

POWER UP!
INDIA

TEACHERS' EDUCATION
RESOURCE FOR **POST**
PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Indian woman,
Jaipur, India

TALKING POINT

Trócaire was established in 1973 in response to devastating floods in Bangladesh. In Ireland the Trócaire box has become an instantly recognisable symbol for the organisation.



PANEL DISCUSSION:
'Charity is often the starting point but solidarity is the end point.'

'It's easy to talk about values, it's harder to live by them.'

Discuss these topics, with reference to current role models in the world today.



This symbol denotes further information on our website www.trocaire.org/education/lentschools

OUR WORK

Trócaire works throughout Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. We deliver our support through local partner organisations, supporting communities and families to free themselves from the oppression of poverty.

In Ireland, Trócaire raises awareness about the root causes of global poverty and injustice and encourages people to campaign and take action for global change.



OUR VISION

Trócaire envisages a just and peaceful world where people's dignity is ensured and rights are respected; where basic needs are met and resources are shared equitably; where people have control over their own lives and those in power act for the common good.



OUR VALUES

Like all organisations, including schools, Trócaire has a set of values which represent the code by which our organisation lives. These values, which are grounded in Catholic Social Teaching, have remained constant since Trócaire's formation in 1973. These five values inform how we work and behave, how we make our decisions and the actions we take.

- 1 PARTICIPATION** – we work in partnership with colleagues and partners, involving and consulting with them and listening and responding to their needs based on a foundation of mutual understanding, respect and responsibility.
- 2 COURAGE** – we aspire to be courageous in our struggle for justice, speaking out fearlessly when we campaign for and on behalf of others.
- 3 PERSEVERANCE** – we will persevere in our work, recognising that discernible impact can take a long time to achieve.
- 4 SOLIDARITY** – we recognise that we all belong to one human family and that living together on this earth brings with it rights and responsibilities for everyone. We will take on our responsibility to share our resources and our skills with those who need them in a spirit of mutual collaboration.
- 5 ACCOUNTABILITY** – we recognise and respect the enormous trust placed in us by our supporters and partners and our collective responsibility to act with the utmost integrity in stewardship of those resources. We will strive at all times to be accountable, transparent and cost-effective in the use of those resources.

A CHANGING WORLD

“...the world has witnessed the vast resources that governments can draw upon to rescue financial institutions deemed ‘too big to fail’. Surely the integral human development of the world’s poorest people is no less important. Here is an enterprise...that is truly too big to fail”

Address of Pope Benedict XVI, Westminster Hall, London, Sept 2010

Our world is a very different one from when Trócaire was founded in 1973. Today we face a number of unprecedented challenges including:

- the global financial crisis
- huge population growth
- extreme weather conditions are rapidly increasing the number and scale of humanitarian crises
- wars and conflicts based upon natural resource scarcity are on the rise
- the majority of the world’s poorest people now live in middle - income countries where inequalities between the richest and poorest are growing at an alarming rate.

These issues plus the emergence of new players such as Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) challenge development thinking and practice. India for example, where Trócaire has been working for forty years, is a country where prosperity and poverty collide.

India has now a thriving economy, yet is still home to 400 million people living below the international poverty line of \$1.25 a day. A child born in India is twice as likely to be malnourished as a child born in sub-Saharan Africa. Many who are poor and marginalised in India are members of the caste system and are known as Dalits. Others who are poor and marginalised are members of tribal communities. These groups are often referred to as Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes. Despite many pro-poor policies and decentralised governance structures in India, the potential benefits are not filtering down to these marginalised communities. This can be due to discrimination, corruption and poor governance.

Throughout the world, poor and marginalised communities have a shared and common goal: to have control over their own lives and the decisions affecting them. The communities Trócaire works alongside, like those in India, ultimately

want to be able to live a dignified life where basic needs are met and human rights realised.

