Asha for Education™

P r o j e c t   P r o p o s a l   S u b m i s s i o n   F o r m

Project Name: Improvement of existing school and   **Date: September 8, 2006**
establishment of six primary schools

	Project Contact	Asha Contact
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Part I: Information about your group/organization

Please feel free to attach any additional sheets and/or information such as brochures, press reports etc.

1. Name of the group/organization requesting funds.

   WORKERS DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY (WDS)

2. When was the group established?

   1992

3. Briefly describe the motivation for starting this group.

Southern Orissa, comprising seven districts is one of the neglected regions in the State of Orissa, India. Many areas are covered by tribal population. Lack of employment opportunities has aggravated this situation.

There are very few industries and the industrial work force is negligible compared to the population. They also earn their livelihood through agriculture, fishing, collection of forest produce, wood cutting etc.

The people of the area are very poor. Most of them are illiterate. So people of the region make out a living by working as day-wage labourers and work mostly as unorganised labour such as construction worker, kulis, and khalasies. Workers from these areas migrate to other states like Gujarat (India) or AP as Dadan Labourers. The poor are compelled to adopt livelihood strategies that have resulted in each member of the family having to earn for a living.

With rising job insecurity children and women play an important role for supplementing the family income by working in different types of works. Child Labour consisting of children below 14 years of age is defined by ILO as "the type of works that deprive them of their child hood and dignity

which hampers their access to education and acquisition of skills and which is performed under conditions harmful to their health and development." These children are often employed in low-skill, low- wage jobs with long working hours. These children from poorer sections are deprived of basic primary education and health care is neglected.

Implementation of Government Policies on eradication of child labour cannot be performed only by passing legislation on banning it but necessary framework has to be provided for accessibility of elementary education, providing basic learning facilities in schools.

It is important to understand that the basic element of ensuring children come to school and complete their education lies in five elements – ensuring accessibility of primary education, managing the enrollment process, ensuring attendance, retention till they complete class X and maintaining a quality of learning which will help them want to continue further studies. Efforts have to be made at each stage to ensure that children do not drop out of schools after enrolling.

Workers Development Society (WDS) was established in 1992 with a vision to help the worker's community and save their children from turning into child labours. Different social groups working among different sections of labour organisations joined hands to start this society ensuring for social upliftment of the workers and their families. The plans include providing preventive health care and awareness towards AIDS.

4. Briefly describe the aims of your group.

The mission of WDS is to implement various programs for upliftment of the under privileged illiterate, poor and back ward people of South Orissa. Education can solve many of the problems facing people and it can enrich people to think how to improve their lives. They can also adopt new technique for improvement of agriculture methods, good sanitations, and better environment. They can also devise ways to end exploitation and build a self-reliant society by efficient and effective utilization of local resources.

The recently launched Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the Government of India scheme to achieve Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE) through a time bound integrated approach, in partnership with States, has set the following norms for providing access.

"School/ Alternative schooling facility - within one Kilometer of every habitation"

We will try to match the spirit of achieving universalisation of education

5. Does your group have any religious or political affiliation? If yes, please describe the type of affiliation and the reason for it.

This group does not have any religious or political affiliation.

6. What non education-related community development activities is your group involved in?

WDS conducts health camps by contacting voluntary organizations for checking the health of its students and their families. Emphasis is on preventive health care. Our plans is to start one basic dispensary with voluntary services from doctors on different days. WDS has also distributed medical aids and free medicines to the workers families.

Economy:

We believe that a strong economy is part of the cure for many of the problems facing the people of the region. The society undertakes to create self-help groups among the women belonging to the workers communities.

Adult Education:

WDS shall under take adult education program. WDS has large number of transport workers as members and being a vulnerable section of society for AIDS, it plans to start training and awareness programs in its school premises. It would commence the awareness program after the school building which it is proposing is built.

Science Exhibition:

To create awareness among the poor and down trodden people regarding modern methods of development periodic science exhibition shall be undertaken.

Natural Calamities:

This region is prone to natural calamities such as flood and cyclone, WDS has undertaking voluntary service to help people at the time of calamities.

