

Sri Aurobindo Integral School, Basundhara, Proposal

Few words from the director, Dr. Snigdha Biswal

It is a residential school and its prime objective is to provide a descent and normal childhood (as far as possible), along with qualitative teaching to the children of Basundhara (who due to various reasons can not get adopted).

Besides, the inflow of other needy and abandoned children at Basundhara is a regular phenomenon and it happens all through the year. Hadn't Basundhara taken these children under her wings, they would have ended up living a life of torture and deprivation - working as house maids, hotel boys and street beggars, though they do have so called parents and relatives. Some children come at a very late age and in almost all cases they don't have any educational experience. In order to engage such children in any vocation, it is necessary that they should be provided with the requisite training, which in turn needs basic academic qualification i.e. the trainee has to produce the certificate of passing at least class -VIII before joining any training programme. As mainstream schools do not admit overage children into primary classes and it is also problematic to admit children with slight physical and mental disabilities in regular schools - it became a pressing situation for Basundhara to start a school in its own campus, so that it can cater to the needs of such children.

So the school started functioning from March 18th 2010 having classes from Nursery to Std. - V with 24 children from Basundhara and 8 from nearby slums. Now we have classes upto Std.-VIII and all 52 students reading in different classes reside in two separate hostels for boys and girls. Though the hostels can accommodate more than 100 children, but due to stringent finance, we are now unable to help more children -those come to us for shelter and protection.

Whenever a child comes to us, we keep the child in the hostel, give him/her tuition for some months as required depending on his/her ability to cope with the new atmosphere and study - then admit him/her in the respective class according to his/her progress irrespective of age. If any child shows considerable improvement and interest then putting some extra effort, we promote him to the next class even in the middle of the session. It is always our concern to see that the child should be in the class befitting to his/her age.

Due to various obstacles, finance being the main, we are not able to fulfill all the requirements that a regular residential school ought to have. It will take a huge amount of money and time to make a full-fledged high school. So till everything is settled properly, the school committee has decided to send the children to "Matrubhaban" (of which the school has the franchise) after class - VIII to continue their study there and appear for the H.S..C. Exam from that school.

The main problem for our school now is the inadequate number of teachers. As there is no parental and family guidance and children having no prior education come to us, we require more teachers to teach them (at least one teacher for one class) both in the school and in the hostel. Though we have 9 classes now due to paucity of finance we have only 4 full time and 1 part time teacher. 2 swadhar project (a home for destitute women which runs in the same campus) employees are teaching now in the school on request. Besides this there is one teacher for Yoga, one for music and one for Tabla. In the hostel, we

don't have any qualified teacher. Now the matron and her assistant are helping the children with the initial study programme, but we feel this to be very inadequate and not upto standard.

In the hostel we have to provide everything for a child as a family does. Barring the basic requirements like bed, suitcase, almirah etc - for one child we require Rs.25,000/- per anum which includes fooding - Rs.15,000/-, clothing - Rs.2,000/- and Academics (Tution fees & study materials) - Rs.8,000/-.

As it is a new establishment and is totally dependent on charity, there is shortage in each and every area. Currently there is no major source of funding from any where for the school.

Some adoptive parents from Australia are partially sponsoring 13 children - that means the sponsored money does not meet the entire expenses of these children for a year. Except this there are a few personal local donations (not for any specific purpose) which is also not regular and very meagre. So the parent organisation 'Basundhara' has to shoulder the major financial burden which has become a grave problem for us as this hinders its other welfare activities. So you can well imagine how badly we need Asha-Purdue's support.

Our first priority would be to appoint the required number of teachers. The required salaries of the teachers of the school and other materials is given below:

A. Staff Salary:

Sl. No.	Staff (Teacher)	Salary p.m. (Rs)	No of Teachers	Total Amout (Rs)
1	Senior Teacher	4,000	3	12,000
2	Junior Teacher	3,500	4	14,000
3	Residential Teacher	3,500	2	7,000
4	Yoga Teacher	2,000	1	2,000
5	Music Teacher	1,500	1	1,500
6	Tabla Teacher	450	1	450
7	Art Teacher	1,000	1	1,000
8	Dance Teacher	1,000	1	1,000
Total Salary per month				38,950

Total salary per anum - Rs.38,950 X 12 = Rs.4,67,400

B. Other requirements - Computer (one)	Rs. 32,600
Gross Total	Rs.5,00,000

Website: <http://www.saisbasundhara.org/>

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