

## Diksha- Asha Purdue project proposal

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**Instructions: Please respond to the following questions. Provide detailed information wherever possible. (Can include some pictures if necessary)**

	Project Contact	Asha Contact
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### **Information about your organization:**

#### *1 Name of the organization-*

A consortium of Alok Charitable Trust & Diksha Foundation

#### *2. Objectives of the organization/group.*

Alok Charitable Trust (ACT)

Alok Charitable trust (ACT) was established in the year 1988 towards furthering the cause of Education and integrated sustainable development for rural communities in

India. The trust seeks to a socio-economic transformation in the rural India through knowledge and education support to communities.

Vision/Mission: To enable a sustainable development process for rural India through enhanced access to knowledge, education, and equitable livelihood and growth opportunities.

Objectives:-

- To build capacities of young adults around self environment and identity.
- Inculcate a culture of creativity, knowledge awareness and active citizenship amongst the youth generation and community.
- To establish relation between oneself, the local and the global development trajectory.
- To share our expertise on ICT based education pedagogies, leadership, life skill and environment.
- To promote and foster local art and culture in the community.
- Specific related skill development of students and community members through ICT tools.

Diksha Foundation

Diksha is a motley group of highly trained professionals from multiple backgrounds pursuing the cause of education and sustainable development through rural interventions in India. A not for profit organization established to help facilitate a process of education and empowerment of the economically and socially underprivileged, Diksha aims to provide skill sets to rural communities that will help them engage in sustainable economic activities as well as build healthy and productive lives for themselves.

Mission: The organization endeavours to open up the minds of the learners, increase their self-esteem, build and strengthen their capacities to cope with life's challenges and educate them with the skills necessary to actualise their greatest potential. Special focus is on building an awareness of and responsibility for the environment to service every district in the country within the next 20 years.

Vision: Educated and empowered children and adults, with special focus on the girl child.

Objectives:-

- To create a cadre of socially sensitized and empirically equipped young adults through access to tools of education and skill development.
- To enable dissemination of quality education amongst the less privileged in the form of interactive education pedagogy equipped with ICT.
- To facilitate dissemination of appropriate and context specific education content for out-of-school children, hence enabling access to opportunities of growth and development.
- To provide easy accessibility of learning to underprivileged children.

- To meet the basic requirements of education for backward-children so as to create a conducive environment for their study.
- To reduce the disparity in terms of education accessibility to the underprivileged community.
- To open up the minds of children, increase their self-esteem, build and strengthen their capacities to cope with life's challenges and educate them with the skills necessary to actualize their greatest potential.

3. Affiliations. Please give reasons if any of these are religious and/or political.

ALOK Charitable Trust & Diksha Foundation are both affiliated to the Honey Bee Network. Honey Bee Network weaves knowledge and information by collecting knowledge and innovations from different knowledge provider. Its mandate is to disseminate knowledge and Innovations, which are just and fair. The Honey Bee Network has been founded by Dr. Anil Gupta, Faculty, Indian Institute of Management, Ahemdabad, to read more about Dr Gupta and Honey Bee Network please visit <http://www.sristi.org/hbnew/> .Dr Gupta is Member Trustee of Alok Charitable Trust.

Neither Alok Charitable trust nor Diksha Foundation is associated with any religious or political organizations

4. *Community development activities, if any (apart from education).*

Alok Charitable Trust and Diksha Foundation are implementing Pararabdh village Improvement Project. ACT has been working in the village for the last 20 years and has been engaged in community development in the areas of health, women empowerment & agriculture. Please find below a brief snapshot of the activities undertaken.

#### Vocational training under "Earn while you Learn programme"

While the trust encourages the community to enrol children in the education programme, livelihood remains a matter of concern, directly impacting the chances of receiving education for the child. The 'earn while you learn' programme seeks to combine vocational training with the mainstream education. Apart from the curricula classes approved by the UP education board the children/ young adults undergo a series of training in candle and chalk making, sewing and embroidery, book binding, agricultural management, crop care, etc. The products developed out of the training hours are sold in the market and the proceeds are re-distributed amongst the students. Thus, ensuring a constant flow of income (even though restricted by number of hours of production in order to maintain a balance), additional skill training and contextual relevance to education received.

