

**Jaarverslag 2014**  
**Stichting Namasté India**



**Kinderen hebben de Toekomst!!**



**Rosmalen, juni 2015**

## **De basis van de Stichting Namasté India**

De Stichting Namasté India is in 2003 opgericht nadat er in de jaren daarvoor als een vriendencomité diverse projecten financieel werden ondersteund. Sinds 1983 werden, samen met een enthousiaste groep donateurs, kleinschalige ontwikkelingsprojecten in het binnenland van India ondersteund. Namasté India richt zich op een gebied van 200 bij 250 kilometer, dat samenvalt met het diocesaan centrum JDSSS waarmee al die tijd heel goede contacten bestaan. Het werkgebied bevat 50 missieposten die elk gemiddeld 50.000 inwoners tellen, verspreid over duizenden dorpen. De meesten daarvan zijn slechts per jeep bereikbaar, langs slecht begaanbare wegen. Vele dorpen zijn verstoken van elektriciteit en schoon drinkwater. Er is een gebrekkig aanbod van onderwijs, er wonen nog steeds tamelijk veel analfabete volwassenen. Het aantal analfabeten wordt langzaamaan wel wat minder groot. Voor hun inkomsten zijn de inwoners van deze afgelegen dorpen bijna helemaal afhankelijk van wat het akkerland opbrengt. Een gemiddeld dagloon in de dorpen is niet veel meer dan een euro, in de steden liggen de lonen hoger en dat leidt dan ook tot een langzame migratie naar de steden. Met name de vrouwen blijven met hun kinderen achter in de dorpen.

In de loop van de jaren hebben wij een beter inzicht gekregen in de problemen en de noden van de bevolking. Deze blijven groot, ondanks de ontwikkeling van de grote steden en de nationale industrie en economie. Wij hebben directe contacten met de missieposten en de ontwikkelingswerkers op deze plattelandsposten, geleid en gecoördineerd door de regionale instelling Jabalpur Diocese Social Service Society (JDSSS). Zij werken vanuit een diocesane, christelijke achtergrond voor de hele bevolking in hun dioceses. De contrasten in ontwikkeling tussen stad en platteland zijn groot en lijken eerder te groeien dan af te nemen in India.

Elk jaar ondersteunt de Stichting Namasté India diverse projecten, in het bijzonder voor jonge mensen, gericht op ontwikkeling en opleiding. Daarnaast wordt steun verleend aan een of meer dorpsontwikkelingsprojecten waarin een samenstel van kleine projecten zorgt voor een duidelijke vooruitgang in de 'uitverkoren' dorpen. De financiële middelen voor deze ontwikkelingsprojecten komen van een trouwe groep donateurs die we in de afgelopen jaren hebben geworven binnen onze kring van familie, vrienden en bekenden. Daarnaast doen wij verzoeken aan Stichtingen en fondsen om als partner bij te dragen aan onze projecten. De projecten die Namasté India ondersteunt zijn heel concreet, geven directe resultaten en de financiële middelen worden volledig aan de hulp zelf besteed, wij brengen geen organisatiekosten in rekening, het is puur vrijwilligerswerk. Jaarlijks konden we daardoor werken met een budget van € 25.000,= tot € 35.000,=. In 2014 is dit budget eenmalig aanzienlijk lager geweest vanwege het ontbreken van externe fondsen die bijdroegen aan een of meerdere projecten.

Waar mogelijk gaat elke twee jaar een van onze bestuursleden (op eigen kosten) op inspectie bij de projecten om te beoordelen welke resultaten behaald zijn en om te overleggen over mogelijke nieuwe projecten. In april 2014 heeft Loes Schellen voor de eerste keer de projecten bezocht en in samenspraak met de projectleiding ter plaatse de resultaten geëvalueerd. Helaas heeft Loes later in 2014 moeten besluiten haar bestuursfunctie voor de rest van 2014 neer te leggen.

Onze activiteiten vatten we in een enkel woord reeds samen op de titelpagina: Kinderen hebben de toekomst! Zelfs in hun armoede zijn de kinderen er kleurrijk, ontwikkelen zij zich, ook al gaat dat met horten en stoten, maar ook voor deze kinderen is er vooruitgang te zien en nog meer resultaten zijn er in de toekomst te boeken!

