

# FRIENDS OF SHAMAYITA MATH

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## Dear friends and members of Shamayita Math

Shamayita Math is situated in the countryside some distance from the big city of Durgapur. Here they have an area of approximately 25 acres surrounded by paddy fields at their disposal with many activities taking place and new on their way. It has been impressive to see what started at a school for girls, now is a center for education and developments which benefits people in the area.

Normally, our contact to the local leaders, Mothers Anahata and Mother Prajnamita, has been by mail, but November 8 our board had an online meeting with them. It was great to be able to pose questions and listen, not just read mails.

One of our members, Eva Hauge, participated in the Teams meeting. Eva and her husband Anders and their son Abel paid a visit to Shamayita Math in the spring of 2018. Anders has called the visit an overwhelming experience! Eva had been granted a decent donation from the Zonta organization to buy a number of sewing machines and helped establish a sewing facility for rural women to empower them to get an income by sewing and selling clothes and bags.



Mother Anahata og Mother Prajnamita

Eva plans with her family to revisit Shamayita Math in 2023 or 2024 and she has already arranged for a new donation from Zonta. That would allow even more women to participate - maybe by establishing a form of cooperative facility. Presently, all school-uniforms, some clothing and bags for the students at the three Marang Buru village schools are made at Shamayita Math.

Mothers told us that Shamayita Math in collaboration with authorities in Durgapur have established a sewing facility in a poor area of town close to a big factory, where women can produce sacks of jute and safety vests. Apart from the income earned, it has also an impact in the local society that women can find work.



All schools are now up and running after being closed for a long period due to Covid-19 and a shorter period due to extreme heat. The Convent School has had some problems getting all the students to return - some students preferring to stay at home and study online. When the Convent School was established it was planned for girls only, but some years ago it was made available for boys as well. The elder boys are now moving to a new building and there are plans to build a boarding facility for boys. Also a building for teachers is in the planning stage.

The hospital is challenged with funding problems. The government no longer pay for patients - they are supposed to seek government clinics, which are free but you often have to wait a long time to get attended to.

Some years ago, Shamayita Math established a small school, Monodeep, to help children with autism and associated conditions or mental problems. The school was later moved to Durgapur. But some education and support for a few local challenged children remained, Shamayita Math taking care of the children 4 hours a day, 5 days a week. There are now plans to establish a residence for some of these children where they can be fully supported all the time if their parents cannot take care of them or they do not have family. They can also stay and get the necessary care when they grow up. I think this is a super example of Shamayita Math taking on tasks to help where there is a need and nobody else take care.



Students and teachers from Monodeep

Covid-19 seems to be under control in India. The economic crisis we see in the Western world due to the war in Ukraine seems not to have touched India. But many workers have been laid off from public jobs so many try to earn a living by being traders. So now you see many small businesses including street food venues even in the villages.

Tourists are back in India. If you - or somebody you know - would like to visit Shamayita Math and like Anders get an overwhelming experience by just visiting or helping for a period, we can establish contact. Maybe it would be of interest for young backpackers touring Asia. Shamayita Math is a safe place to visit.

By the end of this year, we have 50 members, a small increase. We transfer 20.000 DKK for the year 2022 to support one of the rural schools. Several of our members has signed up for sponsoring a student from the school. The cost is 700 DKR a year.

You can do that by contacting Bente Hagelund: [bentehagelund@hotmail.com](mailto:bentehagelund@hotmail.com)

This year, I am aware that many areas deserve help. The Ukrainian victims in the war and in here Denmark people suffering from higher living cost. However, it would be much appreciated, if you could find room for an extra donation to Shamayita Math. You can do that via mobil pay nr.: box97814 or by bank transfer to reg.nr.: 0400 account nr.: 4028247937.

I wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Lars Fynbo  
Chairman

