



# Stichting Onderwijs voor India



Policy 2011–2013

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## Prologue

In July 2006, I went to India to work as a volunteer in the Hallelujah Children Home in Madurai, a project by Sevai Society, an Indian charity organisation. In February 2007, during my second visit to the children home, one of the girls came to my room with a question. She was in the third last year of secondary school, but would not be able to finish the last two years. At that moment Sevai Society did not yet provide the last two years of secondary school. She would go back to her parent to work on the land for less than a euro a day. She told me about the situation of her parents. They own one cow and a few chickens. Because of the draught, there was not enough grass to feed the cow, so they had to buy food for the cow and it lost its profitability. Lathika and her classmates asked me for help. They wanted to finish their secondary school education and go to college. On 6 August 2007, Foundation Education for India was raised for this purpose.

Sevai Society gave me the opportunity to get acquainted with their other projects, which could also use a little extra. We hope to contribute to the improvement and growth of these projects. Five of Lathika's classmates have started their second year of college education now. Every year, there are girls who have to leave the children home, after finishing their secondary education. We wish to offer all these girls a good education after that. We are now also offering this opportunity to students that leave the Mary Matha School in Trichy and poor girls from the village Sindalacherry in Theni. In 2010 we contributed to the purchase of computers, microscopes and school benches for the Mary Matha School in Trichy. Since this project still needs support, we hope to be able to contribute to its improvement in the future again.

Finally, the foundation is open to start new projects on the premise that there are enough funds available and that the project meets our requirements.

Sincerely,

The board of Stichting Onderwijs voor India,

Nelle Kooren, chairman

## Background

India is known to be a country of large differences and diversity.

*“The Indian economy is diverse, with many regional and structural differences. On the one hand, India belongs to the ten most industrialised countries worldwide, with high levels of technology in their space program, nuclear energy and satellite communication. On the other hand, large parts of India’s population is dependent on small scale agricultural production.”*  
(unknown author, accessed December 2010, <http://www.landweb.net/india/economie/>)

Large parts of the Indian population live in extreme poverty. India is the second largest country in the world, measured in the number of inhabitants. Both among the rich as well as the poor population, women are discriminated against. Girls are often aborted or, once born, killed, neglected or abandoned. India has a long history of discrimination against women.

Nelle and Patricia have experienced that it does not always have to be that bad. Women, who have studied, are generally able to obtain a better position in the Indian society. Until they get married they earn their own income. But once married, a woman is often seen as an asset of the husbands’ family. Sometimes, women stay unmarried for some time in order to make money for their own family. Having a job, often helps in gaining some status and self-confidence. The girls in the Hallelujah Children Home in Madurai are, therefore, highly motivated to study and to build their own future.

### **About Sevai Society**

Foundation Educationi for India works in close cooperation with partner organisation Sevai Society. Sevai Society was raised in 1996 and is active only in Tamil Nadu. The organisation has a few small scale projects in Madurai, Trichy and Theni. Sevai Society was initiated by Fr. Ignacimuthu, s.j., who works as the director of the entomology department of Loyola College in Chennai. Many of his family members work as a volunteer for Sevai Society.

In Madurai, Sevai Society has a school for boys and girls and a children home only for girls. In Theni, they run a school and a children home for both boys and girls. At the moment, around thirty children are staying in this home. In Sindalacherry, a rural village in Theni, Sevai Society runs a home for aged people. In India it is conventional that the elderly are taken into the homes of their children. In rural areas, many people do not have enough money to take care of their parents and old people are left behind. The Mother Mary home for the aged is surrounded by a fruit garden, which is provided with an irrigation system and a well.

Near the home for the aged, Sevai Society runs a training centre where computer, tailoring and self-help courses are provided. Farmers are for example informed about the use of pesticides. This training centre also coordinates the communication with students receiving study finance through our project “Educational Assistance” in the village.

In Trichy, Sevai Society runs a school where poor children from the rural area that surrounds the school, are offered free education. A children home is being built next to the school.

