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Annual Report 2023

Summer 2023

Dear friends of "Pradip – Partner One World", three years after the outbreak of Corona, I was finally able to visit our partner projects again with a small team from Alicante and Germany. It was very encouraging to see the same faces in the projects again, young adults who are already working, young people who are now about to graduate from high school or children who continue to go to school.

Of course, the pandemic has also left its mark, some school dropouts could not be prevented, many families have gone into terrible debt, some girls have been married off to reduce the financial burden of their families. My students often ask me how one deals with such individual fates. Of course, it is not easy to see how young people are deprived of opportunities and of course you can't help everyone. What is encouraging, however, are the many who have benefited from the projects in the long term and have been strengthened in their life path.

Be it

- the children who were saved from prostitution
- those who have been able to graduate from school or university and are now pursuing a properly paid profession
- those who have been rescued from exploitative child labour or sexual exploitation and have now found a shelter in one of the homes
- even those who have only been in school for a few years, but are no longer illiterate and are no longer so at risk of being exploited.

In the willingness to donate we at "Pradip - Partner One World" also notice current crises, which are understandably much more in the public consciousness than, for example, street children in India. Of course, there are countless meaningful ways to get involved in social projects and give something back. But I would like to point out that all our projects are sustainable. We do not promote short-term "charity", but the possibility of leading a decent life in the long term through education. I have known many of the staff of our two partner organisations personally for over 25 years.

I am often asked why I am involved in India of all places. The answer is "actually by chance". Grateful for the opportunities given in a Central European country, this is my way of giving something of this "advantage" to others. The structures of our partner organisations in India and the cooperation with the Protestant Church of Simbach have made this commitment possible.

We are very happy about everything that we have been able to achieve positively with the help of our partner organisations since 1996. And we are also glad that we have remained a voluntary initiative over all these years, which can finance all administrative costs privately.

In this annual report, as always, you will find a short general description of the projects so that new donors are informed. In addition, there is up-to-date information.

Thank you for your loyalty and trust!

Overview of projects for 2023 – 2024¹

Projects	Content	Costs in Euro	Partner
Orphanage Familia	At present no application available	-	Familia India
Centre for the children of prostitutes (Sonagachi)	50 children Vocational training: 6 young adults	14,693	Women ´s Interlink Foundation (WIF)
Home for children of prostitutes, victims of human trafficking etc. (Nijoloy)	Home costs and education programmes for 81 girls, salary costs for staff	36,932	WIF
Centre for street children (Kumartully)	65 children	12,501	WIF

¹ We currently calculate with an exchange rate of 1€ = 86 INR. The euro prices are only indicative, as the exchange rate fluctuates.

Centre for the Children of Corpse Burners (Kalighat - Sasan)	60 children	12,321	WIF
Police Projects for Street and Slum Children (Nabadisha)	Support for 17 particularly needy teenager in their school education	700	WIF
Orphanage Childcare Home	Rehabilitation and home costs for 7 young women	9,433	WIF
Project for people with special needs	1 adult (Pradip), including home costs	1,357	WIF, Cheshire Homes
Total provisional costs 2023-2024²		approx. 94,000	

Partner organisation "Familia": Partner since 1996

"Pradip – Partner One World" has been friends with "Familia India" since 1996. The organisation has a very special concept that is unique in West Bengal. Around ten orphans live in each of the four houses with a married couple who are like father and mother to them. The children thus all have a family and keep in touch with their "siblings" and "parents", even when they become adults. The home includes a small farm with cows, pigs, goats, vegetable garden, rice fields and a poultry and fish farm. In addition, a retirement home, a crèche and a school are attached. "Familia" also supports needy children in the surrounding villages and conducts awareness campaigns.

The children here all have different fates. We are told of widows who remarry out of financial hardship but are not allowed to take their children into the new marriage. There are also fates where one parent has murdered the other. Relatives often try to take care of the abandoned children, but they are usually completely overwhelmed financially. Some children were in such a bad condition that they were taken in literally overnight to save them from the worst.



Tiring homework. But the little one always stays close to his sister.



