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 of ex children

NEWS FROM INDIA AND FRANCE

Bulletin of **A**ssociation **F**rançaise pour l'**E**nfance **A**bandonnéeA.F.E.A : 17 rue Voltaire, 44000 Nantes – Tel/fax : **02.53.45.12.18****E-mail** : accueil@afea-sneha.org – ccp : Nantes 3093 77 N**Site** : www.afea-sneha.org**Facebook** : <https://www.facebook.com/afea.snehasadan.1>

*Life is life.
 I am because of you
 Amin*

**About disproportion**

In this difficult period, we hope you and your families are in good health. This graphic worldwide crisis caused by the coronavirus makes it necessary to face it with humility. Its consequences on health, economy and society are simply horrendous and far too often play into the hands of know-it-all looking for scapegoats. They are merely experts in hindsight clear-headedness.

However the countless testimonies of creative solidarity and of hope for a better world, particularly towards those who were already vulnerable are more comforting. To take action so as to suffer less is the real challenge. India is widely affected in its megalopolis such as Bombay. We have assured our partners in the different regions of our unfailing support. You will be reading about the most positive aspects as possible : our children are safe in their homes or their families and we are really thankful to our members for their spontaneous donations.

Circumstances have prompted a comparison in my mind : on the one hand a microscopic virus, close to the infinites email world provoking a worldwide upheaval bursting with challenges and on the other, a donation, your donation, modest as it is, being part of a solidarity chain which brings about a total change in a girl or a boy for a future full of hope. It is an incredible disproportion, isn't it ! In one case it is endured and causes havoc, in the other it is deliberate and beneficial.

My dear friends it is up to you to bring the second possibility to bear- it is contagious too- for our children in India. We are aware that the consequences of this crisis may affect you in person ; we are really thankful for your support which means a lot and wish you and your family as fine a summer as possible.

With all our gratitude. The chairman : Jean-Michel Couteau

**SUMMARY**

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An account of my stay in India

January/ February 2020 by Claude Nevers vice-president of the AFEA

(before lockdown in India)

The AFEA's first visit to Snehasadan took place in 1999! So it is exactly 20 years since I met Snehasadan and Father Fonseca for the second time. (the first was 43 years ago). With Bernadette Maret, the president, Hubert Fabrègues, Muriel Bonet, Jean Savajol, the Moreau Germaine and Pierre took part in this journey. So it's my 20th visit with AFEA.

The airport had changed beyond recognition. Nowadays it is a state-of-the-art building with its fine Indian architecture which welcomes you! Getting there at night is always impressive with its huge crowd stretching over 333ft! I was thrilled to spot the smiling faces of Father Noël Pinto and of the devoted Raju Annapa quite quickly! As soon as we left the car park we were immersed, engulfed in the crowd of rickshaws, cars and a swarm of motorbikes, the new means of transport in Bombay. All of this in the infernal din typical of Mumbai....



Claude Nevers and House Parents

Raju is an outstanding expert at driving in this heavy traffic where you have to keep on juggling and weaving your way between the gigantic pillars of the aerial metro. We arrived quickly at Snehasadan/Vinalaya, a haven of peace where our head office and homes 3 and 7 are located !

On Saturday morning there was a meeting with the house parents and that day was also the day for the former children and the family day as well (cf. our previous bulletin). I visited most of the homes :

- house 1 : a new home in a large building, the children will soon move in.
- foyer 2 : nothing has been started... discussion with the developers.
- houses 4 and 6 :

the refurbishing of home 4 consisting in rebuilding the supporting wall and the sewage network has been perfectly completed! However the same works of supporting wall and the renovation of toilets and showers need to be done urgently in home 6.



- house 5 : it's on the first floor of a 25-storey building; The children are getting used to these new conditions where space is more limited. They mix with the inmates of this block of flats and are well accepted !.

- houses 9 and 8: nothing to report except for the dilapidated state of home 9.

- house 10: statut quo for the time being.

Father Pinto is now helped by a young jesuit who told me he was worried about the significant drop in local donations.



