

Village life - School

Slide 1

Photo: credit: Tom Pietrasik/ActionAid

Children from Chembakolli go to Vidyodaya School in the nearby town of Gudalur. Their journey starts at 7.30am. Their parents walk them through the forest to the school bus.

Slide 2

Sometimes wild animals, like elephants, are wandering through the forest. If the children come across an elephant they quickly climb up a tree to move out of the way.

Slide 3

The school bus picks children up from a spot near Chembakolli on the edge of the forest and takes them to Vidyodaya school in Gudalur.

Slide 4

At school the day begins with an assembly where children learn traditional Adivasi songs and dances. Sometimes visitors come to speak to them in assemblies too.

Slide 5

At Vidyodaya school children have lessons in subjects like Maths, Science, Geography and Art & Crafts.

Slide 6

Children take a packed lunch to school in a silver lunch box called a tiffin box. They sit together in groups to eat and then have some playtime outside. There are more lessons in the afternoon.

Slide 7

At 3pm everyone helps to clean the classrooms. Children then wait in the playground to be collected. At 4pm the bus arrives to take Chembakolli children back to the forest.

Village life - Daily life

Slide 1

Chembakolli is a small village with about 100 houses dotted along paths in the forest. It is one of many Adivasi (tribal) villages around the Nilgiri Hills. Houses in Chembakolli have no electricity or running water. Days start early - usually at six o'clock in the morning.

Slide 2

Photo credit: Tom Pietrasik/ActionAid

Breakfast is a bowl of rice made over an open fire. After breakfast the pots have to be washed in the river at the bottom of a steep hill. People carry water back to use during the rest of the day.

Slide 3

At about 7.30am children go off to school. Some of their parents go to work picking tea in nearby tea estates. Others plant and look after crops. People grow vegetables and grains such as millet. They also grow coffee and pepper to sell.

Slide 4

Some people rear cattle and sell milk. Others collect honey from the forests during the honey season. Honey is taken to the honey depot in nearby Kanjikolly.

To find out more about honey in Chembakolli, download: [Chembakolli: Forest, here.](#)

Slide 5

Children get back from school around 5.30pm. They help to collect firewood and get the evening meal ready. People eat together, often sitting on the floor. They eat with their hands and sometimes use a banana leaf for a plate.

Slide 6

Some people visit the library to read or take books out. The Adivasis recently set up a mobile libraries project that visited lots of villages around Chembakolli. It was so popular that now many villages, including Chembakolli, have a permanent library.

Slide 7

In the evening children enjoy singing tribal songs and playing music with the rest of the village. Sometimes they visit relatives. Other times they play games, like marbles. Bedtime is around 9pm.

Village life - Animals

Slide 1

There are lots of animals in and around Chembakolli. Many Adivasis own cows which they keep in the villages. They sell most of the milk they get from them.

Slide 2

People keep chickens in Chembakolli so that they can eat or sell the eggs.

Slide 3

Several families have dogs as pets. The dogs help keep snakes out of people's houses.

Slide 4

In the forest there are lots of wild animals, like elephants. Elephants can be very dangerous so Adivasis have to be careful around them. If children see elephant dung on their way to school they have to turn back home.

Slide 5

Spotted deer live in the forest too. They like to stay in groups and travel around the forest together.

Slide 6

There are lots of other wild animals in the forest, like this bison, as well as panthers, buffalos, antelopes, wild boar, porcupines, monkeys and peacocks.

Slide 7

There is a village near Chembakolli, called Theppakadu, which is home to some trained elephants. It is part of the Mudumalai Reserved Forest. These elephants are trained to clear the forest of wood. The men who train them are called mahouts.

Village life - Games

[To find out how to play these games, why not download our newest Chembakolli games pack, here?](#)

Slide 1

In this photo children are playing *kho kho* at Vidyodaya school. You need two equal teams to play: one chasing team and one dodging team. Players in the chasing team should sit or kneel in a line whilst players from the dodging team run around them. One person from the chasing team runs around the line trying to tag the dodgers. The chaser can swap with another person in their team by coming up behind them, tapping them on the shoulder and shouting '*kho*'. The aim is to tag all the dodgers as quickly as possible.

Slide 2

Kabbadi is a team game that originated in India. Each team has one half of a playing field, called their court. The two teams take turns to send one person, the raider, into the other team's court. The raider can win points for their team by tagging players in the other team. The raider must say '*kabaddi, kabaddi, kabaddi*' over and over again during the raid!

Slide 3

In this game children inside a circle have to dodge a ball being thrown across the circle. If a child is hit below the knee they are out and have to move outside of the circle. They then help to throw the ball across the circle to get other players out.

Slide 4

Football is a popular game at Vidyodaya school. Do you play football at your school?