Part II: Details about your educational project/s

7. List the school/s run by your group, and their locations. If you are requesting funds for only a few of several schools, please specify which one/s.

WDS has established one school at Aska Road 1st Gate Berhampur in 1992.

WDS also has a talented student sponsorship program. This proposal is for improvement and operation of the Existing school and for setting up 6 Primary schools in Southern Orissa – Bhanjanagar, Aska, Surada, R. Udayagiri, Digapahandi (Rural Areas) and one more in Berhampur in Goods Shed Road, Berhampur.

Information regarding the existing school.

Name of the School :	Workers Development Society public school
Date of Establishment of School:	1992
Changed Name of the School:	Sramika Kalyana Vidya Bihar
Year Of Change:	1996
Number of Classes:	Pre Nursery till Class X

NOTE: In 1992 WDS (Workers Development Society) public school was established and the name of the school was changed to Sramika Kalyana Vidya Bihar in the Year 1996-97

8. Location of school/s   Existing School – Urban

WDS proposes to establish six primary schools that is one in urban slum area, three in rural areas, and two in tribal areas

9. Specify the type of education provided (e.g. basic literacy, vocational training etc.).

We provide the both basic literacy and vocational training in the existing school. The immediate focus of this project is to increase basic literacy and vocational training for older people and bridge education for school dropouts.

10. Please tell us about your teaching techniques (conventional vs. alternative).

Presently we are giving conventional teaching techniques to promote basic literacy among children. We are not aware of alternative education system and will be glad to understand and implement the same if ASHA can bring its experience to suggest systems which have been known to work in such situations.

As mentioned in answer to question 9, future goals include vocational training and bridge education.

11. What is the literacy rate in the local community?

35-40%

12. Describe the socio-economic background of the children and their parents (e.g. education, occupational). If any of your students are employed, please tell us about that as well.

Average occupations of parents of children are transport drivers, auto mechanic, and daily wage labourer in agricultural and transportation services.

The average income of these families is in the region of Rs 6000 per annum ($ 130 per annum). Most of the students cannot devote all their time to study. They have to help their parents in their occupations. Often, there is no way for them to study during night due to lack of proper light source. They very often do not have good clothes or school dresses and even may not have adequate school text books and other materials to continue their study.

24 students passed out from our school since last three academic years and most of them have secured more than 60% of marks.

13. In addition to education, does your group provide any other services to the children in your schools (e.g. food, health care, clothing, etc.)?

As mentioned earlier, we have other projects related to education. We have a talented student sponsorship where the sponsored students are being provided with school dress and waiver of school fees, facilities of books and other materials. We are unable to provide health care and other clothing due to paucity of funds.

WDS volunteers are active in promoting awareness and canvas from door to door explaining to parents why it is important to send their child to school.

14. Does your school have:

Own Building: No, the school runs in a building provided by Ganjam & Phulbani Private Motor Transport Workers Union

Number and type of class rooms (e.g. pukka): There are 14 class rooms including one office room, one library and one computer lab.

Other facilities available are

Toilets	: 2
Playground	: NIL
Toys & teaching aids	: 75
Chairs & Tables	: 68 bench-desk (5 students in each) + 13 tables + 21 chairs
Blackboard	: 20
Library	: 400 books

Drinking water   : YES
Electricity   : YES
Computer   : YES – 3 Nos.
Science Laboratory   : Basic (Not adequate)