#### Youth Initiative

In order to involve the youth in the region in constructive development activities, Yuvak Mangal Dal (YMD) was championed by the Trust. The YMD organizes the youth

in the region in a coherent group with a mandate of introducing development initiatives of local relevance in the villages. The young adults part of the YMD receive constant knowledge support through interactive workshops on local emerging concerns of health and hygiene, active citizenship, infrastructural development for the benefit of the community and volunteerism.

The YMD has actively engaged in campaigns on 'Clean Communities', Waste Management, Against Alcoholism, Education for all, Clean Energy for Living in the last few years at the village and Block levels. Volunteers of YMD supported the Trust through voluntary labour services in the construction and expansion of the school.

#### Agri-support services

ACT has constantly believed in making education relevant to the local context. The trust has facilitated several training programmes and one to one services through agri-experts to the farmers of Bulandshahar district through training in crop care, improved agri-techniques for increased productivity, Dairy and animal husbandry. ACT in collaboration with PARAG DAIRY has improved the breed of cattle in the region as well as upkeep of the cattle. Gangagarh village (Pahasu Block) under the programme had been declared the second largest milk producing village in whole district (as per government records).

#### Health and Hygiene

ACT has designed numerous interventions in collaboration with UNICEF, VHIE, and DAVP towards maintaining exemplary health and hygiene standards in the local communities. Some of these include village sanitation initiative (in collaboration with UNICEF), RADHA (Rural Action For Development And Health Avenues) reaching out to 1000s of women in the Bulandshahr district, UPVHA training of high school students and teachers from village schools in the region for health and hygiene training as youth health workers.

#### *5. Brief description of previous funding sources including amounts (student fees if applicable).*

Prarabdh-Gangagarh Village Improvement Project, Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh	
Sources of Funding	Amount(in Indian Rupees)
Cognizant Foundation	380,000
Sitaram Jindal Trust	50,000
Individual Donors	200,000
Student Fees	600,000

KHEL Patna, Bihar	
Sources of Funding	Amount(in Indian Rupees)
Individual Donors	350,000
Youth Collective	180,000

Neeraj Kumar Memorial Learning Center,Nalanda, Bihar	
Sources of Funding	Amount(in Indian Rupees)
Media Guru (CSR initiative of Media guru company)	600,000
Community Contribution	25,000

# 1 dollar = 50 Indian Rupees (Nearly)

6. Other pertinent information (annual report and/or budget, newspapers clips etc.)

*Annexure\_1\_Diksha\_Annual Report*

*Annexure\_2\_Annual Report – Alok Charitable Trust*

*Annexure\_3\_Audited Report\_ Alok Charitable Trust*

*Annexure\_4\_Audited\_Report\_Diksha\_Foundation*

**Details about your project area:**

7. List and location of school(s) operated by your group in the project area.

*In tabular form please.*

S.L no.	Name of the School /Centre.	Location
1	KHEL-Patna	C-1 Shantivihar, Ambedkar Path, Po-BV College, Patna-14, Bihar. Project area- Tesh Lal Banma Nagar, near jagdeo path, Patna.
2	SRB Alok School	Gangagarh Village, Pahasu Block, Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh

3	Niraj Kumar Memorial Learning Center-	Satyendar Bhawan, Patel Nagar, near bus stand Hilsa, Dist- Nalanda, Bihar.

*# Through this proposal we are seeking support specifically for the KHEL Patna, Project.*

**8. Details of children enrolled in your school(s):**

The following table is mentioned the boys and girls those are enrolled in our three school-

<i>S.L.No.</i>	<i>Name of the School/Centre</i>	<i>Number of Boys enrolled</i>	<i>Name of Girls enrolled</i>
1	KHEL Patna	30	39
2	Niraj Kumar Memorial Learning Centre- Hilsa, Dist- Nalanda ,Bihar	47	29
3	SRB Alok High School	500	300

*# Through this proposal we are seeking support specifically for the KHEL Patna, Project.*

**9. Average distance the children travel to attend your school.**

<i>S.L no.</i>	<i>School-Name</i>	<i>Average distance the children travel to attend school.</i>
1	KHEL Patna	2 km.
2	Niraj Kumar Memorial Learning Centre, Hilsa Nalanda, Bihar.	2 km
3	Gangagarh School, Bulendshar, UP.	4 km

*# Through this proposal we are seeking support specifically for the KHEL Patna, Project.*

**10. Details of support you receive through governmental education programmes (such as DPEP etc.).**

Currently, we are not getting any support from the Government.

