

## Seva Sangam Newsletter September 2018

*In India, the school already started in June.*

This month I received a thick suit with new biodates of newly selected girls. It appears that in the past school year, which, in India, ended in April, 31 of our girls did the final exams, and so have passed the 12th grade high school.

Despite the fact that we are decreasing our activities, quite a number of you will still get a new girl.

There are also always girls who stop half way, often because the home situation changes and they then can, for example, go from home to school again. There were also some girls who only had obtained the diploma of tenth grade (mavo level). Pity but so it be. Especially parents from surrounding villages, take their daughters home, as soon as possible, after she has obtained her diploma.

### ***Which girls are selected?***

These are mostly girls from single parents. For example, when a father or mother has died. Unfortunately, it often happens that the father leaves the family and does no longer care about his children at all. Despite the fact that economically it is getting better in India, for the single mother it remains a struggle for life. Fortunately, there are more and more Indian donors who do care about these children. In addition, it appears that families are getting smaller. You see more and more one, two or three children.

This also provides a better future perspective for these children.

### ***The wardens (housemothers) of the girls***

In total there are 500 to 600 internal girls.

These are divided into small groups of up to 40 girls. Each group has a warden (house mother) who, if necessary, helps with homework and other personal matters. She is the point of contact and, if necessary, during school hours they often also do other jobs for Seva Sangam. So more or less they have a 24 hour job, they sleep with the girls in their small dormitory simply on the floor.

One of the house mothers is the mother of, Yalini, a new girl in our Dutch program. So more or less they have a 24-hour job, they also sleep with the girls in a small dormitory. The mother is a single mother and Yalini is an 'only child.

Up till now she was a girl, sponsored by the Netherlands and has also attended a follow-up study. However, she is an orphan and has now started as a warden with Seva Sangam because she does not have relatives at all. I expect, and hope, that she will soon find a job that corresponds with her study. But for the time being she can still stay with Seva Sangam.

## ***Visit to India***

We (the board members, Hub and undersigned Mieke have planned to visit Seva Sangam again in the beginning of January. We look forward to seeing everyone again, we also hope to spend a lot of time on the students who follow a "Higher Study". And we also hope that we can attend an alumni meeting with many older students. It always remains very interesting for us where the students ended up after their study. Did they find a good job? Have they made the right choice? Can they wait a while before they get married? Is the family where they come from better off now.? Etc. etc. In short, enough questions, and hopefully, in personal contacts that this brings a lot of news. There are already nice contacts via e-mail and especially via WhatsApp, but life is better and more fun

## ***Annual report from India, already the 70th edition***

We also received again at the same time as the recent mail, another nice annual report from India. Again the 70th!! Because Seva Sangam India exists 70 years, it was founded in 1948 after the violent death of Gandhi. The annual report is about primary and secondary school and about the boarding school. Every year, we as Dutch donors, are extensively mentioned and we thank you for this. In this annual report also a lot of information about the school, where our sponsored girls are also on.

It is very interesting to read about the many extracurricular activities and clubs that the school offers. For example, Yoga, Boy Scouts, Junior Red Cross Group, Red Ribbon Club, Children's Rights Club, Road Safety Club, Gymnastics Club, Environmental Club and also literature clubs in English and Tamil language

## ***Practical points***

This newsletter is sent in addition to our regular donors, also to many onetime sponsors and sympathisers of Seva Sangam. The latter only receive this newsletter digitally. We ask them to let us know whether or not they still do appreciate to receive these newsletters. We also ask this in connection with the new privacy law, the A.V.G.

We also have been using this hotmail address, for a long time now: [aussemsbeek@hotmail.com](mailto:aussemsbeek@hotmail.com). Please if you want to contact us, use this hotmail address.