



Because children are the future,  
we start with them

### Stichting Namasté India

Opportunities for people in India, by aid from man to man

Namasté India provides practical aid and development opportunities in the poorest part of India, from man to man.



The Namasté India Foundation invites you to participate in the existing group of donors. Your financial contribution will go for 100% to the chosen projects in India. The results there speak for themselves.

### India, ± 1 billion people !

India is a large country which is also one of the poorest in the world. Among the problems it has to contend with are enormous population growth, the bad infrastructure of this vast country and a changeable climate. Long periods of drought are succeeded by the rainy season and major flooding. Last but not least the country is plagued by illiteracy, political unrest, corruption and poor healthcare. This works like a vicious circle: no education means no work and no income. As a result the people are unable to support themselves. And their families.

### Objective of Namasté-India

We support small-scale, concrete, verifiable projects. We have chosen the countryside in Central India (near Jabalpur, in the Mandla district) as development area. Partly because of the contacts that have been established in the course of time, but also because the worst poverty can be found in this area. This is where the poorest of the poor live. Another aspect of our objective is that we prefer to offer our aid in a structural form, meaning we attempt to create enduring solutions to the problems we handle.

### Our contacts in Jabalpur

Conditional to our form of providing aid is the presence of a good local organisation which can provide the aid and offer continuity. This organisation is called Jabalpur Diocese Social Service Society (JDSSS) and is run by Father Thomas Kunnel.

The project requests from JDSSS or from missionary posts are checked against the importance to the local people, the organisation of the aid and the financial foundations. A clear image of the necessary aid and of the achieved results emerges from the direct contacts by letter and e-mail as well as local visits. JDSSS and the missions feel much supported by our approach.

### Concrete projects

Young men are trained for a good profession through the masonry training courses we helped provide. After finishing the course they literally receive the right tools to get to work instantly in



their own villages and build new stone houses and make money.

Groups of illiterate girls get an 8-month course preparing them for life in the family, village and society. Besides learning to read and write they are taught basic healthcare, sewing, growing vegetables/herbs and social skills. Every trained young woman indirectly affects processes of social change in the villages.

The long-range project 'Child Focused Community Development' improves the living conditions in 10 villages by providing a connected food, education and healthcare programme. We also counsel the villagers to a better life for themselves and their children. They work concretely to achieve this through self-rule, agricultural improvements, a savings programme and income improvement. By means of micro credit it is possible to start one's own company. We support initiatives in the villages with small-scale projects such as surrounding fields with a dike and building irrigation canals, establishing small cattle farms and herbal gardens and trade in high-quality agricultural seeds. The objective is to make them less dependent on external aid.

### The initiative for the Foundation

A group of enthusiastic, interested people from the 's-Hertogenbosch region in the Netherlands is working on a small scale to reduce the gap between the privileged rich and the underprivileged poor.

In 1983 from a mission in India Father Charles Menezes asked Karel Müller for help to build accommodation for the children who were put under his care. That help was provided and from that moment a small project has been supported every year, with increasing help from friends and family. Several projects have been visited in India since (at own expense), contacts have been made with local organisations and remote areas have been visited. This way a good insight has been gained into the problems as well as the necessary aid. We have also met good, passionate project executors. The last trip to Jabalpur was made in March 2007, with new pledges for aid, especially aimed at children. Their future has no prospects without our help.

The number of donors has grown considerably meanwhile. You too are welcome to join as financial donor to the projects in India. Elsewhere in this leaflet you will find the information that is important if you are attracted to this initiative. Members of the executive committee will be pleased to provide more details.

### The Foundation

After having supported various projects in two regions in India for several years as a working group, we have chosen to set up a foundation in 2003. With the foundation a good account and continuity of the aid are guaranteed for the future. Moreover, the aid is concentrated on one region. Our aid is therefore more than just a drop in the ocean.

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### Executive committee:

Karel Müller, chairman  
Maria van Heist-Geerts  
Ton van den Bersselaar

*Namasté-India has been acknowledged by the Dutch tax department as a charity foundation. Donations are therefore deductible from the income tax. It is also possible to make a benefaction through a notarial deed, thereby eliminating the threshold for tax deduction.*