

Commitment and traditions: strengthening actions for women and cultural preservation

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Women empowerment is one of the pillars of OFI's action on the ground. The review of December 2024 newsletter is an opportunity to look at two concrete actions of our organization in this area.

Traditional know-how brought to the fore

In July 2024, OFI launched a partnership with the NGO Kalvi Kendra, a recognized player with over 40 years of experience in social development, to promote training and empowerment initiatives for women in Tamil Nadu.



Women Rise project launch ceremony

The "Women Rise" project, funded by OFI, targets more than 1,900 women. These women will receive specialized training on micro-business creation and support for the management of microcredits in the framework of self-help groups (SHG).

Special emphasis is placed on preserving traditional know-how such as training in the technique of aari embroidery, which is very popular for decorating saris blouses worn at weddings and other special occasions.

Requiring simple materials (a wooden frame and a crocheted needle), Aari embroidery can be done by women at home, allowing them an income-generating activity without having to leave their homes, and one that is flexible and well-paying. With this, some women are paying for their children's education. OFI met with girls who self-finance their studies with embroidery. This promotes their economic autonomy while enhancing ancestral know-how and a sustainable development model.



Aari technique



Blouse with aari embroidery

Improving hygiene with Raja



In Tamil Nadu, with the financial support of the RAJA-Danièle Marcovici Foundation and in partnership with GRAMIUM, 80 women's toilets are being renovated, a crucial initiative for women's health and respect. Renovation alone is not enough. This project includes hygiene training, provided by social workers, to ensure the proper and sustainable use of these infrastructures. This initiative plays a key role in protecting women's health while enhancing their dignity and safety.

A better future for the children of Kalvi Kendra orphanage



In addition to training women in embroidery, Kalvi Kendra also runs an orphanage-school for 50 girls from primary and secondary schools who are dropping out of school. OFI recently visited the coaching teams.

The premises belonging to the government of the state of Tamil Nadu, are in very poor condition. Kalvi Kendra plans to upgrade classrooms, improve dormitories and create spaces for educational and sports activities in the coming months.

The immediate need is to ensure the supply of drinking water, equip the dormitories with new bedding and provide school equipment for everyone.

Our urgent funding needs

For the Kalvi Kendra orphanage:



Funding is required for the following:

- ✓ The purchase of a drinking water filter for 200 euros,
- ✓ The purchase of mats to insulate the floor, sheets, blankets and pillows to renovate the bedding. Each lot costs 20 euros or a total of 1000 euros,
- ✓ The purchase of school equipment for 20 euros per child, or a total of 1000 euros.

For the victims of Cyclone Fengal:



Cyclone Fengal in Tamil Nadu caused devastating flooding in the Villupuram district. Our partners SEVAI and Kalvi Kendra are present on site for emergency aid and have the human resources and experience to distribute food, blankets and hygiene products to the most vulnerable and isolated.

OFI contributed €3,000 but the needs are high. Any donation is welcome to finance the purchase of rice, basic ingredients for cooking, food for children, clothing...

-> Make a donation ->

THANK YOU TO ALL (individuals, foundations, institutional donors, OFI members) for making these projects possible through your [membership](#) and [donations](#)!

Each donation entitles you to a tax reduction of 66% of the amount paid.

A donation of 60 euros therefore only costs you 20 euros.