I have also visited the Sisters in Navajyoti at their home in Marol (with fewer girls being welcomed temporarily) and I have also visited Sister Raj (the Shanti Bhavan home).



NEWS FROM SNEHASADAN HOUSES

SITUATION IN INDIA. The news below are from April / May

The lockdown continues here in Mumbai and we are not sure till when it will continue. As of now thanks to the grace of God all the children, staff, House parents and fathers are fine. We also have sufficient stock of groceries presently, but if the lockdown is extended further then we may have to make some arrangements.

As far as the studies of the children are concerned it is not much affected because it was already the end of the academic year and so the portion was already complete and only the final exams were left. These exams have been cancelled and the children have already been promoted to the next class based on their previous performance. The House parents continue to take some basic studies of the children to strengthen their foundation. Otherwise the children are enjoying their holidays playing, doing some creative work, reading story books, cooking etc.

Hope all of you are keeping well.

Praying for all of you. Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

Father Noel.

Gardening and
Creative workshops
During the lockdown



Bakri Eid from Zoya Khan (house 10)

We at Snehasadan celebrated the festival of EID on 12th August with all our friends. We had a skit organized on various topics like brotherhood, humanity and service to society. All the children were divided into 3 groups and they performed the skits and gave the message creatively. It was indeed a meaningful celebration of Eid where we appreciated the religious diversity in our city and prayed for peace and harmony in our motherland.



Street-play training by Karuna Nagangoudar (house 10)

Snehasadan works towards the holistic development of our children by arranging various activities. One such activity, VIZ, street-play training was organized for us during our Ganapati holidays, that is, the 3rd and 4th September, at Snehasadan house 3. The sessions were conducted by Mr Juran Lopes and his team. This training helped us to build self-confidence, overcome stage fear and develop our writing-skills. In our groups, we came up with themes on which we were to base our plays-scripted, enacted and presented by us. The chosen themes were on current topics like environment, addictions, save the girl-child, education and cleanliness. It was a good opportunity for us to enhance our creative skills and talents.

Girl-child day by Rajeshree Dhumal (house 10)

8 September is celebrated as girl-child day. At Snehasadan, all the girls' homes celebrated its importance. In our house, we had a skit-competition for which all of us were divided on 3 groups. We used our creativity to present our ideas on the theme, Girls : Beacons of our society. We learnt to appreciate and love ourselves. We must never look down upon ourselves but must live life with our heads held high-desiring to reach the heights we dream of. While we presented our skits, we realized that we have innate talents which must be developed and used for the betterment of our society.



Things and cards made by children during the lockdown





NEWS FROM NAVAJYOTHI HOUSES

Situation in India

NEWS FROM NAVAJYOTHI MAROL (Mumbai)

By the grace of God we are well here. Children are not gone home. All are here only. Due to the lock down we could not send them and it is not safe for them to be in the slums at this moment. We have some food items and if emergency we can get it from out also. Children did not finish their exams. 10th standard Kiri and Neha had to finish only one more exam but they have extended the days. Others will not have the exams.

Here all are fine. Hope everything is well there. We are praying for you. Thanks a lot for your concern and love. We remember you all in our prayers.

With lots of love

NEWS FROM NAVAJYOTHI GOA

It is very thoughtful of you. We are in constant touch with the updates and we know the situation is bad out there in Europe. But we are praying for you all. Keep safe. Here we are safe so far all the groceries are there but if this condition persists we will have some food problem because all the supermarkets and shops are closed as they have no more stock. But the government as assured us of help so far it has not reached anyone. Let us all pray that the Lord heals are troubled world.

Love children and sisters.

We and children are keeping well. Children are with us total we have 27 children. We keep them busy with different activities. It is hectic time as full day they are at home. Our work is increase but we are doing it happily. In Goa five cases are detected positive. We too had difficulty of getting grocery items but now situation is little better. Praying for you all.

