Grassroots movement to keep kids in school

Involving local communities in keeping children from dropping out, the scheme worked wonders among tribes in the Nilgiris

by Rohan Premkumar

A grassroots movement to keep children in school has been on the rise in the Nilgiris. A few years back, the Adiyarai Village Development Committee (VDC) had come up with a plan to keep children in school. They appointed village elders in all tribal hamlets and have given them the responsibility to make sure the children stay in school and don’t drop out. This has worked wonders among the tribes.

Classes in indigenous languages

To ensure that Adiyarai children learn of their own languages and dialects, they only followed teaching in Tamil or English, which they only conversed in their dialects, and could not follow teachers teaching in Tamil or English, which were the mediums of education. They had no idea what the medium of education was. So, they were deceived and1

A survey by the Adiyarai VDC found that only 27 children out of 290 in the village were in school. They decided to start classes in their own languages and dialects. They appointed village elders in all tribal hamlets and gave them the responsibility to make sure the children stay in school and don’t drop out. This has worked wonders among the tribes.

The Adiyarai VDC also started classes in the local language and dialects. The children are now learning their own languages and dialects in school. They are also learning English and Tamil. This has helped the children to understand their own languages and dialects better.

Speaking to Express, D Ramdas, former President of the VDC, said that the reason why children were dropping out of school was because they couldn’t understand their own languages and dialects. This has changed now.

The VDC has made arrangements for the children to school, and the parents are happy that their children are learning their own languages and dialects in school.