

# Keshwa Human Welfare India

„GIVE CHILDREN A FUTURE“



HUMAN  
STIFTUNG

in cooperation with



In 2015, the ‚HUMAN Foundation‘ and the ‚Creation India Society‘ (CIS) signed a cooperation agreement. This was the start of childcare in **Robertsganj, Sonbhadra in Uttar Pradesh (UP)**, the second poorest state in India with a population of 200 million alone. Uttar Pradesh seen as a separate country would be one of the most populous countries in the world, but also one of the poorest.

The cooperation has intensified over the years, further projects have been started in **Varanasi** (Uttar Pradesh) and **Samastipur** in Bihar. That is why we established the program name **“Keshwa Human Welfare”**. With well over 100 million inhabitants, **Bihar** is the state with the highest population density in India and is even poorer than Uttar Pradesh. **About a third of residents in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are still illiterate.**

All of the people in our target groups suffer from insufficient basic infrastructure such as **water, electricity and medical care, and from income opportunities**. If industrial work is available, it is very unhealthy.

**In addition to poverty, India faces many challenges:** widespread corruption, overpopulation and environmental problems. Access to decent health care is also a problem. Life expectancy is relatively low (67 years on average).

**Children are at the center of our work.** In addition, **we also offer projects, especially for women**, to strengthen women and, in turn, the children in the family.

Today, many children have very few rights, lack of access to healthy food, sensible clothing, adequate education and personal development.

The life of children is difficult. They often have to beg, work, sell drugs and fall into the wrong hands. Children live in need and often have to cope with difficult situations alone.

The fathers are mostly casual workers, **the children have to earn money at an early age, the mothers mostly work unpaid in the household.** The challenges are significant in all project locations.

## Do we have the right answers?

**Each pillar of our strategy can solve a specific problem.**

**The unique combination** of all programs enables a lasting and sustainable transformation of society in these poor areas and will make a big difference compared to today.



**Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)**



- Skill Development City
- Skill Development Village
- Child Care Services (planned)

**Robertsganj/Sonbhadra (Uttar Pradesh)**



- Keshwa Open Center Home
- Keshwa Gurukul School
- Skill Development
- Disability Welfare Services
- Outreach Services
- Keshwa Child Care (planned)

**Samastipur (Bihar)**



- Orphans Home & Adoption (Mamta Shishu Grih)
- Girls Welfare Center (planned)

**Child Development & Women Empowerment**

The ‚root‘ of the strategy is **targeted school education** and **personal development** for children from poor families. We combine the school program with a **vocational training (Skill)** approach that gives young people, in particular women, access to training.

**Children’s emergency aid** covers a wide range: runaway children, missing children and children who beg, take or sell drugs or do other work.

**People with disabilities** can be found everywhere. In cooperation with government authorities, we try to alleviate the suffering and develop solutions. The **Outreach Program** focuses on

advising poor families in the nearby-villages. There are thousands of families in hundreds of villages who need care.

Another pillar focuses on women’s counseling with the aim of strengthening women’s self-esteem and getting them into work. This reduces the pressure on their children to earn money. **Women Empowerment** is part of the Skill Development and Outreach program.

The strategy is rounded off with a program for some orphans in our **Orphan’s Home project**. This program also includes child emergency aid.

**We firmly believe in our long-term ability to implement this at all locations**, although there will always be setbacks on this long journey.

**The pandemic particularly affected us** in the years 2020 - 2022, as there were also long lockdowns in India. **We need patience and endurance in order to change the current situation in the long term and sustainably.**

Since the strategy is very complex, we will always have to make adjustments depending on the new circumstances. **We are very optimistic that the strategy is sustainable based on our experience and proven concepts.**

We would now like to go into detail **about the three locations Varanasi and Robertsganj in Uttar Pradesh and Samastipur in Bihar** and describe which specific projects are being implemented there and what challenges we face there.

## Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

**Varanasi is considered the city of the god Shiva Vishwanath (“Lord of the Universe”)** and one of the holiest sites in Hinduism. For more than 2,500 years, believers have made pilgrimages to the city, which is also a center of traditional Hindu culture and science.