## **Samenwerking met JDSSS**

In 2014 is er door het bestuur een bezoek gebracht aan de projecten en is er overlegd met de directeur en staf van JDSSS. Ook heel belangrijk in 2014 is de evaluatie van de projecten geweest die opgezet is in samenwerking met Cordaid en uitgevoerd door een consultant die vaker voor Cordaid dergelijke veldevaluaties heeft uitgevoerd. In dit Jaarverslag zullen we daarvan uitvoerig



*Jong, volwassen en oud, kleurrijk én samen, in één beeld gevangen, alsof er naast armoede ook (enige) rijkdom bestaat!*

verslag doen, zowel de positieve als de minder positieve resultaten zullen vermeld worden. Want laat een ding duidelijk zijn: ontwikkelingswerk kent niet alleen maar successen. Verwachtingen worden niet altijd ten volle waar gemaakt. Ook in India zijn er sterke en zwakke leiders, initiatieven die moeizaam van de grond komen. Maar tellen we alle zaken bij elkaar op dan is de conclusie gerechtvaardigd dat er gezaaid en geoogst is in 2014 en in de eerdere jaren, letterlijk en figuurlijk.

Father George Thomas is sinds 2013 de nieuwe directeur van JDSSS (Jabalpur Diocese Social Service Society), de organisatie in India die onze projecten uitvoert. Father George heeft vele jaren ervaring met maatschappelijk werk en heeft met ingang van juni 2013 de werkzaamheden van Father Thomas Kunnel overgenomen. Diverse zusters zijn actief binnen de projecten van de Stichting in de dorpen van het diocees, in het bijzonder in de dorpen rond Bargaon.

### **Samenwerking met Cordaid**

Cordaid heeft de afgelopen jaren meerdere losse projecten van Namasté India gesteund door 50% van de benodigde financiën bij te dragen. In 2013 zijn er gezamenlijke afspraken gemaakt om deze projecten over meerdere jaren samen te financieren en ze ook op hun resultaten te evalueren. In overleg met Cordaid is in het vierde kwartaal van 2013 een evaluatie voorbereid van de projecten die al meerdere jaren lopen. Begin 2014 is deze evaluatie praktisch uitgevoerd door dezelfde consultant, Mr. Salomon Chelladurai, een ervaren ontwikkelingswerker die voor Cordaid reeds vaker dergelijke evaluaties heeft uitgevoerd. De evaluatie heeft een goed inzicht gegeven in de resultaten uit de afgelopen jaren maar ook 'input' voor de keuzen die gemaakt moeten worden voor de toekomst. In eerdere jaarverslagen schreven we vaak dat ontwikkelingsprojecten 'een

druppel op een gloeiende plaat' zijn in India, juist daarom is het van groot belang dat we de juiste druppels kunnen laten vallen. Van de expertise die Cordaid heeft op dit terrein is goed gebruik gemaakt in de evaluatie.

Wel heeft Cordaid aangegeven zich voor de langere termijn te heroriënteren op de meest armoedige landen in de wereld. Mogelijk dat India in deze 'wedloop' van de armoede afvalt in de nabije toekomst. Eind 2014 is door Namasté India nog een aanvraag voor financiële ondersteuning in 2015-2016 toegestuurd aan Cordaid. Kort voor het uitbrengen van dit Jaarverslag werd bekend dat Cordaid nog wel een bijdrage zal verstrekken voor de projecten voor een bedrag van € 10.000,= in 2015. Praktisch betekent dit dat Namasté India zelf voor een groter aandeel verantwoordelijk zal zijn voor het inbrengen van de benodigde projectgelden in 2015 en volgende jaren.

### **Fondsenwerving en financiële positie**

In 2014 heeft de Stichting in totaliteit bijna € 12.000,= mogen ontvangen uit donaties, giften en activiteiten. Hiermee zijn de Grihini- , Bridge-cursussen en de projecten Toekomst voor Kinderen te Harratola en Bargaon gefinancierd. Per saldo is er aan het eind van het jaar nog een reserve om de projecten in 2015 te kunnen garanderen. Daarnaast is er nog overleg geweest met JDSSS over nieuwe projecten maar is de keuze gemaakt om vooralsnog geen nieuwe projecten op te starten en daarvoor in de plaats de bestaande projecten een soort continuïteitsgarantie voor meerdere jaren te geven, in ieder geval 2015 en 2016.

