

Introductory notes

This document contains notes for a talk of approximately 15 minutes about the work of our partners in the Church of South India on the Green Schools initiative. The talk accompanies the India Green Schools PowerPoint. The talk can be used without the PowerPoint if facilities are not available, just remember to remove any references to the slides in the talk! Please feel free to use some or all of this talk, and adapt it according to the bible readings for the day and the church in which you are speaking.

SLIDE 1 – USPG slide



Introduce yourself, including your role or involvement with USPG.

USPG is the Anglican mission agency that partners churches and communities worldwide in God's mission to enliven faith, strengthen relationships, unlock potential and champion justice. USPG's full name – United Society Partners in the Gospel – reflects its approach to mission which is inclusive and empowering.

USPG has worked in partnership with churches around the world for over 300 years, sharing God's transforming love in practical ways. Our vision is to see every person in every community experiencing a full life – just as Jesus promised in John 10:10, when he said: 'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full'.

Thank you for supporting Green Schools in India through USPG at Harvest I hope this talk gives you a flavour of the amazing work being carried out by this programme, and how your support is making a difference.

SLIDE 2 – Title slide



India suffers from high levels of air pollution in urban areas and many other environmental problems. The Green Schools Programme is a way for students to address these issues while also benefitting educationally.

SLIDE 3



PHOTO: India's position in Asia

India is bounded by the Indian Ocean on the south, the Arabian Sea on the southwest, and the Bay of Bengal on the southeast. It shares land borders with Pakistan to the west; China, Nepal, and Bhutan to the northeast; and Bangladesh and Myanmar to the east.

The name 'India' is derived from the river Indus, which runs through India, Pakistan and China.

India's geography is extremely varied. In the north there are the Himalayas, coniferous forests and the floodplains of the Ganga and Indus river systems; there is desert in the north-east and tropical rainforest on the Andaman Islands in the south.

SLIDE 4



PHOTO CAPTION: India country map with South India states in pink

India is the world's seventh largest country and second most populous country, and the world's largest democracy.

More than 1,000 languages are spoken in India.

India's caste system is one of the world's oldest surviving forms of social stratification. The system divides Hindus into four main categories: Brahmins (teachers and intellectuals), Kshatriyas (warriors and rulers), Vaishyas (traders) and the Shudras (menial workers).

Outside of the system are the Dalits, or so-called untouchables (BBC).

India is one of the world's fastest growing economies. Agriculture provides jobs for over half the population. The industry sector includes mining, construction and energy. Services, including IT, is the fastest growing sector.

SLIDE 5



PHOTO CAPTION: Choir singing at St Stephen's Church, Ooty, Diocese of Coimbatore, Church of South India

The Church of South India was founded in 1947 following Indian Independence. It brought together a number of Anglican and Protestant denominations in India, including the Church of England, the Methodist Church and the Church of Scotland. The church's motto draws on the words of Jesus in John 17:21: 'That they all may be one.'

SLIDE 6



PHOTO CAPTION: Pupils in class at SPG High School, Nandyal, Diocese of Nandyal, Church of South India.

The Church of South India provides educational services, through Kindergarten to 12th class, across five states of India. These schools use innovative teaching methods and aim to sensitise the students towards the needs of the society, in order to make them responsible citizens of society and the nation in whole.

SLIDE 7



PHOTO CAPTION: Amina Noora, pupil at CSI Matriculation Higher Secondary School, in the Green School Programme, Diocese of Coimbatore, Coimbatore, Church of South India.

With the guidance of teachers, students will audit the consumption of natural resources within school campuses and help their schools to become good environmental managers by adopting greener solutions.

SLIDE 8



PHOTO CAPTION: Brian Anderson and Harshad Khan in the garden at CSI Matriculation Higher Secondary School, in the Green School Programme, Diocese of Coimbatore, Coimbatore, Church of South India.

The audits will focus on air, energy, food, land, water and waste. As well as being invaluable in themselves and good for fostering teamwork and collaboration, it also means students will benefit across different academic areas.

SLIDE 9



PHOTO CAPTION: Pechi Kumar and Mohammed Fazil with the organic (left) and plastic waste depot at the CSI Matriculation Higher Secondary School, in the Green School Programme, Diocese of Coimbatore, Coimbatore, Church of South India.

