

Flame of The Forest Safari Lodge, Kanha Award Winning Women’s Empowerment and Broader Support



Supporting and empowering women on menstruation, previously a taboo subject.

After three years working to break the ice with tribal ladies in the villages around Flame of the Forest Safari Lodge on the subject of menstruation, a taboo subject, patient persistence paid off. The lodge now has sixteen women working for a monthly salary making and distributing reusable sanitary pads to more than 42 villages around Kanha National Park. This empowering initiative has enabled these women to become less dependent on the financial contribution of the men in their families and is also providing dignity and relief to the women. The materials are sustainably sourced and can be reused up to 70 times without requiring hot water. The initiative won Flame of the Forest the TOFTigers Wildlife Tourism Related Community Initiative Award in 2016.



Social enterprise, Hathi, run the lodge providing stitching training to village women juggling other responsibilities.

The lodge also runs stitching training for local women. The resulting embroidered fabrics made at the lodge’s workshop are exported to Switzerland for sale in Zurich and online at [Hathi](#) providing new income streams to these rural women. Work opportunities are provided on a part-time basis to enable mothers to juggle several responsibilities.

Broader community support by the lodge has included the installation of solar-powered emergency lighting, medical camps for seven villages run in collaboration with the Corbett Foundation, distribution of medicated mosquito nets and blankets and sweaters for cold winter nights. The village school benefits from stationery and English-speaking classes run by lodge staff. The lodge has also provided financial support for the development of a school kitchen.

An area in the grounds is allocated for use by village farmers to grow crops such as sweet potatoes and watermelon. The lodge buys seeds and plants for the farmers; produce is shared between them and the lodge. A waterhole constructed by the lodge has made a dramatic contribution to recharging ground water levels and the village’s open wells.

ALL UNDER ONE SKY

HOW CAN WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

We are all being, breathing, existing, surviving and thriving under the very same sky. Some times our opinions can vary the way the world looks and we even see it differently. But some times we realize that to work it all out, some times what we stand at the moment, all we need is some one going up a direction.

Life in rural India is harsh and the women do struggle in ways we can imagine. Living in Kanha not only at the Flame of the Forest but as a part of the local community, it is essential to us to help and support local needs.

Working since 2010 with women in rural India we realize, these ladies are extremely strong. They are their own force, better than us, but their own choice. Starting by making the bricks that require to build the house, they opened the generations of farmers, organizing, organizing, raising kids, work in the fields, look for land and nurture the farmers of the area.

WHAT ARE WE PROVIDING

1. Stitching skill training
2. Work opportunities on part-time basis designed for mothers with several responsibilities.
3. Workshops at local villages for health and hygiene during the menstrual cycle.
4. Produce and disposable sanitary pads.
5. We cover all stages with workshops and sanitary pads.

WHAT IS OUR AIM

1. Empower tribal and training
2. Create awareness of the importance menstrual hygiene
3. Provide functional and eco-sensitive sanitary pads as an available and practical solution.

We are all under the very same sky, we all need help some times and we can make a difference in the life of some one else. For us and the team of Flame of the Forest this has manifested through HATHI 20.

Raising awareness for the need to support local women.