

The project and background

Social situation in the fishing village.

The fishermen live in small huts or little houses near the beach. The income possibilities have worsened since more and more large trawlers are now fishing in the Indian coastal waters. Moreover, the increasing opening of the Indian market for fish products is having a negative effect on their income. The costs for new boats, fuel, and for the dowry for the marriage of their daughters are becoming unaffordable. Alcohol and other drugs determine the men's everyday lives – with fatal consequences for the women and children.

In addition, the fisher population is increasing because of the lower rate of infant mortality. This social change means that young boys will not become fishermen anymore. The young villagers have to find new ways to earn their living. For about the past 10 years, family planning programmes have been succeeding, and the average family in this community has reduced to 2 - 4 children. Women often get sterilized after the birth of their second child.



Young people without vocational training can scarcely escape from the miserable conditions in the fishermen's villages. We are looking for donors to make qualified training possible for some of these talented girls; for example, to move those young girls who are endangered through being in broken families, into a student hostel with integrated schooling; and secondly, to relieve the poorest members of the community of the costs for school books and uniforms.

Help

Our help for the fishermen's children is organized locally by the Sisters of the Franciscan Order "St. Elizabeth". At the convent, the nuns run a state-controlled kindergarten and a school for the 1st to 7th class. After the 7th class, the children have to change schools which are mostly further away, but this leads to considerable costs for transportation, school uniforms, books etc. We can help the fishermen parents with their decision on further schooling of their children by paying part of the resulting costs. We are given a list of names, photographs and social backgrounds of those who come into question. And we obtain the children's school certificates every year for inspection.



We sponsor for each school child of a lower class: 50 - 100 CHF per annum;
for a higher class: 150 - 200 Sfr;
for a college education: 200 - 350 Sfr.