

OFI Chronicle

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MANTRA, OFI's new partner

From beginning, OFI have chosen to create partnerships with quality Indian NGOs to implement development projects. Since this summer, a new organization has join the ranks of OFI's partners.

Founded in 2013, MANTRA aims to transform the educational system in public and private institutions around Bangalore.

OFI is working with MANTRA on a project of a mobile library (funded by Foundation Gertrude Hirzel) which will cater 10 to 12 government schools, benefiting up to 1 000 children.

Window of New Opportunities

From 1st January 2019 onwards, the use of single-use plastic items (such as plates, glasses, carry bags, etc.) is being banned in Tamil Nadu which is a welcome move. This new rule opens a window of economic opportunities for the SHG members. They are working hard to meet the demand for these items which are essentially made with biodegradable materials.

Several Self-Help Groups of Trichy District, supported by SEVAI and OFI, have been given training to manufacture plates, bowls, spoons etc. We even met few groups which have already started to produce plates made of arecanut leaves, 100% biodegradable !



Great entrepreneurial sense !

2 new homes for the deprived children !



In May 2018, two new homes opened their doors in Bangalore to host 24 street children. Our partner, Dream India Network, inaugurated Christic Home which hosts 8 young boys and Adrian Home which accommodates 16 siblings. Thanks to the financial support of the Foundation Gertrude Hirzel, OFI and DIN were able to create a comfortable living place. Homes are renovated and all necessary equipment were bought. We have been working relentlessly to mobilise funds to meet the running cost of the homes. Thanks to its effort, Adrian Home is now funded by Foundation Air France! Through the support of various donors, OFI is now financing 10 foster homes dedicated to the street children of Bangalore.

The SHE Effect : always successful !



In July, GRAMIUM completed a project funded by the Foundation Gertrude Hirzel : the construction of 222 toilets for the rural underprivileged families under the Swachh Bharat scheme. In September, it was the turn of SEVAI to complete the construction of 50 toilets, funded by the association AliBaba And You. Access to decent sanitary facilities is a real opportunity for these families to improve their hygiene and living conditions.

Proud of these outcome, OFI is now trying to develop its sanitary projects by including a new dimension: the menstruation management. Due to lack of knowledge, menstruation hygiene among Indian rural women is very poor. That is why this subject has becoming a new priority for the Indian government and the stakeholders of development. Obviously, OFI and its partners are determined to make our contribution to the improvement of menstrual hygiene. We will tell you more about it very soon !

News in brief :

- ✓ As part of the project « **Adopt a Teacher** », OFI financially supports Bichandarkoil school which is composed of a kindergarten and a primary school hosting 122 children. For the scholar year 2018/2019, OFI funds one kindergarten teacher's salary and one English teacher's salary.
- ✓ The project « **De Fil en Aiguille** », funded by OFI, allows to pay the salary of a stitching teacher and equipment for the training center of Amoor. During the year 2017-18, 52 young women have attended the stitching classes and can from now, get a job in the booming textile industry of Karur District.
- ✓ **Bangalore-based team is widening** : we welcome two new volunteers (under Service Civique contract) this summer.
- ✓ This summer, SEVAI Shanti School welcomed three students from Paris **ESEM Sudria Engineering School**. SEVAI benefited of their knowledge in informatics during their one month mission. This fall, the school also welcomed **two new volunteers** (under Service Civique) who will give lectures (English and Sport) to the students.
- ✓ OFI has been contacted by Montpellier Business School to participate to the **Prométhée project**. The aim is to involve students of this school in a fundraising campaign in order to fund the running cost of Christic Home.



Acknowledgement

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THANK YOU ALL TO MAKE THESE PROJECTS HAPPEN !

Through your membership and yours donations !