11. Details of the staff employed at your school(s): no. of teachers, minimum qualifications etc.

Details of the staff employed at our three projects, this is mentioned in the table below:-

Staff of KHEL Patna:-

S.L no.	Post	Number of employees	Minimum qualification.
1	Coordinator-cum-Instructor	1	Master Degree
2	Instructor	1	Graduate

Staff of SRB Alok High School, Gangagarh, Dist- Bulendshar, UP:-

S.L. no.	Post	Number of employees	Minimum qualification.
1	Principal	1	Post Graduate
2	Head Mistress	1	Graduate
3	Teachers	22	Graduate
4	Support Staff	4	Class 10 pass

Staff of Niraj Kumar Memorial Learning Centre, Hilsa-Nalanda:-

S.L no.	Post	Number of employees	Minimum Qualification
1	Coordinator-cum-Instructor	1	Master degree
2	Instructor	1	Graduate

# Through this proposal we are seeking support specifically for the KHEL Patna, Project.

12. Existing infrastructure facilities (own building, toilets, playground, library, teaching aids etc.)

- KHEL Patna
  - Rented building with drinking water facility and toilets
  - Small Play ground

- SRB Alok School, Gangagarh
  - Own building with 9 bighas campus
  - Library
  - Computer Lab with 12 computers
  - Audio Visual Lab
  
- Neeraj Kumar Memorial Learning Centre, Hilsa
  - Rented building with toilet and drinking water facilities
  - Playground
  - Computer Room with 5 computers

*# Through this proposal we are seeking support specifically for the KHEL Patna, Project.*

*13. Expansion plans for the future.*

Future plan for expansion:-

- We are currently working with 69 children; we plan to increase our capacity to 100 children.
- A computer lab is to be established with 5 computers. This will help us incorporate ICT based teaching methods in our day to day activities with the children. In the evening the lab will be utilized for computer training of youth. There is a high demand for manpower equipped with computer skills, especially for data entry jobs.
- We plan to become an Information Centre sharing details of different schemes of Government for the community and helping them in documentation, etc for availing the schemes.
- Mini- library for the children and their parents.

*14. Number of other schools in the project area and the range of classes offered by them.*

There is a Primary School run by the Local Government 2 kms from the centre; it falls under the Lalunagar area. The primary school operates class-1 to class-5. There is another Government Upper Primary School is situated. that comes under Khajpura area, which is around 3 kms away from the centre. There are also some private schools in the area but they cater to relatively well off children.

*15. Differences in the program provided at your school(s) to other schools in the project area.*

The KHEL Model (Knowledge Hub for Education and Learning) envisages establishing open learning spaces for socially and economically disadvantaged children and youth. KHEL does not limit itself to helping the child acquire basic literacy but focuses on holistic learning so that the child grows intellectually and not mechanically as often happens in the context of schools/institutions serving the underprivileged.

We believe that education is the greatest tool to empower children and to help bring about transformation in the society. Our target community has limited access to educational resources, our KHEL centre offers them holistic learning. The project is a bottom-up intervention led jointly by the children and the facilitators.



The project includes supplementary/remedial education to address the issue of basic literacy and adoption of child friendly methods of learning and context specific education to enhance their intellectual well being. For the children's intellectual growth focus is on use of creative arts - learning through theatre, drama, music, group discussions, movie screenings, and book clubs. The centre also plans to offer the youth skill development training in areas of their interest.

**Details about the project:**

16. Name, experience and education of the Project Director and others involved in the project from your group.

Person	Experience
Dr G P Gupta, Chairman- Alok Charitable Trust & Project Director	MSc (Agri), D. Phil; Retired Joint Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. Dr GP Gupta has over 20 years work experience in the area of rural education and community development.
Prof. Anil K Gupta	PhD (Agri Business); Faculty, IIM -Ahmadabad Recipient of Padamshri Award from Govt of India Member, National Innovation Council, Chaired by Adviser to Prime Minister Prof Gupta has been working towards expansion of global as well as local space. He also helps organizations become more creative and innovative from bottom up by learning from grassroots innovations.
Mr. Arun Gupta	BSc, CAIB More than 25 years of experience in Financial Consulting. He operates a Financial Consultancy firm providing total financial solutions to large as well as Small & Medium Enterprises covering wide spectrum of industrial sectors.
Mr. Gautam Gauri	Gautam is an engineering and management professional. He is trying to set up a model centre for supplementary education and exploring innovative curriculum and teaching methodologies. He is also engaged in focused learning towards sharpening the initiative into a replicable model, which can be applied at other centres in