### **Evaluatie van de projecten in 2014**

Een belangrijk deel van onze werkzaamheden in 2014 heeft in het teken gestaan van de voorbereiding, uitvoering en bespreking van de resultaten van een uitvoerige evaluatie van de projecten die door Namasté India financieel worden gesteund. Niet alleen de projecten die volop in uitvoering zijn werden geëvalueerd, Ook enkele projecten die reeds gestopt cq. afgerond zijn maar waarvan we graag willen weten welk effect zij opgeleverd hebben werden in de evaluatie meegenomen.

In onderstaande uiteenzetting zijn achtereenvolgens de onderzoeksresultaten weergegeven, de reacties op het evaluatierapport en de besluitvorming over de voortzetting van de projecten. Daarbij zijn op onderdelen enkele 'harde noten' gekraakt en zijn de belangrijkste prioriteiten voor de toekomst duidelijk aangegeven. Partnerschap in ontwikkelingsprojecten vraagt soms ook om duidelijke keuzen en waar nodig kritische kanttekeningen, bijvoorbeeld wanneer de bureaunkosten naar verhouding sneller stijgen dan de uitgaven in het veld zelf. Daar waren én blijven we kritisch op, ook al weten we dat de inflatie in India hoog is en op onderdelen soms gigantische prijsstijgingen onvermijdelijk zijn. Zoals te verwachten is in een moeilijk werkgebied, worden er niet alleen maar positieve resultaten geboekt, er gaat ook wel eens iets mis. Een ding moge echter duidelijk zijn: wij hebben nooit getwijfeld aan de intenties van de directie en de staf van JDSSS. In de discussie en de besluitvorming over de evaluatieresultaten was het soms lastig om NIET op de stoel te gaan zitten van de projectleiding in India. Want natuurlijk heeft men steken laten vallen in het realiseren van de projecten én natuurlijk kunnen wij Nederlanders beter organiseren denken wij zelf. We hebben daarom intensief de discussie gevoerd met de staf van JDSSS door middel van een uitgebreide mailwisseling en uiteindelijk de aangegeven prioriteiten van de zijde van JDSSS het zwaarst laten wegen.

Eind 2014 werd de besluitvorming afgerond en is het groene licht gegeven voor het opnieuw organiseren van twee grote cursussen (10 maanden ieder, 20-25 jonge vrouwen in beide cursussen) en is meerjarige steun toegezegd aan het dorpsontwikkelingsproject in Bargaon. Daarnaast is toestemming gegeven voor het aantrekken van een eigen coördinator voor deze projecten door JDSSS. Daarmee hopen we ook de communicatie tussen JDSSS en Namasté India/Cordaid beter te kunnen coördineren.

Omdat de evaluatie en aansluitende discussie geheel in het Engels heeft plaats gevonden en wij inmiddels weten dat voor vele van onze donateurs Engels goed leesbaar is, permitteren wij ons dit deel van het verslag weer te geven in het Engels. De kern: "The evaluationreport allows us to look back on the past years and make better plans for the future. "

The Summary Conclusions of Consultant Mr. Chelladurai:

- 1) The Grihini Project at Chabi has benefited the tribal girls from the villages and tolas of Mandla and Dindori districts in gaining confidence, social and health awareness, learning job-related skills and be prepared to face the family members and community with self-dignity. However, Grihini's training missed the focus of connecting what they learnt in the Grihini to the opportunities existed back at home and in their society, for instance taking leadership in SHGs or becoming a member of panchayat. This will make the benefits go beyond the individuals to community level.
- 2) The Bridge Course Centre (BCC) at Bichhiya has resulted in a good number of school drop-outs or 10<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> class failed tribal girls from the Mandla and Dindori districts to get back to their study and pass their 10<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> class. It has further resulted in many girls to continue their education or to get trained in job oriented courses like nurse / health worker. Here again the BCC missed the opportunity of making the girls go beyond the immediate objective of passing their exams and preparing for a job. The girls have to be connected with the opportunities back in their families and communities for leadership or catalysts role for wider community benefits.
- 3) The Child Focused Community Development-project in Mawai Block (CFCD-Harratola) has had long support (10 years) from NI & Cordaid. The results and outcome have been scattered (verstrooid). The project had no clear objectives, strategies/activities, expected outcome or documentation. There were also failures in terms of the activities. However, it is important that the good relation, created with the villagers, youth and cooperatives were harvested with concerted efforts in the next years to come.
- 4) The CFCD-Bargaon has taken up with a break in-between due to the interrupted services of the Sisters. Now the project was back and it was hardly a year old to look for results or outcome. It focused only in 3 villages and the main activities were ECC's (Early Child Centers), Tuition Centres and Health Care. The objectives articulated by the Project in-charge had a clear focus on children and hope it will not deviate from the objectives as it happened with CFCD-Harratola. CFCD-Bargaon should learn from the experiences of CFCD-Harratola and not to fall into the same trap. They have to work out a 3-year plan rooted in the context and come out with a clear strategy/activities.

