



The 2023 participants and the kanthari team



kanthari

Quarterly newsletter 4-2023

"On New Year's Eve, the whole world celebrates the fact that a date changes. Let us celebrate the dates on which we change the world."

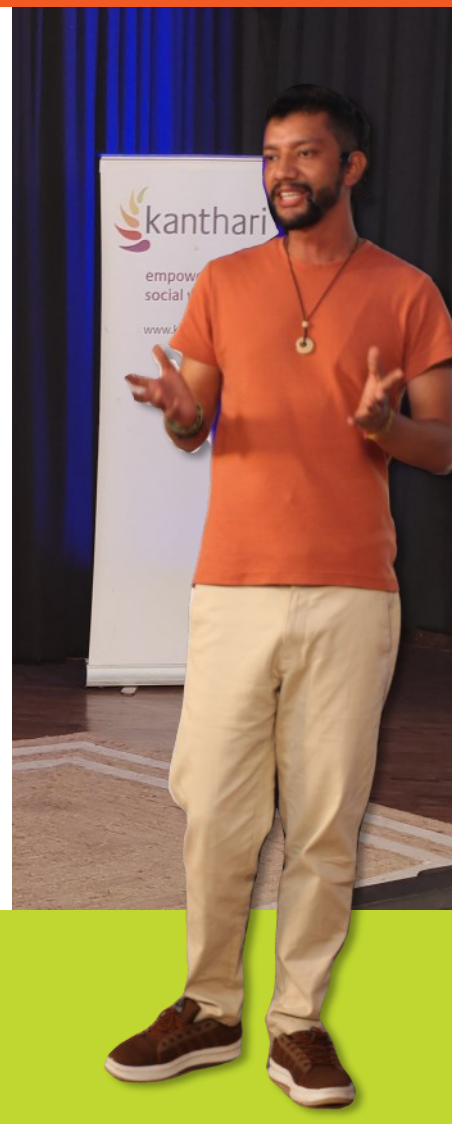
— Akilnathan Logeswaran

The hall is filled to the last seat. Everyone is eagerly waiting for the next speaker, Krishna Dulal from Nepal. He begins his story on the streets of Kathmandu. It's winter, and very cold. Krishna was 9 years old when he, his two years younger sister, and his mother were abandoned by his father. The mother was suffering from epilepsy, and local healers couldn't help her. They believed she was possessed by demons, and both children were equally cursed. Krishna vividly describes how his mother writhed in seizures amidst a crowd of gaping onlookers, and the two siblings, as small as they were, had to anxiously take care of her and their food. Rokpa, an institution for

orphaned children, took in the siblings, and they grew up in a home. The organisation also supported the mother with medical care and setting up a small tea shop.

Dear friends and supporters,

As in every year, the last quarter of the year is full of events, and it is not easy for us to select the highlights. But let's start with the most recent one, the kanthari TALKS, which was, as usual, a remarkable occasion. 22 participants shared their personal stories, the problems and challenges they have faced, and, of course, their planned solutions to address the same. The integrated films, dances, and reenacted scenes from their childhood or crises complemented the stories well. We also showed 14 short films about the work of kanthari alumni. The event was moderated by Sristi KC and Priya



Mutongi (left) from Zimbabwe was born HIV positive started an orphanage for AIDS orphans. Krishna from Nepal supports farmers in the countryside of Nepal.



Bosedede from Nigeria during the SPREAD THE SPICE exhibition. She empowers women in a.o. Tie & Dye skills



Eltrud from Kenya with Nyoboo (Margret), one of her beneficiaries

Mohan. You can watch all the speeches again at www.kantharitalks.org

SPREAD THE SPICE

Every act in the kanthari curriculum has an exciting finale. The third act ended with the "SPREAD THE SPICE," exhibition that was held in the city of Trivandrum. While we assisted in organizing in previous years, this year we dared to experiment by entrusting the entire planning and implementation to the participants. This included project planning, fundraising, and all media work. For three days, visitors from Trivandrum were guided through the exhibition. An exhibition of future ideas, new approaches to solutions, and all visitors gained insight into the sometimes grim realities of the home regions of our Changemakers.

