PROJECT PROPOSAL

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT TO POVERTY RIDDEN TRIBAL CHILDREN AND DALIT GIRLS IN UNDERPRIVILEGED INDIAN FAMILIES.

Submitted by

Elshaddai Ministries Trust

No.58,Nawab Habibulla Nagar,

Mudichur Village,

Chennai – 600 048

Kancheepuram District.

Tamilnadu – INDIA

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Title	:	Educational support to Poverty ridden Tribal Children and Dalit girls in Underprivileged Indian Families.
Target People	:	Poverty ridden Tribal Children and Dalit girls.
Applicant	:	Mrs.J.Joshee Shile Priscilla B.A., Director Elshaddai Ministries Trust
Implementing Organization	:	Elshaddai Ministries Trust No.58,Nawab Habibulla Nagar, Mudichur Village, Chennai – 600 048 Kancheepuram District. Tamilnadu – INDIA Phone: +91-44-22761258. Email: emtindia98@hotmail.com Website : www.emtindia.org
Project Location	:	Kancheepuram District.
Number of Beneficiaries	:	**200 Poverty ridden Tribal Children and Dalit Girls.**
Project Duration	:	1 year.
Total Project Budget	:	US$ 20044

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT TO POVERTY

RIDDEN TRIBAL CHILDREN AND DALIT GIRLS IN UNDERPRIVILEGED INDIAN FAMILIES.

Education is most vital key to ending extreme poverty. Free primary education is constitutionally mandated in India. This may be true in the narrow sense that public schools do not charge for tuition. But the real cost of schooling for parents turns out to be quite high. These “hidden” costs include for instance, school Fees, Fees for cloths, textbooks, snacks, sports equipment and so on. The pressure of assuming these financial burdens while losing a potential helping hand at home or another household income (Some form of child labour is common in our parts) often proves to be more than poor families can bear. In addition the poor quality of primary schooling eliminates any incentive the family may have to send their children to school.

If parents are discouraged from sending their children to school, it is because they feel that schooling is often a waste of time and money.

Children who lost their education or lagging behind (Potential Dropout), older children frequently miss school during the harvest season because they are needed to help their families and take part in important communal celebrations, students who do not attend school during these times find it difficult to make up the lost class work and eventually drop out. But they can be compensated by the way of providing new opportunities to learn, they included dropouts and underachievers in schools. Through this

programme the dropout children are provided with special attention and the problems of dropouts would be minimized in schools as well as slow learners would get opportunity to improve their learning skills

The beneficiaries of the project will include Tribal Children and dalit girls from Kancheepuram District, who are in the age group of 5-18 which are living in tribal hamlets in lower Appur hills, slums, dalit colonies, who are suffering from poverty, who are with physical disabilities, who are the victims of domestic or other violence, who are semi orphans, who have been rejected or neglected by parents, and who have unstable families or come from families with crisis.

Legal Status:

Registered, as a Public charitable trust under the Indian *Trust Act 1882.*

Date of Registration : 9th February 1998.

Registration Number : 80/98

Registered Office : Joint sub – Registrar office,
Saidapet, Chennai – 600 015.

Registered under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) 1976 in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi

FCRA Registration Number - **:** 075901124.

Mission:

"To care for the basic needs and priorities of the poorest, especially the women and children and empower them towards their overall development and self-reliance"

Objective:

- Rural women development through Self-employment training Programmes.
- To organize non-formal education centers and residential schools for the child labourer's and street children's and drop-outs.
- To organize women self-help groups and helps them to start income-generation projects.
- To provide care, shelter and education to the orphans.
- Environmental Conservation and Awareness Programmes to tribals, farmers, school students and general public.
- To provide relief and rehabilitation to the people affected by conflict or disaster.

Proposed Program:

The overall objective of this project is to improve the educational status of poor Tribal children and dalit girls to meet the millennium development goals. The specific objectives of the project are to initiate the community to advocate for support and education of poor Tribal children and dalit girls, to increase the enrollment of Tribal and dalit students in the school, to increase the access of Tribal children and dalit girls to education, to change the life condition of poor Tribal children and dalit girls through education and to empower the households of poor Tribal children and dalit girls economically. Major activities to be carried out are selecting poor Tribal children and dalit girls, support to poor them, conducting community meeting,

conducting students meeting, empowering the families of poor Tribal children and dalit girls economically, formation and strengthening of girls club,Tribal children club and employment of project coordinator and project assistants. The direct beneficiaries of this project are 200 poor Tribal children and dalit girls in Kancheepuram district where as the indirect beneficiaries are their families. The expected outputs are 200 Tribal children and dalit girls supported in education and their families supported economically.

