

Project Proposal for Developing a New Building for the ongoing School Project

BACKGROUND FACTS: -

Sougat Foundation started our present school project in 2014 in village 'Path' under Fakiradiha Panchayat of Bhandaria Block, Garwa District, Jharkhand. To establish that school, a philanthropic local person viz. Mr. Rajendra Chowdhury extended his cooperation and agreed to give his property lying unused. We have entered into a written understanding with him that Saugata Foundation will use this building for this school project as long as the school remains functional and until we can build our own building. In this building, we got only two small rooms, a veranda and a small courtyard for our use. But there was no toilet in our building. There was no kitchen to cook our lunch for the children, which we somehow arranged in another house next door. We also spent some money to renovate the building. (Please see the photograph)



SOME OCCURRENCES: -

We ran our school in that building for about five years, till 2018, without any trouble but then we had some bitter experiences. During 2018-2019 some family members of Mr. Rajendra Chaudhary started creating trouble and asked us to vacate their family property for their own use. It is significant and logical that our written understanding with Mr. Rajendra Chowdhury had no legal validity. Even such written documents have little acceptance among illiterate tribal villagers. Several unpleasant situations occurred when their drunken family members came to school and created nuisances during our school session. We personally settled the situation with some money.

In March 2020, due to the Covid 19 lockdown, we had to suspend our regular school. After a few months, in mid-2020, since our school was not functioning, the owner of the building, Mr. Rajendra Chaudhary, also asked us to vacate his property. So, we had no option but to do it and their family members occupied those rooms during the lockdown. Anyway, during the lockdown, we continued the village-based tutorial sessions. Since it has been a local issue, we were trying to resolve this issue locally and off the record. Please excuse us for not communicating this matter earlier with 'Asha'. Honestly speaking, we didn't want to bother 'Asha' with this weird issue.

RECENT SITUATION: -

In June 2022, after a long time, when the government issued a notification to reopen schools, we



decided to reopen our school but the family members of the building owner refused to vacate the building. Since we didn't have any choice, we reopened our school in a different neighbourhood building with a smaller classroom. Presently we are facing difficulties with the poor infrastructure of these makeshift arrangements. We can't fit all

the benches in that small room. Some children have to sit outside the classroom in the open air. Anyway, we are currently managing somehow. (Please see the photograph)

RATIONALE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF OWN SCHOOL BUILDING: -

Given the background information outlined above, it is reasonable to take initiative to provide an appropriate schooling environment for our children. In this situation, we are desperately looking for a permanent solution and we are determined to do so. Therefore, we think the best option would be to build our own school building.

In recent weeks have been planning to develop our own school building by purchasing a piece of land and also have taken a target to raise some funds from local donors, supporters and well-wishers of Saugah Foundation for constructing a small school building for running our ongoing school project.

It is a coincidence and great that by the grace of God, we suddenly have an opportunity to get some additional funds from 'Asha for Education' and accordingly we are presenting this project proposal.

OUR PROJECT PROPOSAL SUMMARY: -

Currently, we are in the process of purchasing a plot of land measuring about 14-15 decimals (about 6000-6500 sq ft) in our project area. We have already seen a few plots of land and have collected the relevant information, price etc. Currently, land prices in this area range between INR 10,000-12,000 per decimal. Please note that the required land is available for purchase in that community.

While we are designing the project, we are thinking of including all the important aspects required for the development of the school. However, as we do not have enough funds, we will develop this school in different phases as per the availability of funds. There will be three phases to develop this project:-

In Phase 1, we will purchase the land and construct the most essential parts of the project as soon as possible to shift our ongoing school into our own building. So, on a priority basis, we will construct two classrooms, a storeroom, a kitchen, a toilet and a shed, which can be used as a dining area for children's lunch. Our strategy is to construct the building within 1000 square feet, which will be about 1/6 of the total land area. The remaining land will be kept vacant for the development of our projects in various phases in future.

In this 1st phase, we will also install a tube well with a hand pump on our own land for safe drinking water and toilet water. We request 'Asha for Education' to give us financial grants and support for this phase-1 construction so that we can provide an ideal school environment for our students. We agree to contribute a substantial portion of the total project cost to Phase 1 of the development.

In phase 2 we will build the boundary wall and some more classrooms.

In Phase 3, we would like to expand the school building with an office room, a library, and computer learning lab, male-female toilet sections, a children's playground, etc.

OUR LONG-TERM DREAM: -

After the completion of the 3rd phase, if the situation permits, in future, we will go ahead and purchase more land adjacent to our boundary wall to expand the project compound. We will also initiate further expansion of the building to accommodate various income-generating activities integrating parents' livelihood with the project to make our school self-sustainable. Ultimately, we will fabricate our project as a comprehensive development program center for underprivileged tribal communities with various project components keeping the education and health aspects of our children at the center of our activities.

Please see the budget in the attached Excel file.

Thanks.

Project concept developed by
Saugaht Foundation Team