

The Project Work of the Affiliates of the Indo-German Society e.V.


www.dig-bundesverband.de

The Indo-German Society e.V. and its affiliates support numerous projects in India. To the activities belong projects devoting the training and further education of children and young persons, the equal rights for women in families, society and education and the assisting and building centres of sanitary, welfare and rehabilitation. Further the society and its affiliates support programs devoting development of the villages and the regional structure. The leading thought of all these efforts is the principle of "helping people to help themselves". That means that the society and its affiliates try to use local potential for a self-defined and sustainable change in consideration of the social, cultural and political context of the projects. For effective development cooperation, it is important to keep an eye on motives for why people engage in projects: who really benefits from the help and at whose expense? The adequate methods must be submitted to a careful examination.

In consideration of size and complexity of the Indian subcontinent and the huge number of possibilities to engage with social projects, it's evident that the Indo-German Society e.V. and its affiliates can only engage selective and on a limited scale.

Overview of the Projects of the Indo-German Society e.V.; Affiliate Remscheid

www.digrs.de

Project	Project description	Affiliate	Further information
Arunodaya Charitable Trust Dr. Reena and Dr. Arun Sethi C-2, Maharani Bagh New Delhi 110 065 / India act@airtelbroadband.in www.acteyecare.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ophthalmic clinic in Delhi • Arunodaya Deseret Eye Hospital in Gurgaon • Latest state of "Eye Medicine - Technology": Modern eye lens surgery Several provisions around Delhi and Gurgaon, • Free care for the poorest 	Remscheid 1. Cooperation since 1991 2. Regular visit to the clinics by the affiliate Remscheid 3. Financial support through donations	Deutsch - Indische Gesellschaft Remscheid Helma Ritscher Vossnackstr. 16, 42857 Remscheid Tel. 02191-70732 Fax. 02191-78 08 89 h.ritscher@gmx.de
"The Indian Academy" Mr. Munendra Khanduri/ Director Garhwali Colony, Nehru Gram In Dehradun /Uttarakhand /India E -mail: theindianacademy@rediffmail.com www.theindianacademy.com	The Indian Academy was inaugurated in April 2009 as the "English Medium School". The teaching methods adopted by the school include not only the progressive " <i>smart classes</i> " system, which foresees the integration of "new media" in the classes, but also focus strongly on the creative, practical, social, moral and spiritual potential of the students.		On the recommendation of the Indo-German Society Remscheid students can complete a period of practical training and teachers can engage in further studies, e.g. in the special subject German , which was introduced after the first exchange with German teachers and most certainly makes a contribution to the promotion of intercultural competence.

**PVCHR Peoples Vigilance Committee
On Human Rights**

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www.pvchr.org

www.pvchr.org

www.youtube.com/pvchrindia

<http://pvchr-varanasi.blogspot.com>

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In the field for rights and justice



2006 the affiliate Remscheid initiated a cooperation with a group of pupil of the 'Roentgen -Highschool' in Remscheid. Together they started an awareness Campaign of the PVCHR and for the Dalit.

Link to the Website:

"Together in friendship for Dalits' rights"

www.dalit-roegy.de



Members of Dalit-Team from 'Roentgen Highschool', Florian Weuthen and Marius Kurtz, with Dr. Lenin on the occasion of his visit in 2009 in Remscheid.

PVCHR is an organisation engaging in human rights. Through emancipation and education, the PVCHR tries to develop a fully democratised society, including all social ranks and castes. By taking Dalit issues to the centre stage, the organization started different projects with a wide range.

- Campaigns against child labour, Violence against women and oppression of the Dalits
- Education-campaigns / Fair-trade-Initiatives
- Publications, etc.

Since 2002 the affiliate Remscheid cooperates with the PVCHR. Together they care about projects engaging the Dalit's situation in the villages Baghwanala, Shivrampur, Ayer and Belwa, near Varanasi. Since February 2007, the village Raup near Sonbadhra (75 Km from Varanasi) is also part of the network.

Content of the Education-campaigns:

Exchange between German pupils and pupils from Dalit – families, establishing friendship. Since years, pupils of the 'Roentgen Highschool' in Remscheid, also known as the "Dalit-Team", tried to call public attention to their Indian friends' fight for equal rights.

To help support the project, the pupils of the „Dalit Team“ have set up a web page with the topic: „**Together in friendship for Dalits' rights**“. The engagement of the German pupils supports the Dalit friends in their fight for their rights.