It is particularly desirable for devout Hindus to wash in Varanasi in the Ganges, die there and be cremated. More than 1.3 million inhabitants live in Varanasi and the city is populated by tourists. However, many people live on the streets and in very poor conditions.

## Skill Development „City and Village“

are the two other programs conducted in Varanasi. The training courses take place at two locations in the city in the Sigra and Lohatar districts and in the village of Bhochar outside Varanasi.

According to our licenses, we can offer courses for women in tailoring & fashion design as well as in the areas of beautician. There is a course leader for each location.

After successfully completing the course, each participant takes an exam and receives a certificate from the NSIC (National Small Industry Corporation).

With this certificate it is much easier to find a job or become self-employed.

**So far, 7,000 women have already received a certificate, 6,000 of whom are self-employed.**

Due to the pandemic, we had to stop the courses for a longer period of time, but we are very confident that we will continue to offer many women attractive vocational training.



## Child care / Child Emergency Aid

In the years 2019 - 2023 we carried out various programs. The government has decided to manage emergency child aid for the whole of India. **During this time we saved over 250 children in emergency aid.**

We are ready to offer a care or emergency aid program again at any time. We have the license to do this.

## Samastipur, Bihar

**Bihar is considered the poorest and socio-economically underdeveloped state in India** and is the third largest state in terms of population. The state experiences monsoon rains every year, often affecting millions of people from flooding.

**The challenges in the Samastipur district are huge and we can only cover a fraction of all problem cases.**

### „Orphan’s Home“ with Child Aid

The “Orphan’s Home & Adoption” program has been running in Samastipur since 2016.

**Up to ten children between the ages of 0 and 6 live in rented rooms** and are handed over to our organization by the “Child Welfare Committee”. There is a kitchen, a bathroom, a playroom and bedrooms for the children and caretakers.

The children are looked after **by a coordinator, seven caretakers („Mother-Child“), a nurse**

**and a doctor (part-time).**

The local government provides a security person. If children cannot be returned to any family member, a long-during adoption process will be initiated.

**In total, we have placed more than 20 children with families since the program began and almost 200 children who ran away from home have been returned to families or handed over to social institutions.**



# Robertsganj/Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh

**Robertsganj, located 80 kilometers south of Varanasi,** is the capital of the district of Sonbhadra with 2.6 million inhabitants: **35% of them live below the poverty line**, i.e. with about 35€ per capita and month. As in all other rural areas in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, the most important infrastructure components such as electricity, water and medical care are poor in Robertsganj.

Our childcare project started in 2015 with a few children in rented rooms, in 2018 about 50 children were looked after. **At the end of 2017 we decided to build our own Keshwa Child Welfare Center.** After completion and after the end of the pandemic, we started to offer our programs on approx. 1,000m<sup>2</sup> in 21 rooms. **We have built according to international quality standards in order to be able to provide our services to needy children and women for generations.**

## KCWC Open Shelter Home

in Robertsganj includes the daily care of 25 boys aged 6-12 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Monday to Saturday. We bring the children into the center in the morning and start the day with a morning prayer.



The children then take part in the Keshwa Gurukul school lessons. **There will be a common lunch together at 1 p.m.**

After the meal, the children have time for games, singing, dancing and other leisure programs until 4 p.m.

**This promotes social interaction, as some children are shy and reserved.** After the game, the children are brought home by 5 p.m.

## Keshwa Gurukul-School

is our large school project that opened in December 2021.

**What are the specific advantages of running a school in our center compared to a Public Primary School?**

The standard of public schools in Uttar Pradesh is not considered to be very high. The school buildings are very basic with poor sanitation.

There are no opportunities to work with computers, no musical instruments, hardly any school desks or chairs. The teachers in these schools are not always highly motivated.

Our approach is **to develop the children's personality** in addition to the subjects taught and we

teach in both **Hindi and English.**



We offer a preschool class and school grades 1 to 8. **In September 2020, we received the license** to operate an inclusion school, i.e. a school for children with special needs, in which children from poor families are taught, sometimes including children with mental disabilities.

