



Featured grantee for August 2016

Ashraya Initiative for Children

Trailblazing Girls Project



Dining for Women

— Changing the world one dinner at a time

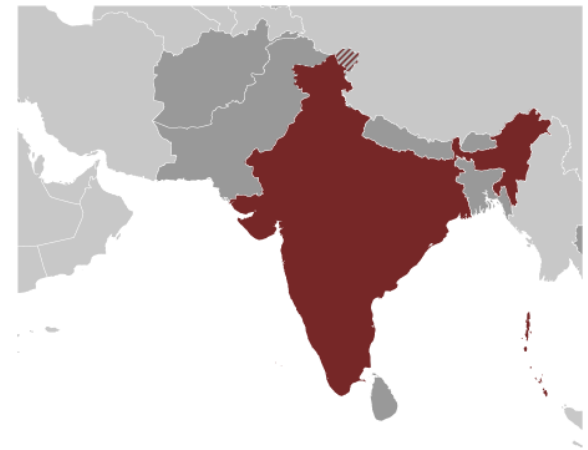
Introducing Ashraya Initiative for Children



The Ashraya Initiative for Children (AIC) is dedicated to improving the lives and shaping the futures of vulnerable children in Pune, India by advancing educational opportunities, nurturing holistic development and building healthy, empowered communities.

Where in the world?

AIC provides services to two urban slum communities in Pune, India. Pune is located in the state of Maharashtra on India's western coast. The population in Pune in 2011 was 3,124,458.



What are we supporting?



AIC's Trailblazing Girls Project aims to help girls from Denotified Tribe communities in India pave the way toward brighter futures through academic support, extracurricular activities and leadership opportunities, professional skills development, and increasingly supportive home and community environments.

What are Denotified Tribes?



Denotified Tribes (DNT) were legally criminalized by the government and their members were classified as “criminal by birth” under the British government’s Criminal Tribes Act of 1871.

Even after the Criminal Tribes Act was rescinded, social stigma still enshrouds the communities years after the criminal tribe label’s removal.

Life Challenges of Women in Denotified Tribes



AIC works with two Denotified Tribe (DNT) communities, the Waghris and Sikligars, in Pune, India. They face abject poverty, high drop-out rates, child marriage, early motherhood, domestic violence, unemployability, social and emotional health concerns and lack of familial support and public awareness of their struggles.

Budget

How Dining for Women's grant of \$48,700 will be used over two years:

Item		Two-Year Total
Personnel	Remedial support staff, college counselor, clinical counselor, computer teacher	\$32,000
Classes and activities	Guest speaker series, extracurricular activities (sports, art, dance, theatre), skills and hobby classes, internship program stipends, prep classes to prepare for competitive academic opportunities	\$13,000
Retreats and excursions	Two-day trip for Girls' Leadership Forum participants (one trip per year), local field trips and outings (one per year per class)	\$1,400
Outreach and workshops	Parental engagement days (three per year), Girl-centric special events (three per year), seminars with Teach for India fellows and local public officials	\$2,300
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$48,700

About the Featured Grantee



AIC was founded in 2004 by seven university students who had been high school classmates in India. The recurring observation that many local street children belonged to the same marginalized tribal communities led to the evolution of AIC's mission toward the broader goal of providing opportunities, resources, and support for vulnerable children from the slums of Pune.

About the Featured Grantee



AIC's core programs were developed and expanded organically between 2005 and 2008 based on growing needs and priorities, expressed community aspirations and assets, and an attempt to more deeply address the roots of the issues that affect vulnerable children's lives in meaningful, collaborative ways. AIC is a registered non-profit corporation in the United States, Austria, the United Kingdom, and India.

Share Your Thoughts



1. What do you think about the concept of “criminal at birth?”
2. How can education combat the stigma of being a Denotified Tribe?
3. Why is an emphasis on self-expression and empowerment such an important part of this project’s mission?