The home is surrounded by rice fields.

² including salary costs of the coordinator and fee for the auditor



Sports and play time in the afternoon



On Sundays, all the groups come together.

School for Sustainability – Familia School

About 16 years ago, KC Thomas, the now 83-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. On the other hand, he wanted to give children and young people in rural areas the chance of a good, English-language education.

The school is now permanently registered under the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education and one can take the Higher Secondary Examination there. I still know the school as a small hut with a corrugated iron roof. In the meantime, almost 900 students are enrolled and it has an excellent reputation far beyond the region. The atmosphere is unique, characterized by mutual respect, but also the ambition to achieve a good degree and thus advance the country and the family.

The Corona period was extremely difficult for Familia. Many parents could no longer afford school fees and salaries of school employees had to be paid. Familia also suffered considerable losses due to a decline in the willingness to donate from abroad. In the meantime, we were able to step in with emergency aid.

Normally, however, we support almost every year with special purchases, e.g., the construction of biogas plants, classrooms, the kindergarten, furniture for the school or with a generator. We also co-financed the basketball court and the playground of the home. This year so far, we did not receive an application.



Morning school assembly



Pre-school



Video exchange with students from the European School in Alicante

FAMILIA SCHOOL											
CLASS ROUTINE - 2022 - 2023.											
CLASS: VIII B											
CLASS TEACHER: MR. SOUMYA GHAKRABORTY (SC)											
DAY	PERIOD - 1	PERIOD - 2	PERIOD - 3	PERIOD - 4	PERIOD - 5	PERIOD - 6	PERIOD - 7	PERIOD - 8	PERIOD - 9	PERIOD - 10	PERIOD - 11
MONDAY	ENGLISH - 1 S.B	2 nd LANG S.B	3 rd LANG S.B	4 th LANG S.B	5 th LANG S.B	6 th LANG S.B	7 th LANG S.B	8 th LANG S.B	9 th LANG S.B	10 th LANG S.B	11 th LANG S.B
TUESDAY	ENGLISH - 2 S.B	2 nd LANG S.B	3 rd LANG S.B	4 th LANG S.B	5 th LANG S.B	6 th LANG S.B	7 th LANG S.B	8 th LANG S.B	9 th LANG S.B	10 th LANG S.B	11 th LANG S.B
WEDNESDAY	BIOLOGY S.B	MATHS S.B	COMPUTER S.B	2 nd LANG S.B	3 rd LANG S.B	4 th LANG S.B	5 th LANG S.B	6 th LANG S.B	7 th LANG S.B	8 th LANG S.B	9 th LANG S.B
THURSDAY	COMPUTER S.B	ENGLISH - 1 S.B	MATHS S.B	2 nd LANG S.B	3 rd LANG S.B	4 th LANG S.B	5 th LANG S.B	6 th LANG S.B	7 th LANG S.B	8 th LANG S.B	9 th LANG S.B
FRIDAY	COMPUTER S.B	ENGLISH - 2 S.B	COMPUTER S.B	2 nd LANG S.B	3 rd LANG S.B	4 th LANG S.B	5 th LANG S.B	6 th LANG S.B	7 th LANG S.B	8 th LANG S.B	9 th LANG S.B

Timetable

Partner organisation "Women's Interlink Foundation" (WIF): Partner since 1999!

In addition to the orphanage "Familia", "Pradip - Partner One World" has been working with the Indian non-governmental organisation "Women's Interlink Foundation" since 1999.

During the pandemic, the social workers and teachers have done their utmost to keep the children in school despite all the difficulties. In most cases, this has worked. Now normality has returned, the projects are running as they did in the pre-Corona times.

Sonagachi (centre for the children of prostitutes)

Financed by us since 2000

We focus on the issue of human trafficking and forced prostitution. Sonagachi, Calcutta's largest red-light district with 10,000 forced prostitutes, is home to women who are usually victims of human traffickers. You can book their services here for less than one euro.

To ensure that their children do not also become victims of the sex trade in our project area, they are cared for by our partner organisation during the mothers' working hours. We are glad that these children can learn in a protected space and that we have not lost any of them to prostitution since the beginning of the project in 2000.

