



Sri Lanka Verein Hamburg e.V.

Renovation of a primary school in Kilinochchi

Kannakaipuram Primary School is located in northern Sri Lanka, about 20 kilometers from Kilinochchi. It used to educate students up to grade 10. Due to the increasingly deteriorating condition of the facilities, classes were eventually limited to 40 Tamil children up to grade 5, taught by the headmaster and four teachers. The remaining accessible classrooms were barely sufficient to accommodate the remaining students, so one room was being used by multiple students. Both the office space for the teaching staff, and particularly the kitchen, which was inadequately hygienic, were in a deplorable state. The restrooms were available only to boys, and the five-hectare playground was neglected.



During an initial visit by Kumudhini Rosa, founder of the *Shilpa Shakthi Foundation*, it was agreed that a fundamental overhaul and partial expansion of the existing school infrastructure would sustainably improve learning conditions for primary school girls and boys. Our board contacted the *Ian and Barbara Karan Foundation* with a project proposal in April 2023 and received funding commitments for the following measures:

- Renovation of classrooms and function rooms
- Provision of chairs, tables, and learning, play, and sports equipment
- Renovation of the kitchen and restrooms, including for girls
- Design of outdoor areas and play areas



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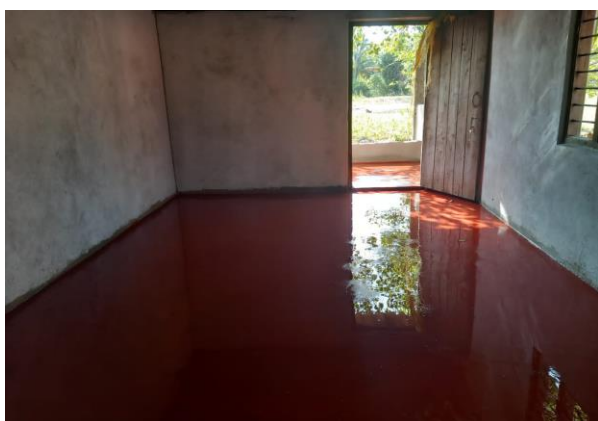
Implementation of the measures began in May 2023 and was carried out by local craftsmen, in close consultation with the school administration, and coordinated by the Shilpa Shakti Foundation: *"The renovation work is progressing smoothly. We were impressed by the energetic commitment of the craftsmen. The painter's daughter also participated enthusiastically and worked on decorating the walls. The old kitchen is being completely renovated both inside and out, and the restrooms are being redesigned so that they can also be used by the girls. The playground is also getting a new look; all equipment is being repaired and beautifully painted. There is a lot of activity everywhere."*

When the renovation work was completed in September 2023, the results were recognized with the installation and unveiling of two plaques – in English and Tamil – in the presence of the teaching staff, students, and the Shilpa Shakti Foundation team. The headmaster and the teaching team are very grateful for this support and already consider it a very important contribution to the upswing and further development of their school and the region. They asked us to convey their special thanks to the Karan Foundation.





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Visit from the school doctor: "A special highlight was the visit to the school by the government medical team. This visit takes place once a month. I sat with the doctor, a truly kind person, while he examined each child. It was wonderful to watch, and I was truly impressed that such a system exists in Sri Lanka. The study revealed that most children came to school hungry. They receive a meal (lunch) at 12:30 p.m., supported by the Save the Children program. But they don't eat breakfast—and often feel bad because they don't get anything to eat until lunch. This situation touched me deeply. "The doctor also explained to me that this would cause the children permanent physical problems, especially if they don't eat a healthy meal in the morning. Together with the school principal, we calculated how much it would cost to provide them with gram (a nutritious snack) or something similar every day. A total of €2,500 per year would be needed to feed 36 children. If you ever come to Sri Lanka, you must visit the school and meet the friendly headmaster and the lovely children. Best wishes, Kumudhini Rosa



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Results and thanks: After the renovations were completed in September 2023, Kumudhini met with the school administration in October. The principal and teaching staff are very grateful for this support and already consider it a very important contribution to the upswing and further development of their school. They asked us to convey their special thanks to the Karan Foundation.



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Inauguration and Commemoration: The completion of the renovation work, carried out with funds from *the Karan Foundation*, was celebrated with the installation and unveiling of two commemorative plaques – in English and Tamil – in the presence of the faculty, students and staff of the *Shilpashakti Foundation*.





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Sports festival: Following the celebrations, there was a sports festival with all the pupils and children from the surrounding area - it was celebrated extensively

