

BUILDING COMMUNITIES

Rehabilitation for Dalits in South India

Dignified rehabilitation programme in South India

‘That scavenging is an offensive, inhuman practice in a civilized society, has long been recognised, but in India it still prevails.’
 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 India

In 2008, USPG sent £ 30,414 to support the wide range of Church of South India programmes, including healthcare, education and development.

About this Project...

▶ **Target: £4,540 / €6,050 | Project 458**

An estimated 1.3 million Dalits, also known as ‘untouchables’ or ‘low-caste people’, earn their living through ‘scavenging’, which is the manual cleaning of excreta. Mostly women and girls perform this task. They crawl into latrines with a broom and tin plate, clear the waste, then pile into a basket which they carry on their heads to a dump. This practice continues despite laws prohibiting it. Those born into the Dalit caste often have no employment options other than scavenging, which is perhaps one of the most extreme manifestations of caste discrimination.

A person who cleans carries other people’s faeces is someone unworthy of dignity and respect: hence the low status of the Dalits is further re-inforced. The Church of South India has developed a rehabilitation programme for scavengers which is providing training in alternative work, and training leaders to help communities realise their rights. Money donated through USPG will allow the rehabilitation programme to continue providing hope to scavengers by raising their economic and social status.

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To fund this Project contact our Supporter Care team

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



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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.