TRÓCAIRE'S PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

Partnership for Trócaire means that we use our experience, knowledge and staff to support people in changing their communities through local groups, church and civil society organisations. Trócaire is there to guide, advise and ensure local groups have the skills and tools to reach their goals.

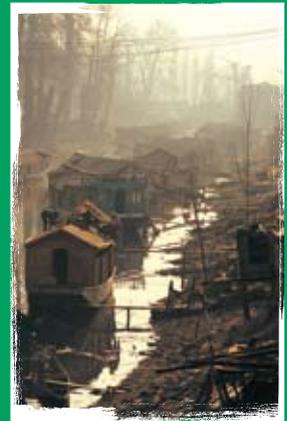
FIVE THEMATIC PROGRAMMES

Trócaire’s work overseas is organised under five thematic programmes;

- Sustainable Livelihoods and Environmental Justice
- Governance and Human Rights
- Promoting Gender Equality
- Preparing for and Responding to Emergencies
- Addressing the HIV and AIDS Crisis



TALKING POINT



Floodwater in Srinagar, Kashmir, India

**“People living in poverty are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. It is projected that by 2020 between 75m and 250m people living in Africa will face increased water stress, and in some countries yields from rain-fed agriculture could fall by up to 50%”.
IPPC, 2007**



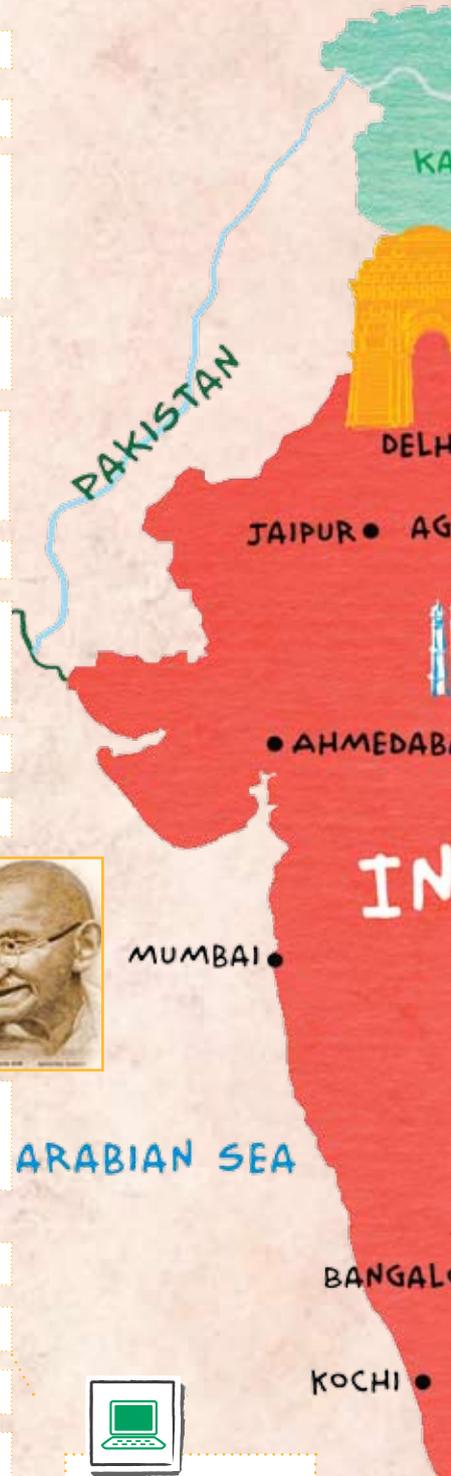
Tsunami damage, 2004 Indonesia.



Have a look at the map to see examples of our work.

