



## Bridge School

In some tribal areas, the number of students dropping out of the schools are comparatively high. There are many ways for resolving this issue. Identification of the students who dropped out and bringing them back to school and finding the root cause of the reasons for the dropout and to eradicate them are some of the existing ways of resolving the issue of school drop out. In 'Attappdy' (palakkad district, Kerala), we opted to start 'Bridge School' for resolving the issue of dropout by tribal children.

'Bridge School' is the exclusive residential school for admitting the dropout students in the tribal areas. At first students who opted out from school were identified with the help of Kudumbashree network. By admitting them in 'Bridge School', we tried to



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extend support and give individual care and attention to each and every student. Also, arranged good quality tutors, and provided food and accomodation to all students.

We started the first Bridge School at Attappady, three years ago. 110 students were enrolled in the first year. After learning the basics, we encourage the students to write and succeed in the equivalency exam, and help them join the mainstream school to the next level class. Alternatively, we also give primary training to the students and motivate them join main stream school.

Till date, 291 students completed their term at Bridge School functioning at Agali of Attappady block of Palakkad district. Of them, 68 students had reached to the mainstream school through equivalency exam ( 4 students of 4th standard, 13 students of 7th standard,



51 students of 10th standard). We could also make 63 students join tenth standard of regular school. 85 students were given primary training and made them join in 3rd standard to 9th standard classes.

The present strength at 'bridge school' is 34. From last year onwards, we have introduced art and sports activities in the school, in addition to academics.

Motivated by the success of the Bridge School at Attappady, we are planning to start similar initiative in the other needy tribal areas. Kudumbashree is committed to eradicate poverty off the tribals, help them to get better livelihood opportunities through helping them get a quality education by arresting drop outs!