**Conclusions and advices from Fr. Thomas George, director of JDSSS, brought in, September 2014:**

- 1) The project at Chabi, Bichhiya, Harratola and Bargaon, have done good for the target people and achieved certain goals. It could have achieved a better result if it were to be done in a better organized and planned way with a proper project preparation with definite goals and objectives and activities to achieve the objectives and enough budget for the activities.
- 2) Program could be chalked out at least for three years, and a total budget for three years is to worked out with objectives, activities, outputs, outcome and impact aimed at.
- 3) An evaluation of the fund management and achievements is to be made mandatory along with the reports every year.
- 4) A coordinator is to be appointed at the JDSSS office to monitor all the projects and make reports and other necessary documents in time.
- 5) A new budget for all the programs, (at least for three years) to be made from August 2014 to July 2017 and passed and the works could be done in a better organized way .

- 6) Quarterly and Yearly reports with relevant photos to be send to Namaste India and any other reports or photographs will be send only on request. Audited statement too is to be send along with the Annual report.
- 7) Once the project is made and budgets are passed no new programs are expected to creep in until it becomes absolutely a necessity.
- 8) Any change in the program is to be done only with the knowledge of Namaste India.
- 9) JDSSS will be directly responsible only to Namaste India.
- 10) Monitoring Indicators and sustainability systems are to be prepared by JDSSS to measure the development and sustainability of the programs.

### **The decisions from Namasté India and Cordaid for the projects in the period 2015-2016**

The focus must be on the issue how to get the most optimal follow up for the coming two years, to work further on in trust with each other and to get the best thinkable results in the projects for the people in the villages in the diocese of JDSSS in Madhya Pradesh.

We will invest in the four most important projects, there is no budget at this moment to start new projects, also because the existing projects will be more expensive through the measures that have to be taken:

#### **1. Grihnicourse in Chabi (basic)**

We are very positive to read that 109 girls finished the Grihini course. The number of 24 (27) items that are treated in the course is too much, we agree to continue and a better focus in future is to recommend. We expect that the staff, in dialogue with the actual students and sisters will prepare a complete syllabus for the next course with the right issues, 28 is too much!

#### **2. Grihnicourse in Bycchya (upgrade)**

For this course, the positive elements in the evaluation are clear, it would be relevant that the girls are taught one or two additional employment skills like computer or sewing. In the report there are a lot of recommendations for this course. At the first place, we think it is important to have 10 months course and, as in Chabi, the staff as a whole, related to the students have to compose the optimal syllabus for the next course, including computering and english. We agree with the budget proposed, we expect to rise the local contribution, for example by paying back through students that good jobs as effect of their study.

#### **3. CFCD and HealthCare in Harratola**

Especially the way of working in Harratola needs to be changed according to us, we are a little disappointed about the description of the results in the report. Namasté India was not aware of the failure of some small projects. Namasté India and Cordaid recommend a focus on strengthening the cooperatives wherein as much as possible the old areas (watershed etc) will be incorporated to prevent the loss of the good effects of these previous investments. We felt there was a scope and potential for the cooperatives because the structures are already there. The budget needs to be totally reworked, matching with the new focus i.e. organizing and strengthening the cooperatives: education of boardmembers, attracting new members, boardmeetings, information sharing, information in local languages etc.

#### **4. CFCD in Bargaon and 2 other villages**

The results mentioned in the report are positive, we are happy with it! Given our experiences in Harratola, we will make sure that expansion does not happen automatically in Bargaon, to prevent the faults made in Harratola. We are positive to go on with the financial support, based on the projectplans that are in execution at this moment. We are positive about the results up to now, and willing to support this project in the coming years. Assuring the continuity of this project is the

most important issue. Instead of individuals we should like to stimulate the common approach for making drinks from the flowers of the trees and selling it.

