

# What does Broederlijk Delen do in India?

Broederlijk Delen has a specific way of working. We make sure groups of people in the South can and may realize their own plans for fighting poverty and injustice. Worldwide we support 250 organisations in twenty countries in the South, sixteen of which are in India. We support their own plans in three ways: with financial support and/or a temporary staff member, through exchange of experiences between our project partners and through our (inter)national actions on causes of poverty.

## WHERE AND WHO DO WE SUPPORT?



Despite India's current booming economy, exclusion, unemployment, exploitation and rural exodus are still omnipresent. Broederlijk Delen supports the most vulnerable groups in society, those groups that are socially, culturally and economically the most deprived. In India they are the **indigenous peoples** and the **dalits** or the outcastes.

We support them mainly in the rural areas, in **two regions** on the Indian subcontinent: South-West Orissa and South-East Chhattisgarh. In both areas there is a big concentration of indigenous peoples. Both areas also contain many natural resources, which make them appealing for the government and (inter)national companies. Apart from that, we also support the NDWM, the National Domestic Workers Movement in India. We will elaborate on this partner organisation in the pdf-document on the NDWM.

## TWO PILLARS

The support of the local groups' own plans in India is based on two pillars. Most partner organisations include both pillars in their work, although the emphasis may at times be on either. The first pillar is working on sustainable rural development, the speciality of PARDS, and of organisations like Living Farms, WORD or SEARCH. Agriculture comes first, just like the reaping, processing and selling of the numerous forest products. Through training and micro-credits these organisations offer support for starting up small businesses. Thus a rural economy arises that is in the hands of the local population.

The second pillar is the strengthening of good government. The indigenous people and the dalits are entitled to representation in the municipal councils. But in order to be heard, they must stand firm. So it is important to establish strong grass-root organisations that have a clear vision.

This too is an activity of PARDS, as well as of other organisations such as XIDAS and Cenderet-SORC.

## TO US SUPPORT IS MORE THAN HELPING INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS

Together our partner organisations are stronger than separately. That's why we organize and stimulate the exchange of experience and knowledge.

Broederlijk Delen opts for the expansion of a solid partner network in a limited region. Thus organisations can cooperate and strengthen each other's work. For this to pass off smoothly, we have a staff member in India (a Broederlijk Delen local representative), Monojeet Ghoshal. He supports the partner organisations and organizes the mutual dialogue. Through workshops they learn from each other's successes and

failures. The NDWM for example presented its activities extensively to the rural organisations in November 2007. It made for interesting information for those who want to stop the people traffickers in the villages.

### **POVERTY OFTEN HAS (INTER)NATIONAL CAUSES**

That is why we also support the political actions of our partner organisations.

Broederlijk Delen's work concerning policy influencing also involves support to the political actions of our partner organisations. That is clearly visible in India. The rural organisations are getting stronger and more articulate. They are starting up a dialogue with the authorities and they are standing up for their rights, both locally and nationally. To this end our partner organisations are working together with other networks in the federal states and in India. A great victory was the law of 2006, which recognizes the right of the indigenous peoples to their territories and to their managing of the forest. Claiming this right is often a fierce struggle, though. The movement of domestic workers NDWM, has been fighting people trafficking on many fronts for years and it has defended the rights of children and women that work as house personnel. It demands an official statute for domestic workers and an official recognition of their work as labour. Broederlijk Delen also supports these demands through the joint campaign of the north-south organisations '2015 De tijd loopt' (2015 Time is running out).

**A list of all partner organisations in India and more information on our work can be found on [www.broederlijkdelen.be](http://www.broederlijkdelen.be)**