The girls and boys are taught in the centre, receive homework help, medical care, a balanced meal, clothing and the opportunity to play in a protected space after class. There are occasional excursions as well. Once a month, there is a meeting with the mothers, where they are informed, for example, about HIV and other dangers. The greatest concern of mothers is the future of their children. As early as the age of eight, pimps stretch out their catches. In recent years, however, the protection of children has also been strongly promoted by the state, so that the threat has diminished somewhat. Among other things, the children took part in self-defense courses.

The rooms where the mothers live with their children are also used for prostitution. In most cases, they are small sheds for which a large part of the income is given as rent. On "feast" days, the younger women have to serve about 15 clients.

Unfortunately, the older prostitutes are rarely lucky enough to find paid work in another field of activity. Some work as cleaners, but most of them vegetate in the alleys of Sonagachi when they have had their day. Such "grannies", as they are affectionately called by the social workers, are to find a place in the old people's home on the Nijoloy site which is under construction (see below).



Sumana Pal is now 24 years old and grew up in Sonagachi. She first came to the centre when she was about 4 years old and was looked after there all her school years.

"The centre gave me the confidence to feel part of normal society."

Sumana studied economics and now works for a company as an accountant.



Dance is an important form of therapy. And the children are incredibly proud during their performances.

Statements from various WIF employees:

Nishi Kanta Nayak, social worker: "During the Corona period, there was an incredible solidarity within the neighborhood, even the owners of the brothels waived some of their rental fees. The youth club and the local police collected money and provided food donations. That's how the women survived who had nowhere else to go."

Tanima Roy, coordinator: "Child prostitution and trafficking have decreased through education in schools or health centres and new job opportunities. These are the three pillars that developing countries are working on. With intervention from the state and NGOs like us working at the grassroots, prostitution of the next generation has been drastically reduced."

Shipra Das and Munmun Das (social workers) on human trafficking: Human trafficking has always been an organised crime. What we see is human trafficking for weddings, prostitution, exploitative child labor. In some areas, there are many children who work as domestic helpers. Organ trafficking is also a major issue.



Tanima with the youngest dancer



The mother of a former pupil comes to the centre explicitly to see us.

Vocational training for young people in Sonagachi

Financed by us since 2010

Young women learn tailoring, embroidery and how to make dolls and stuffed animals. This is intended to give them an alternative to their mothers' profession.



Annual costs for 50 children and 6 participants of the vocational training:

approx. 14,693 €

Home for the children of prostitutes/ Victims of human trafficking/ Victims of exploitative child labor (Nijoloy)

Co-financed by us since 2004

Girls and young women live in the home. Many of them have been rescued from child prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation or child labour. Some never went to school, but were locked up in a brothel for years. They are now being rehabilitated in Nijoloy. Some of the girls could be saved from this fate by being sent to this home in time. This is because the girls who are at risk of disappearing into the sex business are brought here to remove them from the direct influence of their mothers' pimps. Others were rescued from exploitative child labour, for example as unlawful helpers in rich households. Many also experienced sexual violence in their own families. The adolescents and young adults all receive vocational training or study. Some make clothes, others become cooks or bakers, and some even go on to train as nurses. Since this year, the state has been trying to integrate more and more of these girls and women into their villages with relatives or to find foster families, among other things because the need for acute cases is very high.



Printing on the cloths



The finished cloths

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

Annual costs for 81 girls and women:

approx. 36,932 €

A home for the elderly is being built on part of the land, the construction of which we are helping to finance with the help of the Oswald Foundation. The idea is similar to "Familia", that children and senior citizens give each other joy in life. In addition, the young women are to be given opportunities to work as caregivers. Some of the new flatmates are to pay their own living costs and thus contribute to the financing of the absolutely destitute "Grannies", for example from the red-light district. The construction work began shortly before the outbreak of the pandemic at the beginning of 2020, so our partner organisation is extremely proud that the five-storey shell is in place, although work had to be interrupted again and again by curfews and the Cyclone Amphan in May 2020.



