

TIDE - Training In Deaf Education (Sri Lanka)

TIDE is a charity founded in Sri Lanka by Anne East of the United Kingdom: it has been funded by SCOT in the recent past.

The problem?

Deaf children need to be educated in an environment appropriate for their particular needs. There are 21 special schools for deaf children in Sri Lanka, but currently there are no training courses for teachers of the deaf.

How does this affect the children?

In many establishments the levels of teaching and learning are significantly lower than in mainstream schools. Not only are the deaf pupils unable to achieve any formal qualifications, they also lack the skills for independent living, including basic literacy.

What does TIDE do?

Tide offers in-school training programmes specially formulated to address the needs of teachers in special schools in Sri Lanka.

Who is TIDE?

TIDE is a group of teachers and trainers with special expertise in deaf education. The training programme was initiated by Anne East who has 35 years experience in this field.

Photographs

The photographs below were taken in November 2014 and are of the opening of the new library at the Nuffield School for the deaf and blind, Kaithadi.

They show the then Principal of the School, Mr Mahendiren, together with Ms Clare Allen, whose charity "Rebuilding Sri Lanka" funded the library. This charity works in partnership with TIDE (Training in Deaf Education).

SCOT generously funded TIDE for a three year project 2012, 2013, 2014, training teachers at the school and improving the quality of education for the children there. The new library is an offshoot of this, but SCOT did not directly fund the library.

The library has both English and Tamil books, covering a range of subjects, and which will be very beneficial for the deaf children's education.

In addition, audio-books have been provided for the blind.

The last training course was held in August 2014, when we trained a specially selected group of teachers to enable them to train others and thus to improve other special schools in the Northern Province.

The language used at the school is Tamil Sign Language, and written Tamil. The pupils are also encouraged to develop skills in lip reading and spoken

The photographs in this article have been provided to SCOT through Dr Ranjit Thambyrajah.

Tamil, as far as their level of hearing permits. They have regular English Lessons, as children would in a mainstream school in Sri Lanka.

You are welcome to visit my website www.tidesrilanka.org

Anne East



Anne East

Born and educated in the UK, Anne East first went to Sri Lanka in 1967 to work as a lecturer at the Teacher Training College, Peradeniya. On returning to England in 1969, Anne studied to become a specialist teacher of deaf and hearing-impaired children. After 35 years experience of Deaf Education in the UK, Anne went to Rohana Special School, Matara, to advise the teachers.

“In September 1967 I was sent by Voluntary Service Overseas to work at the Government Training College in Peradeniya, a specialist college to train teachers of English. On my return to England in 1969 I continued to teach English at a London comprehensive school. A few months later a Sri Lankan friend contacted me to ask whether I would help her Aunt who was coming to England to get hearing aids and educational advice for her profoundly deaf daughter. Meeting that little deaf girl gave me the desire to change my career and I subsequently trained as a teacher of the deaf and worked for 35 years with deaf children in London. One day in January 2006 I arrived at work to be told by the headteacher, ‘There’s a man here who is asking us to help a deaf school in Sri Lanka. He found our address in the phone book. What do you think?’ I didn’t need to be asked twice!”