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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.



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 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

