



# *The Children of Kanji*

## Newsletter June 2021

### In survival mode

#### *A dramatic medical situation*

*The Kanji region is facing a catastrophic situation. The pandemic is wreaking havoc on the population. Pondicherry, 120 km away, ranks third among the most affected cities on the subcontinent as a percentage of its population.*

*Patients do not come to the hospital due to lack of equipment and poor quality of care, which unfortunately contributes to the contamination spread.*

*The practice of safe preventive practice, so far removed from the local way of life, remains impossible in the absence of running water and sanitary infrastructure.*

*As for vaccines, no initiative has been announced in rural areas.*

#### *Shanti Lumine and Saint Antony School*

*Shanti Lumine, the children's home, has been closed since March 2020. Maria Rayappan has maintained contact with the residents, at the risk of her own health. The children are scattered throughout the surrounding villages, hosted by what remains of their family. Their situation remains very precarious. They will reintegrate Shanti Lumine as soon as it reopens.*

*The school situation is much more difficult. It was closed in March 2020 - Distance learning courses were organized upon the request of the local authorities with very mixed results. Then the 10th and 9th classes were open for a few weeks before exams were cancelled and all students upgraded to the next class.*

#### *The survival of the two establishments remains in your hands.*

*We are in the middle of the tunnel with multiple uncertainties that challenge Cartesian minds:*

- All students have accumulated an educational deficit.*
- It is difficult to estimate the number of students who will be able to attend school next school year.*
- Many families will no longer be able to pay school fees because of their financial situation.*
- A new financial balance will have to be found while trying to maintain employment.*
- The reopening date of the school remains uncertain. We assume a recovery in December 2021.*

## ***Our action***

*You have been wonderful.*

*Thank you to our sponsors who have remained faithful to us and have ensured the stability of the financial assets. Thank you to the many donors who responded to our calls.*

*We will be able to transfer € 30,000 as soon as technical conditions allow us to do so:*

- The Indian government decided in September 2020 to increase its control over charitable organizations helping from abroad. They had to open an Internet account at the State Bank of India in New Delhi. This account is the only one authorized to accept foreign currency. The old account can continue to function, but cannot receive wire transfers from abroad.*
- This decision caused chaos and a huge administrative bottleneck. Administrative regulations have varied over time and the confinement of bank staff has slowed down the opening of accounts.*
- To date, the account number has been communicated, but in the absence of a username and password, transactions cannot take place.*

*Incredible India !!!!!*

*The transfer, when it occurs, will be intended to finance and increase the allowance paid to staff since March 2020 which amounts to 3,000 rupees per month (€ 35).*

## ***General Assembly***

*We are once again forced to organize our General Assembly via the Internet.*

*The sponsors and donors will receive all the necessary documents very soon and will have the opportunity to give us their feedback on the functioning, projects and management of the association.*

*Your help is invaluable.*

*Thank you*

Pierre Danthony