

Starting a Forest: Inspiring senior proving that age is just a number!

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For 37 years of her life, 75-year-old Thayammal taught Geography, History and Mathematics in a government school in Tamil Nadu.

And retirement could not stop the nurturer within her from continuing to shape lives.

“After retirement, I not only wanted something hands-on to do but was also looking for something that would give me atma-trupti (soul satisfaction),” she says.

She finally decided to spend her time and energy growing things, and hence began her journey of becoming Marangalin Thayar, which means ‘Mother of Trees’. She spent close to Rs 4 lakh and transformed her 8-acre land into a green paradise.

Many villagers and fellow teachers discouraged her from spending her money on this endeavour, but Thayammal’s resolve was unmoved.

“Even when I was a teacher at the government school, my husband and I owned a piece of land where we had many coconut trees. Post-retirement, I had more time on my hands, and also had the money that comes in every month from my pension. I thought it would be best to use the money to grow trees,” adds the teacher.

Source: <https://www.thebetterindia.com/221305/india-senior-citizens-retired-age-is-just-a-number-inspiring-ana79/>