



Project Plan

Food and Education for the children of the Beggar's Camp "Indravati Colony", Nabarangpur, Orissa, India.

**Composed by Stichting "De Vaste Burcht"
(in English: Foundation "The Mighty Fortress")**

Project applicant:

Name: Stichting "De Vaste Burcht"
Board members: C J Evenblij; K Bonfoh; H Troost; A J Tijman; C J Tijman.
Chamber of Commerce: Registration number 41234604
Address: Otterloseweg 251
Postal code: 7351 TB
Residence: Hoenderloo, The Netherlands
Telephone: +31 55 378 1851
Fax: +31 55 378 1854
e-mail: info@devasteburcht.nl
website: www.devasteburcht.com; www.devasteburcht.nl
Bank account: ING Bank Apeldoorn, The Netherlands.
IBAN: NL68 INGB 0677 3081 83; BIC: INGBNL2A
ANBI Yes. (Dutch fiscal status)

Who or what is stichting "De Vaste Burcht"?

The foundation has been set up on April 18th, 1980 and its aim is spreading Christian Faith in "Word and Deed". In "Word" means supporting local pastors in spreading the Gospel,



wherever on earth. In "Deed" means helping **the poorest of poor**, and the most needy on earth. Help is offered to anyone, regardless of religion, birth or gender. The foundation is a low cost and a low budget organization, and has no employees on the payroll. Income in 2010 totalled € 160.000; office expenditures accounted for <1% and the PR budget reached hardly half a percent of total expenses.

1. Short description of the project.

We want to introduce to you the inhabitants of a beggar's colony in a remote area of India. More specifically we want to draw your attention to the fate of the children living there and who – unless someone takes action – are facing a desperate and hopeless future. Our aim is to provide food and a decent school education for the children. Before commencing this project we need to be assured of sufficient funds in order to be able to continue this project for a longer period of time.

2. Background.

2.1 Background regarding the area.

Nabarangpur is a rural town in Orissa with less than 30.000 inhabitants, situated in the plain area near the regional capital of Jeypore (75.000 people). Nabarangpur is at seven hours distance (by car or train) from Visakhapatnam, the nearest big city. The region is separated from Visakhapatnam by a moderate mountainous area (1600 metres) with not too many inhabitants, living in small villages. Outsiders in this tribal area are shunned, and local habits and languages are respected.

Orissa is one of the 28 states in India. It is considered as the poorest state with the highest percentage (\pm 50%) of people below the poverty line (income < US\$ 1 per day) Approximately 15% of the world population lives in absolute poverty, which is defined by the state in which no access exists to housing, food, drinkable water, education, sanitation or medical facilities. Orissa is four times as big as The Netherlands, and has 37 million inhabitants.

Facts about India. ♦ 47% of all children below the age of five years is undernourished ♦ 61% of the population can read or write. People who only can read or write their name are included ♦ Merely 10% of the population has a formal job; half of them are working in the private sector ♦ 40 million children who should be at school are roaming the streets, or are at work ♦ 200 million Indians are chronically hungry ♦ Half of all hungry people in the world live in India ♦ Around 300 million Indians have to make their living from less than \$ 1 per day ♦ According to the UN Human Development report India is in prosperity behind Equatorial Guinea and Tajikistan ♦ Sources: *Fortune, UNDP, Unicef, World Food Program.*

2.2 About the camp and its residents.

It is more than ten years ago that the town council of Nabarangpur decided to concentrate the beggars in town in a newly built camp, called Indravati Colony, some three kilometres outside the town. The aim was to clean the public area of all the beggars living on the streets, and making the impression of Nabarangpur a bit nicer – in which the town council was not really successful. Money was set aside to realise building the camp. Very **simple**



structures were set up, made of brick and looking like a shoe box. There was an opening for a door – which was not placed – and a hole at headroom level which functions as a window. The inside is halfway separated by a wall at half the width of the room, running from floor to ceiling. With some phantasm you can recognize an "m"-shaped room. There is no cooking facility. In the dry season cooking is done outside – supposed there is something to eat or to make fire. In the wet season cooking is done inside, resulting smoke being all around. As a rule of thumb in India only 30% of all government

investments lands at the appropriate place, and Indravati Colony has been an example of this. Corruption resulted in savings on crucial aspects, like cement. The result was that after two years the first houses started to collapse.

Spread over the camp some hand water pumps were installed, but the pump pipe does not reach deep into the soil. Hence, the water is heavily polluted, and not suitable for drinking purposes. Apart from the water pumps, there is no infrastructure at all. No sanitation, electricity and telephone of whatever you might imagine. Even the most necessary item is not there: firewood. There are hardly any trees, and those fit for firewood are at many kilometres distance.