About our area Hill Tribal People:

Irullas and Kurumbas live as isolated groups in the slopes of hill terrains in the lower Appur hills in Kancheepuram District. The Irullas and Kurumbas of lower Appur hills who are Semi - nomadic types live in the lower slopes of hills which forms part of the Reserved forest area. In the slopes of the hills they have built semi - permanent houses and confine themselves to small territory. The walls of the houses are built using mud interwoven with various wiry stems. Thatched roofs are made up of grasses (*Themeda cymbaria*) in majority of the cases; some times they also make use of Palm leaves (*Borassus flabellifer)*.

The Irullas and Kurumbas are like majority of the hunting and gathering tribes are heavily dependant upon collection of edible roots, tubers and hunting small games for their sustenance. Along with this they also collect non-timber forest produce (NTFP) like honey, fruits, bark, leaves and other edible items for exchange. Though foraging of forest for sustenance is in practice among them since long time, this pattern has changed in recent times owing to market pressures. They are acting as gatherers of NTFP for exchange of food materials with forest contractors. The collected items such as

honey wax, myrobalans were reported to have exchanged for rice, tobacco, beetle leaves and nuts, chilies, tamarind and salt. The food thus earned as wages were supplemented by yams (*Dioscorea* sp.) and roots. Irullas and Kurumbas of lower Appur hills now collect items of commercial value due to the external influences by the middlemen and local herbal traders. This has led to the introduction of cash economy in place of traditional self- sufficient pattern (Foraging). Thus the Irulas have become a group of people who acquire most of their food by purchasing it with the money that is earned through the collection and trade of NTFP. In recent times some of the Irullas and Kurumbas families in our study site have migrated to the plains near by and have started working as agricultural laborers.

They were directly dependent on the biodiversity. Their livelihood is based on the collection of various forest produce such as roots, tubers, leaves, fruits and barks for their food, fuel, medicine, and many other purposes. A few of them lower Appur hills own cattles and they consider it as their wealth. Owning cattles is considered as a sign of material prosperity by the young generation Irullas and Kurumbas of lower Appur hills.

Impact of commercialization on Irullas and Kurumbas livelihood:

Expansion of agro-pastoral activity like building temples and extension of grazing activities into tribal habitats have forced a few of them into the interior forest and many of them have started working as manual laborers in the private coffee plantations and agricultural fields of the plains. Some have found jobs with the Forestry Department as Watchers and Guards. The degradation of

forest is further accelerated due to the extension of agro - pastoral activities such as grazing, commercial gathering and fuel wood collection by the people from plains.

Habitat destruction and commercialization has left the Irullas and Kurumbas of lower Appur hills with few choices. The younger generations of them have been forced to discard their traditional way of life and adapt to the changing situations. Many of the young generation of them have become commercial NTFP collectors who sell their produce to middlemen and contractors. Few have become agricultural laborers and thus are forcefully withdrawn from their environments. Thus, the process of commercialization, the destruction and encroachment of their habitats by the agro pastoral communities has once for all alienated the Irullas and Kurumbas of lower Appur hills from the forest. Commercialization leads to ultimate destruction of their life and culture. With the disappearance of their culture goes the practical understanding of ecological relationship between their society and their environment.

Loss of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) among the remnant Ecosystem People such as the Irullas and Kurumbas of lower Appur hills is an area of concern. The tribals possess unique knowledge about the use of flora and fauna and most of these knowledge is unknown to the outside world. The younger generation of them lower Appur hills seems to have forgotten the art of honey collection. The availability of honey in lower Appur hills has declined in recent years due to large scale disturbances occurring in the forest areas. Decline in the availability of honey indicates the poor health of this ecosystem.

In recent times, owing to market pressures, gathering NTFP like root, bark, fruits and leaves etc., for commercial purposes become an important forest related activity of lower Appur hills Irullas and Kurumbas . The nature of NTFP collection for commercial purposes itself is an unsustainable activity causing ecological disturbances on forest ecosystems. In a fastly degrading environment of lower Appur hills, the gathering of NTFP is becoming a less profitable activity. Some of the families have already started establishing contacts with the Caste Hindu of the plains and started working as agricultural labourers. Thus they are gradually incorporated into the lower rungs of the society.

Educational Status of our area Hill Tribal Children:

Education is Still a distant dream for millions of children's in India. But for Tribal Children's it is more than that. Because of this the literacy is very low and less than 2 percent in many areas.

Although the government of India does provide some schools for tribal children in Lower Appur hills, Tamil Nadu, they are mostly of poor quality, the education they give is insufficient to enable the children to proceed to the mainstream schools in the area. As a result very few tribal people get entry to secondary schools or beyond.

For many tribal children, a formal education is unattractive because: (a) they must travel great distances, by walk to attend school; (b) school hours interfere with the children's family responsibilities; (c) the children do not have the funds for uniforms and books; (d) neither the teachers nor the curriculum give due consideration to their needs and life experience.