15. How many children are currently enrolled in your school(s)?

Male 166   Female 144   Age Range 3.5 Yrs – 14 Yrs

16. How many staff are employed at your schools?

Teachers   16   Minimum Qualifications: Graduation

Other staff 6

Sl no	Name of the Employee	Qualification	Date of joining
1	Smt Gitanjali Panda	Masters in Arts, Bachelor in Education, Bachelor in Law	15/07/1995
2	Smt Prabina Mahapatra	Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor in Education	14/07/2003
3	Smt Harapriya Mahapatra	Class X, Nursery Teacher Training	23/06/1994
4	Smt MamataMayee Mohanty	Bachelor of Arts, Hindi Kobido	23/06/1994
5	Smt Minati Bisoyi	Masters in History	01/08/1996
6	Smt Reena Bisoyi	Class X ,Nursery Teacher Training	01/01/1996
7	Miss Sabanam Tarana	Bachelor of Arts	25/10/2001
8	Smt Anita Mishra	Masters in Arts	11/11/2002
9	Mr R. K. Mahapatra	Bachelor in Science (Maths, Physics and Chemistry)	02/07/2003
10	Mr Sukanta Kumar Parida	Bachelor of Arts	21/10/2003
11	Miss Minati Patanaik	Masters in Arts	28/10/2003
12	Sri Sibananda Padhi	Bachelor of Arts (Sanskrit)	20/11/2003
13	Mr Dillip Kumar Choudhry	Masters in Arts	17/06/2004
14	Mr Ram Krushna Maharana	Bachelor in Science (Chemistry Botany Zoology)	17/06/2004
15	Smt Bharati Sahu	Bachelor of Arts	23/07/2004
16	Smt Ramadevi Mishra	Bachelor of Arts	04/01/2005

17. Average distance the children travel to attend your school 0.5 Km – 7 Km

18. How many children have gone through your program in the past five years and what are they doing currently? Please tell us about their future education and employment possibilities.

The first batch of students passed out in March 2004. Three batches have already passed out from this school and in total 24 (Twenty four) students.

They have joined college and are pursuing higher education. Some of the courses they have joined include Nursing, BAMS, Bachelor in Computer Applications, and Diploma Courses in Engineering.

19. Do you help your students with their future education efforts after they have passed out of your school?

We have plans for assisting our students who pass out from the school but have not managed to find funds for implementing the plan. WDS has been facilitating sponsorship of talented students during their stint in school and we encourage young talented children not only to complete school with good grades but also to go for graduate studies.

We plan to start a sponsorship program and assist students for 5 yrs after they pass out from school so that they can finish their graduation studies. The sponsorship rates proposed per year is Rs 5000/-

20. Are there any other schools (Kindergarten/Balwadi, Elementary school, High school) in the area? If so, please list the schools and the range of classes each of them offers.

The following schools operate in the vicinity of 7 Kms:

- 13 primary schools (Kindergarten to Class - 4, approx 150 -200 students per school)
- 5 high schools (grade 5 to 10, approximately 300 students per school)

21. Is your program different from that provided at these schools? Please explain.

No, our programme is no different from other schools in terms of curriculum and the students appear for the same Board Examination conducted by the Orissa State Government at the end of Class X.

School is different in its focus of enrolling children from poorer and worker communities by continuous persuasion within its society members. It also provides vocational training like sewing for women.

22. Why are the children in your school/s not attending government/other schools in the local area?

An adverse student - teacher ratio, accessibility and distance from home, dilapidated buildings, lack of basic amenities like water make government schools unattractive for students.

In most of government schools there are larger numbers of teacher vacancies which the government has failed to fill in due to its fiscal health – Orissa being the poorest states in India.

Moreover, we are facilitating teacher – student interaction even during summer vacation and other holidays to the students, which facilities are not available in other schools. This has resulted in attracting students to our school.

23. Do you try to involve the parents of the children in the running of the school (e.g. in setting the syllabus etc.)? Please specify.

We conduct regular parents and teacher meeting to monitor progress of each student every month. We have formed a parent's body and reputed senior citizen of the area heads that Committee. Teachers undertake periodic visits to the home of children to ensure that children have regular attendance and the economic condition of children is also known. It also improves the study habit of the students.

24. What are your expansion plans for the future (e.g. adding more classes or schools)?

To improve the facilities for students, teachers and other staffs in existing school by implementing the following basic needs for the schools.

(i) Procurement of 3 acres of land (already identified) for construction of new school building with facilities like play ground for children

(ii) A well equipped a science laboratory for facilitating conduct of experiments in Physics,

Chemistry and Biology

(iii) Improve the existing computer laboratory with addition of TEN more computers, printers, modems, scanners, fax, LCD projector and other required audio/video aids – this can be utilized for creating health care awareness.

