



ABOUT DIWA

Diwa is a small organization based in the Netherlands and entirely running by volunteers of Dutch and Pakistani Christian backgrounds. Our strategy is to work in close cooperation with local organizations in Pakistan.

In 2003, Shahlla Gill, one of the founders of Diwa, started a little school for poor children in her hometown Francisabad, a Christian Colony in Gujranwala, Pakistan. To support this work from the Netherlands, early 2010 Stichting Diwa was raised.

The mission of Diwa is to support vulnerable people in Pakistan in order to improve their livelihood as a sign of Christian compassion and justice. The vision of Diwa is a literate society where everyone has equal opportunities in every sphere of life.



Diwa is a Punjabi word and means little lamp. The philosophy behind Diwa as a name of the organization is to spread light by providing education in the lives of the deprived part of Pakistani society and give them a brighter future perspective.



SUPPORT THE BRICK KILN WORKERS OF GUJRWALA



To support our Brick Kiln Workers Education Project, please make a donation to bank account: 157 078 493 by name of: Brick Kiln Workers, and make a difference in these needy people's life.

You can also visit our website www.stichtingdiwa.nl. If you tag the newsletter button, we will keep you informed with our periodic newsletter.

If you have any question, or you want to organize an action to support the work of Diwa, please contact secretary Jan Dirk Schouten, phone: +31 (0)10 226 63 56.

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BRICK KILN WORKERS EDUCATION PROJECT
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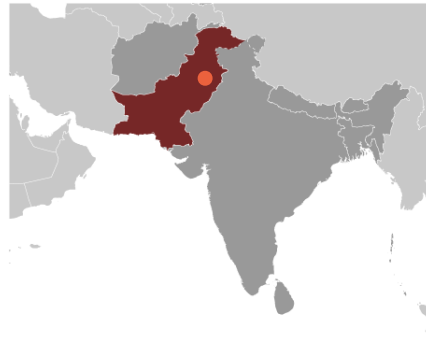
background

Brick kiln workers in Pakistan are very poor and work in inhumane conditions. There are about 1.8 million workers in brick kilns in the Punjab region of Pakistan. The most of them belong to minorities (Christians, Hindus) or are immigrants.

The brick kiln workers are working as bounded labourers. That means they have a labour-credit contract and are obliged to work for the employer for reduced wages or for no wages at all until the debt is repaid. Often the brick kiln workers are illiterate, so its difficult for them to understand what contract they sign. Often these contracts are based on oral agreements.

When children of brick kiln workers are born, they are often not registered as legal citizens of Pakistan. Thats why they have very limited access to health care and right to vote.

Children of the brick kiln workers don't get chances to go to school due to unaffordable educational expenses. Thus, they help their parents in household or by making bricks. Because they have very limited opportunities to find other jobs, they live the same life as their parents do.



Brick Kiln Workers Education Project

Gujranwala is one of the five largest cities in Pakistan. It has a big community of brick kiln workers.

To support these brick kiln workers, Diwa developed a program in cooperation with a local partner organization, PSTA, in Pakistan.

The aim of the program is to empower the brick kiln workers and provide them with opportunities to break out of the negative spiral of working in the brick kiln.



This will be done by:

- Establishing ten primary schools for children on the brick kiln locations in Gujranwala. The schools will provide books, uniforms, stationery and training materials to the enrolled students.
- Providing literacy courses for adults
- Providing training programs for the teachers.
- Convincing the brick workers of the importance of education and make them aware about the benefits of legalization. We will do this by organizing meetings in the homes of the brick kiln workers.
- Helping the brick kiln worker families to register themselves officially as pakistani citizens. They will be able to vote and become more aware of their rights.