The beggars in Indravati Colony cannot be compared with the beggars in the big cities, like Mumbai or Delhi. They especially concentrate on foreigners, and are exploited by beggar's gangs who take the lion's share of their earnings. Sometimes they are even instructed at beggar's schools. The beggars in Indravati Colony are no hard core beggars who mutilate

their children in order to make them better beggars. Beggars are deemed by birth to beg, like in the same way others are entangled in their professions. There is hardly any possibility to escape this vicious circle.

The cast system has been buried officially in 1947 after a history of 3500 years, but the Indian culture still has not get rid of it; it is in the genes of the Indians, so to say. The beggars we are talking about are lower than the lowest cast; they are called outcasts, dalits or scheduled casts. They have no rights, do not get a job, and cannot appeal to law protection, and are mostly shun like having a severe illness. Nobody will shake their hands, and in buying a drink at the road side there is a separate cup for them, and even the shadow of a dalit is not supposed to touch you. No wonder many generations of beggars are followed by even more generations of beggars . . . unless the vicious circle will be broken.

3. Problem description

At this moment – ten years after the settlement was erected – less than half of the dwellings are still standing, and the dwellers try to keep themselves dry with pieces of plastic, or by building huts. The houses still standing do not protect against the rain; the water is coming through the roof, or emerges through the walls. In fact, they are very dangerous to live in, for the houses can collapse any moment. Out of the 500 inhabitants in the beginning 200 left to a better place. The remaining 300 people are more or less condemned to stay there, for they cannot go anywhere, and the town is no longer giving access to them anymore – at least not to live on the streets.

Inside the camp territory the government has built a small primary school. Only 30 children appear at school; not for their education, but rather for the free meal that is offered there: plain white rice without anything and meaningful training is not offered there. Public schooling in India has a rather poor reputation. A quarter of the teachers do not appear at school, and from the remaining teachers only half of them really teach (*Newsweek*). Private schools are very popular, and the results offered there are much better than those of the public schools. The camp counts around 300 inhabitants, among them



seven full orphans (six of them are depicted); nobody took care of them. Their age is six to eight years, and they formed a household on their own. Nobody took the responsibility for them, and they survived by collecting paper, plastic or tins on the garbage dump, in exchange for a handful of food. If they would be ill or would die, there would

be no one to seek refuge with. When we visited their "shoe box" in 2009 we didn't find any furniture; only two pans and a rag that covered one child during the night. Now, we found a family who takes care of all these children and their own five children. All the children are sent to an English-medium school, and all are doing excellent.

There are 149 children in the camp younger than thirteen years of age; roughly half of them is half-orphan. The composition of the ages is as follows:

0 year	7	children	7 years	11	children
1 "	15	"	8 "	7	"
2 years	17	"	9 "	6	"
3 "	17	"	10 "	11	"
4 "	15	"	11 "	8	"
5 "	10	"	12 "	11	"
6 "	14	"	Total:	149	children

4. Goal to be achieved.

We want to achieve that all children will get a meal at least twice a day, and will visit a decent school from the age of six years onward. We envision sending **the children aged 6-8**



year to an English Medium School. Here the children are not only taught English, but the tuition is done in English. We want to send the older children to a good governmental primary school, where they will be taught in their local language (Oriya). After completion of the primary school this should be the step for the children towards suitable secondary education.

The ultimate goal is: intellectual development according to ability in order to make choices independently, based on social independence and personal preference.

5. The operation procedure.

Firstly we want to concentrate on the children in the category of 6 – 12 years. The older children need education as well, but we consider them too old to successfully make a change in their lives in this early stage of maturity. The categories we aim at are split in two different groups of children. Both are not only malnourished, but suffer from the effects of one-sided nutrition. Many of them just get one meal a day. To lay a foundation for a sound mind in a healthy body we want to welcome all children at eight o'clock in the morning for breakfast in a community centre that has to be built. One hour later they go under guidance to school in town. School hours run from 10:00h AM to 16:00h PM; after finishing school they return under guidance to our community centre and get a hot meal. Group one and two will have meals in different rooms. We expect after a short period of time both groups to diverge caused by the different school programs. In the evening hours we expect to give time and opportunity to do home work, for there is no light and no furniture in the homes.



To get some insight into the Indian school system we give a short explanation. *Primary school* comprises six years of basic education, followed by four years of *high school* (also called *secondary school*). Subsequently there is "*plus two*" (a two years continuation course) or *junior college*. Finally there is a university study which takes at least three years. *Primary plus High school* is regarded as a minimal educational level. Children who have more manipulative skills can chose to enrol in a *vocational training centre*.

