

Catching up for regular education

In the Indian state of Tamil Nadu, 16,007 children have already benefited from the 246 remedial schools that have been set up there. 1,973 children have now moved on to regular education.

UNICEF is assisting the remedial schools by providing them with materials, practical support and training. UNICEF is also establishing and strengthening contacts and joint ventures between the remedial schools and the many bodies that are involved, or should be involved, including financiers. This is the only way to raise the quality of education to a



high level and have it remain there. In this respect, 4 elements are important: suitable teaching materials, training courses for teachers in child-friendly education, training courses in dealing with children who were formerly employed and constantly and continuously demanding broad social attention to child labor and education.

Child-friendly, high-quality education

All of the 284 teachers have been trained and now know how to provide child-friendly, high-quality education. They can only succeed in this if they have the right means at their disposal. School materials are therefore essential. At all of the remedial schools mentioned above, a child-friendly, safe environment has been created that stimulates learning. There are blackboards, maps, wall charts, educational sets for mathematics and physics, mathematics workbooks, Montessori teaching aids, globes and reading methods. It has turned out that teaching materials that allow pupils to learn in an independent and play-based manner are very suitable for children who were formerly employed.

Awareness

In workshops, district administrators and civil servants were convinced of the fact that ending child labor must be made a priority. They also gained more insight into the causes of child labor and the relationship with proper education. As a result of this, co-operation has improved enormously. For example, 625 working children were tracked down and enrolled at one of the remedial schools. Teachers at the remedial schools can now take part in training courses organized by the Ministry of Education and the pupils can benefit from all sorts of facilities such as a hot school meal, a bus pass and free books and notebooks. The information campaigns are starting to bear fruit: the community and parents have become aware of the importance of education for children.

Building on success:

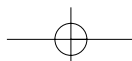
- Creating structural links between regular and remedial schools to make the transfer easier;
- Permanent attention to educational training courses and quality improvement;
- Continuing to lobby the government for high-quality education and against child labor;
- Setting up another 100 remedial schools;
- Discontinuing or converting remedial schools into regular schools if there are no educational facilities close by.



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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 

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.

Would you like to make a contribution?
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