### Verslag van de projecten in 2014

De verslaglegging vanuit India is niet gelijklopend met het Nederlandse kalenderjaar omdat de cursussen halverwege het jaar beginnen en eindigen. Het financiële boekjaar loopt in India van 1 april tot 31 maart. Maar uit de verslagen van de projecten valt wel duidelijk op te maken dat er opnieuw positieve resultaten geboekt worden en de zusters (projectleiders) heel positief in hun eigen projecten staan.

Op basis van het evaluatieverslag en het principe dat de financiële ondersteuning in principe over moet gaan in het zelf doorzetten van de ontwikkelingsprojecten is besloten om in Harratola het Child Focused Development Programma af te bouwen en de financiële ondersteuning na 2014 terug te brengen naar nihil. Uit het Jaarverslag dat we over dit project ontvingen blijkt dat dit op onderdelen ook geslaagd is binnen de lokale gemeenschap. Zo zijn de IncomeGeneration Programs doorgezet, zijn de kinderen ondergebracht in de ECC's en heeft men de zgn. medical camps zelf georganiseerd.



### Child Focused Development Project Bargaon

Being a child focused program, importance was given to ECCs. or Anganwadies. The Anganwadi program was in the year April 2014-March 2015 a good success in three villages namely, Bargaon, Rengajhori, and Pahatsara. In these places, children and parents gave good participation to make this program a success. Children were very much excited and punctual in coming to the Anganwadi. Teachers did their work with dedication and these Angawadies functioned as a model for other Anganwadies. The number of children who attended Anganwadi last year are as follows:

Sr.No.	Village	Girls	Boys	Total
1	Rengajhori	14	08	<b>22</b>
2	Bargaon	12	11	<b>23</b>
3	Pahatsara	05	10	<b>15</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>60</b>

### **Nutrition support**

Nutrition food was served at Each Anganwadi for children daily. Every day they got different types of delicious food such as dall-rice, poha (beaten rice), suji haluwa- a sweet item prepared with wheat powder and sugar, chana chole (cooked gram), kheer (porridge),oats etc. These nutritional food really helped the children to grow up well and their growth was proved by the increase of their weight and height regularly. They were also provided with biscuits, sweets and fruits occasionally. At present all the children are keeping well.



### **Parents meeting**

In each center, meeting with Parents was held once in two months. Most of the parents took active part in the meeting as well as in discussion. In each meeting, the aims and objectives of the project was explained to parents and they were given chance to interact and explain their expectations. They always appeared to be very happy and satisfied to see their children growing up both physically and intellectually. They are satisfied and grateful towards Namaste India and JDSSS.

### **Tuition:**

There are three tuition centers in three villages namely; Bargaon, Rangajhori, and Pahatsara. In each center there are above 20 students taking benefit out of it. There were 44 girls and 18 boys for tuition class, this year. Teachers give their best to the children. Apart from study, teachers also give them classes on morals, self cleanliness, general knowledge etc. Once in two months they have get together, wherein all the students come together and have different games and activities.

### **Other activities during the year:**

#### ***Summer Camp***

Three days summer camp was organized for the tuition going children, 75 Participants took part in summer camp from three project villages and other villages. In this summer camp varieties of classes and programs were conducted. Moral science, child right, general knowledge, health care,



action song and entertainment games etc. were the focus of the program. To make the summer camp interesting and active, nutrition food of different menu was arranged for the three days.

### ***Women Empowerment***

A few programs like classes on women's rights, domestic violence , food security act etc were organized to empower women. Altogether 213 women joined for various programs this year.

### ***Adolescent girls***

Very many activities were arranged for adolescents' girls. They were given classes on different health issues and social aspects. Around 223 girls were present in different activities conducted time to time. On world AIDS day we organized a seminar for one hour and to make the people aware about AIDS we took out a rally in which around 500-600 students joined.

### ***Health Check Up***

Sr. Premshila, the nurse of our dispensary conducted health check up in all the three villages.. Many of the children become sick in the rainy season with fever and in summer with cold, cough, scabies etc. Parents and teachers were instructed regarding their food and cleanliness. Time to time Awareness tips are given to the parents. Apart from this Sr .Premshila also visit every month and gives treatment to those who are in need.