Love and greetings to all

NEWS FROM NAVAJYOTHI MOOTHAKARA (Kerala)

Thanks for your concern. At present children and we are ok. Sitting inside the house, not much news about surrounding s, people are crying, struggling for food, we are sharing with what we have. Feeling so sad. Government has promised many things, Praying God may do something for people of our world. Take care. Thanks for remembering us this crucial time. Ten children are with us, other children some of their relations came and took them because the Government made a strict order not to keep, if any relations send them with them, Among the ten seven of them have nobody to take. All are having some kind of fear. Moothakara three of them are under observation. People are struggling. What we are having we are sharing.

About opening the school we have no idea, but on line classes will begin soon, that time they will come here. All those who are close by also we are not able to go and meet so freely, because Police not allowing to visit the families, It is good, so we tell them to come to the house late in the evening, and we send the things with them. After 31st we will be able to go out, lock down may remove, hope so. All those who are at home they learn stitching, painting, making ornaments, dress etc... Here it is heavy rain, our net is not working properly, because of lock down people are not coming to arrange it.



Some girls who stay in the home
Learn stitching, painting, making
dresses etc...



NEWS FROM NAVAJYOTHI KARWAR

Thanks so much for your concern for the children and the staff of Navajothi Karwar. We are safe though the whole county is lock down we are in the house. Few children are here as they are in SSLC and PUC and they have to write university exam. Other way everything is closed here .remaining children are gone home.

NEWS FROM NAVAJYOTHI DAVANGERE (Karnataka)

At present there are only five children with us. The others are sent with their parents and relatives. Actually they have gone for holidays and they could not come back. The Davangere district Child Protection officer has selected our home Navajyothi Nilaya for quarantine for children who are picked up from street .So we have two cases now with us. We have to follow the decision of the DCPO to get back the children. More or less school will be opening either August or September. I hope all will be back by that time. As per your request, letters for the sponsors are ready.

I took the challenge calling all the Navajyothians .They came with their parent to write the letters and we sent them back with provisions for one month. We keep contact with them and see that they fed at home and taken care. We are supporting them even if they are not with us.



Making coconut masks and brooms by The girls of the home

Before the lock down,

(picture 1) Girls as Shrusitha who had good marks at school have been chosen for a 8 days trip to see important areas of Karnataka. (picture 2) Kaya K, of Davangere house was also honored by participating in sports, drawing and dance competitions. She has won many certificates. (picture 3) The girls participated in the school's annual celebration.



NEWS FROM ARULOLI (PONDICHERY)

Thank you for the concern each other. We found and the government official also felt that let the children go home. If something happens what will we do. For the safety better to send them home and let the parents see to them. So followed the suggestion of the government officials. But two of their parents were not able to come. From 25th onwards there are no transport facilities. So those two girls are with us. We are taking care of them. We do contact each child over the phone, all are safe and sound. Some families are finding shortage of food. Anyway we will see how we can help them.



NEWS FROM SHANTI BHAVAN MUMBAI (VASAD)

The lock down will continue, we are all fine by the grace of God. The children using masks and sitting in the Home, really facing the difficulties with the food grains and other expenses like vegetables and daily household things,
Thanks for your love and support.

SNEHASADAN SUCCESS STORY !



A Visit to Amin restaurant « Bombay to Barcelone, library cafe »

by Claude Nevers Président Honorary President and member of the governing board of AFEA

Amin has fulfilled his dream : opening a cafe and restaurant providing work for the children on the street.

A splendid success as it has been awarded the title of « **best restaurant in Bombay !** »

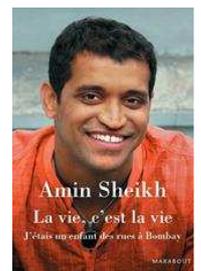
It's an outstanding place, a beautiful place that you won't forget and where you are greeted by Amin's wide smile and struck by the energy developed by all his team managed by his radiant sister Sabya !

Amin was a child of the street as there are thousands in Bombay. He lived in railway stations trying to find food and surviving dangers until he met the Indian NGO Snehasadan. Thanks to father Placie's benevolence he regained his self-respect, safety and education in his new family : home N1.

