



Ensuring the socio-economic empowerment of indigenous communities

The Problem

The tribal communities in HD Kote Taluk, Mysuru district, have a history of over 50,000 years, as per the anthropological survey of India. In the last few decades, they have been forcefully displaced from forests and relocated to the surrounding areas of HD Kote, due to the construction of dams, establishment of two new National Parks and other urban developments in the region.

According to 2011 census, HD Kote has a tribal population of 18,000 people, comprising 4,500 families living in 120 "haadis" (tribal hamlets). While 18 haadis are located within Nagarahole National Forest, 102 are in the vicinity of the forests. Nisarga Foundation started as a response to the oppression of these tribal communities, who have lost their native land and livelihood, while not being equipped to cope with their new life.

Our Approach

Nisarga Foundation is dedicated to the socio-economic empowerment of indigenous and marginalized communities in Karnataka. We promote the holistic development of Adivasi communities of HD Kote Taluk through various initiatives for children, women, environment and community development.

Our Solution

EDUCATION

NCLP Rehabilitation School

Located in Belaganahalli Road, near HD Kote town, the school focuses on rehabilitating child labourers, many of them working in hazardous occupations, and mainstreaming them through education.

NCLP Bridge school and Dormitory

The Bridge School helps school drop-out children return to mainstream education by bringing them up to speed with their respective class levels through customised lesson plans and tab-based learning, before being admitted to government schools. A dormitory within our campus houses Bridge School students.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Spirulina Nutrition Programme

Launched to address the "silent scream" of malnutrition amongst tribal communities. We distribute Spirulina capsules, which promote the growth of malnourished children and provide vital nutrients to pregnant women and lactating mothers.

Other Health Initiatives

Antenatal and postnatal medical check-ups for pregnant women, public health and sanitation awareness, training parents on food and nutrition, distributing de-worming tablets, and spreading awareness about government schemes.

CHILD HELPLINE 1098 PROJECT

Established as a sub-centre for Childline India Foundation, the Child Helpline 1098 project ensures the safety of children in tribal communities. Open House programmes for children, teachers, SHGs and community members spread awareness about child rights, child labour, child marriage, education, POCSO Act 2012 and Child Helpline. Youth Committees are trained to address social challenges like child marriage, while children are empowered through Bala Panchayat and School Awareness Programmes.

ADVOCACY

Nisarga Foundation actively advocates for the rights of indigenous communities, particularly tribal forest and land rights, with the State government. We have joined hands with Budakattu Krushikara Sangha (BKS) to help implement the tribal rehabilitation policy, while supporting Karnataka State Adivasi Forum to implement FRA-2006. We are actively involved in various NGO forums, including Village Forest Rights Committee (VFRC), SHG Federation, Adivasi Solidarity Council, Mythri, FEVORD-K and National Front Adivasi Self Rule and National Adivasi Alliance.

Our Impact

* Data as of September 2019, based on NGO records.

8675 people benefited through FSLT food security programme	211 child labourers rehabilitated and admitted to schools through NCLP programme	1,500 tribal groups provided nutritious food through Action Aid PTG programme
750 farmers trained in natural farming, ensuring food security for 200 families	15,745 trees planted across various tribal Haadis	6,000 children benefited from awareness programme to promote Adivasi languages
3,000 people benefited from implementation of Forest Right Act 2006, with over 70% of them getting land ownership	976 children rescued through Child Help Line	600 children moved from "malnourished to well nourished" through the spirulina nutrition supplement programme

Our Goals: Projected Outcome and Impact

By 2022, we aim to ensure socio-economic progress of tribal communities by eradicating malnutrition among 300 children and lactating mothers, protecting child rights, supporting 30 school drop-outs get back to mainstream education, forming a tribal women's cooperative society and promoting the sustainability of community organisations in tribal Haadis.

✓ Systemic Impact:

- Through formal education, the cycle illiteracy and poverty is broken within tribal communities, and social evils like child labour and child marriage are reduced
- The prevalent malnutrition among infants, pregnant women and lactating mothers is reduced greatly, leading to better life expectancy and health of the community
- Women are healthy, socially empowered and economically independent with access to nutrition, healthcare and livelihood opportunities
- Tribal community members are aware of and have access to their rights, especially government schemes and entitlements
- Tribal communities are empowered through sustainable community organisations that advocate for their rights and promote their progress

✓ Individual Impact:

- Children who are working as child labourers and school drop-outs are rehabilitated through access to mainstream formal education
- Infants, pregnant women and lactating mothers move from malnourished to well-nourished through access to nutritious food and Spirulina supplement
- Tribal families get access to land rights and other government entitlements
- Women become financially independent through entrepreneurial and livelihood opportunities
- Developing leadership among tribal community members across 120 Haadis

Need for Support

We are seeking funding of Rs 3,15,10,950 to cover our operations and expand our reach to more Adivasi and marginalized community members in need, over the next 3 years. Our budget for 2019-20 is Rs 13.53 lakhs.

PROGRAMME STRATEGY AND FUNDING NEEDS							
No.	Program Name	Short Term (1 year)			Long Term (3 year)		
		Program Objective	Fund Requirement	People Requirement	Program Objective	Fund Requirement	People Requirement
1	Nutrition Programme: Supply of Spirulina capsules	Eradicating malnutrition among 50 children and lactating mothers	2,00,000	1 Director, 1 Prog. Coordinator, 1 Consultant	Eradicating malnutrition among 300 children and lactating mothers	42,70,500	5 programme staff, 4 proportionate staff
2	Bridge School for school dropouts	Bringing 10 dropout children from tribal communities into mainstream formal education	5,50,000	3 teachers, 1 cook cum warden	Bringing 30 school dropout children from tribal communities into mainstream formal education	64,04,850	1 warden, 1 security, 1 Programme Co-ordinator, 4 Proportionate staff
3	Child Help Line	Protecting child rights in HD Kote taluk	6,03,000	1 coordinator, 4 team members	Protecting child rights in HD Kote taluk	46,80,000	Proportionate staff
4	Promoting sustainable community organisations in tribal Haadis	-	-	-	Capacity building of Budakattu Krushikara Sangha, Vanavaasi Mahila Sangha	1,01,55,600	1 Programme Coordinator, 6 Cluster Coordinators, proportionate staff
5	Tribal Women's Coopertive Society	-	-	-	Train tribal women to collect, process and market minor forest produces	50,00,000	One Facilitator, 5 part-time staff, proportionate staff
6	Documentation of indigenous knowledge	-	-	-	Ancient knowledge and native wisdom of tribal communities to be passed on to present generation	10,00,000	One Documentation Specialist

**Henchinamane, Belaganahalli Road,
H.D.Kote Taluk Mysuru - 571114**

Phone: 08228-257873 • Mobile: +91 9480168124

Email: nanju.nisarga@gmail.com

Website: nisarga.1ngo.in