

For those wishing to contribute:

Within India

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Outside India

www.ammado.com/nonprofit/pipal-tree

Advisory Committee

- Jalssy John - Business Finance Executive
- Santa Kumar - Executive Coach
- Sophie Christopher - Textile designer and Therapist
- Dr. Jacob Samuel - FFARCS (England), DABA (USA)
- Siddhartha - Writer and Social Entrepreneur

Objectives of Children's College:

- to enable tribal children, particularly those living deep in the forest, to complete high school education.
- to provide a participatory learning environment where children and teachers are co-participants in the learning process; where learning is an exciting process of discovery, understanding and self-transformation.
- to offer a synthesis of what is best in tribal culture and what is best in modernity, so that the child grows up rooted in adivasi cultural values and modern scientific understanding.
- to appreciate the tribal worldview that human beings and the earth are inter-connected, which means living lightly on the planet and fighting climate change.
- to create young tribal leaders who would have personal depth and social and ecological awareness.
- where the adivasi (tribal) community participates in the orientation and management of the Children's College learning initiative.

CHILDREN'S COLLEGE

Giving wings to a tribal kid's dreams...



Cover page photo by: Maggy Jacquemin



For more details visit:
www.facebook.com/childrenscollegekabini
www.pipaltree.org.in

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Siddappa joined Children's College, a tribal children's home, three years ago, when he was 11 years old. Along with nine other tribal children he is hoping to finish his high school education at a nearby government high school. The Children's College is located at Magge Village, HD Kote Taluk in Mysore district. Asked what he'd like to be when he grows up, he exclaims exuberantly 'a doctor'!

Siddappa is one of the lucky few tribal children who have had an opportunity to go to school. He lives in a makeshift hostel and learns math, geography and science along with the traditional knowledge of forest tubers and wild greens. Going to school will serve as a starting point for Siddappa to get out of the cycle of poverty, hunger and malnutrition that is the lot of hundreds of tribal children in the Nagarhole forest, off Mysore. He has a sister who has dropped out of school. His father was an alcoholic and used to beat his mother regularly. Now his mother lives separately and migrates to Coorg for five months each year to work in the coffee plantations there. Unlike Siddappa, most children drop out of school to migrate with their parents to the coffee and tea plantations. The life of the migrant worker is precarious with many adults turning to alcohol.

Siddappa is the first in his family to go to school and would not have continued if the Children's College education initiative didn't provide support in terms of lodging, food and healthcare, as even the bus fare from

the forest to the distant school was beyond the means of his mother. The Children's College provides for supplementary life skills development. The children also grow vegetables, learning song and dance, and understand the forest environment they come from, apart from being aware of issues related to climate change. The tribal parents participate in this process and come once a month for an in depth discussion.

The dream is that someday the Children's College will reach out beyond these 10 tribal boys to the tribal girl child too. The vision is to provide an environment where an adivasi child can actually dream of a life that is different from that of his poverty-stricken parents. We seek your support to make this vision a reality.

Pipal Tree, a nonprofit trust based in Bangalore, India, started the Children's College initiative in June 2011 in response to an urgent need. So far we have kept it going through our own resources and with help from friends and well-wishers. However, we cannot sustain the program for long, let alone expand our outreach, without external

support. We ask you to make a donation today! Your support and encouragement will be priceless to those who feel abandoned by the world they live in.

You could contribute in the following ways by adopting a child and paying for the total educational costs including food, lodging, clothing, medical care and tutoring costs for a defined time period. The amounts per child are:

- Rs 60,000 (\$1000) for 1 year
- Rs 30,000 (\$ 500) for 6 months
- Rs 10,000 (\$ 250) for 3 months

Alternately any small amount contributed would be equally welcome. We invite you to visit the Children's College education initiative and see things first hand; we will make arrangements to host you at "Blue Waters", an Eco-stay whose profits go to fund the Children's College.

All contributions will be eligible for Tax deductions under Section 80G and an external committee of responsible citizens will monitor the activities & finances of the Children's College to ensure complete transparency.