**« Don't forget to smile without any reason ! Why ?
Because life is great !**

Amin's message is incredible, his is an out of the ordinary personality, generous with his head full of dreams !

At the moment Amin is the happy husband of Sarah, a teacher of Spanish origin and together they have a wonderful little boy called Jaan.



PS : you must read Amin's book : « life is life, if I exist it's thanks to you » (available at the office of the AFEA 15 euros +postage)- Enlightning !





NEWS FROM FRANCE

New mode of help : home sponsorship

-testimony of Ghislaine CHAPON, godmother-

10 years ago, I got to know the AFEA thanks to a leaflet found at a friend's house. Subsequently, I met Mrs. and Mr. COUTEAU (current President of the association) then I sponsored a little girl while planning a trip to BOMBAY!

During my first stay in India, I visited "Father Placido" then Director of Snehasadan Homes, who helped me and showed me all the homes. The atmosphere in the home was very pleasant and there was a good understanding between the children and the people who supervised them "Sisters or house parents".

Subsequently, at each visit, I quickly had the impression of going to families (in my family) and to find there with joy all these children that I considered as my little godchildren, especially those of the Number 8 where my two goddaughters lived : Durga and Laxmi.

*Of course, I took the gifts given to me by godparents for their godchildren (via Muriel, the secretary of AFEA). I also included a few items (candies, chocolates, "pens or color" pencils, etc.) so that everyone received a small gift. It was a great pleasure to see them come together to share these little gifts. **THEY FORMED A HAPPY FAMILY!***

Examples: For colored pencils, when I returned to the Navajyothi home in MAROL, each child had drawn a picture and hung it on the wall to thank me in their own way. As soon as I arrived they took me near "their works". They were proud and I was very moved! (I took a photo of each drawing to remember it). A puzzle at Home 8 had the same success (all the girls gathered around, together, to start it).

*My conclusion: It is so beautiful, it is so heartwarming to see **THIS SHARED HAPPINESS** that I continue to sponsor a household considering that **all the children in this household are my godchildren. THE HAPPINESS OF AN ENTIRE FAMILY IS SO SUPERB!***



Ghislaine entourée des filles du foyer 8

We warmly thank Ghislaine Chapon for her moving appeal in favor of **HOME SPONSORSHIP** presented in the June 2019 newsletter. If some of you wished to adopt it, we will suggest that you choose a home (girls or boys, Bombay, or a more implantation). rural in Goa or Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu) whose characteristics we will communicate to you : environment, activities, photos and stories of house parents and children.

You will then receive periodical news thanks to the parents-responsible who will send, twice a year, a summary of the highlights, school results, arrival / departure of children, etc ... with drawings, photos and letters from children who wish, in the form of a small newspaper.



OUR GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY 26th of SEPTEMBER 2020

Bulletin de parrainage : formulaire à retourner à AFEA, 17 rue Voltaire – 44000 NANTES

Si vous souhaitez régler par prélèvement automatique, merci de le signaler au secrétariat de l'AFEA qui vous adressera un formulaire à remplir

- Pour parrainer un enfant : 23 euros par mois (8€ par mois après déduction fiscale)
- Pour parrainer un enfant et aider son foyer : 35 euros par mois (12€ par mois après déduction fiscale)**
- Pour aider un foyer ou une réalisation précise : somme à votre convenance.....
- Pour soutenir et recevoir notre bulletin : 30 euros par an

En retour vous recevrez : le bulletin de l'association, par mail ou par voie postale, un reçu permettant une déduction fiscale de 66%, et pour ceux qui parrainent, un courrier de leur filleul.

Je souhaite recevoir un reçu fiscal : **oui** **non**

NOM.....PRENOM.....AGE.....

SITUATION FAMILIALE.....PROFESSION.....

ADRESSE.....

.....TEL.....E-Mail.....

Informé par.....Date.....signature.....

PS : nous sommes habilités à recevoir des legs. N'hésitez pas à nous contacter pour toute information.

