

The association's financial contribution

Gandhi Education for Development raises funds from its members in order to cover all costs related to:

- remuneration of teachers;
- remuneration of social workers who liaise with families and tribes and who oversee all the activities which the children benefit;
- school supplies necessary to the proper functioning of the education centres;
- support for parents in order to raise awareness and understanding on the issue of education.

The association's contribution represents €7,000, 60% of the Gandhi Sevam Ashram budget.



Our association is recognised as serving the public interest.

Donations may be sent to the association's address by cheque, or by annual or monthly bank transfer: account Crédit Agricole Sud Rhône Alpes (Bank code : 13906, Code guichet : 00026, n° cpte : 79086225000, RIB key : 21)

Membership is €10, and €3 for unemployed people and under 25s.

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GANDHI EDUCATION FOR DEVELOPMENT



Gandhi Education for Development is a French association which gives support to actions undertaken by the Indian non-governmental organization Gandhi Seva Ashram, operating in the Udupi district, Karnataka State, South India.

Gandhi Seva Ashram's mission

The goal of this Indian association is to develop and support the educational level of children from the various Dalit (non-caste) tribes in the state of Karnataka in Southwest India (Udupi district). These populations are looked down upon and relegated to the fringes of traditional Indian society. They live outside villages in extreme poverty and highly precarious conditions.

The project is led by Deodas Shetty, a former member of an ashram based on Gandhi's principles and philosophy. He manages an educational support system in the tribes' villages, enabling children to receive education and to progress in public schools near their villages. The children grow and gain in self-confidence, particularly through sports and artistic activities.



The success of this approach of tutoring has been recognised by the state of Karnataka, which endorsed this concept for the children from the Koraga tribe. The state opened ten similar centres benefiting 142 children in 2015. The teachers assigned were given free accommodation in the villages where the centres are established.

How Gandhi Seva Ashram centres work

Gandhi Seva Ashram continues its action in other villages and for children from other tribes with the aim of triggering other similar state programmes over time. Eighty children are currently welcomed at 6 tutoring centres with a team of 6 teachers, 2 social workers, one consultant (principal of a middle school) and Deodas Shetty, the coordinator.

At all the centres, the teachers are young women who teach in public schools in villages nearby. Special attention is given to all aspects of each individual's personal development in order to empower them as individuals while also cultivating a positive group dynamic.

These women all live in a village near the centres, which facilitates integration and ties with the children and families. They provide academic support from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., from Monday to Friday.

Teachers' work in the tutoring centres

The tutoring is particularly focused on scientific subjects for children who have difficulties in arithmetic and geometry. Learning takes place through games, drawings, handicrafts, performances and festivities, some of them involving a competitive element to stimulate the children. Each centre has a small supply of books to encourage and facilitate reading.

Deodas Shetty also wanted the children to learn English, as practising this language is essential in order for these young people to break free from their situation as "untouchables" and to access higher education. A logbook is kept for each child in order to follow their progress and exchange information with their parents.



The social workers' missions

The social workers, who are full-time, ensure the smooth running of the centres and good attendance by the children. They also regularly liaise with the tribes to follow up on the association's efforts.

They organise outings, encounters and camps to motivate other children and parents with a view to opening new centres. With his team, Deodas has set a goal of opening new centres for up to 200 children.