

Family sponsorship in India

Family is the nucleus of any society. Family life in India always needs a special reference. In spite of many social and economical constraints, there is always a strong bond that exists in the family. Each member of the family has a very distinct role to play. The man or the husband is the main breadwinner of the family whereas the woman or the wife takes care of the household activities.

Most of the people in this area are either agriculturists or daily wage earners. The agriculturists always depend upon the rainfall. The landholdings are very small and of poor fertility. But the majority of the people are very poor who does not have any land holdings and they are destined to survive as daily wage earners. Their work is very inconsistent and irregular.

The topography of the area is mostly barren hills. So there is a severe scarcity of water almost around the year. It is the duty of the women to fetch the water and there are many women who walk up to 4 kms. To fetch the drinking water. The water that is available is often contaminated by the pesticides used in the large tea estates around.

The recent downfall in the agricultural products due to the GATT agreement and the policies of WTO are a blow to the farmers of this place. Besides, there are no industries, either large or small in this area. So there is a sever unemployment and under employment.

The education of the children is a big problem because the schools are situated in far away places and the children have to walk 3-4 kms. To reach the school. Because of this the number of school drop outs are high in the high ranges.

Because the people are very poor, they cannot afford to have properly constructed houses of their own. Most of them have thatched huts with mud brick walls. The construction is so fragile that they may crumble and fall down any time. This area is subjected to powerful wind and due to this many improperly built house are collapsed.

Due to the contaminated water and the unhygienic living conditions, the people are prone to many contagious diseases. The hospitals are situated far away from the villages and the lack of transportation from the villages makes it difficult for the people to avail the medical facilities.

A cursory glance into the demography of the district will bring to light its major disabilities. Out of the total population of the district, 17% belong to tribal communities and indigenous people and scheduled castes. The vast majority of people are migrant settlers who own small plots of land. There is also a sizeable population of plantation labourers. The peculiar agro climatic features an the nature of the terrain make agriculture volatile and risky.

In spite of all these, the relationship between the members of the family is well knit and there exists a strong bond between all the members. This unity and strong family ties enable them to overcome any kind of hardship they have to face in their day to day life. A little support and encouragement for these people can bring a lot of development to them in various fields. Voluntary organizations like Peermade Development Society can play the role of a good facilitator in this regard.