families at least a little bit. They clean, sell fish, vegetables etc.

This area was particularly badly hit during cyclone "Amphan". Many of the temporary dwellings were destroyed.

Impressions from the project:



distributing hygiene parcels and food rations



These girls passed their middle maturity (madhyamics) in 2020.



One of our girls selling vegetables on the street.



the children's homes



Annual costs for 60 children:

approx. 10.152 €

Cooperation between police and street or slum children (Nabadisha)

co-financed by us since 2006

The Nabadisha centres are organised like the other projects, e.g. Kumartully. But the biggest difference is that the rooms where classes are held and the older children do their homework are provided by the local police. This has greatly improved the relationship between street children and the police. The children come to the police with their problems, e.g. violence in the neighbourhood or in the family, and these officers in turn see the Nabadisha centres as a crime prevention. Medical care in the Nabadisha projects is provided by the *Lions Club of Calcutta*, among others. Since last year, the project work has been financed by other NGOs. We are only supporting a few older youths who are particularly in need, with school fees and school supplies.

For example, Noori from the slum Tangra:



Noori has been working alongside the school since she was a little girl. At the moment, she is the only earning family member. During the lockdown, she also lost her job as a water carrier, with which she earned about two to three Euros a month. With food donations, they were able to bridge the time to some extent. However the family fell heavily into debt during the Corona crisis. The situation seems rather hopeless. However, Tanima Roy, our coordinator, assures us that there are opportunities to pursue vocational training after school through state support. Her parents wanted to take her out of school years ago, but through the tireless advice of the teacher and our social workers, she was allowed to continue. Meanwhile, Noori is in 10th grade and is finishing her middle school.

Noori here during an online interview in the office of WIF

Annual costs:

Support for 6 young people

approx. 444 €

Financing of 16 girls in Child Care Home

co-financed by us since 2000

In the orphanage "Child Care Home" we finance the home costs for 7 girls who no longer receive state support because they are too old and cannot be placed on the job market.

For another 9 girls we pay the education costs or the costs which are not covered by the state.

For example, the children in this home were picked up by the police on the street completely on their own or were freed from child labour. All girls receive vocational training or can study.



Tinku Soren had been living in the CCH since she was 11. She is in her final year of training as a nurse.



Kakon Roy had been living in the CCH since she was 7. Here she can be seen as a nurse at her first delivery.



The girls were unable to leave the home during the lockdown. The house mothers have tried to distract them with new ideas.

Since the home is located in a now quite dangerous area, the remaining young people are to be transferred to Nijoloy, if possible, in order to protect them from human traffickers. Because of the pandemic, this relocation could not take place last year. Nine adult women with special needs or disabilities will remain in CCH. In addition, senior women are also to move in there in the long term.

Rehabilitation costs for 9 girls/ staff costs and general expenses for 16 girls:

Annual costs: approx. 8.983 €

Project for People with Disabilities

co-financed by us since 1996

Most of our former children are now self-employed and earn their own living. Two young adults will continue to be supported on a permanent basis, including Pradip, who is our namesake.



Pradip at a demonstration

Annual costs:

approx. 1.376 €

Organisational Matters:

- "Pradip – Partner One World" works in close cooperation with the Protestant Church of Simbach.
- Donations are made through the Protestant Parish Office Simbach (see above).
- If you would like a **donation receipt**, please provide your full address when making the transfer. If you have any questions, please contact Anja Fischer or Andrea Müller (pfarramt.simbach@elkb.de). Phone: 0049/8571/2366.
- Kumar Ray (independent accountant) checks the finances on site in India.
- The work in Europe is purely **voluntary**. **Flights to India and accommodation there, printing costs and postage etc. are paid privately**. Every cent goes into the projects.
- If you only want to receive the annual report digitally in the future, please send us an e-mail.
- **Homepage:** On our homepage (www.pradip.de) you will also find the old annual reports and a lot of additional information and pictures.



Sincere Thanks

I would like to thank all donors for their great support. Without your help, the work of our partner organisations would not be possible. Many thanks to all those who have been helping us for years. Among them are many private donors, but also schools, kindergartens, senior citizens groups, foundations etc., who fund-raise with great commitment and dedication, e.g. through donation runs.

Thank you for placing your trust and confidence in us! Please continue to help us. Unfortunately, shortly before the printing of this annual report, we are again getting negative news from Calcutta. Corona diseases are on the rise and the health system seems to be massively overstretched. Schools and centres had to close again.

All the best and warm greetings,

Anja Fischer and the whole Pradip team



Children from the Kumartully street children's project perform a song (2020).