

BUILDING COMMUNITIES

Dalit Awareness in South India

Empowering and enabling Dalit communities to break the poverty cycle

‘This Project aims to support Dalit communities as they face caste violence and discrimination. The Project will train leaders to empower communities.’

Subash Chellaiah, Link Officer for Asia and Oceania



India factfile

Capital: New Delhi

Languages: Hindi, English and at least 16 other official languages

Religion: Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism, Jainism

Export: Agricultural products, textile goods, gems and jewellery, software services and technology, engineering goods, chemicals, leather products

Further reading:

www.csimadrasdiocese.org

USPG in South India

In 2009, USPG sent £29,875 to support the wide range of Church of South India programmes, including healthcare, education, and development



About this Project...

▶ **Target: £4,340 / €4,990 | Project 487**

Nearly a quarter of India’s population – around 250 million people – belong to the Dalit community, formerly referred to as ‘untouchables’. Of this number, approximately 14 million are Christians. India’s Dalit community faces widespread discrimination, including a lack of education and employment opportunities. As a result, many are obliged to work in low-paid jobs or bonded labour of the type that has frequently been categorised as a form of modern-day slavery. Many work as manual scavengers, which involves collecting excreta from public toilets, for which they are paid pennies. Traditional social

structures ensure that India’s Dalit community is confined to a degree of poverty and abuse that can only be described as dehumanising. With the support of USPG, the Church of South India (CSI) has set up the Department for Dalit and Adivasis Concern (DDAC), which is raising awareness of Dalit issues, as well providing education and vocational training. The aim is to enable Dalits to break the cycle of poverty. One such initiative will provide lay leaders from 21 CSI dioceses to become specialists in empowering Dalit communities.

▶ **Project supporters will receive three newsletters a year and other resources to help promote your Project**

Registered charity in England (234518) and in Ireland (CHY 7998)



To fund this Project contact our Supporter Care team

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0845 273 1701 | **071 965 1998**
projects@uspg.org.uk | uspg@ireland.anglican.org

Your donations will help us to cover the full costs of the Project, including a direct grant to the partner church and the cost of monitoring the Project and sharing regular news. Any money received over the Project target will be allocated to where the need is greatest.