

Ashis Panda – Asha Fellowship – Proposal – 2015-18 (Second Phase)

Background

I have been working with Adivasi Bhil farmers in Dungarpur in all for about 8 years since 2008. During this period, I have been supported by Asha for 3 years (2009-10, 2010-11 and 2014-15), for a total of about Rs. 9 lakh spread over 7 years, towards a monthly stipend and work expenses.

Key achievements

During this period, in collaboration with the farmers, we have been able to build 8 ponds (incl. the 3 on which work is ongoing) in 3 villages and which have in all impacted the lives and livelihoods of about 150 farmers by improving their surface and ground water availability by 3-4 months.

In terms of recognition achieved, the BITS Pilani community conferred their [30 under 30 Global Award](#) under the social entrepreneurship category towards this work in 2009.

Overall plan for the next 5-10 years

Based on the actual work done in 3 villages, overall discussions ongoing in about 10 villages and the ongoing successful partnerships with the Vagad Mazdoor Kisan Sangathan for local social support and with Sambhaav Trust for technical support, I feel I have now a good enough platform to continue building the work in Dungarpur.

Over the last 7 years, apart from the work in Dungarpur, I have also been visiting and learning from Sambhaav's work on water in various parts of Rajasthan and other states.

Over the last 2 years, in an informal and honorary capacity, I have also begun supporting Sambhaav's work in terms of providing overall leadership to the organisation, coordinating its programmes and managing administrative work (legal, finance etc), in collaboration with other team members of Sambhaav.

I wish to now expand my role and work on water through the Sambhaav institutional platform at a regional level, based on the learning and experience I have gathered over the last 7 years, while continuing to build and expand the work in Dungarpur.

By virtue of continuing to be based in Dungarpur, I will be putting in about 1 week of time per month in Dungarpur, and the rest of the time (about 3 weeks per month) towards work at a regional level (Rajasthan and rest of North India).

Playing such a role requires a formal leadership position with Sambhaav. Based on dialogue and discussion within Sambhaav, I have decided to work formally as "Programme Director" with Sambhaav with effect from 1 Nov 2015. In this regard, a copy of the formal email from Farhad Contractor dated 24 Oct 2015, who is the Executive Secretary, Trustee and founder of Sambhaav has been shared with Asha.

I have accepted this position as of now on a honorary basis, as Sambhaav is still in the process of raising funds for its next 3-5 years of work as per its [2015-18 Plan and Budget](#), and does not have any funds at present to support a stipend / honorarium.

Sambhaav's work report and plan

The following documents provide some detail about Sambhaav's work over the last 5 years and plans over the next 3-5 years:

1. [Sambhaav Report - 2009-14](#) (File Size: 74 MB)
2. [Sambhaav Report - 2009-14 - Annexures](#) (File Size: 3 GB)
3. [Sambhaav Plan and Budget - 2015-18](#) (File Size: 4 MB)

Plan and budget for second phase (2015-18)

Based on my overall plan for the next 5-10 years, I seek support from Asha towards the following two work components for the next 3 years:

1. A stipend of Rs. 300,000/- per year, towards the overall leadership and coordination role and work I will do at a regional level via Sambhaav. The scope of work which I will broadly lead and be responsible for is covered in the [Sambhaav Plan and Budget – 2015-18](#) document. The [Sambhaav Report – 2009-14](#) and its [Annexures](#) provide a detailed idea of the work done by Sambhaav over the last 5 years.

Note: A stipend for me has been budgeted for as per the formal role I will play in Sambhaav, in [Sambhaav's Work Plan and Budget for 2015-18](#). If Asha commits support towards this, I will not take the stipend from Sambhaav, if and when Sambhaav's Plan and Budget are approved by the donors Sambhaav has sent the proposal to.

2. Work / programme expenses of Rs. 350,000/- per year, towards the partial cost of continuing work on water conservation and related work, in Dungarpur in 5-10 villages (a part of the cost is contributed by the participating farmers).

Note: Funds for the work planned in Dungarpur and its budget have been included in [Sambhaav's Work Plan and Budget for 2015-18](#), as the work in Dungarpur is now formally part of Sambhaav's work plan. If Asha commits support towards this, I will not take funds from Sambhaav for the same purpose.

