



## Girl's Hostel in Kalrayan Hills

*The Girl's hostel in Vellimalai village helps adolescent tribal girls pursue their high school studies. The hostel also aids with lifestyle changes to bring about better nutrition, personal hygiene and learning techniques to improve school performance. These girls will form the first generation of literate women in these villages, which in turn will provide them with a greater ability to fend for their rights and bring in an income.*

Although a lot of development is taking place in the world, many women in India do not realize equal opportunities. In rural areas it is even more prominent. Women are barred from speaking, working and socializing in the same manner as men. This is reflected directly in the education of girls and in Kalrayan Hills the figures were alarming. A survey conducted in 1993 showed that the literacy level among women in the area was almost at 0%.

To empower women and hopefully achieve some change in society, Intact started a Girl's hostel to make it possible for adolescent girls to continue their education through high school and thereby provide the possibility of a better quality of life in the future. Any tribal girl 10 years of age or older and above VI Standard is welcome at the hostel. Girls from remote villages are given priority. The hostel offers safe living arrangements, close to school with adult supervision.

### **The Hostel**

The hostel offers a safe 'home away from home' during the school years. A daily schedule is followed from morning to evening where washing, school, study time, tea time and free time are among the items on the schedule six days a week. Sundays is their day off, which is often spent playing on the school yard, learning to ride a bicycle, watching Bollywood movies on tv and just 'hanging out.'

Resident support staff is a warden and a cook who provide the girls with guidance and support, as well as help them better their study technique and become better aware of personal hygiene. The girl's sleep in dorm rooms and eat their breakfast and dinner together.



### **A Girl's Story**



Sasikala is from Ettrapatti village located deep in Kalrayan Hills. Her parents are illiterate agricultural labourers. She was enrolled in the sponsorship programme and went to Primary School in Pacheri village. She loves school and to study. When she completed V Standard her

parents wanted her to give up school and instead start helping in the household. She refused, ran away from the family and came to Intact girl's hostel in Attur. She had to wait until the following year to restart her schooling and has been at the Intact hostel since then. She is now completing XII Standard – the final year for higher secondary schooling. She wants to go to University and is a student leader at the hostel and participates in the decision making process of Intact's projects in Kalrayan Hills.

### **About Intact**

Intact, a non-profit, charity organization, was established in 1992 by Thomas Ebenezer who, by helping those in need of food, shelter and a sense of security, is living his dream.

Intact works to empower marginalised individuals in society, with focus on people with physical and intellectual disabilities, mountain tribes and poor women, by creating opportunities for independent living.

We want to achieve a society where everyone, regardless of caste, ethnicity, gender, religion, colour and ability is accepted and given the opportunity to develop to their full potential – without discrimination.