The Curriculum Workshop

In a one-week workshop, Participants learned about a different approach to curriculum development that we created at kanthari. Almost all participants had elements of training and education in their plans. In this workshop, it became concrete. Who are the learners? Are they children or adults? Why would they be interested in the proposed topic, and, very importantly, why is it relevant to them? After the workshop, everyone had designed their own curricula, each telling an individual story. Some of these curricula found their way into their graduation speeches. Nelson from Malawi fights against malnutrition. While other NGOs focus on parents, he plans a mobile children's kitchen where 5 to 9-year-olds learn to cook and grow vegetables. His curriculum tells the story of the five taste sensations, and for each taste, there is an

exciting learning theme. Mary from Kenya, who founded a hotel school for slum youth, structured her curriculum like a six-course menu. In her speech, it was presented very vividly. From the appetizer to the espresso, each course was associated with a course of a meal.

Alumni

Eltrud Akeyo - Rieko - Kenya (2022)
www.riekowise.org

Rieko Village: Bridging Generations, Building Dignity. Eltrud witnessed her grandmother to die an extremely undignified death. No one, neither the neighbors nor the doctors, wanted to help her, because she suffered from dementia. RIEKO VILLAGE offers a platform that brings aged persons, young people and children together through programs and activities that uniformly serve different age groups' needs, making them benefit from each other's skills and talents while using one another as a resource, hence promoting intergenerational engagement. To date Rieko supports 30 elderly persons, 75 children and 40 teenagers.

Teh Francis – Cameroon (2016)
www.ekcameroon.org

Enkindle Cameroon was started in 2016 by Teh Francis Yai as a means of promoting the socio-economic empowerment of rural women in Cameroon. The organization provides leadership training, business training and Table Banking. It is only when women have sustainable work and income that they can make major contributions to their children's education. All of the training takes place in a conflict zone, and to date more than 1400 women have been trained. 74 young mothers have also received vocational training education and about 600 children have



SPREAD THE SPICE 2023



New posters with infos of the 2023 participants

had access to a hassle free education through the Child Sponsorship and Scholarship Program. This has indirectly affected more than 16000 people. At the end of 2023, Enkindle Cameroon has been busy preparing expanding their work in further communities.

Raja KR - GNE - India (2011)

www.gnequality.org

Breaking Chains, Building Futures: GNE's Holistic Approach to Justice. GNE-India provides education, healthcare, legal aid, and other services that are required to give opportunities to children of crime victims. Additionally, Raja advocates for a rehabilitation approach for prisoners with restorative justice principles. After Raja graduated from kanthari in 2012, he became a lawyer and already supported 500+ invisible children of crime victims, in 12+ districts in Tamil Nadu and has successfully intervened in 80+ legal cases that lead to more of ensuring human rights in the prison system, and the release of innocently locked up persons.

kanthari in the media:

The press in Kerala has been curious these months and has published several articles about the kanthari Institute and especially about the stories of the participants:

- New Indian Times
- [Crossing continents with a dream](#)
- The New Indian Express
- [Spicing up Social Change](#)
- Kleine chili voor grote verandering (a small chili makes a big difference)
- Peel en Maas, Holland
- We have been invited to speak at several events:- Empower 2023, the 6th Assistive Technology Conference, at [Keraleeyam](#) and at the Na-

tional Institute for Speech and Hearing (NISH)

- and here you can find our [kanthari blog posts](#)

Dear friends and supporters. It has been an exciting year for kanthari. We have a motivated team that is well-tuned and we all agree that this year's batch was special. It was a balanced group, even despite the wide age range, the youngest being 23 and the oldest 66. There were those with much and others with less experience, with and without school or university degrees, and with or without disabilities. And despite or perhaps because of this diversity, there was a consistent high engagement and great solidarity among them. The 22 Changemakers from 11 countries have now returned to their home regions where they started implementing their ideas. This encourages us and we are looking forward to hearing the impact that they will realize in their communities!

All of this is only possible because of your help. THANK you for your ongoing support! We thank you for sharing/forwarding this newsletter with/to others who are interested.

We herewith wish you ALL the very best for the new year. Stay healthy and do not lose the motivation to change something, both, in small or large ways.

*With warmest regards,
The entire kanthari team,
sabriye and paul*

Scan the QR
code to donate

Thank you



Teh Francis, the founder of Enkindle Cameroon



Kerala's Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan visited the kanthari booth at Keraleeyam



16-12-2023 - kanthari certification ceremony

YOUR DONATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE !

With your donation, you support the training of marginalized persons that enables them to run 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!