



Newsletter March 2022

Dear Friends of The Children of Kanji,

This newsletter is a transcript of the recent telephone exchange between Lourdusamy and Pierre Danthony.

**Pierre: *Can you give us an update regarding the school?***

**Lourdusamy:** The school has resumed its normal activities since mid-January, after the Pongal celebrations. We remind you that students had not attended the campus since March 2020.

Without the external financial support, the school would have lost both its staff and its students. It would have been bankrupt and would therefore have had to close its doors.

**You saved the school!** I don't have enough words to express my immense gratitude. Thank you for your generosity and the trust you have shown to us, which has allowed us to pursue our mission.

**Pierre: *Is the financial support the only reason?***

**Lourdusamy:** No, of course. A school operates with students, teachers and administrative staff. Our staff has been admirable despite the pay cuts. I want to pay tribute to them. They were able to maintain contact with the students and their families. Teachers adjusted quickly to the practice of broadcasting courses remotely even if the outreach was not up to the efforts made, especially for the poorest. We demonstrated that all means were put in place to deal with the situation.

The school's enrollment has decreased by fifteen percent. We regret this but, to my knowledge, this drop is considerably less than what has been observed in other private schools.

Public schools are attracting new students by providing new benefits, in particular free meals, an allowance of 1,000 rupees for each child (€12) and, for secondary classes, the provision of tablets and bicycles.

During its 27 years of existence, the school has built a reputation for excellence that has not been denied. Families are aware of this and have remained faithful to us.

**Pierre: *How do you see the future?***

**Lourdusamy:** First we need to make up for lost time.

For two years, students have been admitted to the upper class regardless of their knowledge. We need to help them to retrieve the educational content lost. This year, the school year will be extended until mid-May. The tenth grade exams will allow us to assess the level of the students. There will be therefore only two weeks of vacation before the next school year.

To continue to earn your trust, at the beginning of the new accounting year, we will provide you with a detailed information regarding the use of the funds that you have sent to us. Transparency is the basis of trust.

**Pierre:** *What about sponsorship?*

**Lourdusamy:** We thank the sponsors who extended their contributions during the school closure. Our mission remains unchanged: to fight poverty through the development of education. We will continue to provide quality education to underprivileged girls and boys.

Some sponsors will notice the departure of their godson. Indeed, two promotions of students finished their studies after the tenth. Some families have left the region in search of a better future, even if this one is uncertain. Finally, other children dropped out or went to public school.

We hope that sponsors will accept these changes.

**Pierre:** *What is the Shanti Lumin's situation?*

**Lourdusamy:** With the traffic ban, it was difficult, if not impossible, to keep in touch with the residents. We received very little news. The children were taken in by members of their family, close or distant, and had to be enrolled in the new public schools opened by the State in the villages. The proximity of the school-year end prevented their return. Today a dozen of children are back in the establishment,

The situation will be assessed at the start of the new school year.



From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

