Our Journey

Thulir was started in 2004 as a learning centre in the Sittilingi valley with the support of friends at the Tribal Health Initiative.

In the last 15 years, Thulir has catered to the educational needs of around 500 adivasi children and around 70 adolescents.

The main programmes of Thulir were,

- An after-school programme for the government school going children.
- A full time ‘hands-on’ basic technology course for adolescents who had opted out of school.
- On-site training of building artisans who specialise in sustainable construction.

The Place

Sittilingi valley nestles between the Kalrayan and Sitheri hills in Dharmapuri district of Tamil Nadu (South India) and is home to around 15,000 Malayalee adivasi people.

This area, which is around 75 km each from Dharmapuri, Salem and Thiruvannamalai, was very poorly connected by road or phone until a few years ago.

The Need

There is a lack of good quality educational opportunities in the valley. The village community, prompted by Thulir’s good track record in addressing this gap, requested us to help start a formal school.

After an intensive planning phase with the community, the decision was taken to start a school.

The school was started on June 17th 2015. It is temporarily operating in a friend’s premises and it now has 53 children from 7 villages. We are excited to move to the new campus at the end of Jan’18.

Click here to know more about the recent events at Thulir.

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The Construction

We would like the new school campus to provide a conducive physical environment for a positive learning process. We have tried to make the buildings:

- aesthetically pleasing,
- structurally sound, child sensitive and environmentally friendly,
- cost effective while adhering to standards.

The buildings are being built by local artisans in order to boost the local economy. We are using renewable energy sources as far as possible.

Progress

The construction of 6 classrooms, toilets, office room have been completed.

The buildings have been built completely by the Thulir Alumni. The entire construction process has been a learning opportunity for them and many young architects.

We urgently need to build a kitchen and a dining hall to provide healthy millet based lunch and snacks for the children. A library-cum-resource centre for all the children of this valley is also needed.

The estimated budget for this is ₹38 lakhs.

Values

Prospective parents, teachers and other members of the village community discussed and debated the culture and values of this new school.

We envisaged a space where importance is given to the tribal culture & values, agriculture and the environment.

A place where education would not be an abstract or cerebral activity but one that integrates our Head, Heart and Hands.

We would like to create a sanctuary, where children and adults can learn and explore in an atmosphere of freedom, equality, inclusion, co-operation, dignity and joy.

We enable the children to independently forge their futures while taking pride in their roots and heritage.

Support Us

The school is taking shape brick by brick. With your support, quality education can now be a reality for the children of Sittilingi. ₹15,000 will help construct 10 square feet of the buildings.

Please do join us in this effort to create a more enlightened, equitable, just, caring and peaceful world.

To contribute, please visit http://www.thulir.org/wp/support-us/

Every drop counts!

Come! Together, we can create a better tomorrow