

## **Piplantri: A Rajasthan village which celebrates the birth of every girl child with 111 trees**

**Piplantri** is a village located in Rajsamand district in Rajasthan State, India. The villagers of Piplantri plant 111 trees every time a girl child is born and the community ensures these trees survive, attaining fruition as the girls grow up. To ensure financial security, after the birth of a girl child, the villagers contribute Rs 21,000 collectively and take Rs 10,000 from the parents and puts it in a fixed deposit, which can be broken when she turns 20. To make sure that girl child receives proper education, the villagers make the parents sign an affidavit which also restricts them from marrying her off, before she attains the legal age for marriage.

Sh Shyam Sundar Paliwal, the former sarpanch (village head) started this initiative in the memory of his daughter Kiran, who died a few years ago.

**The community ensures that the trees survive, attaining fruition as the girl grows up.**



[Image source: piplantri.com](http://piplantri.com)

The initiative has also helped the town's economy. To keep termites away from the trees, many of which bear fruit, the village has planted more than 2.5 million Aloe vera plants around them. Gradually, the villagers realized that Aloe vera could be processed and marketed in a variety of ways. So the community now produces and markets aloe-based products like juice and gel, among other things.

In a country that still favours the birth of a son, Piplantri village in Rajasthan not only embraces daughters but has created a tradition that benefits both the local people and the planet. This endearing village makes a conscious effort to save girl children and the green cover at the same time, by planting 111 trees every time a girl is born. A brilliant exercise in eco-feminism, this should inspire India and the rest of the world.