INDIA: A BRIEF HISTORY

- 3100 BC** — Early settlements develop in Indus Valley.
- 2600 BC** — Early settlements develop into urban civilisations.
- 2000 BC** — India has been home to several ancient civilisations and empires, some dating back to more than 2,000 BC. Cultures and religions have flourished over the millennia and foreign influence has ebbed and flowed.
- 269-232 BC** — Reign of Emperor Ashoka Maurya. He valued Buddhism and was against war.
- 50 AD** — Trade between India and the Roman Empire is very successful. Romans eagerly buy Indian pearls, ivory, silk, spices, cloth and precious stones.
- 320-550** — Hinduism becomes the major religion of the Indian empire.
- 1600s** — Holland, Britain and France are eager to gain access to India's spices, rice, silk, tea and jewels and build trading posts in India.
- 1628** — Emperor Shah Jahan builds the Taj Mahal.
- 1858** — British government takes over power in India.
- 1947** — Led by Mahatma Gandhi, India gains independence.
- 1948** — Partition follows and India splits in two to create Pakistan and India.
Gandhi assassinated.
- 1966** — Indira Gandhi (not related to the Mahatma) becomes Prime Minister and is one of the first women elected to lead a nation.
- 1979** — Mother Teresa of Calcutta wins Nobel Peace Prize.
- 1983** — India wins cricket world cup.
- 1984** — Bhopal gas tragedy.
- 2000** — India's population reaches over 1 billion.
- 2005** — Right to Information Act passed.
- 2007** — Pratibha Patil becomes the first female President of India.
- 2010** — Right to Education Act passed for children aged 6-14 years.



Go online to research key events such as the Bhopal gas tragedy.

INDIA: A NATION OF NATIONS

The TAJ MAHAL is one of the most famous pieces of architecture in the world and speaks of love to all who visit it. The Taj Mahal is actually a tomb built by Emperor Shah Jahan for his favourite wife, Arjumand Banu Begum.



Indian people are descended from the many different people who have settled in the region over the last five thousand years. They came from what are today Turkey, Afghanistan, Iran, Greece and elsewhere, resulting in a multicultural and multi-ethnic nation. It has diversity like no other nation from snow-capped mountains to sun-washed beaches, tranquil temples to frenetic bazaars, lantern-lit villages to software-supreme cities. India is home to it all.

TALKING POINT

FACTFILE ON INDIA

LOCATION:	South Asia.
AREA:	3.3m sq km.
CAPITAL:	New Delhi.
POPULATION:	1.2 billion.
CLIMATE:	Tropical Monsoon Climate.
CURRENCY:	Indian Rupee.
RELIGIONS:	Hindu, Muslim and Christian.

CULTURE & TRADITION

- Thirty two languages spoken by over one million people each. English is commonly used for political and commercial purposes.
- There are three national public holidays in India: Republic Day on 26th January, Independence Day on 15th August and Mahatma Gandhi's birthday on 2nd October.
- Religion plays an important factor in many Indians' daily lives. Hinduism and Buddhism both began in India.
- There are a formidable array of celebrations and festivals e.g. Diwali - Hindu Festival of Lights.
- The bindi is a forehead decoration worn in South Asia. The bindi (traditionally a red dot) is said to retain energy and strengthen concentration. It is also said to protect against demons and evil. The bindi also represents the third eye and today is also worn by many as a fashion accessory.
- Bollywood produces around one thousand films each year; at least twice the number produced in Hollywood.
- Indian food is a popular worldwide cuisine.
- The waters of the Ganges River are considered to be holy by Hindus. Pilgrims travel to bathe in the river at Varanasi.

TALKING POINT

India has a burgeoning middle class; it has more billionaires than the UK.

India launches its own satellites and in 2008 sent its first spacecraft to the moon.

A BALANCE OF POWER

It is clear to us in Ireland that homelessness isn't right in a wealthy country like ours. It is also clear that in India it is not right for a child in Delhi to grow up scavenging rubbish for food, while the first Indian Starbucks is opening down the street.