The beginnings



The construction in February 2023



On the roof of the building with Bashwati Roy and Nishi Kanta Nayak from WIF. A roof garden for the senior citizens is to be built here.



View from above into the girls' home. The home for the elderly is also intended to create job opportunities for the young women.

Kumartully (Centre 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 crawl under plastic tarpaulins at night. People stow their belongings on the sidewalk. Some families have been on the streets for generations, others have only recently joined from the village, while others try their luck back at their birthplace. But many have no chance of making a living there, which is why the city lures them with its supposed or actual, mostly informal, job offers. Most of them work as rickshaw pullers, as garbage collectors, paper bag folders, helpers in small tea shops or as day labourers on the construction site.

The children are taught in the centre, do their homework, receive a balanced meal, clothing and medical care. There are weekly visits carried out by a doctor. A dance instructor makes sure that they can forget their inhospitable surroundings at least once in a while. Excursions, e.g., to the zoo or museums, are also carried out regularly.



Young adults who have been at the Kumartully Centre since childhood.

Some successful examples: the boy in the back left is Surajit Shit. He is in the 11th grade and after the 12th he wants to run a small fruit business. The girl in the yellow dress (Tulu Pachal) is studying economics. After completing her master's degree, she would like to work as an accountant. She came to the centre since the 7th grade. She finances her studies with private lessons for younger students. The girl in the green dress on the right (Shova Ray) has been coming to the centre since the 5th grade and is also studying economics. In the interview, she emphasizes how important it was for her to get medicine, books, school materials and general support here at the centre.



Living conditions on the streets



In the centre, the children experience security and safety. For lessons, they are given school uniforms, which makes them aware of the value of education. Dressing up for dance performances and presenting yourself in front of others boosts self-esteem.

Annual costs for 65 children:

approx. 12.501 €

Example of an annual budget:

30 school children (Group 2)	Annual Euro (rounded)
Salary costs	
Social worker	1,331
2 teachers (part-time)	1,153
Helper	298
Accountant	556
Equipment for the school	
School material	293
School uniforms and school bags	378
Food	762
Health	
Medical expenses	312
Medicine	68
Hygiene material for the children	91
Clothing	136
Leisure activities (excursions, sports, dance training)	98
Administrative costs in India (rent, telephone, travel costs, etc.)	542
Total	6,018

Explanation of the budget:

The financial year always runs from the 1st of April to the 31st of March. For each project, we pay the salary costs for a social worker on a pro rata basis, as he/she is not only active in one project. The administrative costs of the partner organisation are also apportioned on a pro rata basis.

One principle in the selection of 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 high school diploma and then undergone a training program 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 class of society in India. They live in small self-built shacks or tents on the banks of a branch of the river Ganges. The hygienic 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. In return, new families have moved into the neighbouring slum, whose children we now also taken care of. The influx from the rural regions of India or from Bangladesh never stops.

Almost all the children in our centre now go to school. In the beginning, nobody wanted to have anything to do with them. There were even schools that refused to accept them because the corpse burners had a bad reputation. This attitude has slowly changed over the years.

With us, the children get tutoring, medical care and a meal. Support with homework is also important, because 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 where they are informed about the learning progress of their children. They are also given hygiene and health tips. The number of those who marry in their early teens has greatly decreased due to the influence of our centre. However, the social workers could not prevent two child marriages during the Corona period.

One of the most important goals of the project is to keep the children away from criminal influences and to protect them from exploitation, because the area is anything but safe. Since many parents cannot take good care of the children, the centre provides an important support.

Sasan in Corona times

As in the other projects, the centre was sometimes closed, sometimes open on a few days, depending on the Corona situation and state regulations. However, the social workers and teachers always maintained contact with the children and their families. The children were supported in their online learning, received their monthly food rations and were encouraged to get vaccinated. The doctor also came regularly for check-ups. The children who simply could not participate in the online lessons were given worksheets by our teachers so that they did not completely lose touch. Counselling meetings with the mothers took place again and again.