Protest against child labour - Varanasi 18th July 2010

["http://www.scribd.com/doc/34570436/Scan-0015"](http://www.scribd.com/doc/34570436/Scan-0015)



[tp://pvhtchr.blogspot.com/2010/07/chanda-rising-young-star.html](http://pvhtchr.blogspot.com/2010/07/chanda-rising-young-star.html)

Remscheid

Since 2002 - individual and regularly contacts through the affiliate Remscheid.

2007: For the first time the affiliate Remscheid achieve aid money.

The society achieves financial support from the ministry of generations, family, women and integration of the federal state Nordrhein-Westfalen and from **InWent** (Organization supporting international further education and Development) for the construction of a Dalit-School in Shivrampur und the building of a kindergarten in Ayer. **End of 2008, in Raup** near Sonbadhra a School and community centre was constructed. It is the third building, which was enabled by aid money from InWent, the affiliate Remscheid and the **PVCHR**.

In February 2009, the school and community centre opened in the presence of the Chairwoman of the Zg Remscheid.

In March 2010, the fourth project was finished: a centre for weavers in Varanasi and surrounding area, whose survival was imperilled. This project was been supported by InWent, the affiliate Remscheid and the PVCHR too.

The Women's Center "Savitri Bai Phule" was funded by the GIZ GmbH - Society for International Cooperation of the State Chancellery NRW, the ZG Remscheid and the PVCHR and built in the village of Baghwanala.

On the recommendation of the affiliate Remscheid, some students have absolved an internship at PVCHR in Varanasi. The students noticed the projects or the society via internet. They decide on spending some months in Varanasi, working for the PVCHR and living with Dalits.

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Our first project 2007



On 6th September 2007, the project was dedicated by the district magistrate, Mrs. Veena, and the director of the „8th May Foundation“, **Mr. Kim Nan Soo, from Korea.**

The village Raup



Weaver centre



On 16th February 2009 the "Sushil Tripathi School in Raup was dedicated. On 05th May 2010 the PVCHR could celebrate Dedication of the weaver centre in Varanasi by the Secretary of labour **Sri Harish Rawat.**

On February 28, 2012, the Women's Centre "Savitri Bai Phule" was inaugurated in the Indian village of Baghwanala. It is an educational protection and cultural centre for Dalit women, that aims to empower girls and women by self-awareness and strengthening their roles as women in the family and society.



Women Centre „Savitri Bai Phule“

Important remark:

On 10th December 2010, the international day of human rights, which is proclaimed by the UN, Dr. Lenin Raghuvanshi received the "Human Rights Award" of Weimar.

Dr. Lenin/PVCHR was recommended by the "Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung für die Freiheit" in Weimar.



In June 2009: Dr. Lenin with supporters from Remscheid, they were received by Mrs. Beate Wilding, Lord Mayor of Remscheid.

The Student Frank Hoffmann engaged for the PVCHR - he supports the Zg Remscheid in the village Ayer too.



Frank 2008 at PVCHR

The picture shows Frank and children from the Ayer-kindergarten. Frank explains them the new memory. The memory was a gift by the children of the Remscheid day-care facility for children. The children tinker the game, which shows motives of children's everyday life, with help from their teachers.

Together with the Austrian student **Catarina Freundl**, who also absolved an internship at PVCHR, the Ayer-children tinker a memory for their friends in Remscheid. They drew clear motives like the sun, flowers or the Indian flag.

These are the children of the poorest, who are looking forward to get something to eat for lunch - each day from anew.

The student **Frauke Bergmann** wrote her thesis about Dalits and the PVCHR after absolving an internship at the PVCHR for five month. The thesis title was: „Land rights struggle as means of empowerment“

She wrote the thesis at the beginning of 2010. It deals with the influence of land rights struggle on using the example of Dalit-communities in four different villages attended by the PVCHR.

The thesis of Frauke Bergmann can be found under:

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/32599108/>



Frauke with the Dalit-Children

Special activities of the affiliate Remscheid:
On March 2010: In cooperation with financial supporters, the Indo-German Society Remscheid and the PVCHR could finish a school for 230 children in March 2010.



More space for education - in July 2013, as planned, one more floor was added to the school, thanks to a joint initiative of DIG Remscheid, 'Roentgen-Highschool' and sponsors - and thanks to the guidance of Dr. Lenin during construction.