In the late 1980s India began to open up to the outside world encouraging economic reform and investment. Today it is the 9th largest economy in the world with a globally competitive IT market and its own space programme costing some £750m. It has a large, well educated, bilingual and skilled workforce making it a popular choice for international companies looking to outsource. Construction is responsible for bringing a large amount of revenue to large cities which in turn business and tourism. In the cities, there are grand modern hotels, air-conditioned shopping centres, and some of the best restaurants in the world.

From here, India looks booming. New factories are opening all the time making goods such as computers, TVs, washing machines and cars. India's service industries are also flourishing. IT and software development are among the fastest-growing businesses. Many international companies, such as British Airways and American Express have established call centres in India. Often if you phone a helpline you'll end up speaking to someone in India. Many Indians are now better off than they were in the past. Wealthy Indians have excellent healthcare. Some Indian hospitals are so good that people come from Europe and the US to be treated there.

India may have more billionaires than the UK but...



It is also common to see streets littered with rubbish and cows wandering freely. Children can be seen begging on overcrowded streets rather than at school. Roads are choked with fumes from cars, buses and motorised rickshaws as people fight their way around traffic jams. Many people use motorcycles to get around the traffic jams and you often see a family of four on one motorcycle.

Many Indian people come to the cities in search of a better life as they are struggling to grow food and raise a family in rural villages. Often these unskilled workers end up living in slums or on the streets. Life on the street can be very tough. People are often forced to take up casual employment and work as labourers, street vendors and rickshaw drivers.



Children in New Delhi slum

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES TOWARDS A MORE EQUAL FUTURE

India is still home to over 1/3 of the world's poor. Many of the rural population remain impoverished. Within the national borders there are over 230 million hungry people; the largest population of hungry people in the world. Over 45% of children are under weight. India's poorest of the poor face disease, inadequate educational opportunities and limited livelihood opportunities. Many parts of India are also plagued by yearly drought or flooding – which has a devastating impact on lives and livelihoods.

There are laws to protect the rights of poor and vulnerable communities in India. Although in many states, these laws are difficult to enforce because huge inequalities mean that many poor people do not have the skills, knowledge or resources to demand their rights. Thus, the poor are often left without a voice.

In India, the government realises the importance of not only tackling extreme poverty, but inequality too. Inequality often sparks conflict which affects everybody, not just the poorest. Rebel conflict in Odisha for example has worsened in areas where poverty has increased. In neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, government schemes to promote equality have led to peace, and a better, more just quality of life for all.

TRÓCAIRE'S WORK IN INDIA

Trócaire works in the state of Odisha, formerly known as Orissa. 47% of the forty one million people living in Odisha live on less than 23 pence/28 euro cents a day. Odisha also has the second highest infant mortality rate in India. In the rural area of the Koraput District, female literacy rates are as low as 32%.

The Indian government has put many support schemes in place to help the poorest sections of society. However people living in the poorest, most remote villages of Odisha are illiterate, uneducated



and unaware of their rights and how to demand them. Trócaire works with local partner organisations to organise, educate and empower poor rural communities about their rights and supports them to access these rights from their local government.



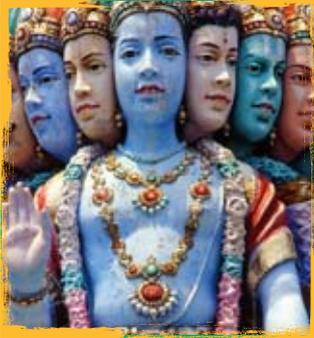
To learn more about Trócaire's work in India and this year's Lenten Campaign visit www.trocaire.org/education/lentschools

Jhilingoan Community,
Odisha, India



Trócaire/Alan Whelan

TALKING POINT



THE CASTE SYSTEM

The caste system in India is part of the HINDU religion to which 82% of people belong.

The caste system organised Indian society into a 4-tier hierarchy including the Brahmins (priests and the educated), the Kshatria (rulers and aristocrats), the Vaisia (landlords and businessmen), and the Sudra (peasants and working class). The caste system also recognised a category of people known as the Untouchables, those who work in degrading or “polluting” jobs.

