



The 22 participants of the 14th kanthari course

kanthari Quarterly Newsletter 2-2023

"Thus spoke Zaratustra!"

Those with this music piece in their ears know the tension it brings, the little adrenaline rush triggered by the rising organ tones and the subsequent drum rolls.

But for our kanthari participants, this piece has a very special meaning. It symbolizes the beginning of the kanthari, a 'journey in 5 acts' curriculum, serving as the theme song for the first of many major speeches the participants have to deliver.

Through this first speech, we gain insight into their project ideas, the social issue that drives them, and their compelling life stories, which in most cases have a direct connection to their place and projects.

This year, we have 22 participants from 11 different countries. Many of them have a personal interest in poverty alleviation, building training centres for people with disabilities, and projects related to climate change and ecological agriculture. No project idea is the same; each one is unique. It poses a great challenge for us, but it also makes the work all the more exciting...

Dear friends and supporters of the kanthari Institute,

The second quarter of this year was very eventful. It all started with the online course, a six-week program that precedes the journey in 5 acts, the actual curriculum. Once a week, in Zoom sessions, they are introduced to important methods and tools, such



Johny Sulistio from Indonesia (66) is the oldest participant in 2023



Eltrud Okeyo with one of her beneficiaries of Rieko in Kenya



Mafah Kuta
Wandusoa, Cameroon

as setting up a database, getting started with photography, time management, and financial planning. The preparatory online course also serves as a final check to determine if the selected participants are truly suitable for the more intensive program on campus.

Online Graduation

Since the time of the Covid pandemic, we have largely overcome our reluctance to participate in online events. Although we prefer workshops conducted face-to-face, the online graduation ceremony has been a fixed and now popular part of the curriculum. All participants from the 2022 generation had the opportunity to share how their projects fared in the initial phase, the first three months of the fifth act, with invited guests. During the fifth act, they were mentored by kanthari alumni from the same region. The results they reported in their short speeches were very impressive. Here are some examples:

[Propolis – India/France](#)

Charlotte Cotton - 2022 kanthari

Charlotte from France travelled through South India with her friend and conducted workshops in over 50 schools and training centres on the topic of taboos. The teenagers who had never learned to talk about death, ageing, sexuality, and love were fascinated by these newfound freedoms. While some adults were sceptical, Charlotte has the ability to win over even the most critical and conservative teachers with her spontaneity. Her organization, Propolis, aims to empower children and young people

to express themselves and communicate about everything that moves them.

[Akhin - Nigeria](#)

Israel Balogun - 2022 kanthari

Israel comes from Nigeria. At the age of nine, he ran away from home, in the hope that he would be better off on the streets. His family, consisting of a father, two women, and a total of 24 children, was too large to take care of each child individually. He was homeless for 12 years and only learned to read and write when he turned 22. He caught up on his education and studied media sciences. Immediately after the kanthari course in the fifth act, he returned to the streets and convinced 10 street children to join his organization, Akhin. Akhin means "resilience" and that's how he sees his target group. They learn to accept their own story through sports and film, and through Akhin, they have the opportunity to join regular schools if they so desire.

[Wandusoa - Cameroon](#)

Mafah Kuta - 2022 kanthari

Kuta from Cameroon is a passionate farmer. His topic is the preservation of topsoil. Worldwide, there is a great danger that fertile soil will be lost due to floods or pesticides. However, without topsoil, humanity is lost. His organization, Wandusoa was noticed quickly. Parliamentarians and journalists in Cameroon became aware of Kuta's initiative through an article in a magazine and offered



Charlotte Cotton



Akhin - Israel Balogun

red support. Wandusoa mainly focuses on youth but is now also ready to offer workshops on top-soil for influencers and politicians.

[Rieko - Kenya](#)

Eltrud Okeyo - 2022 kanthari

Eltrud from Kenya surprised our two catalysts, Chacko and Riya, who travelled to East Africa in February to visit kanthari projects. Since Eltrud had just returned from India, they were not expecting what they encountered: she had already established a functioning initiative in just six weeks. Eltrud works on "Destigmatizing the elderly through the establishment of a community for young and old." In Kenya, elderly people are often seen as witches. Superstition and violence against people over 80 are common in many rural areas. The community she set up is called Rieko (Wisdom). Here, older people take care of young children, and young people, in turn, care for the older generation.

[kanthari—several](#)

In the past three months, we have been engaged in several talks and events:

- At the Society for Human Resource Management, a tech conference, the focus was on the power of resilience and the quantum shift that barrier-free technology has gone, and is going through.

- At the Deutsche Welle Global Media Forum, one of the world's

largest media conferences, we were commissioned to give a speech on "[Disability in the media.](#)"

- On June 16, kanthari was awarded the prestigious [Martin Buber Plaque](#). The plaque is given to individuals who, in the spirit of Buber's philosophy, have worked for a more peaceful world using dialogue as a tool.

- Sanjana Samraj has released an [informative video about kanthari](#).

And the kanthari blog posts can be read [here](#)

Dear friends and supporters,

On behalf of the kanthari Change Makers and our team, we would like to thank you for your great interest in our work.

Without your help, it would be impossible to run kanthari and therefore we say thank you for your ongoing support.

Please share this newsletter with family members, friends, and anyone who is interested. Thank you! With warm regards from the kanthari campus,

sabriye and paul
www.kanthari.org



YOUR DONATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE !

With your donation, you support the training of marginalized persons that enables them running their own projects. Your donation has an impact over many years and reaches countless people in need around the world.

You can donate [HERE](#).

Thank you!