

PROPOSAL FOR “JAGARAN (Education for rural children)”.

ORGANISATION INFORMATION:

NISHTHA is a registered non-government organisation of 1985. It is committed to upholding rights of deprived women and girls from rural hinterlands of Baruipur and Bishnupur-I block in 70 villages (approximately 6% of total villages). At present NISHTHA has adopted 60 villages of South 24 Parganas covering a total population of about 1,31,584. The activities by NISHTHA span over the areas like Adolescents Girls Education & Social Empowerment Programme; reproductive & child health; facilitate supplementary education; SHG group formation by mothers for micro-credit and enterprise development, organic farming and farmer's club; and vocational training.

Current major programme:

The current initiatives by NISHTHA are focused at three levels namely, (a) Girl kids, adolescent and youths; (b) community of women, small and marginal farmers; and (c) establishments. They comprise of

Health:

NISHTHA runs a number of health clinics, both Allopath and Homoeopathy, where a large number of patients are treated. Villagers are also given training on family planning, health education, health care and sanitary education, reproductive health etc. through awareness on health, sanitation and nutrition. In addition organizes programmes on sex and reproductive health care including STI/RTI/HIV/AIDS.

Adolescents Programme:

Leadership and life skill training is given to the adolescent boys and girls by imparting special training on reproductive health care, sex education, rights to safeguard deprivation, gender discrimination, child trafficking, child labour, child marriage etc.

Education:

5 schools where 1050 students get their education of both formal and non-formal education, 2607 children specially girl children, 1st generation learners, have been admitted in mainstream school (Government). They are supplied all educational supplies. Also they are given training in agriculture, health and many other development programmes.

Group Formation:

NISHTHA volunteers have build up of Bahinis or 'armies'-Balak-Balika Bahinis with children of age group-6-11; Kishore-Kishori Bahinis of adolescent girls and boys respectively of the age group 11-18; Mohila Mondal with women of the age group 19-55 and Senior Women's group with women above the age of 55. All members of these various groups are trained and oriented to work for the development of the village people, especially the women and the girls. These groups, which create influential new social networks in the rural areas, have empowered women to mobilize their communities. They have taken action to improve their environment, speak up against violence and alcoholism and have promoted community participation in all aspects of village decision making. These grass-root groups have broadened the social network, developed new ideas, and facilitate changes in village attitudes and behavior.

Training & Income Generation Programme:

NISHTHA has taken up a large number of programmes so that the villagers, particularly the women can earn additional amount, which will raise the economic standard of the rural women through improved agriculture, poultry, fishery, pig rearing, paddy processing, duckery and vending etc.

Advocacy programmes:

In addition to the above programmes NISHTHA has also taken up programmes for the development and Empowerment of women like:

Training on different subjects, Campaigns on various issues, advocacy, vocational training, non-conventional Energy use & maintenance by women, programmes to protect and promote child rights, free legal aid and housing for the victims of domestic violence, Old Age Home for destitute old women; Nutritional Programme; Agriculture Training, Night Shelter for sex workers' children etc. over the year.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE COMMUNITY

The area to be covered under this programme this is a mono-crop area where people get only one yield a year and the yield is not at all sufficient to run the family for the whole year even many of the cultivable lands remain submerged during the rainy season resulting in the failure of crops. The people here look for employment as daily labourers/agriculturers labourers. But whatever job they get, they earned very little out of this. And even all of them do not get the job. Poverty is rampant here. People do not have any educational background, ill health, mal nutrition, gender discrimination, lack health service etc. are their regular companion. They can not think of sending their children particularly the girl children for education. To them education is a luxury and they do not have such condition to effort such luxury. Rather they would send their children here and there to earn some money to supplement their family budget. Moreover, the women do not have any status and voice about their health, food, and sexual life. They do not have any social status too. Early marriage and early pregnancy are the rule here. All of them are to abide by the social customs. Rationality in social custom is overshadowed by the dominant superstitions. Poverty often compels them to bring in evils like child trafficking and child laborer. Women and children are helpless victim in such a village community.

Project Title: JAGARAN

Goal of this Project:

The overall goal of the project is to provide mainstream education to 200 children at risk from 4 villages of South 24 Parganas district, West Bengal and empower them with adequate knowledge, information and training.

Objectives of this Project:

- * To help in increasing the access of the children to education by admitting them in the mainstream schools and retain there and also to provide educational materials, training, information and knowledge to the children.
- * To help building up capacity of the parents, stakeholders and service provider.

- * To help increasing awareness among the parents, stakeholder and community as a whole to create a demand for mainstream education and education friendly environment in family and community.

Strategy to be undertaken:

1. To build up a strong an educational volunteers force:

Education volunteers will be selected from motivated and educated youth who will be trained to provide effective teaching methods. Each volunteers will take responsibility of a selected number of students. They will also take special care for the lagging behind students.

2. Peer to peer approach:

15 peer educators will be selected from those 200 children. Peer educator will be those students who are better in their studies. They will guide the lagging behind students of their own class in education. They will also try to gather the special problems that compel them to lag behind in education and supply those information to the service provider. The latter will prepare appropriate teaching methods those lagging behind students.

3. Formation of core group:

One core group will be form with 25 students from 2 villages. This students will have leadership quality. The responsibility of the core group members will be trained with Life skill, leadership, health etc. training. They will, on their turn, provide the above training to other students of their respective villages. They will also help in conducting various BCC activities and will also play as watchdog to inform NISHTHA about the cases where there is a chance for the students to drop or child marriage or child labour in distant villages or cities.

Activities under take of this project:

- * 200 children will be admitted in the formal school.
- * 15 educational volunteer will be recruited.
- * Training will be provided for 15 educational volunteers.
- * The linkage will be established with the formal schools and local administration.
- * Stakeholder meeting will be organized.
- * Parents meeting will be organized.
- * The educational support will be provided to 200 children like admission fees, book grant, exercise book, pen, pencil, eraser, school uniform etc.
- * Regular follow up visit will be conducted by the social worker.
- * Core group with 25 children will be formed from the students.
- * Regular BCC activities like wall writing, street play, rally, child fair etc.

Outcome:

1. 200 at risk children, most of them are child labourers and neglected girl children who are the first generation learner will be admitted in mainstream school and retained in school up to Madhyamik.
2. Child marriage will go down.
3. Child labourers will be decreased.