The caste system was based on family of birth and rarely was anyone able to change their Varna.

CASTE DOWN

Traditionally in India, each Hindu person was born into a caste, or class. Historically this determined what job they would have and whom they could marry. The Indian government has outlawed treating people from different castes in a certain way, however, as in all cultures, it takes time for change to embed itself and so the caste system is still followed by some Indian people.

However, in all Indian states, discrimination on the basis of caste is now illegal and various measures have been introduced to empower disadvantaged groups and give them easier access to opportunities but nonetheless the issue still exists particularly in rural areas where 69% of the population live.

Historically, the Dalits were a group considered to be outside of the caste system and often referred to as the untouchables. In rural India it is still common to see a Dalit community cut off from the rest of the village, not being allowed to share village resources and

Dalit children seated separately from others at school.

Odisha is home to six million Dalits. While their rights are protected under the law, these people still have limited access, in practice, to a huge amount of basic services.

Since 1950, India has enacted and implemented many laws and social initiatives to protect and improve the socio-economic conditions of its Dalit population. In the last 15 years, people in India born into historically discriminated minority castes have been elected to its highest judicial and political offices. In 2007, a Dalit was elected as the nation’s president.

A form of affirmative action known as the reservation system also reserves a percentage of positions in the public sector, civil services, union and state governments and in all public and private educational institutions for the socially and educationally disadvantaged communities such as the scheduled castes and tribes.



Sunadei Nayk, Jhilligoan,
Odisha, India

Photo: Alan Whelan

SEEDS OF EMPOWERMENT

“Like a child, I take care of the seed.
Preserving seed is like caring for a child”

The Seed Mothers

In a quest to provide more food to feed its growing population local governments in India are promoting foods/ hybrid seeds which have been genetically modified (GM), particularly certain varieties of rice and maize. The issue of GM food tends to spark passionate debate. One argument is that GM seeds can dramatically improve crop yields on the same amount of land. Others say that this is a myth. They argue that despite expensive research, development and political support, GM crops have over-promised and under-delivered. Farmers have to buy new and increasingly expensive patented seeds each year, and often lack the detailed, technical expertise necessary to use them correctly. Farmers come from generations of agricultural knowledge and skill; but that tradition is of little value once GM seeds are introduced.

In 2006 Trócaire's partner ORRISSA (Organisation for Rural Reconstruction and Integrated Social Service Activities) started working with local communities to help adopt a system of agriculture which used local seeds and was therefore low cost and sustainable.



The Seed Mothers,
Odisha, India

TALKING POINT

CUSTOM:
The skills and knowledge acquired by the Seed Mothers comes from their mothers in-law as this is tribal custom. When a couple marries, the girl is welcomed into her husband's family and lives with her in-laws.

The role of a Seed Mother is not one for profit or fortune. The selling of surplus seeds which they may have gathered, never takes place. Seeds can only exchange hands between families and communities. They cannot be owned by any one individual, family, organisation or indeed state.