So Elshaddai Ministries Trust wishes to target tribal children's in tribal villages and hamlets in Lower Appur Hills. For these Tribal villages/hamlets there are no link roads, no electricity (except some solar lamps), no schools, no ration shop and no shops in these villages. The only way to reach the villages is by trekking through reserved forests.

About the Dalits Community:

The dalits are the "outcastes" of Hindu Society often called the "untouchables". They are deemed to be worth less than animals, making them the object of abuse, exploitation and oppression. For generation the untouchables have accepted their fate, believing they had done unspeakable acts in previous lives, that god did not love them, that they were born to serve the upper castes and that they had no right.

This discrimination affects every aspect of life; health, housing, education, work, marriage social interaction. For most dalits there is no opportunity to escape from Caste imposed discrimination tens of millions of dalits are trapped in debt bondage.

In rural settings dalits live isolated slums and their economic and cultural activities are serverely restricted. Atrocities against dalits in India are frequent and most go unreported. Their access to modern medical care is almost non-existent, they are exploited as vote banks and desperate poverty are the hall marks of most dalit communities.

In this situation without education many of the children of the dalit communities of India will be condemned to a life of bonded labour, begging, cultural abuse and hopelessness. So we as a

organization feels that education opens the doors to opportunities that would have been for ever denied to them. By providing education we can lift these children out of the oppressive caste inferiority mindset and endure them with spiritual freedom, social equality and personal dignity.

Social: Illiteracy among dalits is very high and this is exploited in more ways than one. Untouchability is widespread, including the use of "two glasses" – one for dalits and the others for "caste Hindus" – in tea shops. Smoking in front of caste Hindus (or) walking in the main part of the village wearing chappals can invite violence.

Political: Discrimination are also political in nature often their right to vote is taken away through violent means: In some cases there is violent by the police, because dalits decide to boycott elections in protest. In elected panchayats with reservations for dalits. Election are either not allowed to be held or when held elected dalit panchayat members are not allowed to function. In some cases the denial of these rights has taken the form of murder of dalit panchayat members. Political rallies by dalits are not allowed to take off (or) severely restricted.

Problem Statement and the Target area:

In India education is still a distant dream for millions of children's and in our area too. Our target area Kancheepuram District comes under the Tamilnadu state. In this district, majority of the people depend agriculture and agricultural occupation for their income. But India's agriculture dependence on rains too much. In the absence of adequate irrigation facilities, as much as 70% of the cultivation in our area looks to rains for water supply. But rain's in India are inadequate, uncertain and irregular. So this makes

agriculture an uncertain occupation. So rains keep our target district drought for a decade. People don't have other opportunities and they suffer a lot with their big families. So in natural, education to these community has remained beyond the reach of their children. Poverty, family illiteracy, lack of resources and social backwardness are the major contributing factors. In, India, in our area nothing has been done for the improvement and upliftment of the poor Community. So majority of the people in our target area are backward in socially, educationally and economically. So our area people are living in most miserable conditions devoid of essential facilities of life especially they don't have much education due to the absence of any support system.

So, our target area's illiterate, poverty ridden Tribal and rural dalit poor parents do not wish to educate their children, because they think that investment in education for their children is considered mere waste of time and resources and most worry some is girls education. The reasons are:-

- Many rural house hold need the income the child earns as domestic helpers from the jobs provided by small village industries and agriculture.
- Children's do sometimes abandon their studies as a result of their own disinterest, illness or failure in examination.
- Education on girl child is seems as a bad investment, as she is bound to marry and leave home one day to live with her husbands family. This is a mindset of our area Tribal and rural dalit people.
- People in our target area saying that – We don't educate girls in our community.

- Parents are reluctant to send their girls to schools outside the village for fear of violence or some social ill will befall them.
- Parents illiteracy, domestic labour, helping parents in their occupation, care and sibilings, social taboos on the onset of puberty, sex discrimination from parents are the main factors of school dropouts and that of female illiteracy.
- Due to poverty and backwardness, children are deprived of basic education. Children's at a very young age start helping their parents at works i.e Their time is spent in rearing the domestic animals, domestic work, catering to younger sibilings, agriculture coolie work etc., and therefore, prove to be assets for their family. So parents do not mind if their children did not attend the school regularly. So school dropout is on rise.

Due to all these reasons they are unceremoniously denied the opportunity to get the basic knowledge and literacy skills. Majority of our area Tribal and dalit children were in out of schools or working/helping their parents in coffee plantations/agrifield. So we wish to give education through support system, so as to remove/solve the existing problems.

Goals:

To improve the educational status of Tribal children and dalit girls to meet the millennium development goals.

