

Factsheet/Jan 2012



Project Update	January 2012
Project Name	Educating tribal children from Mudumalai Tiger Reserve
Project Objective	To enable 200 children to attend school and continue to their graduation by providing safe access and covering the cost of their education.
Project Funding	£35,400 (to date)
Project Started	June 2011

The Project The *Adventure Ashram* donation of £35,400 has paid for the purchase of a school bus, the hire of a driver and expenses for children to attend school. Grace Charitable Trust is an Indian based grass roots charity run by Solomon Daniel, a local man from Masinagudi who is well known for his passion and drive to help children take advantage of the opportunities that come as a result of education.

The Why Solomon recognised that there are a number of barriers preventing children going to school; access, cost, parental support, mentor. The plight of the Indian Elephant is acknowledged internationally and protected corridors are being created which intensify elephant populations in certain areas enabling them to move freely. Frightened, mothering and provoked elephants can charge, cause property and crop damage and human fatalities. This creates fear within the local communities and isolates families from basic services like schools.

Government run schools have a poor reputation and parents who can't afford to send their children to local private schools decide their children's time is better spent on other things, particularly in lone parent or poor families where children can help look after younger siblings or earn a living.

Tribal communities in India have for many years been trapped in a vicious cycle of poverty. Parents of tribal families are often employed in jobs where they earn a daily wage. They head out to the fields very early in the morning and don't return until late a night. Consequently their children miss out on the parental support needed to get them ready for school and through the school gates. To break the cycle of poverty tribal children need to appreciate that education is the best way to improve their lives in the long term. They need sympathetic support to sustain their engagement with education throughout their school years.

The Solution Solomon has spent the last 3 years getting to know the children and their parents from villages just inside the boundaries of the tiger reserves. He offers a fresh perspective on education by setting up and running small villages schools.

These provide hot dinners, help the children to read and write and develop skills through play and games. Children's confidence starts to grow and a love of learning develops. With the help of Adventure Ashram and our supporters paying to sponsor these children, Solomon will enable those ready for school, to enrol.

Award winning schools like GRG Memorial School, Vazhathottam have developed as low fee charging private schools educating exclusively tribal children, which the children can attend. Adventure Ashram and Partners have purchased a school bus to enable the children to get to school safely and on time and a Royal Enfield Bullet motorcycle to help Solomon get from village to village efficiently and continue to expand the child sponsorship programme.

The Outcome

Articles 28 and 29 of the Convention for the Rights of a Child recognise the right of the child to have an education that develops their personality, talents and mental and physical abilities. Time and time again education has been proven to be the key to break cycles of poverty by increasing employment opportunities, enabling greater social mobility and reducing family sizes.

The Benefits enjoyed by educated children

The children will benefit from having the opportunity to:

- 1 Develop knowledge and understanding of the world they live in
- 2 Create a structure into their lives at an impressionable age
- 3 Learn about themselves and become positive role models for the community
- 4 Utilise their new academic and practical skills
- 5 Understand the importance of protecting their environment and unique surroundings

The Reality

Adventure Ashram has currently paid for 130 children to be sponsored through school for 1 year and has the funds for another 80 children to be sponsored as soon as Solomon can identify suitable pupils. Ensuring these children reach their graduation in years to come relies on us continuing to inspire long term support. If you are interested in sponsoring a child or a class of children, please get in touch.

Thank You

Thank you for the money you are raising, you are helping to ensure projects like this one succeed in improving the standard of living for some of India's poorest children.

Our Aim

Adventure Ashram stems from the shared vision of a group of well-respected conservation, health and educational professionals in India and UK based social enterprise *Global Enduro*. The 'Adventure' part of our name comes from the company *Global Enduro* who run many spectacular adventure fundraising events across the globe, the 'Ashram' name derives from the ancient Sanskrit word for protection.

Our aim is to help the poorest people on or around the routes *Global Enduro* take through India to help achieve a higher standard of living through better health and education. *Adventure Ashram* will continue to identify and establish projects, helping more and more people.

Links



GRG Memorial School www.grgmhss.com
Grace Charitable Trust www.gracecharitabletrust.com
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Adventure-Ashram>

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