

# Sri Lankan Hope for Children

Dear sponsor parents,

2018-2019

The political situation has changed since the arrival of the new president. This happened 3 years ago.

He promised to help schools and the people but instead he and the government became a robber of the Sri Lankan Central Bank. They have put this money into different countries.

Nowadays the country is so poor, and the government has many debts. They had to sell the harbor to China and one of the airports is in Indian hands.

So they try to get money of the people by putting tax on everything.

Last year they started by adding 10 percent tax .

Afterwards they increased the tax another 4 times. So in 10 months it went up by 15, 10, 20 and 15 percent.

**When I was there (around the 15 October) the taxes for stationary (books, paper, notebooks, exercise books etc.), shoes and fabric went up again with another 20 percent!!!!**

They changed this only now as it is nearly the end of the school year and every child needs new school items.

It is a very sad situation. So many schools ask for help.

As an organization we are stuck. We cannot help as many children anymore but **also the 50 euro is not enough anymore.**

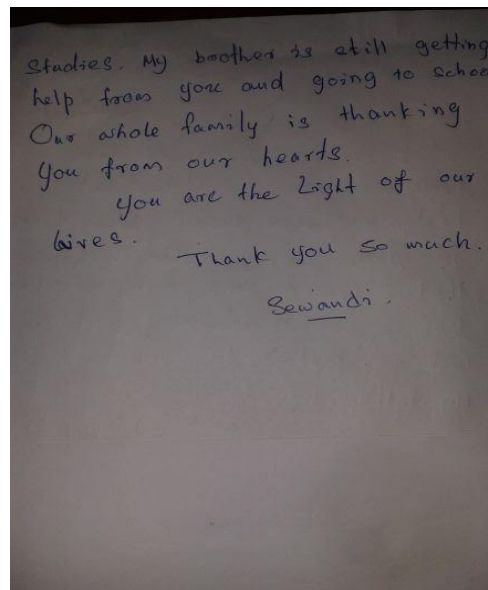
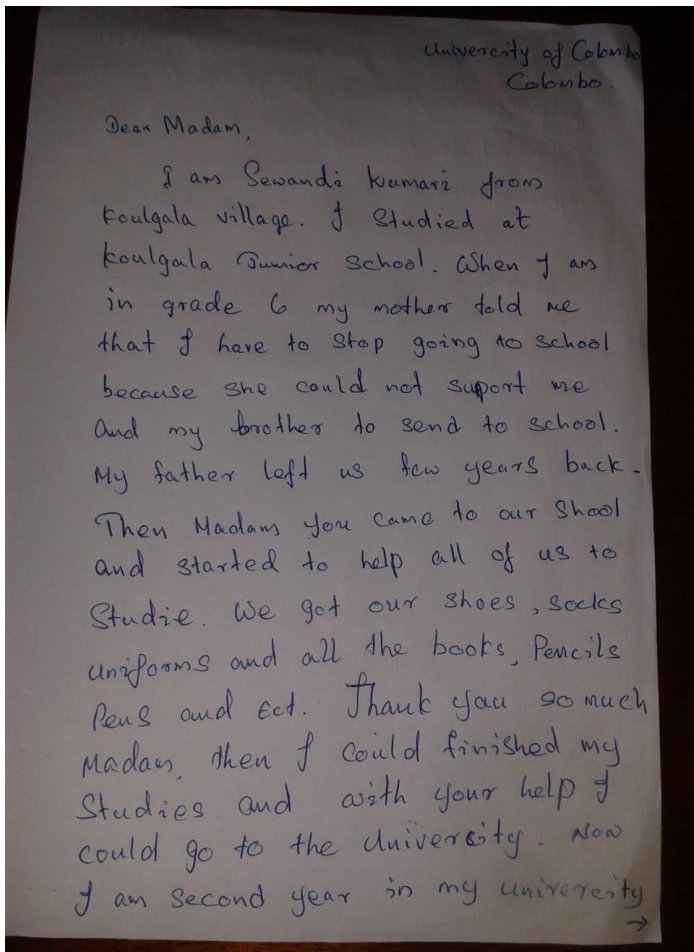
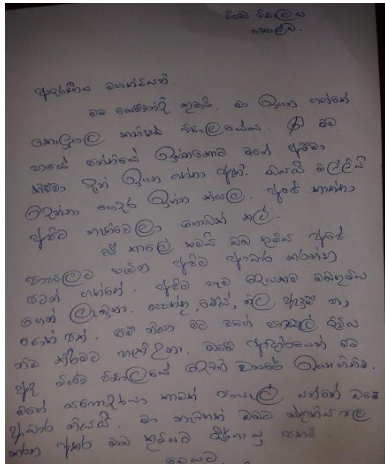
The teachers tell us: please buy the books and the kids can walk to school without shoes. This is better than no books .

**No books = no school.**

From next year onwards we have no other choice then to increase the amount by 5,00 euro per child.

This year you can choose how much you can give your child. Or the amount like it is in the letter or you might be able to give something extra.

As we don't want to finish on a sad note we like to show you a letter from one of the sponsor children who made it to university because of the help we gave.



Because of admin problems we could not get the letters earlier to you. Ramani had to get a loan to pay for the children upfront.

The end of the school year is the end of November. She needs to pay this back in time ( end of November) otherwise interest will follow.

This is of course what we don't want as we like it to go to the kids. The banks have stricter rules because of all the countries money problems. So please if possible pay before the 25th of November.

Thank you.

Greetings from Ramani Smits and Natasja Lammers

Email: [natasjalammers@hotmail.com](mailto:natasjalammers@hotmail.com)