



## India

### Integrated Tribal Development

#### Location

Nilgiri Hills, India

#### Partner Church

Church of South India

#### The Situation

The Adivasi or 'forest people' are the highly marginalised indigenous people of India. Having traditionally relied upon the forest for survival they have been pushed to the outer regions of the forests, their land has been taken over by cash crop plantations restricting access to the natural resources.

The Adivasi, who do not possess any identification papers, are not recognised by the government and are denied access to electricity and education. This tribal community lives below the poverty line with high levels of ill health due to a lack of education and economic resources. Most children do not receive schooling and those who do, leave school when they are as young as ten in order to work and earn money for their families to survive.

#### The Project

Beginning with the establishment of pre-schools for children aged 3-8 years, the project was expanded to include self-help groups for women and vocational training and health care for the whole community. Through the self-help groups, the tribal women are becoming empowered and self-sufficient, reducing the likelihood of their being exploited by people outside their community. The project also assists the Adivasi to obtain government documents so that they can access services and facilities.

#### Achievements

The project has enabled the children of the village to gain a foundation for education: 199 children now attend preschool, 307 children attend primary school and 13 girls have advanced to study in Gudalur high schools, a first for the community. The community has also formed 12 youth clubs to provide social support for the children and four of these groups received sports equipment. There are now 24 women's self-help groups that create income opportunities and women's leadership training was held for 50 women in September 2008.





## The Future

Over the next three years the holistic community development program will expand to other villages. The nutritional program, vocational training, pre and post natal care and general health programs will be expanded within the existing 12 villages. The number of regular visits to the villages by trained health staff will also be increased and additional coaching for primary school children will be provided.



## Get Involved

We invite you to get involved with the project by supporting the work financially, praying for the success of the project and receiving regular updates.

## Contact UnitingWorld

Address: PO Box A2266  
Sydney South NSW 1235  
Phone: +61 2 8267 4265  
Web: [www.unitingworld.org.au](http://www.unitingworld.org.au)

Yes, I'd like to support community development in the Nilgiri Hills.

I would like to make a one off gift of:

\$40  \$80  \$200  \$500  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Mr / Ms / Mrs / Miss / Dr / Rev (Please circle) \_\_\_\_\_

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Daytime Telephone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Should the funds raised exceed the amount required to meet the needs of the Tribal Development project UnitingWorld will use the excess funds to help people involved in similar projects.

### Payment Details

Please find enclosed my cheque made payable to UnitingWorld  
OR Please debit my  MasterCard  Visa

Card Number

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