

India

2019

CONTENT

Preface	3
A strong framework	4
The changemakers	6
Edukado	6
VTRC: the peniel school	6
Stichting Sari	7
Wilde Ganzen	7
The construction	8
Facts and figures	10
The journey	12
Financial balance	13
Thanks	16
	17

PREFACE

I'm going on a trip, and I'm taking with me: excitement, nerves, ... and knee- and shoulder-covering clothes.

That is what our group started with. In Belgium, we collected money in collaboration with stichting Sari and Wilde Ganzen so we could help realize the growth the Peniel School needed..

We arrived in Madurai with 9 young women and 2 young men. Ready to take on an adventure! After the first 2 weeks, the guys went on to other adventures, and we were left with only women. A powerful pack in India. We stayed at the YMCA hostel in Madurai - and with our trusty driver Kanniwal, we commuted to the school every day.

We were incredibly lucky to have had this experience right before the pandemic hit the world. We met new people, we fortified the bonds that were already there and we got a new outlook on life.

I'm going back home, and I'm taking with me: an amazing experience, new wisdoms in life and knowledge of an entirely different culture.



A STRONG FRAMEWORK

Edukado can rely on a wide and long-standing experience with solidarity projects in the South. This places Edukado in the ideal position to select and lead projects which contribute to a sustainable improvement of living standards in developing countries.

Although Edukado lets the students work as independently as possible, Edukado sees to a timely completion of the project and a correct use of the funds. Edukado guarantees that 100% of the donations make their way to the South directly (e.g. raw materials, labour). All other costs are fully covered by fundraising activities.

Edukado also performs a thorough screening of its partners in order to guarantee the project's sustainability. Each project is carefully selected based on aspects such as the scale of the project, the need for a construction, the reliability of the partner and political stability of the country. Furthermore, in order to qualify for an Edukado partnership, the Belgian partner organization must have a sustainable and long-standing relationship with the local partner in the South. After completion of the construction, the Belgian partner bears the responsibility of supporting the project in the long term.



THE CHANGEMAKERS

EDUKADO

Edukado is a Belgium organisation that strives towards solidarity, tolerance and justice so that everyone has the opportunity to participate equally in society. Edukado's approach to achieving this, is developing and providing accessibility to high quality education. The projects are always bottom up; this means that they are always started from local initiatives. We try to offer a form of ethical volunteering: every year a group of 10 to 15 volunteers start a yearlong journey to raise money for the accelerated construction of an already existing educational project in the global South.

In the summer months the volunteers work on-site together with the local community. Through this, this exchange of knowledge and culture gets stimulated.



VTRC: THE PENIEL SCHOOL

VTRC (Vocational Training Centre) is a local private initiative founded by Paulus en Rosy Samuel in Madurai, India. They run multiple initiatives to educate the youth in Madurai.



Private initiatives are not unusual in India because the quality of state education is often regarded as too low. The Peniel school is one such initiative. It is primarily for children - who are often the first in their family to go to school - from disadvantaged families in the villages in the countryside around Madurai. As parents are getting more and more convinced that letting their children get an education is the key to a better future, this caused an influx: about 800 pupils are taught at the Peniel school with a Lower Kindergarden, Upper Kindergarden, Basic school grade (1-5), and Higher Secondary grade (6-12).

THE CHANGEMAKERS

STICHTING SARI

Stichting SARI (which stands for Support Achtergestelde kinderen Regio India) is a Dutch organisation that started in 2007. Their goals were:

- Improving the quality of daily life in India in the short and long term.
- Promoting access to education, training, medical care, food and employment.
- Creating a better starting position for the underprivileged in Indian society, with a special focus on children.



They try to achieve these goals by working together with local Indian organisations.

One of the organisations they work with is the VTRC (Vocational Training Centre) in Madurai.

WILDE GANZEN

Wilde ganzen supports go-getters worldwide that want to stop poverty. They are a Dutch organisation that financially assists institutions worldwide, while letting these institutions maintain local ownership. They achieve this by letting the local institutions raise the money themselves and make one and a half euros of every euro that is collected.