(iv) To improve the facilities provided to teaching and non teaching staffs

(v) To improve the existing library with at least 5000 books and create book banks for enabling poor students' accessibility to books at affordable cost.

Apart from the improvement in existing school, we also plan to establish six primary schools in different regions of Southern Orissa including tribal areas.

25. *Do you have any suggestions on how Asha can be a positive influence in changing the education scenario in India?*

Asha can really play a positive influence in the education scenario if it can

- Initiate efforts in coordinating efforts of Central government and State governments and influence the policy development in the country.

- Support capacity building initiatives

- Support NGOs/societies across states in initiating setting up of primary schools. Identifying states/districts in economically weaker states like Orissa and Bihar.

- It can develop project monitoring units to monitor and review progress in disbursement of funds.

It can also share its experiences in promoting education in third world countries and assist schools in developing vocational training courses.

26. *If possible, please provide us with the contact information of two individuals from your community who can describe the impact of your program*.

1	Name	JAGANNATH RATH	2.	Name	NRUSINHANATH DASH
	Address	Kasinagar street. Digaphandi road, Berhampur-6. Gm. Orissa		Address	Duduma colony, Digapahandi road , Berhampur
	Phone			Phone	+91 – 680 - 2270550

27. *Asha for Education requires reports from its projects every six months to continue funding. Please provide the contact information for the person from your group who will be responsible for these reports.*

Name	PROMOD KUMAR SAHU
Address	PROMOD KUMAR SAHU, SECRETARY WORKERS DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY, 1ST GATE, ASKA ROAD, BERHAMPUR. Ph – (0680) 2270812
Phone	+919861088411

Part III: Financial Details

Please feel free to attach any information such as annual reports, budgets etc.

28. What sources fund your group's activities at present? List the sources and the current and future funding from each of them. If these funds are meant for a specific part of your group's activities, please describe those restrictions.

Activities of WDS at present are funded by workers organisations, well wishers and other social groups. Not only the funding includes materials and cash but also voluntary services

29. Please provide us with details of your projected budget for the next 3 years:

Year	Recurring costs	One Time Costs
Existing School		
FY07	$ 12,000 Operation of existing school	
FY08	$ 14,000 – Operation of existing school	$ 10,000 - Setting up of the Library $ 10,000 – Setting up a Science laboratory $ 15,000 - Acquiring land for the Existing school $ 10,000 - For construction of school building
FY09	$ 16,000 – Operation of existing school	$ 20,000 - Setting up Computer Hardware, Training Equipment, Audio/Video Aids and Communication Network
FY10	$ 18, 000 – Operation of existing school	
New Projects		
FY08	$ 20,000 (operation costs @ $ 10,000 per school)	$ 20,000 - Phase – I (2 more primary schools)
FY09	$ 40,000 (operation costs @ $ 10,000 per school)	$ 20,000 - Phase – II(2 more primary schools)
FY10	$ 60,000 (operation costs @ $ 10,000 per school)	$ 20,000 - Phase – III (2 more primary schools)

30. Salary expenditure details:

	Number	Salary Range
Teachers	16	$ 300 per person per annum
Paid Staff	6	$ 60 per person per annum
Volunteer Staff	2	NA

31. Please provide details of the fixed costs of your school/s for the next three years.

Most of the recurring costs for the school are fixed in nature. So the fixed cost for the existing school are:

FY07 $ 12,000
FY08 $ 14,000
FY09 $ 16,000
FY10 $ 18,000

32. How many of your students pay school fees? Please provide details.

50% of the total students pay school fees and the rest are subsidized. The details are reflected in audit reports.

33. What amount are you requesting from Asha, and for what specific purpose?

Items	Amount	One time / Annual
Construction of school building	$ 10,000	One time in FY08
Setting up of the Library	$ 10,000	One time in FY08
Setting up a Science laboratory	$ 10,000	One time in FY08
Setting up Computer Hardware, Training Equipment, Audio/Video Aids and Communication Network	$ 15,000	One time in FY09
Operation of existing school – FY07 onwards	$ 8,000	Annual
Operation of new projects (per school) – once operational	$ 5,000	Annual