

Newsletter March 2021

Dear Friends

News from Kanji

India, the world's largest vaccine producer, is struggling to protect its rural population from Covid. In the Kanji region, around 100 people have received the vaccine. They are mainly civil servants or health service staff. Around 10,000 vaccination centers are present in the country, but none is reported in the region.

In the village, there is no sign of distancing. The activities are proceeding normally. The wedding season is in full swing, the occasion for large gatherings. The same goes for the election campaign. The drought reduces work in the fields and causes the poorest families to leave for the cities in the hope of finding work.

At school, only the tenth class remains open in "face-to-face". This is the highest class level taught in Kanji. Following official guidelines, teachers from other primary and secondary classes prepare lessons and send them to families on the WhatsApp application. It seems that 20% of the students take the lessons and half of them return homework. Their motivation wanes after the announcement of the abolition of all end-of-year exams and automatic upgrading. As a result, 58% of parents did not pay the school fees.

Since March 2010, the school financial savings and donations from England and France have made it possible to meet the costs of maintenance and the payment of a living allowance to staff who, despite everything, continues to provide education.

Shanti Lumin's situation is a little bit different. Around ten girls returned to school, as tenth or twelfth-grade students. Maria remains in contact with the former pupils who are accommodated in the surrounding villages. They should come back to Shanti Lumin next June, when the new school year begins.

The financial situation

We were expecting a difficult year in the absence of revenue generating events and the world-wide economic and health slump.

You have been wonderful. Your generosity has comforted and motivated us. The availability of the website in English has enabled us to generate donations outside of France. Donators and sponsors have remained loyal to us and, some of them, have even increased their contribution. New donors have appeared thanks to the social network. We thank them.

The local financial situation would not have allowed the school to reopen without this exceptional assistance. Collecting school fees for the coming year will be difficult in the context of the general impoverishment of the villagers.

After the start of the school year, fees will not be paid by parents before several months. However, significant expenses must be incurred before June: purchases of textbooks and school supplies, uniforms, insurance and maintenance of the pick-up buses, and bringing teacher salaries up to standard (total payroll represents 10,000 euros monthly).

We are counting on the promise of significant donation from a German foundation which should materialize in the coming days.

New donations are more than ever welcome in the coming weeks. They can be made through Helloasso, on the following link:

<https://www.helloasso.com/associations/enfants-de-kanji/formulaires/1/widget>.

Our accounting year ends at the end of March. We will be able to communicate our financial results to you at the virtual General Assembly shortly. We remain confident. In the meantime, we address you a warm thank you.

Pierre



Distribution of essential products to the poorest in December 2020. From right to left: Lourdasamy, Surya, school principal, and Maria