### **Projects of Sevai Society:**

*Xavier Matriculation School, location: Madurai (XMS)*

English Medium, lkg to 12<sup>th</sup> standard  
Students: between 500 and 600  
Daily administration: Julian Prakash and John Britto

*Hallelujah Children Home, location: Madurai (HCH)*  
Girls: between 70 en 80  
Age: 3 tot 18  
Staff: 4  
Daily administration: Julian Prakash, Joseph James en John Britto

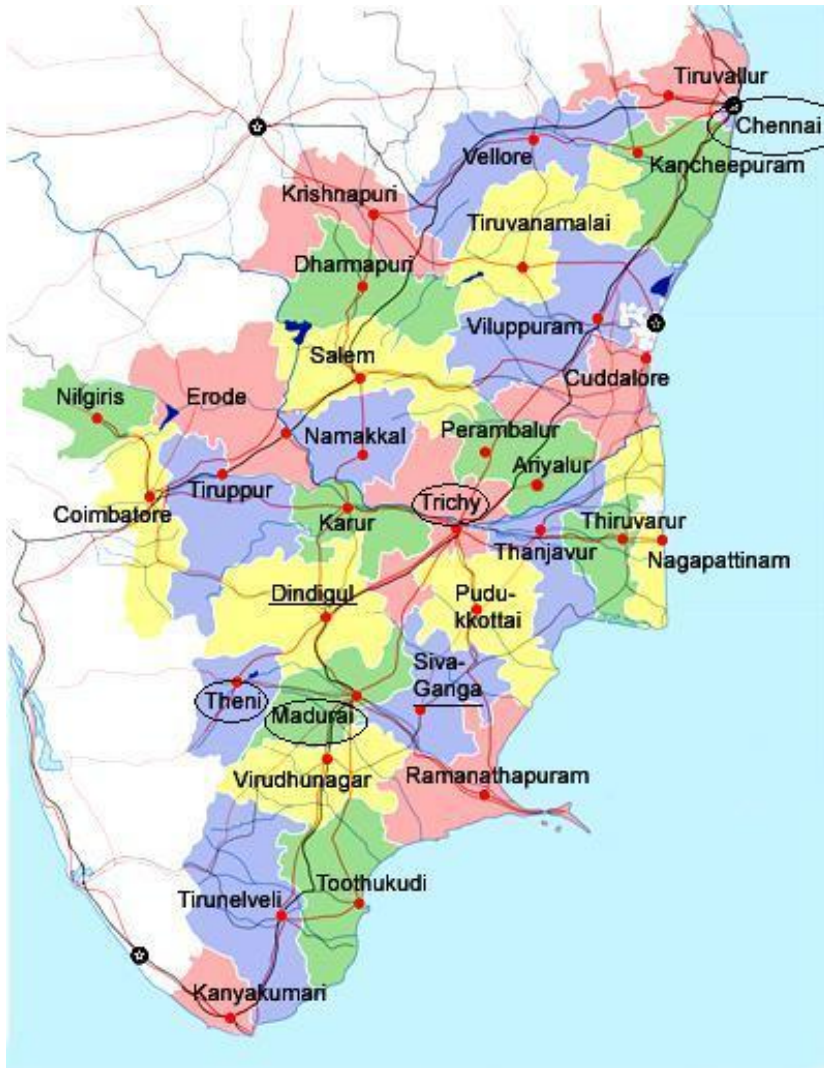
*Benedict School, location: Theni*  
Students: Between 400 and 500  
Teaching staff: 25

*Benedict Children Home, location: Theni*  
Children: Between 30 and 40  
Operations started in: 2008

*Mother Mary Home for the aged, location: Sindalacherry*  
Aged people: between 20 and 30

*Mother Teresa Skill Training Center, location: Sindalacherry*  
Computer courses, tailoring courses, self-help groups, handicrafts courses, copy machine  
Students: between 90 and 110  
Daily administration: John

*Mary Matha School, locatie: Trichy (MMS)*  
Tamil Medium, lkg to 10<sup>th</sup> standard  
Daily administration: George en Hedwig



## Introduction

When a foundation had been set up, this is the beginning of a long road towards improvement of current situation, in this case, that of children in India. As a board, we aim to be “clear, transparent and sincere” in our activities. A clear and accessible policy plan for donators, and other involved parties and individuals, are an important tool in carrying out these values. We wish to clarify our goals and motivation and want to financially transparent.