The "Helma Ritscher Center For Human Dignity" is an educational center in the extension of additional one floor on the "Savitri Bai Puhle Women Center", built by the PVCHR in 2017.

With funding from Engagement Global gGmbH Service for Development Initiatives and the German-Indian Society Remscheid, it was equipped with furniture and state-of-the-art media.



Due to its good facilities, this place now offers students, on an equal footing with women and girls, a connection to the modern digital world, with opportunities for recognition in society and the professional world. The furniture has also been selected by the PVCHR in such a way that the work areas are put together according to the needs of each lesson. And the center now provides students with contemporary education according to their needs and talents.



The inauguration of the new Education Center was organized by the PVCHR, together with IRCT and Saha Sanskriti Manch, on the International Day of Human Rights (December 10).

Dr. Lenin's message, which points to the dignity and equality of each human being, was perceived in the awareness of the world's most important day by the invited personalities, the press and the population with sympathy – and the new house was celebrated as a place where this is taught and fought for.

Dr. Lenin: "A house where we bring the three world religions, Christianity, Islam and Hinduism, together in one place."

On 10 December 2017, the International Day of Human Rights, Maulana Haroon Rashid, Islam scholar for pluralism and diversity and Acharya Mritunjay Tripathi, a recognized Hindu scholar on secularism and socialism, ceremoniously inaugurated the "Helma Ritscher Center For Human Dignity" in Baghwanala

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1650815334962632/>



The following projects have been established and are maintained by former pupils of the 'Roentgen Highschool Remscheid'. After graduation these pupils – influenced by the cooperation with the Indo-German Society Remscheid and its longstanding partner Dr. Lenin Raghuvanshi und PVCHR/ People Vigilance Committee on Human Rights in India – developed the independent projects **Sukria** and **Plurismo**. With their outstanding engagement they are a model of contemporary international youth work and are exemplary for the youth work of the Indo German Society and its affiliate Remscheid.

About the projects:

The awareness of Dalit's life in India has its anchor within the members of Plurismo and the co-founders of Sukria since school times. As part of a project week 2006 at the Roentgen Highschool with Helma Ritscher from the Remscheid branch of the DIG, we made pen pals to India as young people, who held until graduation in 2010. During this time, the group was aptly called "Together in Friendship for Dalit's Rights." At that time, India was a distant world for us, but it began to live through the dazzling and impressive stories and images of Helma. It was not the "dazzling Bollywood India" and therefore very exciting.

After graduation, the group dispersed but met again when donations were collected for the construction of Baghwanala School second floor. Finally, the project revived through a visit by Henrik Sadlowski in Varanasi. His first visit, despite stories and pictures, was a culture shock. The new impressions were translated into ideas and the non-profit organization Plurismo e.V., headed by Marius Kurtz and Jonas van Stappen, was founded. Its goal is the intercultural strengthening of social projects. Plurismo provides the contact and helps with planning a stay on site. Through this not only medical internships in India were organized, but also a solar system at the Baghwanala School was built.



At the same time, in Henrik Sadlowski and Marius Kurtz, the idea grew to help in a way that enables people to help themselves on the ground. As the center of hand-woven fabrics and clothing, Varanasi is predestined for the production of clothing. Fair pay, fair working conditions, a regulated structure with health precaution as well as transparency in the production of the fashion are the anchors of the company policy of the 2016 founded SUKRIA UG (limited liability).



They know everyone involved in the production personally. It starts with the weavers in Varanasi, goes over the dyers from Jaipur, who dye the fabrics on a natural basis, and goes on to the German, GOTS-certified button manufacturer. In a family sewing workshop in Delhi, the fabrics are processed into unisex shirts. The short- and long-sleeved variants were designed by designer Noa Elizabeth Goren, who lives in Tel Aviv.

"Teething problems" still have to be worked on before the shirts can come onto the market. At the end of 2018, the first collection of twelve models is to be crowdfunded.

The vision remains: an own sewing plant in Varanasi. Matching premises have already been found, equipped with sewing machines, tables and cabinets. Sukria should be more than just a job. It should be a place that people like to come to, where they can still be together after work, and where they can change their environment sustainably.



On our homepages we keep our fans and friends up to date:



www.sukria.org



PLURISMO

www.plurismo.org