Specific objectives:

- To increase enrollment of Tribal children and dalit girls in the school.
- To initiate the community to advocate for poor Tribal children and dalit girls to have access to education.
- To increase the access of poor Tribal children and dalit girls to education.
- To change the life condition of poor Tribal children and dalit girls through education.
- To empower their families economically.

Activities:

This project includes different activities. These are selecting poor Tribal children and dalit girls, community meeting on advocacy to poor tribal and dalit girls, provision of support to educate them, conducting students meeting, formation and strengthening girls club, children club and empowering the poor Tribal children and dalit girl's families economically.

Selecting poor Tribal children and dalit girls:

The first activity of the project is selection of beneficiaries. They will be selected from 19 villages/hamlets and a small town in Kancheepuram District. A team shall do recruitment from community, Village administrations and EMT representatives. There shall be criteria to identity the poor from each of the village. Beneficiaries will be poorest of poor children.

Support to poor Tribal children and dalit girls:

The selected poor Tribal children and dalit girls will be supported through education. During their education there are some provisions that need to be fulfilled. These are stationary materials, clothing and medical expense.

Community meeting on gender issue:

The community is the nearest body to Tribal and dalit girls and girls are parts of the society. They have the responsibility to support and advocate for the tribal and dalit girls. To this end there is a plan to conduct community representative meeting on how to support and care for the poor tribal and dalit girls at community level.

Children forum:

Here the beneficiaries of these project /poor students/tribal and dalit girls shall meet once annually to discuss on their issues.

Empowering the families of poor Tribal children and dalit girls:

Only supporting the Tribal children and dalit girls through provisions is not a sustainable activity. To sustainably support them they have to be empowered economically. To this end, there is a plan to provide then with ruminants/goats/milk animal. Then their families shall breed the animals to support themselves and their children in the future.

Girls Clubs/childrens club:

Establishing and strengthening girls clubs, Children club in schools,(in beneficiary children studying government schools).

Project management:

Elshaddai Ministries Trust has its own structure of organization through which the association carries out different activities. EMT has the responsibility of implementing, monitoring, supervising and evaluating the project. Monitoring will be carried out on regular basis through project coordinator and Project assistants to be employed. Education desk has the responsibility of providing technical support, monitoring and evaluation. The community shall involve from planning to hand over of the project. They shall involve in selection of poor students, monitoring and evaluation of the project. The funding agency shall monitor, evaluate and receive the financial and physical accomplishment report.

Project Sustainability :

The sustainability of this project will guaranteed because the project involves the participation and collaboration of all concerned line offices and community. These will involve from planning to evaluation of the project. The families of the poor students will be provided with ruminants/goats/milk animal and they will breed these assets. Then they will have their own income from the animals, can support their themselves and educate their children in their own, when the project phases out .The phasing out shall take place when the awareness of community to advocate for the poor raises and when the poor families are capable of educating their children .

Expected output:

The long-term output:

- The educational status of poor Tribal children and dalit girls improved.

Short term inputs:

- 200 poor Tribal children and dalit girls supported in education

- The awareness of the community to support poor tribal children and dalit girls increased.
- 400 ruminants/goats/milk animals provided to the families of poor Tribal children and dalit girls.
- 10 girls club and 10 Tribal children club formed.

BUDGET BREAK DOWN:

S.No	Activities	Project Budget (In Indian Rupees)
1.	Selecting 200 Tribal children and Dalit girls who are poor	5,000
2.	Support to 200 Tribal children and Dalit girls	
	Stationary Materials,(Books,Note-books,Pen,Geometry box,School bag,etc., Rs.400 per student)	80,000
	Clothing,(Uniforms,shoes/chapels and Rain coat for tribal children,etc Rs.675 per student)	1,35,000
	Medical Expenses for Tribal children and Dalit girls	35,000
3.	Community Meeting (4 meetings in a year)	
	Participants Expenses	14,000
	Printing and Stationaries for conducting meetings.	5,000
4.	Students/Girls Meeting (1 get together per year)	
	Partcipants Expenses	10,000

	Printing and Stationeries for get-together	5,000
5.	Formation and Strengthening of Girls Club	7,000
6.	Formation and Strengthening of Childrens Club	7,000
7.	Supporting 200 Poor students families economically- Purchase of ruminants/goat/milk animal worth Rs.2,500 per beneficiary student family.	5,00,000
8.	Employment of 1 project Co-ordinator. (Rs.3,000 per month)	36,000
9.	Employment of 2 Project assistants. (Rs.2,000 per Project assistant)	48,000
10.	Monitoring and Evaluation	15,000
	TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET IN INDIAN RUPEES	**9,02,000**
	PROJECT BUDGET IN US$	**20044**

(J.JOSHEE SHILE PRISCILLA)

DIRECTOR

ELSHADDAI MINISTRIES TRUST