

Dear Shoshana friends,

Looking back on the **past year**, I have to say in spite of everything that it was good and God saved us from all harm and danger. Thanks be to Him!

But all of our loyal donors have also contributed to the fact that our work is of great help to many people in need. My heart is filled with thanks to all dear friends that we made ends meet again this year without begging for donations. I am in close contact with Bindu all year round. Modern communication technologies are a **great blessing & help** these days.

Unfortunately I was not able to travel to India again this year because of all the regulations and uncertainties of the airlines. Our projects have largely normalized and thanks to good medicine there are hardly any cases of illness. Some of our employees, including Bindu, got sick but soon recovered. Only two had a slightly more severe course and took some time to get better.

Especially in **slum areas**, the people were very affected by the restrictions. This is how we found out about the Gamela Bazar in Vijayawada. It is an area with around 2000 people looking for usable materials in the waste and sorting them in order to then sell them. As we found out, families mostly consist of single women with four to five children who are brought in to help. As a result, the children do not get a proper education.



They were particularly hard hit by the **Covid Lockdown** and often would not even have a meal a day if local aid groups had not distributed food.

Some women urgently asked us for help through a sewing class so that they could have better living conditions. Collecting rags is not enough to survive.



Hemima, one of our first sewing teachers heard from them and was immediately ready to step in in her free time. So we started another **sewing project**, literally on the street. The sewing course is now in full swing. The women are very eager to study and Hemima is happy that she can help.



We currently have **28 projects**, but some of the nurses and instructors work in multiple places. The computer course is also still well attended.

**Big thanks** to all of our donors! Special thanks to those who give us a little more security with a monthly donation.



So far, God has always provided us with the most essential things. The special donations enable us, for example, to buy sewing machines when the women have finished the course.

Together with the Shoshana members, I wish you all a merry, blessed Advent & Christmas season!

*Peace on Earth and God's Blessing!*

*Mertla B. Järvi*

Bindu is also busy reporting on her CDS-Shoshana Blog.

<http://cds-shoshana.blogspot.com/>