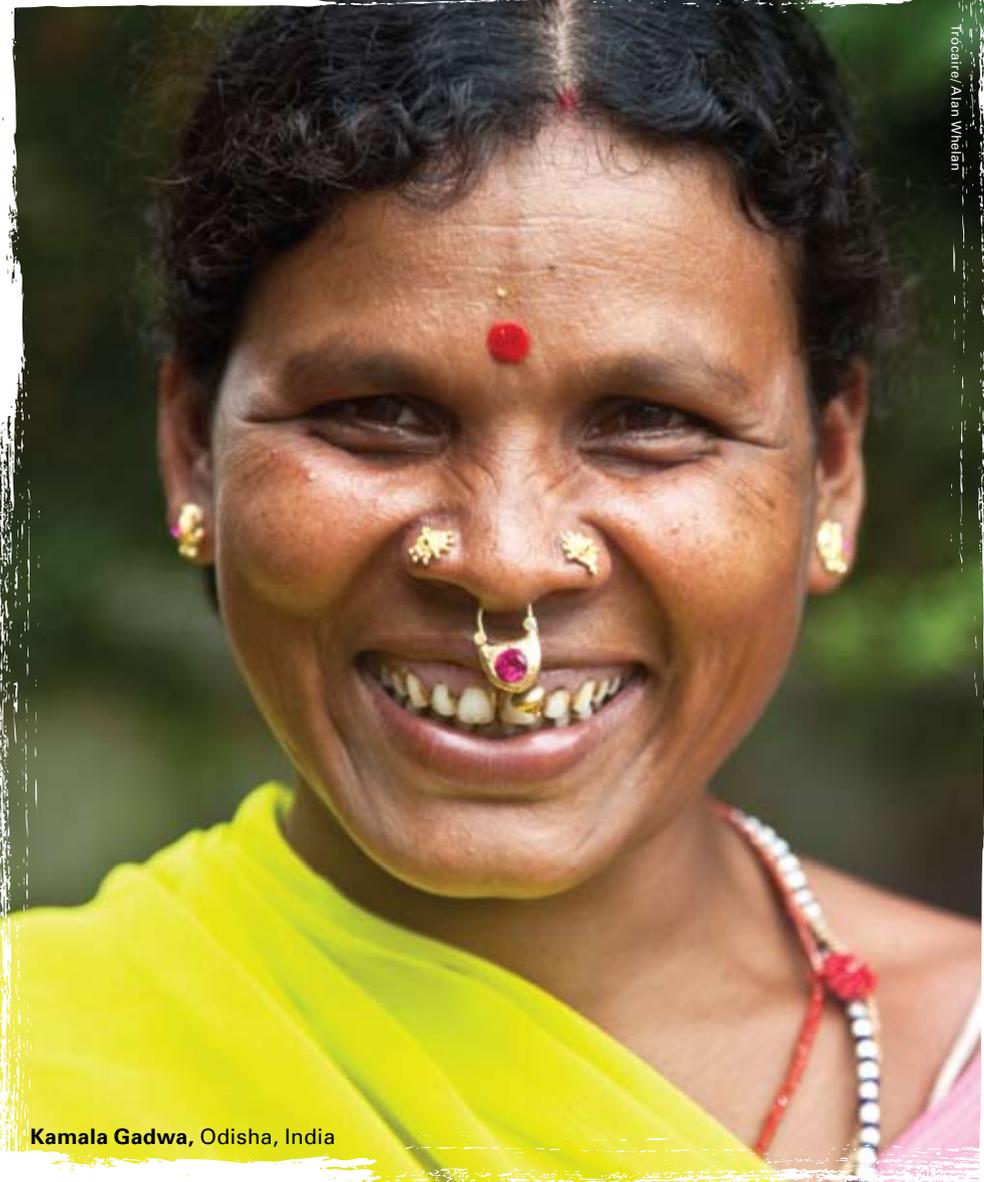


TALKING POINT

In India, Turmeric is believed to have anti-cancerous qualities and also the ability to kill many harmful germs.

Rice and turmeric are often mixed together and placed on guests foreheads as part of an ancient tribal welcome ritual.

Often when soldiers would go to war, their wives would anoint them with this mixture as a way of wishing them protection and good luck. Both rice and turmeric are symbols of life and light.



Kamala Gadwa, Odisha, India

Freelance/ Alan Whelan



Tumeric

ORRISSA knew that tribal women played a key role in nurturing local seeds. Popularly known as the 'Seed Mothers,' these women use local seeds and native farming techniques. There are different types of seeds for different types of land/ soil and seasons. "It is best that we stick to what we know best", say the Seed Mothers. By doing so, farmers can keep and use their own livestock and tools to aid in the proper cultivation of these seeds.