Teacher Anjali (left): "The Corona period was extremely hard. The parents lost their jobs as rickshaw drivers, porters, domestic helpers. However, there were state-organized food aids and WIF also supported with food rations. Nevertheless, many children were hungry. The schools formed WhatsApp groups and we teachers of the project then distributed the tasks to the children, collected them and sent them to the schools."

Tamisha Malik (on the right with her brother Jigaer) is now 18 years old. She says she had to quit school because of family problems. "Everyone in my family is illiterate. That's why I help my brothers with their homework in the afternoon. My parents didn't want me to continue attending classes." Although she no longer goes to school, she wants to complete her secondary school leaving certificate externally this year.



A crucial improvement: There is now a public water tap that is open twice a day. An important contribution to health in the slum.



Typical accommodation in Sasan.



Funeral ceremony



The coordinator Tanima Roy encourages, listens and takes all concerns seriously.



These teachers and social workers care for the children with full commitment.



Annual costs for 60 children:

approx. 12,321 €

Cooperation between police and street or slum children (Nabadisha)

Co-financed by us since 2006

The Nabadisha centers are organized like the other projects, e.g., Kumartully. The special feature, however, is that the rooms in which lessons are taught and the older children do their homework are provided by the local police. As a result, the relationship between street children and the police has improved considerably. For the past three years, the project work has been financed by other sources. We only support a few older children and young adults who are particularly needy with school fees and school materials.



Roshid, Noori, Gulshan und Sajjadid (all from Tangra slum)

Noori from Tangra slum (second from left) is now 20, but still comes to the centre every day to help the younger children. Her mother died last year and she and her father earn about 2.50€ a week. With this money, Noori is also trying to pay off the usurious loan she took out during the Corona period. She will graduate from secondary school this summer and wants to join the police force afterwards.

Noori: "This centre means so much to me, whenever I have problems, they are here for me."

Sajjadid (20) is now in college: "I thought I would never be able to go to school beyond grade eight. Before this centre existed, people like me couldn't even dream of going to college."



Gulshan 2013



And 10 years later

I have also been reporting on Gulshan (20) for many years. Since she was four, she has been working alongside school by cutting rubber plugs. For 1000 pieces she earns the equivalent of 0.35 €. She is now graduating from high school and WIF has enrolled her in a state vocational training program.

Annual costs:

Support for 17 young people

approx. 700 €

Financing of 7 young women in the Child Care Home

Co-financed by us since 2000

In the orphanage "Child Care Home" we finance the home costs for seven girls or young women with special needs. They do not receive any state funding and are difficult or impossible to place on the labour market.



The women are supported through vocational training courses and make batik cloth, for example.

Annual costs:

Rehabilitation costs for 7 girls

approx. 9,433 €

Project for people with special needs (Pradip)

Financed by us since 1996

This project was actually terminated many years ago, as most of our former children are now self-employed and earn their own living. However, our namesake "Pradip" will continue to be supported in the long term. He lives in a home near Calcutta.



Finally, we could visit Pradip again.



Annual costs:

approx. 1,357 €

Organisational information

- * "Pradip – Partner One World" works in close cooperation with the Protestant Church of Simbach. All donations go through their office (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). Tel: +49/8571/2366.
- * Kumar Ray (independent accountant) is auditing the finances in India.
- * The work in Germany and Spain is purely voluntary. Flights to India and accommodation there, printing costs and postage etc. are paid privately. Every cent goes to the projects.
- * If you would like to receive the annual report digitally in the future, please send us an email.
- * Homepage: On our homepage (www.pradip.de) you will also find the old annual reports, interviews, press reviews and a lot of additional information und pictures.



Thank you very much!

I would like to thank all donors for their great support. Without your help, the work of our partner organisations would not be possible. Thank you to everyone who has been helping us for years. Among them are many private individuals, but also schools, kindergartens, senior citizens' groups, foundations, etc., which collect money with a lot of commitment and dedication, e.g., through charity runs.

Thank you for your great trust! Please continue to help us.

All the best to you and warm greetings always,

Anja Fischer with the entire Pradip team