Slide 5

Many children play marbles at home and school. The children often use small stones if they don't have any marbles. Here Manikandan is trying to flick the stone into a hole. *NB: throwing and flicking stones can cause injury.*

Slide 6

In this game a player starts by picking up a stone and tossing it into the air. The player then needs to pick up one or more stones and with the same hand catch the other one that was thrown in the air. For the last step you toss all five stones in the air and catch them on the back of your hand. Then you have to toss them off the back of your hand and try to catch them in your palm. The number that you catch is your score. If you don't catch the stones at any point it is another player's turn. *NB: throwing and flicking stones can cause injury.*

Slide 7

Many children enjoy skipping and some can jump very high in the air! Here Kala and Sharadha Devi are skipping at Vidyodaya school.

Village life - Health

Slide 1

Traditionally Adivasis have used plants from the forest to treat illnesses. This Indian gooseberry has been used to treat fever, vomiting, coughs, earache and eye disease.

Slide 2

Nowadays Adivasis also use modern medicine. There are eight health centres near Chembakolli, like this one.

Slide 3

Health workers also visit Chembakolli and other villages in a mobile health van. This is useful for people who can't get to a health centre.

Slide 4

If people are very ill, for example with tuberculosis, they go to the Adivasi hospital in the nearest town, Gudalur. The hospital was opened in September 1990. It has an operating theatre, labour room, dentist's room and 25 beds.

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Village life - History

Slide 1

Adivasi (tribal) people have lived in the forest around the Nilgiri Hills in south India for thousands of years. Adivasi literally means 'first people'.

Slide 2

There are many different Adivasi tribes. People in Chembakolli belong to the Kaatunayakan and Bettakurumba tribes. Other tribes, like the Paniya, Mullukurumba and Irula, live in other villages.

Slide 3

The Adivasis used to live freely in all the forests of the Nilgiri Hills. They respected the forest and its wildlife and were careful to plant crops between the trees to avoid chopping them down.

Slide 4

As years went by outsiders began to arrive from different places claiming parts of the forest as their own. They chopped down trees to make way for big tea estates. Adivasi people were forced to give up the land they were living on.

Slide 5

Then one day, in the 1970s, the Indian government took over the remaining forest and banned Adivasis from it. Life became very hard for the Adivasis. They were often chased away from land that had originally been theirs.

Slide 6

In the 1980s ActionAid and an Indian organisation called ACCORD worked with the Adivasis to stand up for their rights to land. In 1988 the Adivasis marched together through the nearby town of Gudalur to demand they be allowed to take back their land.

Slide 7

Photo credit: Tom Pietrasik/ActionAid

With continued support from ACCORD, the Adivasis managed to take back some land. This land was Chembakolli. They planted crops between the trees and built houses just like they used to.

Slide 8

Since then the Adivasis have cemented their right to land by buying their own tea estate and they now trade tea around the world.

Village life - Tea

[For more photos and activities about tea in Chembakolli, check out our newest Chembakolli: Fairtrade resources here.](#)

Slide 1

Tea is very important to Adivasis. When they came to Chembakolli in 1989 they planted tea to help prove they owned the land. Most people still grow tea around their homes.

Slide 2

Adivasi people in other villages plant tea too. They sell it to buy animals and send their children to school. A truck comes round to collect harvested tea leaves from the different Adivasi villages and pay tea pickers. The truck is owned by the Adivasi Tea Leaf Marketing society (ATLM). It takes the tea to a factory to be processed.

Slide 3

In 1998 the Adivasi people took out a loan and bought a tea estate. It's called Madhuvana or "Honey Forest" because the estate is surrounded by lush green forest where many wild trees and animals are present.

Slide 4

Over 100 Adivasis work at the Madhuvana tea estate. They are mostly from the Paniya tribe. The tea estate covers about 176 acres which is about the same size as 15 football pitches!

Slide 5

Adivasi tea is processed at two different factories near Chembakolli. Tea leaves from the Madhuvana tea estate go to the Chambala factory near Gudalur. Tea leaves collected by the ATLM truck from the villages are taken to the AMCO factory near Ayyankolli.

Slide 6

The green tea leaves are dried and chopped until they become a dark powder. Then the powder is put into sacks and taken by lorry to Kochi (Cochin), near the sea.

Slide 7

At Kochi, the tea is loaded onto a big ship and travels to other countries like the UK and Germany. In England the tea is put into tea bags in Chesterfield. You can try Adivasi tea – just ask your teacher to order some from our online schools shop.

Village life - Work

Slide 1

Adivasi people have many different types of work in Chembakolli. Most of it is farming, though some people work outside Chembakolli as mahouts. Mahouts train elephants to do work in nearby Mudumalai Forest Reserve. So there are lots of different jobs in Chembakolli!

Slide 2

Honey is collected from bee hives in the forest from June onwards. It is taken to the honey depot in Kanjikolly where it is filtered. Then it goes into bottles and is sold in Gudalur. The Adivasis share the money raised.

Slide 3

Some people work as health workers. They travel around the local villages checking people's health and giving out medicine.

Slide 4

Tea is very important in Chembakolli. Planting it helped the Adivasis prove land ownership. They now have their own tea estate and sell tea around the world. Adivasis also grow tea in gardens around their villages.

Slide 5

Some people work for the community, in groups called sanghams. Sanghams talk to people about their problems and ways to solve them, as well as things they can do to improve their village.