5.1 Group 1

In this category we count 32 children in the camp in the age of 6-8 years. We prefer not to send them to a public governmental school, but rather to an English medium school. This is a primary school where they do not only teach English, but lessons are given in the English language in stead of the local Oriya language. We think teaching the children on English Medium level is of highest importance. Everyone in that region speaks Oriya of course, but

only very few people are able to express themselves in English. In primary school it is supposed the teachers teach English, but teachers are hardly – or sometimes not at all – able to master this language. In India any child can ask: "What is your name?" but after six years of rote memory education it is often the only sentence they can produce. During our trips in the remote areas of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa during the last ten years we found out there is just one way to give children and elderly people alike an advantage over people of their own age: the *active* mastering of the English language.

5.2 Group 2

In the category children in the age of 9-12 years we count 36 of them. Of course we want to give them the best educational opportunities as well, but we think English medium is not



reachable for them any more. The difference in age compared to group 1 is too big to study English from the same books and in the same classes. Though, there is one good public school in Nabarangpur where we can offer the children a decent education. There is a possibility to teach the children English in the evening hours by a teacher who really is able to teach English.

5.3 and then . . . Group 0.

There are 25 children in the age of 4 and 5. It would be great if we could offer meals to them as well, plus nursery school. This

could take place in our day care centre inside the camp premises. The expenses for these children can be compared with the children from Group 2.

6. Project calculation

The expenses can be split in capital investments and operational expenses.

Capital Investments:

Day care centre (estimation) (a building with three rooms and a separate cooking unit)	Rs. 360.000	€	6.000
Water pump	- 60.000	-	1.000
Cooking utensils, stove, small items	- 35.000	-	580
Metal store boxes. Per child: € 5,00. (70x)		-	350
Plates, tables, benches etc.		-	1.500
Unforeseen expenses		-	<u>500</u>
		€	<u><u>9.930</u></u>

> > > > **The day care centre can be paid out of own funds.**

Operational expenses:

32 children English Medium. School fee 32 x Rs. 7.500 per year (registration, school fee, books)		€	3.840
36 children regular primary education. Shoes, socks, uniform. (In principle no school fee or expenses for books)		-	750
2 meals a day: Rs. 50 x 70 children x 30 days. x 12months	Rs.1.260.000	-	21.000
Salary cook, warden, care taker (12 months x 3 persons x Rs. 3.000)		-	1.800
Unforeseen expenses		-	<u>3.000</u>
		€	<u><u>30.390</u></u>

We urgently need supporters – private donors or institutions alike – who are willing to help these children to break the vicious circle. It is essential we have assurance of continuity on the long run, in order not to run the risk that the project will be abandoned after a relatively short period.

We strive for commencing this project in the next school year, which starts in the month of June, 2011.

8. Why would we be qualified to execute this project?

Next to the beggar's camp is a leper's colony, called Indravati Colony Leper's Camp. We started to take pity for the 24 people living there in 2006, and now we have collected all lepers (71) in the town of Nabarangpur in this camp. We have built houses for them, dug a well, provide food three times a day, offer basic medical support, supply detergents, soap, kerosene and once a year new clothes. In other words: we know the area and the people, and the people know us. Reports and videos can be seen on www.devasteburcht.nl

9. Management.

Our managing pastor at the spot is **Rev. Saroj Takri**. He and / or his co-worker visit both camps on a daily basis. He has proven to be one of our best managing pastors, and we have email contact at least once a week. We visit the area ourselves at least once a year. Saroj is also the senior pastor over 25 junior pastors. He also manages our Leprosy Camp with 71 inhabitants, and visits the people in the Lepers Camp and in the Beggar's Camp almost daily for more than ten years. Saroj never had any funds to help the people or the junior pastors, until we started our support four years ago. We pay him a salary every month (as we do to the 25 junior pastors), we bought a motor bike and supply other items he needs. We entrust him the management of this project.



10. Responsibility.

Of course the entire board of our foundation is responsible, though there are two people who primarily engage with the India portfolio:

- ❖ Adri Tijman. He is founder and secretary of our corporation, and supervises our projects in India on a day to day basis. In the past eleven years he spent more than half a year in the Remote Areas of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa.
- ❖ Johan Evenblij. He is chairman of foundation "De Vaste Burcht", and has a special burden for our work in India.

11. References.

- ❖ New Day Ministries, Minneapolis, MN, USA. Dr Paul R. Olson
- ❖ Foudation "Ya'zer", Apeldoorn, The Netherlands. Mr. R. Menken
- ❖ Evangelical & Missionary "Menorah" church, Apeldoorn, The Netherlands.
[(email) addresses upon request]



Stichting "De Vaste Burcht"
Mr. A J Tijman, secretary
Otterloseweg 251
7351 TB HOENDERLOO
t: 055 - 378 1851
f: 055 - 378 1854
e: info@devasteburcht.nl
w: www.devasteburcht.com

Updated version: 25 March 2011..