Summary of Budget required from 2015-18

Sl. No.	Budget Item	2015-16 (In Rs.)	2016-17 (In Rs.)	2017-18 (In Rs.)
1	Stipend / Honorarium (For Sambhaav Regional role, which includes the work in Dungarpur)	300000	322500	346690
	Breakup / Explanation	@ Rs. 25000/- per month * 12 months	An increase of 7.5% over the previous year has been applied	
2	Work / Programme Expenses (For work in Dungarpur only) (Rs.)	350000	376250	404470
	Breakup / Explanation	@ Rs. 30000/- to Rs. 35000/- per pond * 8 to 10 ponds per year +	An increase of 7.5% over the previous year has been applied	

		Rs. 4000/- per month * 12 months for local travel and related expenses.		
	Total (In Rs.)	650000	698750	751160

(*Numbers have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 10.)

Explanation of the proposed Budget

1. What is the explanation and reasoning for each component of budget? What components have increased in budget proposal from last year? Why?

The stipend currently being supported by Asha (2014-15) for the work in Dungarpur is Rs. 289800/- per year, increasing at 10% per year. The stipend I have asked for in 2015-18 is Rs. 300000/- per year, increasing at 7.5% per year. This is an increase of about 4% over the stipend currently being supported.

The figure of Rs. 300000/- per year is based on the scale of pay equivalent to the Executive Secretary in Sambhaav, which is what has been budgeted for 2015-16 in [Sambhaav's Work Plan and Budget – 2015-18](#) document (Ref: Page 11).

The increase of 7.5% per year is meant to capture inflation. 7.5% is more true and realistic than 10% that was used for the first phase of the Fellowship, which is why I have reduced it to 7.5%.

Regarding the work / programme expenses, assuming that I continue with work only on water conservation through building and reviving ponds and streams in Dungarpur, the figure of Rs. 350000/- per year, is based on an average cost of about Rs. 30000-35000/- towards the partial cost per pond, and a goal of working on about 8-10 ponds per year, and covering 10 villages over 3 years. Note that this includes some support for local travel and related expenses as well @ Rs. 4000/month, apart from the partial cost of ponds.

2. What is the number of farmers & pastoralists supported this year; how does it compare to last year?

Regarding the work in Dungarpur, till now about 150 families (farmers) in 3 villages have benefited from the work at an average of 50 families per village. Over the next 3 years, the goal is that about 500 families in 10 villages benefit from the work.

Regarding the work via the Sambhaav regional role, at the end of 2014, Sambhaav had worked with and benefited about 75000 families (farmers and pastoralists) in 400 villages, across 3 states of India over 5 years, through just its direct on the ground work (Ref: Page 51 of [Sambhaav's Report - 2009-14](#) document).

Note that this impact and reach, does not include the impact from Sambhaav's urban and documentation / outreach work.

3. What % of the programme is supported by other donors? What alternative sources of funding has the partner investigated?

As of now, Sambhaav has no current / ongoing support from other donors. However, it is in touch with various donors and expects to raise support to the tune of about Rs. 50 lakhs per year (for 2015-16), from them over the next 12 months. The support sought from Asha is about 6.5 lakhs per year (for 2015-16), which is about 13% of the overall budget.

Sambhaav has built a corpus fund of Rs. 100 lakhs, that give it an income of about Rs. 9-10 lakhs per year. This helps cover some of the basic administration, legal, travel and coordination expenses and some salaries / stipends of members and fellows of the organisation.

4. What other programmes does the project partner support? How big is the organization - i.e. does the partner run other programmes other than the one supported by Asha? How much is total funding for the entire organization?

Details of Sambhaav's work and plan/budget are available in the following documents:

1. [Sambhaav Report - 2009-14](#) (File Size: 74 MB)
2. [Sambhaav Report - 2009-14 - Annexures](#) (File Size: 3 GB)
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5. Does Asha have a latest copy of audited financial statements?

Audited statements upto 2014-15 pertaining to the Asha Fellowship Programme a/c within Sambhaav have been shared with Asha. Audited statements of Sambhaav as a whole, can also be shared, if required.

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Ashis
Dungarpur, Rajasthan
1 December 2015