### ***Health Awareness***

Health awareness program was held once in two months in the villages. People are not aware of the reason for many sicknesses, and often they are cheated by village doctors. Hence Sr.Premshila who has lot of experience in this field, speak about different sickness, especially TB, HIV\ Aids, Malaria and personal hygiene etc. and in every season how to take care of oneself and also their family. Sr.Premshila gives some information on herbal medicine with is effective and less expensive. Women and girls are main beneficiaries of these programs.

### ***Medical Camp***

There were two general health camps this year at Bargoan village. Dr.Alfi, Dr. Jyoti and Dr. Naresh Warkhede came from Katra hospital for the camps. It was organized in a systematic way through the help of staff and some volunteers. Many patients came for check-up and benefited out of it. Women and children took more advantage. Many patients came with cold cough, scabies, headache, body pain, joint pain etc. Total 183 people got benefit from these camps.

### ***Medical Camp for Children***

General medical camps for children were also organized in the month of December and February. 151 children came for the treatment, most of them from Bargaon, Rangajhari, Pahatsahara. Many of them were suffering from cold, cough fever, dioeriha etc.

### ***Livelihood***

One family from each village is given facility for goat rearing. Poultry support was given to a few families in each village. Petty shop, provision of Quality seeds etc. were other IGP supports. These families were selected because they were very poor and needed economic support to improve their family situation.

### ***Educational support***

Two families who wanted to send their daughters for higher education were supported through this project by providing rupees ten thousand each for fee. They are very grateful to Namaste India for this kind support. Sarita daughter of Mr. Santosh and Mrs. Maya and Lalita daughter of Mr. Umesh Shanker and Mrs. Laxmi are the beneficiaries. This year they have just finished their 2<sup>nd</sup> year of general nursing training at Bansal Hospital Jabalpur. One more year is left to complete the course.

### ***Expectation for the Future***

The people of the village are very cooperative in this program and the children are enthusiastic in their performances. There is a constant demand from the side of the people to take up some more agricultural activities which would improve their economic situation, which in turn will support them to help themselves. There is also a demand from the nearby villages to expand such activities to their villages too.

### ***Difficulties faced in the last year:***

Bargaon area is cut away from other main places of Jabalpur Diocese. There is no proper Communication Connectivity as well as conveyance connectivity. There is no bus still running to this area. Some private jeeps and auto-rickshaws running on this way is the only way for conveyances. JDSSS helps to cart things once in a way, but the only one jeep JDSSS has at present, too is very old and many a times breaks down on the way. The main market close to our place is 40 kms. away. To get Petrol for the scooty (two wheeler) we have to travel 30 to 40 kms. When someone becomes sick it is rather difficult to reach them to hospitals in a proper way and proper time.

### **Upgrade Grihini Course at Bychhiya**

The Bridge Course of this year began on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2014. A short inaugural function was organized on 17<sup>th</sup> September in which Rev. Fr. Christu, the parish priest and Fr. Anil, Sr. Preeti, the Superior of Snehalya, Sr. Leena George, Sr. Jaisy, Dr. Tressy Perera and 17 students participated in the program.

### **CELEBRATIONS.**

During the year various celebrations were organized in which the students got the opportunities to grow in their abilities and talents. Some of them are the following:

#### **Gandhi Jayanti**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct. Gandhi Jayanti was celebrated. Some cultural programs were conducted recalling his dedication and sacrifice for the freedom of our Mother India.

#### **International Children Day**

Children's Day was celebrated on 14<sup>th</sup> November. There was an hour of prayer for all the children of the world. Sr. Stella shared about the children's rights and the plight of the girl children in our society and in the world. On 15<sup>th</sup> November the students of last batch came to write their annual exam. Their center was in Mandla and they went to Mandla accompanied by teacher Mariam. Their exam got over in the month of February 2015.

#### **Christmas Celebration**

A Christmas Celebration was organized at the Center on 22<sup>nd</sup> December. All the Staff, Students, sisters of both the convents and staff of the Hospital all participated in the celebration. The students performed cultural programs imparting Christmas message to all of us. There was Carol singing, dance and drama which inspired the participants. There was a Prayer Service in the evening and fellowship meal was followed and the Christmas Gifts were exchanged.

A three months training on Cutting and Tailoring was organized at Snehalaya Social Work Center from December 2014-February 2015. Bridge Course Students learned to cut and stitch their clothes well and they prepared files of all what they learnt. The timing of the class was from 1 pm – 3pm.

Classes on Computer and English were organized thrice a week. The students are also taught to read, write and speak English.

