

## **Basic Information on K.I.D.S.- Foundation**

The non-profit organisation "Children in Deficient Situation" was founded and officially registered in 1996 in order to improve the situation of child labour in spots like Tirupur, the centre of the textile industry in Southern India. During this time the Foundation has established an own school respectively an own educational approach benefiting its specific target group. In this context KIDS has organised its Indian counterpart, KIDS Society, which is headed by local textile producers and volunteers who represent social reputation in that area. By this organisational structure KIDS has won several retailers and supplier to join this project. Actually KIDS maintains its own school with more than 550 children. Within this year KIDS will extend the school with a day-care-centre as the parents due to their poverty are not able to provide pedagogical treatment, sufficient feeding, basic medical care and in the end time for the children. These are the pre-conditions to fulfil the national standard of educational requirements in India. Only through the impact of a holistic educational approach the foundation can assure a sustainable learning process.

A third step will be the construction of a vocational training centre for textile workers/experts in the beginning of 2004. More than 250.000 workers are employed in the local textile industry. Actually, there are only few training centres which cannot offer the appropriate skills, requested by ever increasing demands in the apparel industry. With the help of governmental funding agencies and retailers the centre should provide training to young graduates, for instance of the KIDS-School, to ensure qualified man power. At the same time workers and employees can receive complementary training like knowledge about social or environmental standards.



Besides that this approach trying to face all relevant issues to break the poverty line through education in a long term, the Foundation has developed a sustainable financial system to maintain the programme. A majority of the local suppliers benefits the school through their purchase of hang-tags which will inform the retailer and consumers about their local social responsibilities. More than 70% of the total yearly expenses are covered by our hang-tag-initiative. Investment costs are donated by international retailers. This cooperation between



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all stakeholders improves business-relation and improves at the time local efforts to reduce poverty.

Further projects are already planned in other areas. In the Philippines KIDS shows its engagement in the rehabilitation of former child-prostitutes, educational support for squatter and fisher folks. In Bangladesh we have planned to construct a evening school for working children.