

The greatest thing that the Buddha has done is to tell the world that it can not be reformed except by the reformation of the mind of man, and the mind of the world
Dr B.R. Ambedkar, Dalit Leader & First Indian Law Minister.



KARUNA

Here are some images of India. Please feel free to use these.



Indian child



Indian slum



A village mother and her child



A child labourer working in a kiln



Child labourers working in a brick making factory



Medical project operating in a slum



Ashvaghosa Performing Arts Project

The Ashvagosha project was set up in the early 1990s as a way of developing cultural activities among the poor communities in slums and rural areas. Teams of performers visit the localities and put on performances of sketches and specially composed songs. The shows reflect the concerns that are uppermost in the minds of the people from these communities- issues such as alcoholism, domestic violence, superstition, and child health. The performers bring a level of humour and energy to their performances, ensuring that the messages are conveyed in a straightforward way.



Khairlanji Massacre

The image is of Mr Bhotmange whose entire family – wife, daughter and two sons – were murdered during a caste based attack on 29th September 2006 in Khairlanji village. Surekha Bhotmange, her daughter Priyanka and her two sons Roshan and Sudhir were dragged from their home by a mob, stripped naked, beaten to death, and their bodies dumped in a canal. Bhaiyyalal Bhotmange, the father of the family, escaped by a lucky chance. The details of this caste-based crime are sickening, and the hatred behind it is difficult to comprehend, but the viciousness is typical of the many crimes committed against lower caste people in India every day. Most of these crimes are invisible, but this atrocity came to light through Dalit campaigns and became an international news story. The Manuski Project, supported by Karuna, played an important part in making that happen.



In India, over 10 million children are unable to complete their schooling because of poverty and 4 out of 10 people are totally illiterate.

Children attending a class in a Balwadi
(an Indian kindergarten)



Nilam Devangam at her work as an incense roller



Whenever possible Karuna's projects help people to become self sufficient. Instead of giving material help, they try to create situations where people can come together to find common solutions to their own difficulties. Savings schemes have been one of the most successful projects in accomplishing this. One such project has enabled women to purchase sewing machines which provides their families with a regular source of income.

A girl with her sewing machine

How can you help?



- Join a 6-week door-to-door Appeal in 2010
 - Signing up new supporters on the doors raising funds to support projects in South Asia
- Participate in a Phone Campaign
 - Phoning existing supporters to communicate the benefits of Karuna's work in South Asia with a view to them increasing their regular donation
- Join the Karuna Fundraising Community House
 - Live, eat & breath fundraising with others in community for a whole year!

If you're feeling inspired or curious to find out more about how you can help Karuna's work in South Asia:

Call Jo, Pete or Khemajala on 0207 697 3026

Or email them at appeals@karuna.org

And you can check out the website www.appeals.karuna.org