

Shabiyullah's scars have almost healed

Shabiyullah has been through a lot in his short life. He was only six years old when he started to work. Now he attends one of the remedial schools.



Shabiyullah was just 6 years old when he started to work as a helper in a teahouse. He had to do this because his father had fallen very ill and could no longer work. Shabiyullah

spent the entire day serving hot tea, often working 10 hours in a row. For this, he was paid 10 rupees (about 15 eurocents). He regularly spilt boiling hot tea over his hands, sometimes causing serious burns. Since he has been going to school, Shabiyullah's mental and physical scars have been healing. The scars from his burns have almost disappeared and he now uses his hands to write down what the teacher says. In a period of 3 years, he has managed to master 5 years of lessons. His teacher is full of admiration: 'Shabiyullah learns quickly. Next year, he can go to the 6th grade.' Shabiyullah is a cheerful child. When someone starts to talk about his past, his face saddens, but then he says cheerfully: 'I don't think that I'll ever go to work there again because now I can read and write better than the owner of the teahouse!' And his friends burst out in happy laughter. Increasingly more parents are beginning to see how important education is for their children. Now, Shabiyullah's mother thinks it is a pity that she never went to school herself. 'I insist that my children get a proper education,' she says. Unfortunately, not all parents agree with her yet.

The project in Tamil Nadu

Thanks to the ING Chances for Children program, Shabiyullah now goes to school and his parents are also enthusiastic about it.

The project in Tamil Nadu

Supported by ING Chances for Children, UNICEF is working on the National Child Labor Project (NCLP) in Tamil Nadu. The cornerstones of the project are the improvement of the quality of education and the provision of information about the importance of education. Children like Shabiyullah benefit from this. And there are many of them in Tamil Nadu. They drop out to take a job and contribute to the paltry family income. They often perform very dangerous work. These children must go to school. Only then do they have a chance of a better future. However, they have fallen behind and cannot simply return to an ordinary school. So-called remedial schools play an important role in this project. Here, children are given the chance to make up for lost time. The schools are supervised by UNICEF and are provided with teaching materials. Teachers receive special training. At the same time, UNICEF is creating information campaigns to convince the members of the community that they must combat child labor.



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Facts and figures

India

- Population: more than 1 billion
- 1 in 12 children die before the age of 5
- 35% live on less than US\$1 per day
- Access to primary education: 80% boys, 73% girls

Tamil Nadu

- Population: 62 million
- 6.3 million children between the ages of 6 and 11
- 20% of children between the ages of 5 and 14 work
- 28% of children do not complete primary school

Project goals

- Ensuring that more than 15,000 children go to school
- Supporting 400 remedial schools
- Training 600 teachers
- Informing 200 employees at government institutions
- Running an information campaign aimed at the entire community



Tamil Nadu in India



'It is fantastic to see that the victims of child labor can become children again. By providing them with access to education, we are giving them a future! I've seen with my own eyes that we really can make a difference in the lives of these children.'

(Caroline Klein, Manager at ING The Netherlands)



UNICEF is the child rights organization of the United Nations. UNICEF champions the rights of all children, irrespective of race, nationality, political persuasion or gender and has aid programs in 155 countries. UNICEF works to provide healthcare, proper nutrition, education, clean water and hygiene to children. The organization provides aid on condition that national or local authorities contribute to the financing and implementation. Additionally, the local population must also be prepared to participate actively in the projects. Education is the key to personal growth and a better future. A child can develop optimally through schooling. It is no coincidence that the second millennium development goal is 'Basic education for all children worldwide'. UNICEF is committed to this cause.

See www.unicef.org



ING Chances for Children

ING Chances for Children is a worldwide program run by the ING Group. The aim of ING Chances for Children is to provide children with access to high-quality education.

ING strives to achieve this by doing volunteer work in the local communities in which it is active. In addition, ING co-operates with UNICEF to achieve its aims. ING Chances for Children is supporting three educational projects in different countries: Ethiopia, Brazil and India.

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