	different parts of the country as well as in schools. He has total five years of work experience. He is a Fellow for LLJ Programme of Youth Collective. He works with Diksha as Coordinator.
Ms. Mohita Katariyar	Mohita has a strong interest in total development of children. She combines a high degree of enthusiasm and knowledge to facilitate student learning in an innovative and constructive manner. Mohita holds a Bachelor's Degree in Education. She has two years of teaching experience with children in the age group of 3-6 years.
Ms. Suchitra Gauri	M.A. in English- B.H.U, B. Ed. More than 20 years of experience in teaching. She is intuitive and able to understand the psychology and behaviour of children. She focuses on the creative and spiritual development of children.

*17. Brief description of the type of education provided and teaching techniques employed (syllabus, vocational training etc.)*

The goal of the KHEL (Knowledge Hub for Education and Learning) project is to create a self-sustainable learning eco-system which helps children become educated and empowered citizens.

Elements of the KHEL Model

- Remedial class/supplementary education for the children of the target area (student profile enclosed).
- Computer training to youth of the area
- Mini-library for the children and community members

We offer supplementary/remedial education to address learning needs of children who have never been to school or have dropped out of school .Gradually the children are encouraged to enrol in school. We have developed a relationship with the Local Government School and some of our children have taken admission there. Our class timings do not clash with the timings of the local school - so children can attend both simultaneously. There are multiple schemes linked with the government schools - like mid-day meal, uniforms, some scholarships which the children are able to avail. Gradually we plan to expand our influence on the Government School through teacher & parents training programmes.

The teaching methodology adopted in KHEL is child friendly. We believe that Learner and Teacher are interchangeable roles- in our Hilsa Centre; Ms. Sudha Kumari teaches children Maths and Hindi in the morning sessions and attends computer

classes as a student in the evening sessions. Teachers are flexible and they try to build a healthy environment for learning-the focus is on reducing fear and anxiety among children.

The children are divided into small groups of 5-6 children each, each group sits around a round table. The student-teacher ratio is maintained at 1:20 - so that the teacher can focus attention on each group. Various teaching aids are used- games, role plays, movies, etc. An experiential learning visit to the Patna Science Centre and Golghar (Granary) was organized recently.

Children are assigned to groups on the basis of their proficiency level in the subject. So the same child might be attending classes for Level 3 for Maths but Level 1 for English- this is a typical scenario as most children face difficulty in English. In the supplementary education - children are taught Hindi, English, Maths, Computers and Creative Arts.

Beginners who are not familiar with English alphabets, numbers, word recognition etc. attend classes for Level 1. In English, they are taught alphabets both capital as well as small, in Math they are taught counting between 1 to 100 and basic numeric problems of addition and subtraction and in Hindi, recognition of words and alphabets are taught. Thus, the course for Level 1 is to strengthen their basic learning.

Level 2 comprises of children who have the basic knowledge of recognizing letters and word in both English and Hindi. They have an understanding of addition, subtraction and multiplication on math subject. They are taught other numeric problems with the help of a text book. In English and Hindi poems, word meanings and grammar are taught with the help of text books. Thus, the syllabus of Level 2 is designed as per the level of their understanding.

Most children coming to the Centre attend classes in Level 1 and 2. Some older children are divided into Level 3 and above -and they are taught accordingly. One day in the week is dedicated to co-curricular activities which include sports, drawing, quizzes, group discussion; movie shows etc. so that children are able to achieve their creative potential.

All books, copies and stationary are provided free of cost to the children. We use NCERT text books for teaching English, Maths and Hindi. The details of the content for each book can be accessed at the following link <http://www.ncert.nic.in/NCERTS/textbook/textbook.htm> Books from other publishers like Eklavya, Digantar- are used as reference books.

Computer Lab-We seek to combine the existing teaching methodology in the centre with computer based learning through on-line and off-line computer games, films, puzzles, songs and poem. The use of games in computer education will also generate interest and raise the comfort levels of students towards using the ICT tools.