The New Year 2015 was welcomed with new vigor and enthusiasm. All the students participated in the Thanksgiving Holy Hour of the Parish bidding farewell to the year 2014 and burning of the old man prepared by the Parish youth. And the New Year 2015 was welcomed with new resolutions. Each of the students wrote a practical resolution point on a piece of paper and exchanged with each other along with New Year gifts.

Regular classes were carried on all the subjects according to the syllabus. And monthly tests were conducted and the records are maintained.

They are taught moral lessons, good manners and gardening. They too are taught along with their studies as to how and why to care for the earth and plants. Gardening is one of their activities. They do cultivate some vegetables and flowers in their garden. Their syllabus was completed and the revision was going on at the first of April. Now they are waiting for the Forms of their Final Exam.

#### **Difficulties we face:**

The result of last year is not yet out. Due to the delay in exam and the publication of results, the students have lost one year. The Govt. has not informed the date for filling up the new forms yet. They are of the opinion that they will do it only after publishing the results. This year too the exams will be late and students may lose one year. By the end of May students will go home and they will have to be gathered once again for filling up their forms and later on for the exams. This irregularity is a concern for us as well as for the students.

There is also a lack of space in the centre. The students do their studies, have food and sleep, all in the same place. Due to the lack of space we are not able to provide coats for the students to sleep. If we put coats there will not be any space left at the centre for the students to move about.



#### **Basic Grihini Course at Chabi**

##### **Grihinishala Chabi:**

Griinishala Chabi, after completing the 10 months course, concluded the training of this year on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015. In the month of April Sr. Silvy was transferred and she was given a send off by the Grihini students and the Parishioners on 18<sup>th</sup> April. She served the Grihinishala for the last 10

years and in her tenure a lot of development took place regarding the training curriculum and activities at the centre. Children were very much unhappy to part with their beloved teacher who had put her heart and soul in helping these girls.

The programs held this year were as following:

1. Skill formation for economic self sufficiency, such as tailoring, handy-craft, production of detergent powder, candle making, food processing with maze, jewelry making etc. .
2. Helped the girls to establish model families in the villages to give motivation to others.
3. Leadership training to prepare these girls to take up leadership responsibilities in the villages for social transformation.
4. Gave knowledge about education, sanitation, Govt. Schemes etc. Classes on personality development.
5. Classes on family life and mother and Child health.
6. Training on Panchayath Rajh and SHGs.
7. Training on women empowerment and laws concerning the protection of women.
8. Sex education and education on adolescent problems.
9. Teaching reading and writing for the illiterate.
10. Basic knowledge about accounting and banking system.

The girls had their send off on 28<sup>th</sup> April evening. They put up a very good program in front of a few invited guests and their own parents. Their performance convinced the parents that they have really benefitted from this program. They also exhibited many of the items they produced during their ten months stay at this centre. Some of the children expressed their desire to pursue their studies at Bichhiya, Bridge Course, in-order to complete their matriculation exam and then to go further in their studies.

This year the girls performed extremely well and they learnt a lot of things for their life and at the completion of the year they really looked different from the time they joined the centre.

This year only 14 girls completed the course, though there were 17 initially. Those who completed were given certificates. They were also given some gifts from the centre as a remembrance. These girls are extremely grateful to you, as they appreciated during their farewell the great help you have rendered to their life which made them to feel that they too are someone in the society and they too can do something for the betterment of their community and society.

#### **Kerstactie 2014**

Father George Thomas vroeg in oktober 2014 heel voorzichtig of wij misschien in staat zouden zijn om naast onze normale financiële steun voor een keer een extra bijdrage te leveren voor het kopen van 6 tafels, 25 stoelen en 20 bedden voor de cursisten in Bycchiya, allemaal jonge meisjes. Zij zitten, eten én slapen op een kale ondergrond. Dat maakt hun conditie er niet beter op voor het volgen van de cursus. En eerlijk is eerlijk, zij maken lange dagen, naast de cursus die zij volgen verzorgen zij ook zelf hun huishouden, kleding wassen, eten koken en de schoonmaak van hun onderdak. De kosten in India zien er zo uit: een stoel (€ 6,=), een tafel (€25,=) of een bed (€ 40,=). Met deze actie ontvingen we ± € 1.000,= en daarmee kon een groot deel van het gevraagde meubilair gekocht worden. Het overige deel is door Namasté gefinancierd uit de eigen reserves.