

In the last two years there were several reports about MoseMinistries in different media sources and I have been shocked every time when I read all the lies and false accusations against Pastor Gideon Jacob and the girls of the MoseMinistries home, which were spread throughout the media. I myself have frequently been to India for many years and I know ALL the girls personally, most of them from their first day of life! The MoseMinistries Home was founded in 1994 in Usilampatti, it was a house in the centre of town with a recognisable board. What ever happened in that home has never been secret or hidden from public! As years went by, the home got more and more known by the hospitals as well as by the people living in Usilampatti. More and more hospitals, midwives and parents approached the co-workers of the home with the request to take unwanted female babies, who were either abandoned in the hospital or were in danger of being killed by their families. The problem of female infanticide in India is well known all over the world and even the neighbours of the home admitted at the time of establishment of the home that in the very same street there was not even one family who had not killed at least one of their girl daughters. It was said during that time in Usilampatti, that in 50% of the families every second and further girl child was killed. This cruel practice touched Pastor Gideon's heart and the hearts of his co-workers, whom I all know personally. This brought them to the decision to establish the MoseMinistries home. Some of the children who were handed over to the home were handicapped, heavily underdeveloped, malnourished or severely sick. The co-workers made every effort even to stay awake sometimes whole nights to watch over these children to watch that they would stay alive – sometimes up to their own limits of strength. Two of the girls came to the home with a cleft lip and palate which was the reason why their families rejected them. Will anyone who is involved in human trafficking ever take such a child? But for Pastor Gideon Jacob it has never been a matter of hesitation to grant them plastic surgery so that they can live a life in dignity. In this very home in Usilampatti children whose birthweight was not more than 1500g survived! Not even one child ever disappeared or died under mysterious circumstances. In the initial time the children mainly came through the government hospital, later on more and more requests also came from private hospitals to take rejected girl babies. None of the hospitals during this time ever issued a birth certificate as it was unusual and not required by law. By and by parents themselves came to the home to hand over their newborn girl babies, often with tears in their eyes. They simply didn't see any perspective for their girls as they already had several daughters at home and did not know how to afford the dowry for another girl. I come from a totally different culture and only understood with time what made the parents take such a grave step to give away their own child. I am not judging these parents but see a heavy responsibility for these girls to care for them in the best possible way! From the very beginning the home had a separate file for each girl, which contained a documentation of the development of the child, important legal documents, medical reports etc. Through all the years these files were available to me for inspection! The home carried out all necessary and partly highly expensive surgeries to save the lives of the girls or increase the quality of their lives. A doctor from Madurai came to visit the home on a regular basis and examined the children, checked their health status and development and took necessary medical actions, which later continued in Trichy as well. Also, nurses were always present in the home. The children received all of the advised vaccinations – which can also be seen in the files. The food was always good and well balanced. Even this I can verify personally.

As the children grew older, the whole home was transferred to Trichy (which by the way had been the plan from the very beginning!) to give the children a better chance for their education. It has always been Pastor Gideon's goal to educate the girls in the best way according to their talents and preferences so that they can one day stand on their own feet and earn their own living. I could regularly inform myself about the development and improvement of the girls. As I am partly familiar with the Tamil language, I could personally speak with the children. Rejected children are fighting

with many problems, especially when they grow older, but in spite of that I have always seen these children as joyful, self-confident and goal-orientated. They do not show any sign at all of being out of touch with reality or unable to live or suffering from the so-called Stockholm syndrome or being neglected in any way. In none of my conversations with the girls was there even a hint of evidence of sexual abuse or assault nor did the girls show any symptoms which would have indicated any suspicion of any kind of physical or emotional abuse or exploitation. As a professional social worker, I am capable of recognizing such disorders very easily. I am really astonished that the accusations of unconcerned third parties are taken more serious than the relieving statements of the alleged victims of abuse! Here I can't but ask the question what are the real motives of the accusers and who is the one committing abuse in reality!

The hygienic conditions in the home have never given any reason for complaint, only the contrary. In comparison to other Indian hostels – and I have seen many in India – they were excellent. The same applies to the equipment of the home, the space and freedom of movement, the leisure activities, the chances given to the girls and the general provision of the girls.

Even though the Home was publicly well known in Usilampatti and even after the transfer of the girls to Trichy, it was easy to find out the new address, none of the parents ever showed up or tried to get in contact with their daughters throughout all the years.

Twice in a space of two years, a group of 8-10 girls were taken to Germany with the full consent of the social authorities. Yes, the children performed dances, sang songs and shared about their lives, but it was never used for collecting money or for abuse or prostitution! As I was present myself at that time, I guess I am able to give a more truthful witness than the media!

I got to know Pastor Gideon Jacob in Germany – even before MoseMinistries was founded and there has been a deep friendship between us throughout the years till today. Never ever has he been involved in any illegal activity, human trafficking or abuse. He has seen the girls from childhood on as if they were his own daughters and treated them likewise. He never approached any of the girls in a dirty or suggestive manner. The girls themselves see him as their father – as their physical father had rejected them – and I am deeply shocked that for the second time in their lives they have to experience the loss and separation from those people who are closest to them, who give them security and love them unconditionally.

I want to ask a final question: Is the imprisonment of Pastor Gideon Jacob, the lying accusations against him and the incapacitation of the girls by the social authorities the answer of a country, which proudly calls itself a constitutional state, to the deeds of a man who has invested his whole life for the sake of disadvantaged people in his own nation and therefore has saved the lives of 89 girls? Using defenceless people, destroying their lives and robbing them of their fundamental rights as well as depriving an innocent person of his freedom only to show power... is that the idea of 'Make in India'?

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