The same facility will be utilized to offer computer training to the youth of the target area. The proposed training would include use of Windows as an Operating System, MS Office, and basic Internet and web based applications. We have tied up with Microsoft and will be using the Microsoft Unlimited Potential Programme curriculum for the same- details of the curriculum can be accessed at the below link-

[www.microsoft.com/about/corporatecitizenship/us/communityinvestment/communitytechskills/upcurriculum.msp](http://www.microsoft.com/about/corporatecitizenship/us/communityinvestment/communitytechskills/upcurriculum.msp)

*18. Parental involvement in school operations (setting school syllabus etc.)*

Parents are regularly updated about their children's progress through community visits. Typically, two community visits are organized every month -where the teachers visit the children's home and discuss the progress of the wards in meeting with the Community Leaders/Elders. This has helped in ensuring good attendance levels.

*19. Future education/employment possibilities of children in your school(s) and the related involvement of your group.*

One of the goals of our Supplementary/Remedial Education Programme is the mainstreaming of children into government schools. We have established a relationship with the Government Primary School in the project area, and some of our students have taken admission there. We continue to support the students through classes before/after school hours.

We help the students of the Computer Training Programme in applying for jobs. Bihar Government has a high demand for data entry operators well versed in Hindi typing. We have incorporated Hindi typing in our curriculum so that students might get a chance for jobs. In the future, we plan to set up a dedicated Placement cell for the students of the computer training programme.

*20. Source of your motivation to be involved in the project.*

Alok Charitable Trust has been established in the memory of Late Lt. Alok Gupta. The trust has been serving the serving for the last 20 years. Our work derives its primary motivation from the love and commitment shared by Alok towards the society and the country.

We are also motivated by our association with the Honey Bee Network, Prof Anil Gupta, Founder- Honey Bee Network, is a member of the Trust and actively supports us in bringing out the creativity and innovation amongst children.

The project has also received immense support from Youth Collective. We would specially like to mention the work being done by Mr. Ravi Gulati and his organization Manzil ([www.manzil.in](http://www.manzil.in)). The KHEL Model is inspired by the work being done at Manzil, and incorporates many of the elements of Manzil's learning programmes.

The state of Bihar where the project is being executed has one of the lowest levels in the country. But in the past few years, the scenario has drastically improved on all development parameters. Thus, there exists a safe and conducive environment for the initiative, with the Local Government keen to achieve development of the people.

21. Funds requested from Asha. Itemized description of proposed use of funds (please provide a budget).

We are seeking funds from ASHA for the purchase of equipment for the proposed Computer Lab at the KHEL Patna Centre.

<i>Particulars/Items</i>	<i>Number Of Units</i>	<i>Total Price Including Tax(in Indian Rupees)</i>	<i>Vendor Details</i>
<i>Computer- DELL Desktop</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>117,500</i>	<i>Global System, Har Niwas Complex, Patna</i>
<i>Laser Printer</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>5,500</i>	<i>Global System, Har Niwas Complex, Patna</i>
<i>Scanner</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3,850</i>	<i>Global System, Har Niwas Complex,</i>
<i>UPS cum Inverter 800VA with Sine Wave Battery</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>14,800</i>	<i>DPE Enterprises, SP Verma Road, Patna</i>
<i>Total</i>		<i>141,650</i>	

# 1 dollar = 50 Indian Rupees (Nearly)

Note- Please find enclosed a copy of the quotation received from the vendors Annexure\_5\_Quotation.

22. Other sources of future funds for the project. Please specify any usage restrictions on these funds.

Sources of Funds for KHEL Patna Project

<i>Name of Agency</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Amount(in Indian Rupees)</i>
<i>Individual Donors</i>	<i>Unrestricted Fund generated through monthly contribution from individual donors</i>	<i>350,000 per annum</i>
<i>Youth Collective</i>	<i>Unrestricted Fund in form of Fellowship to Gautam Gauri, Co-ordinator</i>	<i>180,000 in the period 2011-12</i>

# 1 dollar = 50 Indian Rupees (Nearly)

23. *Attendance records with the names of children and their parents (you can attach it as a separate sheet).*

Please find enclosed

Annexure\_6\_Student\_Profile

Annexure\_7\_Attendance\_Record

Annexure\_8\_Photos

***Your comments (optional):***

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

We are happy to know that apart from supporting financially, ASHA volunteers also take up project internships in India. We will be very happy to host willing volunteers at our project locations. We suggest that some volunteers should also be engaged in virtual volunteering- in most Indian cities bandwidth is no longer an issue, so classes/sessions can be taken through Skype.