



India



PURPOSE OF INITIATIVE:

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN'S EDUCATION



Project: "Threads of hope"

cod. INDOO2P3

The project stems from the need to increase employment opportunities for women in an extremely poor region of India, that is still recovering from the destruction inflicted on the area by the 2004 tsunami.

It is aimed at women living in Nagercoil and neighbouring villages where we have already set up other initiatives, such as an evening school for children and a medical dispensary open to all.

The project is developed in Nagercoil, it is positioned in the state of Tamil Nadu, South of India.

Here, as in most rural villages in the area, women are considered far less important than men. Sometimes daughters are even considered a burden for families since a sizeable dowry must be offered to ensure their marriage: the latter is the only acceptable social status for women, otherwise they will run into ostracism from society.

When girls get married, they leave their parental home to look after their husband's parents and family. Men, on the other hand, stay at their parents home and inherit everything.

For these reasons, sons have far more value to parents than daughters, neglected by their own family.



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What does the project aim to achieve?

- To promote the right to gender equality
- To Improve the living conditions of socially marginalised women, that come from the lower classes of the rural communities around Nagercoil
- To Promote women active participation through employment opportunity as a means of empowerment
- To Support young women who have achieved a high school diploma in setting up small businesses that will enable them to provide a steady income for their families.



Who will benefit from the project?

- 100 girls and women from Nagercoil and neighboring villages who have no access to state-provided long-term education either due to severe poverty or social issues, or because they are widows with children that have no way to provide for their families.

What advantages will the project bring?

The achievement of a high-school diploma enables young women to start their own business or find employment as office workers (schools, hospitals, state offices etc.). This means they could be able to support themselves and the whole family. In some cases, at the end of a course in dressmaking or I.T. skills, the graduates can receive a sewing machine or computer in order to immediately start a small business in their home village.

How will the project be managed?

The project is managed in collaboration with "Mother Theresa Social Service Organization" (MTSSO), a local association. It is made up by Indian professionals (teachers, tradesmen, doctors, etc.) which donate funds to finance projects towards the most disadvantaged members of society, especially women and children.

The project offers 12-month training courses, held by qualified teachers, leading to a formal professional qualification in the relevant skills, managed by the authorities and employers.

After graduation, women are further supported in setting up a their own business thanks to loans and partnerships with other participants.

How can you help?



€15

You can pay
a teacher's salary for one week



€80

You can buy
a sewing machine



€10

You can purchase
one student's training materials
for one month

If you donate via bank transfer, please specify the project code: **INDOO2P3**

Gruppo Aleimar Onlus - Via Curiel, 21/D - 20066 Melzo (MI) tel. 02.95737958 fax 02.95712273
e-mail: info@aleimar.it - www.aleimar.it

Banca Prossima (Gruppo Intesa SanPaolo) IBAN: IT 69 U 03359 01600 100000100565

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