For example:

- Measuring of garbage collected (Maths)
- Composting methods (Biology)
- Waste management (Social Studies)
- Narrative reports (English)
- Online report submission (IT studies)

SLIDE 10



PHOTO CAPTION: Hermani, pupil in front of water tanks, rooftop solar panels and baseball court at St Hilda's School, Ooty, Diocese of Coimbatore, Church of South India

Hermani told USPG about her school's rainwater harvesting system. "There are about three sections of the rainwater harvesting system in the school, with seven tanks. Not a drop of water is wasted in the school. The water from the roofs, the basketball court, and from the

rooftops of all the buildings are collected and are used for different purposes. There are about three tanks, and each tank is at the depth of 10 feet and the water stored in these tanks are used for different purposes. They are used for the lavatories, for gardening purposes and for washing our school and car buses.”

SLIDE 11



PHOTO CAPTION: Pupils with tree saplings at St Hilda’s School, Ooty, that runs the Green School Programme, Diocese of Coimbatore, Church of South India

Pupils planting tree saplings at St Hilda’s school, Ooty. Hermani, the pupil in charge of the green project said “This school has taught me to how to save electricity, how to save water, how to plant trees and how to develop the ecology. I will surely teach the next generation to keep our environment clean and green. I have studied at this school from 1st grade and I have been in this school for 9 years and it has been a perfect blessing for me. When I leave I will miss the school very much as it is very eco-friendly.”

SLIDE 12



PHOTO CAPTION: Janet, standing next to a water collection point, pupil at Gell Memorial School, Ooty that runs the Green School Programme, Diocese of Coimbatore, Church of South India

Janet, at Gell Memorial School, Ooty, is showing the school gutters, where they do rainwater harvesting. They use 8600 litres of water per year but collect 2600 litres of water from the rainwater harvesting and use this rainwater for the toilets. Janet told us “You can see around the school we have lots of trees in our campus which we protect and increase through the green school programme. So it is our responsibility to look after the environment for the future generations. So we have started with these programmes and activities. On a school level we are encouraging students to help with the Green School Audit, so that they may come to know the sensitivity of the environment and pollution.”

SLIDE 13



PHOTO CAPTION: Diyaa Shivani teaches Rithika & Dharshini to plant trees in the garden at CSI Matriculation Higher Secondary School, in the Green School Programme, Diocese of Coimbatore, Coimbatore, Church of South India.

Diyaa is the monitor for the Green School project at the CSI Matriculation Higher Secondary School in Coimbatore. She now shares her knowledge and skills with younger pupils. “My name is Diyaa and I am in 6th grade. I have a special connection to the plants; I really like gardening and doing something to help the plants because they are one our main bases for our food source.”

SLIDE 14



PHOTO CAPTION: Diyaa Shivani, pupil at CSI Matriculation Higher Secondary School, in the Green School Programme, Diocese of Coimbatore, Coimbatore, Church of South India.

Diyaa said, “I think this will help me as an adult because in the future we will start doing many new things, like rainwater harvesting. We will find more ways to help our environment so we can use the basic knowledge we learnt now and make better changes for the environment of India in the future.”

SLIDE 15



PHOTO CAPTION: Mohammed Irfan and Krishna Rao working in the herbal garden at CSI Kellet High Secondary School, Triplicane, Chennai, on the Green School Programme, Diocese of Chennai, Church of South India

This is a green school initiative in the heart of the densely populated city Chennai. They grow herbs, vegetables and medicinal plants in their small but compactedly planted gardens.

SLIDE 16



PHOTO CAPTION: Krishna holding fresh vegetables by the herbal garden at CSI Kellet High Secondary School, Triplicane, Chennai, on the Green School Programme, Diocese of Chennai, Church of South India

Krishna said, “When we learn about plants we also learn about nutrition and our own health too.”

SLIDE 17



PHOTO CAPTION: Pupils planting trees at St Hilda’s School, Ooty, that runs the Green School Programme, Diocese of Coimbatore, Church of South India

“We want to kindle a spirit of environmental conservation among students...we hope this will lead to changes in education policies.” Professor Dr Mathew Koshy Punnackad, Director of Department of Ecological Concerns, Church of South India.

SLIDE 18



PHOTO CAPTION: Rithika with watering can in the garden at CSI Matriculation Higher Secondary School, in the Green School Programme, Diocese of Coimbatore, Coimbatore, Church of South India.

Thank you

Please support this vital work through USPG this Harvest. Through your generosity and commitment to supporting the environmental vision of the Church of South India we can transform the hearts and minds of their children.

I would like to finish with a prayer.

Prayer – Creator God, you have entrusted us with the stewardship of your creation.
Hear our prayer for all who seek to protect the environment.
Bless and prosper the Green Schools programmes of the Church of South India.
Grant environmental awareness to your stewards of the future.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen

Slides 19/20 – USPG end slides

Find out more.