ORRISSA didn't invent the Seed Mothers. They didn't bring the knowledge, it was already there. ORRISSA though, have recognised the real value of that knowledge, and with that they have given the women dignity, pride and a sense of purpose.

POWER UP: YOUR VOICE

Your voice is powerful and can bring about change. We hold power as an individual, as a member of our local community and as part of a wider global family. Real power lies within all of us. Through our voice we can be agents of change: challenge injustices; demand our rights and act in solidarity with communities around the world.

Depending on where you live in the world you can face great challenges just from using your voice. Trócaire works with communities who are in poverty and supports them to 'power up' and demand their rights from their government.

Trócaire also works to protect and promote the work of human rights defenders who face death threats and daily intimidation by their governments.

To use your voice, to help others, is to be courageous. It is important that here in Ireland we use our voice to stand up for justice in solidarity with courageous individuals and communities across the world.

Here are the stories of two girls, Malala and Ambika. Where Malala lives in north-west Pakistan freedom of expression is not a given and those who use their voice to highlight injustices are frequently threatened. Ambika lives in the poorest state of India called Odisha.

Her community live in poverty, but with the help of Trócaire, the community are using their voices to demand their rights from the Indian Government.



In pairs ask students to read the two stories and to share their thoughts.

As a class discuss ideas to 'Power up' in your school or local community to campaign on global justice issues.



MALALA YOUSAFZAI

Malala Yousafzai is 15 years old and from the Swat District in the north-west of Pakistan. She faces discrimination and threats of violence because she is female.

Malala originally hoped to become a doctor, but through her activism on girls' rights this has changed. "I have a new dream, I must be a politician to save this country."

In 2012 Malala began to realise her dream. With support from the UN, Malala led a delegation of children's rights activists in Pakistan and met with local politicians to discuss issues that matter to them.



On the 9th October 2012, news travelled around the world through the mainstream media, facebook and twitter that Malala had been shot. Thousands of people were outraged at the shooting of this young girl. Referring to the attack, Malala's father said, "We have an ideology that advocates peace. They cannot stop all independent voices through the force of bullets."

Malala is recovering from the shooting and remains firm on her dream of equal education for girls in Pakistan and to one day become a politician.

AMBIKA PARAJA

The Paraja family from the village of Jhilligoan, in the Indian state of Odisha, feature on this year's Trócaire Lent box.

Trócaire works with the community of Jhilligoan to 'Power Up'. This means we help to educate and empower the community to effectively demand their basic rights.

The Paraja family and the community of Jhilligoan face many challenges and disadvantages. With the support of Trócaire and our partners, the community has started to demand their rights and have now access to services that they are entitled to from the Indian government.

Ambika Paraja is only 9 years old, but unlike Malala she and her family are able to use their voices to demand their rights from the government and local authorities without fear of attack and persecution. Ambika's father said, "Knowledge is power. If I know I can go to any government office, police or bank, I will be able to do what I want to do, to say what I want to say. If I don't know, they will exploit me."

Ambika's family and community continue to use their collective voice to challenge and demand their rights from the Indian government.



Trócaire campaigns to highlight injustice and human rights abuse that affect millions of people living in the developing world on a daily basis. Our campaigns are written from the experiences of our partners and the communities we support. Here in Ireland, where freedom of speech and assembly is guaranteed, we have a vital role to play in challenging governments and international institutions whose policies and practices cause poverty and injustice.

ATTEND OR ORGANISE A TALK

LOCAL MEDIA

ACTION PROJECT

BLOG

PETITION

POWER UP

You are powerful and can make a positive difference in this world. You can use your voice to speak up on social justice issues in the developing world.

USE ART OR MURALS

USE STREET THEATRE

SOCIAL MEDIA

SHOW A FILM/OR DOCUMENTARY

trócaire

40
1973
2013
YEARS

**Working
for a just
world.**

Trócaire is the overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in Ireland.