

**Profile of Cyril Mooney Ph.D.
social entrepreneur and Principal of Loreto Day School, Calcutta, India**

Cyril Mooney Ph.D was born in Ireland 1936, and came to India in 1956. In 1989 she became Principal of Loreto Day School, an outstanding English Medium School for girls in Calcutta. The Loreto Order is active in India since 1842, runs 19 mega-schools and institutions in the country, and is famous among the wealthy population for the excellent quality of education. From the beginning of her appointment, sr. Cyril Mooney has turned the concept of 'The School as a Ressource Center for the Poor' into reality, and for this and many other social innovations received international recognition.

A few examples of social innovative projects, initiated by Cyril Mooney:

1. **Mixing children from a wealthy background with slum children.** Loreto Education is very popular among the wealthy population in India, and Loreto schools were elite schools for girls. After becoming principal of Loreto Day School, Calcutta, Cyril decided that 50% of the 1400 pupils of the school should come from the poorest families, mostly from slum area's, who are unable to pay the schoolfees. In order to achieve this, she had to overcome considerable resistance from the wealthy parents, but she succeeded.
2. **Rainbow day school for street children.** Within Loreto Day School, she started a separate day-school (drop-in school) for street children, who can come in at any time of the day, and there is always a teacher available. Each street child has an individual file, and in this 'Rainbow' school, regular pupils teach the street children on a one - to - one basis. Also here, the Indian social barrier is overcome (normally in India, the contact between girls from well-off families with street children is virtually non-existing).
3. **School children identify and try to rescue child labourers/slaves.** Regular pupils of the school are organized to scout for Hidden Domestic Child Labourers in their living environment. After identifying a young child that is used as child labourer, for instance working full time with no payment in a family as a maid, they contact the child and the employer. The first step is to ask the employer if the child is permitted to come out and play for a couple of hours. Secondly, they start teaching the child basics in writing, reading and arithmetic. Then the employer is asked to visit Loreto Day School together with the child, where the employer is asked if the child is allowed to visit school on a regular basis.
4. **A Home for street children inside the school.** With support and active involvement from Netherlands based Partnership Foundation and Net4kids Aid Foundation, sr. Cyril has started a project with the aim of providing a home for 250 street children on the premises of her school. At present, 200 former street children (girls) live permanently in the school, a highly efficient solution, whereby reintegration starts immediately. Other Loreto schools are following this example, with the goal to accomodate 1000 street children in 6 Loreto schools in Calcutta by 2008. A second Loreto school (Bowbazar) has started a home for street children already, a third (Loreto House) opened a home in april 2004). Sr. Cyril has built a network of homeless women living on the streets of Calcutta, who scout for street children (girls) and assist in bringing them into contact with Loreto Day School, for accomodation.
5. **Training 10.000 teachers for the rural areas.** Through an ingenious 'multiplier'-system, 10.000 teachers have been trained by Loreto Day School to work in the villages and teach children who receive no education at all. The training program continues to this day, the solution is both effective and efficient, and received international recognition.
6. **Children support homeless older women, living at Sealdah station.** Every day, school children of Loreto Day School including the former street children take food packages to distribute to homeless older people living permanently on the nearby Sealdah station, and spend some time with them.

Cyril Mooney has been elected as an "Ashoka Fellow". This organization, founded by former McKinsey director Bill Drayton, identifies and supports social entrepreneurs world-wide. Cyril is also on their Asian Selection Board (www.ashoka.com)

References: Cyril Mooney has an excellent reputation among such institutions and personalities like Unicef India, Save the Children India, his Excellency sri Viren J. Shah, Governor of West Bengal, mr. Sandy Mukherjee, chief commissioner of police in Calcutta and numerous others. Via google.com - calcutta - cyril Mooney, a host of information and publications are available.