In our cooperation with our Indian partners we value “respect, trust, love and openness.” We maintain a good and warm relationship and respect each other’s values and norms, bound to culture, tradition and religion. At the same time we expect openness and professionalism in our relationship with each other.

Below you will find the policy plan for the coming three years. Herewith, the foundation will clarify her goals, so that later on, it is visible whether these goals were achieved during this period. This policy plan is written for the period starting in January 2011 and ending in December 2013.

The board,

Patricia Kooijman (secretary)

## Vision Statement

The vision of Foundation Education for India is based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in which the right of every child to education, regardless of sex, religion or origin, is defined (See article 26 below). In the vision of the foundation a good nutrition, shelter and care are the basis for a healthy development of a child. The foundation views child labour as an assault to the growth and development of a child. The emancipation of lower castes and women in India can serve as a means to come to equality of opportunity for all children. Emancipation of lower castes is also seen to be in the interest of safety in the region.

We do not wish to transform or modernise the Indian society as a whole. We respect Indian values and norms, bound to culture, tradition and religion. We believe in the power of the individual who can make a difference. By offering the youth a good and complete education, we aim to help them make that difference.

### **Article 26.**

(1) Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

(2) Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

(3) Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

## Mission Statement

The mission of Foundation Education for India is to contribute to India's fight against poverty. We want to contribute by helping children and youth develop themselves emotionally, intellectually and physically. We focus most of all on education and are, thus, contributing to development goal two.

### **Millennium development goal 2: Achieve universal primary education**

*In 2015, all children in all countries have to attend primary education. Today, approximately 1 in 5 children in developing countries are not attending school. They often have to stay at home for domestic work or they have to contribute to the households' income.*

### **Child Labour**

*Approximately 250 million children between 5 and 17 years old are working. Compulsory and accessible education is an important means in the fight against child labour. It gives children a chance to develop themselves, so that their life chances increase. This contributes to the improvement of the whole society.*

### **More schools**

*Children who are expected to contribute to their households, can be helped with flexible school hours. Building more schools to increase the accessibility of education, is another*



*possible solution. Besides, it is important that school fees and books and other necessities to attend school, become affordable for all parents.*

## Organisation Goals

### Short-term goals

#### *Project Educational assistance*

All students who are currently participating in this project should be able to continue their studies, until they can obtain a diploma or degree. These students started their participation between 2007 and 2010 and are girls who have left the Hallelujah Children Home in Madurai, children who have left the Mary Matha School in Trichy and students from the village Sindalacherry in Theni.

Besides, we plan to finance the further education of students who will leave the Hallelujah Children Home or the Mary Matha School in the coming years. Funds for this purpose will be collected by organising charity events and will be controlled by our treasurer. Our treasurer will make up the financial year report, in which expenses and necessary financial means will be clearly described. More specific information on this project can be found in our Project Plan.

#### *Support for Trichy*

In cooperation with Sevai Society a plan will be written. We will inquire what help is most needed for the project and how we can contribute to this. A project plan will be written, which can be found on our website by the end of 2011.

Besides possible new contributions, we still obtain funds through 1percentclub. In the coming period, we will maintain our project page with pictures and weblogs.

### Long-term goals

We are planning to support some of the other education projects of our partner organisation Sevai Society. By contributing to their projects we are able to improve the quality of education and the living standard of the children to who help is being offered. Our contribution can vary from providing basic necessities to the children in a children home, to the installation of a water purifying system for a school or providing a school bus.

Finally, we are open to working with more partner organisations. We will focus on organisations that specialise in making education more accessible to children, youth and adults. We are also open to helping organisations to improve the standard of living of children in children homes.

