



Working with the poorest in India and Bangladesh for more than 50 years

Everything started on the day in 1959 when a student of Rosi Gollmann, inspired by her strong social consciousness, brought an article from a German magazine to class. The described misery in an orphanage in Andheri near Mumbai left Rosi Gollmann restless. Together with her students she packed hundreds of parcels with essential goods for the orphans of Andheri.

In 1967 the registered association ANDHERI HILFE e.V. was founded in Bonn. In the beginning the main objective was to ensure the daily rice for all the 400 orphans who lived in St. Catherine's Home in Andheri. In the following years ANDHERI HILFE developed continuously. Soon the aim was no longer to fight symptoms like hunger or sickness, but to analyse and fight the causes. ANDHERI HILFE developed from charitable help towards development cooperation based on partnership. In 2001 Elvira Greiner was elected president of ANDHERI HILFE. Rosi Gollmann is still active as honorary president.

Local representatives in India and Bangladesh

To implement our projects successfully, it is of great importance that we can rely on our local representatives of ANDHERI Trust in India and the ANDHERI-country office in Bangladesh.

They play an important role in selecting new partner organizations, planning the projects, monitoring the implementation of the projects, supervising the allocation of funds, training the partners and networking in our partner countries.

Our local representatives visit the projects regularly, report to ANDHERI HILFE Germany and are in constant exchange with the partners. Together we ensure the high quality of our work in India and Bangladesh.



Your support has a lasting effect!

Muni Athatha is a member of the women's bank in her village Edaiyur in Tamil Nadu, South India. She told us how the ANDHERI HILFE-project changed her life:

“ Everything started with the formation of a women's group in my village. Together we all saved small amounts of money. After some years we were able to found our own women's bank with the support of ANDHERI HILFE. I got a micro-credit, bought a piece of land, some tools and seeds. With the earnings from the harvest of my field I was able to pay back the credit. With another credit some time later I bought a cow. With the other women in our groups we built up a milk cooperative. We are now able to sell the milk at a good price. Today that has become an important source of income for all of us. ”

Dedicated to development

Currently we support about 100 projects in India and Bangladesh and reach more than 700.000 people. Our project activities address the most urgent issues and aim at the most sustainable impact. We always address the poorest and most disadvantaged people, first of all women and girls. All of our projects aim to open up new opportunities for those people, so that they can develop and use their own resources. Five major targets shape our work: to strengthen rights, to promote education, to facilitate health, to secure independence and to protect our environment.



The work of ANDHERI HILFE is controlled and recommended by the German Central Institute for Social Issues.

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Committed against poverty and oppression



Promoting
DEVELOP-
MENT

ANDHERI HILFE
With the poorest in India and Bangladesh



Strengthening **rights**

The Indian caste system is officially abolished and prohibited, but it is still alive in the people's minds. 260 million people are worthless according to the caste system. The lowest castes (Dalits) and the indigenous people (Adivasi) are the poorest of the poor.

Our local partners educate Dalits and Adivasi about their rights and help them to form selfhelp- and community based groups. They are empowered to get back their land and to stand up for their rights with growing self-confidence. It is of great importance to strengthen the young generation. In children's parliaments girls and boys learn how to defend themselves against violence and exploitation, from child labour to sexual assaults.

Promoting **education**

The highest number of illiterates worldwide live in India and Bangladesh. Both countries are struggling with great challenges: A small educational elite is facing nearly 400 million illiterates.

We want to increase perspectives for the poor sections of the society by offering trainings and skill enhancement. Special coaching is offered for students. Adolescents in Bangladesh are trained in mobile trade schools and can find a job or open up their own small business afterwards. Women learn how to read, write and calculate in order to build up their own saving and credit groups. Shepherds are trained how to use traditional medicines for their animals.



Facilitating **health**

We have made possible more than 1,3 million eye operations in Bangladesh so far. Hundreds of thousands blind people are still waiting for their chance. In India we are active against malnutrition and infant mortality. Every year 2,1 million children are dying here before their fifth birthday.

In our projects:

- we give medical eye-care,
- we can cure a blind person with a donation of only 50 euro,
- we train village-midwives,
- we promote awareness building on hygiene, child care, nutrition and the prevention of HIV.

Securing **independence**

If you read media reports superficially you get the impression that the Indian growth rates are impressive. But when you take a closer look you realize that 70 % of the Indian population still live from less than two dollars per day, most of them in rural areas. Climate change and industrial projects endanger their survival more and more.

In our projects men and women – especially landless – gain new skills to build up small income generating projects. E.g. women come together in saving groups and even found their own women's banks. Other women are trained in women business schools and gain new important skills which enable them to earn their own income.



Protecting our **environment**

Bangladesh is badly affected by climate change due to its exposed location in the delta of Jamuna, Ganges and Meghna. It is often hit by natural catastrophes and a growing number of people is migrating. We want to build up new perspectives in their homeland and offer various trainings. Solar home systems and biogas plants give the people access to renewable energy.

About half of the Indian population is working in the agricultural sector. Monsoon often fails, periods of drought get longer and strong sudden rains wash away the fertile soil. Increasing numbers of farmers see no rescue and commit suicide. Their wives and children are left alone and are struggling for survival. We support them, but first of all try to avoid such distress. Experts of our local partner organizations give small scale farmers trainings on ecological agriculture, the cultivation of plants adapted to the climate and the protection of the natural resources.