This is the first license granted to an organization in Sonbhadra district. We are very proud of this. The school is free for children from poor families and has the quality of a private school, but is very expensive.



**With the school education for currently 150 students,** the standard of our work has increased significantly. At the same time, this program completes our strategy and **offers all educational measures "under one roof"**. This means that children can do an apprenticeship straight after school or are well prepared for secondary schools.



Since the number of students is constantly increasing, we bought a second school bus in 2024. In the medium term, we plan to build more classrooms and expand the school up to the 10th grade. This would be a major breakthrough for high-quality education for children in Robertsganj.

**Mahatma Gandhi said:** „Live as if you will die tomorrow and learn as if you will live forever“.

## Vocational Training („Skill“)

is a program partially funded by the Government of India. We offer the following training modules and have a “lab” for practical work and a classroom for each course: **beautician, tailoring (including fashion design), various computer courses.**

The skill program is mainly used by school graduates and young people.

After the training, participants must complete an exam. If successful, they will receive an official certificate from the government that will help them find a job.

We have modern **rooms and laboratories** for 100 trainees. With **cooperation partners** we offer training in the villages. After the exam, the trainees are listed on a portal and receive micro-credits.



## Working with disabled people

**People with disabilities** are excluded in many areas of life in rural India. The causes of disabilities are usually poverty and poor health care. Those affected are often dependent on themselves.

**Disabilities are preventable when mothers**



**receive better prenatal and postnatal care and adequate nutrition for infants and themselves.**

We carry out analyzes in the villages and organize camps and workshops. Government representatives and a doctor determine what help can be provided. From surgeries to the provision of support or therapies to small pension entitlements for people aged 45 and over are possible. **The pension entitlement only amounts to around 5 USD per month.**

Sometimes only small progress can be made possible, but sometimes a significant improvement in the living situation can be achieved.

**One of the most important tasks is to give people their dignity,** to see them as an integral part of their society and to show other people how important it is not to isolate disabled people on a daily basis.

## Outreach-Program

This is a special program for the rural population. In Sonbhadra, many residents live in poverty in more than 1,400 villages. These people have limited or no education and are not trained to ask for support.

We provide support with **social, legal and medical problems.** We advise drug-addicted children and young people, want to convince parents to send their children to school, enable them to receive an education and provide advice on family planning.

**In short:** We want to help people cope better with their huge and stressful everyday problems.



We have been working with our projects in India since **autumn 2015** and started with five children in child-care in Robertsganj. 150 children now go to school, we train hundreds of women, have saved more than 400 children from dire developments in emergency aid and look after several hundred families in the poor areas of the villages.

Despite the many successes, there are also **setbacks like during the pandemic** or **we reach our limits** or often **have to wait a long time for approvals** because the bureaucratic hurdles in India are very high. Unfortunately, this comes at the expense of the children and families, who then have to wait for the help they need. All of this is overshadowed by our motto: **LEARN - EARN - SMILE.**



The success of our work depends very much **on the motivation of our staff.** The performance is great, the work is sometimes emotionally stressful. When all programs are fully operational, up to 50 people can be employed in the Varanasi, Samastipur and Robertsganj locations. **There are currently 35 people on duty in 2024.** Due to the complex programs, **the annual operating costs amount to more than USD 65,000.** Some of these are funded programs by the Indian government.



**Many thanks to all donors. Our success is your success!**

**Edith und Karlheinz Neumann** founded the non-profit HUMAN Stiftung (Foundation) in 2014 to support poor and needy people, especially children.

**‘GIVE CHILDREN A FUTURE’** is our Vision.

**100% of donations go into the projects.**

[www.human-stiftung.org](http://www.human-stiftung.org)



**Dr. Satya Prakash Tiwari** and his wife **Mala Tiwari** founded the Creation India Society (CIS) on 31.12.2004. The CIS has licenses for all programs.

**Harion Tiwari** was appointed as operational program director for all locations in 2022.

The CIS is the partner and operational arm of the HUMAN Foundation in India.

[www.creationindiasociety.org](http://www.creationindiasociety.org)