THE CONSTRUCTION

The Peniel School had already been a vital part of the local community, but as the number of students grew, the existing infrastructure could no longer keep up. Some classrooms were even deemed unsafe, as their roofs didn't meet the latest safety standards set by the Indian government. To guarantee continued qualitative education for the pupils, the number of classrooms needed to be **expanded**. Edukado, VRTC, Stichting Sari and Wilde Ganzen raised money to add a **library, three more classrooms and a sanitary facility**. The money raised by Edukado went to the four classrooms.

The new construction was built on the decommissioned classrooms (after inspection and replacement of unstable parts). The walls were made of 3-D panels of galvanized aluminum curls. After installation, these panels were then filled with concrete and galvanized content for reinforcement. This building method is rather new, but has been approved by the Indian government.





FACTS AND FIGURES



South-Asia, India, Madurai



16 students participated



Stichting Sari was our
Dutch partner
VTRC was our local partner



14.495,56 was raised for
the project



Construction of 3
classrooms and a library



Classroom started being
used by the students in
October 2020



THE JOURNEY

I think I can speak for every person who was part of this project when I say that this was a journey of a lifetime. We started in Brussels where we met each other - strangers from different backgrounds, all with something new to bring to the table. We learned how to work together towards a common goal and raised quite a lot of money even though we were pretty inexperienced students. After an academic year of gathering enough funds the fun was just getting started: you had to prepare yourself to go off for one to two months into the unknown, figuring out which vaccinations we needed, sorting out visas, and finding the right clothes... and of course, saying goodbye to the people we loved. Two months suddenly seem so long when you are standing at the airport.



THE JOURNEY

But of course time flies by once you are there. Unfamiliar food, different cultural habits, unreliable wifi, a noisy and busy city... it could have been quite scary, but strangely, it wasn't. We had each other. A group of incredible women supporting one another, every step of the way.

After being in a country for two months, you get a real sense of it—not just the beautiful statues, monuments, and temples, but the less glamorous side: the social inequality, poverty, and pollution. But first and foremost you see what you can't see when you are just a tourist: you see the warmth of the people there, you connect with people who you thought you had nothing in common with (not even the language), you learn different habits, you try different foods and tastes, you learn to see the quietness in busy streets. You learn to appreciate small things from back home. Indian food, it almost goes without saying, is amazing. But after a couple of weeks something like a premade pizza, or a salad caprese (even without mozzarella cheese ;)) just tastes amazing. And sure, there are tough moments when you just want to go home—but at the same time, you never really want to leave. Because in those two months, you find new friendships, new routines, and a place that, somehow, starts to feel like home.





FINANCES

INCOME

€ 62 728,70

Activities

Calendars	€ 1 005,00
Movienight	€ 85,40
Waffles	€ 500,99
Dinner party	€ 1 875,62
Crowdfunding	€ 462,35
Resto week	€ 728,00
Selling easter eggs	€ 86,70
Paint chalet	€ 700,00
Quiz	€ 2 375,00
Other	€ 3 225,69

Sponsoring / donations

Branding	€ 4 500,00
Eduvik	€ 200,00
Irmo	€ 1846,00
Donations	€ 1 704,00
KBS	€ 4375,00

Subsidies

Brussels City	€ 5 000,00
11.11.11	€ 1 000,00

Contribution of partners

VTRC	€ 17 239,41
Sari	€ 6 124,22
Wilde ganzen	€ 7 035,20

EXPENSES

€ 12 183,89

Materials / Labour

Construction contract with VTRC	€ 7 000,00
Construction cost	€ 38 309,39

Food

Food and water	€ 1 361,61
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Transportation

Taxi to and from airport	€ 34,00
Rental bus to construction site	€ 1 537,12

Other

Sickness	€ 76,00
Logement	€1 122,60
Internet	€ 37,13
Unkown expenses	€ 40,99
Gifts	€ 63,47

NGO costs

Flights	€ 415,00
Prospection trip	€ 1 880,19
PR, bankcosts and event-related costs	€ 5 831,89

THANK YOU

At last we want to thank all our **partners, donors and sympathizers** that participated in our activities. Without their support, we could have never completed this year's project.

Another special thanks to the whole
India 2018-2019 team

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And last year's board

Andy, Aushim, Camille, Robin and Hannah



