

## Brief history of TEWF in India

The main thrust of the work of The East West Foundation in India has been to meaningfully engage the rural poor and disadvantaged people at Alamparai through a range of initiatives in health care and community medicine, child welfare, education, and community development work.

- I founded The East West Foundation (TEWOAF) in June 1992 in Australia as a volunteer driven overseas aid Charitable and Educational Foundation to assist people in need overseas with health care, child welfare and education. It has worked in PNG until 1997, but largely in India since its inception. It has been granted DGR status by the Australian Government and donations made towards its work with the underprivileged overseas are tax deductible in Australia.
- In 1993 The East West Foundation of India was founded in India (TEWFI) conforming to the regulations in India to ensure transparency and accountability of all donations made in India or overseas. As a result of it proving its bonafides through its works in India TEWFI is recognized by the Government of India as a charitable Foundation, has DGR status in India, and also has FCRA permission from the Reserve Bank of India to receive foreign funds directly into its account.
- Since 1993 TEWF has assisted and worked with a number of Indian NGOs and organizations and formed strong affiliations with them over the years (see website)
- In 1994 Project Mahabalipuram was floated by TEWOAF and attracted 20 participants from around the world who donated moneys to TEWFI to enable it to form a charitable community and engage one small segment of rural India positively and meaningfully as per its charter.
- In 1995-6 I chose the then rather inaccessible and remote rural fishing village of Alamparai for TEWF to engage with and make 'a little difference' in. This evolved into purchase of land there by TEWF in 1996, and the provision of its first and still only primary health care at the Uluru Health Care Centre (UHCC) in 1998, community development work, and then to the purchase of land in 2002 and building on it to care for destitute (female) children. The Uluru Children's Home (UCH) took in the first batch of children in late 2003 with 38 children being cared for there at present. It is preparing to take in about 45 more children over the next few years. UCH cares for a particularly vulnerable group of female children in the Indian community. At UCH they are given the essentials of food, clothing and shelter - all in a safe, loving and caring environment. Most importantly, they have access to health care and education, which are crucial in giving them life prospects that they would otherwise be denied. Located at Alamparai village, about 100 kms south of Chennai in coastal South India, the Home is a unique venture, which has become an integral part of the local Alamparai community.
- All along the Foundation has been involved in community development work in Alamparai, fostering youth and self help groups in the community. Not only does TEWF provide employment to local villagers, but it also prefers to make all its necessary purchases from local small businesses. TEWF has also provided the local State primary school with teachers, desks, fans etc. It has also built its first toilet block at the school, which is used by more than 200 students. Thanks to the electronic Educational Centre (eEC) at the Uluru Children's Home, with a six computer network, the children at UCH and from the Alamparai community receive computer lessons several times a week, with the wider community from surrounding areas also benefiting from the facility. At present a 35 screen facility is under construction to benefit the community. Initiatives such as empowerment of women in the local community through education and micro-finance initiatives are already in place.
- The Uluru Health Care Centre (UHCC) has been providing free health care for a population of around 15,000 people over the past nine years, and is also involved in The Post Tsunami Health Care and Research Project (PTHCRP) that is looking after the long term psychosocial and medical care and welfare of the families in the neighbouring villages affected by the 2004 Tsunami. Its excellent work was recognized in TEWF being invited by the Government of India to present the work of the PTHCRP at the first National Disaster Management Conference in New Delhi in November 2006.

I would refer you to our 2 websites [www.tewoaf.org.au](http://www.tewoaf.org.au) (the Australian one) and [www.tewfi.org](http://www.tewfi.org) (Indian)

Chandran (July 2007)