

GEMELS & ESG: the importance of giving a future to the youngest

The company supports the Polse-Olavina Halli association to improve the education of the poorest children in India.



GEMELS SPA has always been in search of the 17 Goals set out in the Agenda 2030 in accordance with NU directives of the 25 September 2015. Among the Goals to be achieved, the company reserves a particular focus to some of these, such as defeat hunger and poverty, ensure quality education and the necessary support to face with climate change, protect and safeguarding the environment around us.

An example: among the most recent news that affect GEMELS SPA, there is the current situation in India, the second most affected country in the world for number of infections after the United States. Covid is hardly affecting this country for this reason, every day it is recording a huge number of new cases and deaths.

GEMELS S.p.A. is particularly sensitive to this topic and it has long helped the Polse-Olavina Halli association, supporting poor children in the country of Olavina Halli in India (for more information visit the website: www.polseolavinahalli.it). The first meeting between these two realities goes back to 15 years ago thanks to Daniele B., a dear friend who GEMELS has known for a long time, committed promoter of solidarity initiatives.

The Polse-Olavina Halli association was born in 2003, as a result of the twinning between the *Fondazione Carnica* of Zuglio "La Polse di Còugnes" and the Indian village (Karnataka) of Oliviana Halli – founded by Sister Amelia Cimolino.

Here is the testimony of the last travel to India with Antonietta, who has been a volunteer of the association for ages.

"In November 2019 we visited the children of the village in Olavina Halli. These travels convey strong and moving emotions, between multiple realities and many visions and feelings that are printed in the heart.

During the "welcome ceremony" in these villages you are greeted with dances, music, and songs from school children, from kindergarten to middle school, dressed and masked for the event. We are welcomed with avenues of flower petals, it's really exciting!



We felt their poverty, dignity and the desire to change of these guys. School is important for them, not only for culture but also because it is the place where they share thoughts, desires and hope for a better future. It's nice to meet nuns and all those people who with a smile and their hands joined in front of the face welcome saying 'NAMASTE' ".

Thanks to the donations, the association has managed to build computer science and biology classrooms with a lot of equipment, considering the situation of poverty of these areas. In 2020, the offers for these associations have come less and less. Every little bit helps.

The eyes of these people show shyness, and maybe awareness that their fate depends on who can help them like Polse-Olavina Halli did.

How much hope do these people have to get out of misery? A lot, because their trust in the future, in a better world than the one in which they are forced to live in today, hidden behind their smiles, is a lot. The Covid-19 is destroying these poor communities; schools are still closed and the leaky damage is the risk of an early school drop-out.

Restoring human dignity, this is the motto of Polse-Olavina Halli! Give the person a job, reunite him with his family or give him the chance to create one, that's the real purpose of life.

"What would we like to do?" - they tell us from GEMELS - "We would like to keep supporting the association in an important way and, thanks to the donations of all of us, we desire to make Sister Amelia's dream happen, that is to make sure the self-financing of the village thanks to plantations and farms that have been helping to support most of the management costs of the village itself for ages."



