

I've been in India for my **annual visit of our centers** since the end of October and I am so pleased with all our faithfully and fully engaged nurses and teachers. They are such a blessing and an encouragement. I am visiting all of our **34 centers** with Bindu and her husband Anil. Bindu guides our centers in India with lots of skill and empathy. Over the years we have developed a great deal of mutual trust. This is also reflected in the fact that our employees are not only doing the job they were hired for, but also actively try to help people in their neighborhoods in the best possible way.



The nurses not only provide **medical** help, but they also listen to the many concerns and needs of their patients. Some of them work in multiple locations and also in the evenings and they can still be contacted at home, which has been mentioned and appreciated by the patients.



At our **sewing centers**, many women are still interested in learning different sewing techniques. It is important to us to constantly observe the needs of the communities we support and anticipate any changes that may arise. Over the last two years, we've made some **alterations at our sewing centers**: instead of teachers having a morning and an afternoon class, they bring back women and girls who have already completed their sewing education with Shoshana and support them in the afternoon and evening sessions on how to take on and fulfill orders. They share the earnings from these orders, learn how to run their own business and become more independent.



A big challenge - after completion of the training - is the **purchase of sewing machines** for each woman as a jump start to their own business. Unfortunately, we often lack the necessary funds for the purchase of sewing machines in addition to the running costs of the projects. Every woman who wants her own sewing machine has to raise about 30 US\$ of the purchase price; the rest - between 40-50 US\$, depending on the exchange rate - is paid for by special donations. We currently have at least 25 women from recent classes who are waiting to get their own sewing machine, not counting those who are about to finish the course.



I am confident that we will be able to help everyone just like we have always done in the past. **On behalf of these women I would like to thank everyone who is supporting Shoshana.**



We also like to visit former students to see how they are doing. I was deeply impressed by **Jaya**, who finished her sewing training two years ago. She has her own sewing machine and has been able to provide for herself and her 18 year old handicapped son by working from home. She was very excited when she heard about Shoshana's sewing training because she was not able to work outside her home as normal day laborer due to her son's illness. This was a wonderful opportunity, to care for her son while making a living.

Over and over, Bindu and I are deeply moved by the difficult and poor conditions in which women and girls have to live in. A few years ago, I told the story of **Swapna**, who had lost both parents to HIV and who had to take care of herself and her two younger brothers when she was just 15 years old. Now she is happily married and is expecting her second child. She is full of gratitude and explained how she has been able to provide a living for her family due to her sewing education through Shoshana.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart to all of our faithful friends, donors and supporters, who have enabled us to help in so many ways. God has blessed our work here beyond any expectations, all the glory belongs to HIM!

May Jesus enter your hearts and houses with
His peace and joy!

With love from Martha and Bindu and our entire team in
India, Germany and USA

Martha B. Jörd



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