## Organisation

Foundation Education for India was officially raised on 6 August 2007 and has her seat in the city of Amsterdam. The board of the foundation consists of three members, equal to the minimum required. The board has chosen a chairman, treasurer and secretary. Besides the board, there is a large and varying group of volunteers, that contributes to the foundations' activities. Board members and volunteers do not receive a salary. In some cases, they have the right to claim the costs made while working for the foundation.

The board meets once in two weeks – with the exception of holiday periods – to discuss and decide on activities to meet financial goals. Besides the regular meetings extra meetings are organized every once in a while, where volunteers can also participate. The purpose of these meetings is to improve cooperation and to increase involvement. In 2011 and 2012 the board will engage in an active search for new board members, since there is a need for more manpower. Especially for the website and for recruitment of new sponsors and donators, there is a need for new board members to contribute to these activities. Besides, the board has an ambition to start an advising body to help the board members carry out their activities with professionalism and efficiency.

## Projects in India

More information about the projects that we are working on can be found in our project guides. These are available on request and on the website. In our project guides you will find a budget, a description of the target group, the project goals, a guide for organisation and implementation of the project and the timing of the project, our motivation to contribute to this project and relevance of the project. At this moment, the foundation is working on two projects: “Educational Assistance” and “Support for the Mary Matha School, Thiruchipally.”

We keep extensive information about our projects outside of the policy, since we will possibly take up new projects, which would be lacking in our policy.

## Fundraising

Foundation Education for India, is planning to attract new sponsors and donators in several ways in the coming years, but we also hope to strengthen the bonds we have with individuals and institutions that have shown their sympathy for our foundation in the past. In October 2010, a donators meeting was held, which we will make a yearly event. We will send a newsletter twice a year. The foundation is making use of several new media and has its own facebook page, a hyvesgroup, and a separate project page for the project “School Material for Trichy” on [www.1percentclub.nl](http://www.1percentclub.nl). We will maintain our extensive presence on the web in the coming two years.

In order to attract new sponsors and donators a new board member will be recruited. The new board member will be assisted by a yet to be appointed advisory body. For more specific information about fundraising and budgets, please consult our project guides.

### **In the interest of the target group**

In January 2011 a policy memorandum was prepared by the foundation in which conflicting interests of donators and receivers were raised. The board of the foundation has drawn the conclusion that it wants to slowly move towards the use of only unrecognizable pictures of children on the internet. No names or fictive names will be used for telling stories.

## Justification of Expenses

The treasurer prepares the financial statements for every book year. The financial statements will be prepared in the period between January and May, after the book year has ended and is presented to the board by June. The accounts will be checked by a chartered accountant or an accounting consultant. Through our website it will be possible for our donators to access our financial statements. We will pursue a transparent financial policy, without making known the identity of our donators.

## Epilogue

With this policy, we hope to have created a guide for ourselves and an informative document for everyone involved with the foundation. We have tried to set realistic goals and to amplify how we are going to achieve these goals. We hope to find others willing to support our foundation on its road to more and better education for children in India.

The board of Stichting Onderwijs voor India,

Nelle Kooren  
Kees Kooren  
Patricia Kooijman

Appendix 1 – Requests from donators conflicting the interests of the child.

<b>Request of donator</b>	<b>How is this conflicting the interest of the child?</b>	<b>How is this in the interest of the child?</b>
Personal; background child/student, picture	-Privacy	-More well-known and understood, support and sponsoring.
Financial adoption	-difference in attention received -feelings of parents/caretakers	- More well-known and understood, support and sponsoring.
Visiting the children homes	-cultural differences -parting -favouring children -discrimination -fights between volunteers -too involved -communication (language etc.)	-Help with homework -extra attention, more fun -presents (be aware of parents though!) - More well-known and understood, support and sponsoring.
Concrete 1 time results	-salaries have to be paid as well -maintenance and food	
Sad pictures	-girls like to look good -makes them look helpless	