

Proposal for Summer Camp for Women at Navjyothi

Navjyoti Swawalamban Sewa Sansthan (NJSSS), is an Asha Chicago supported project that strives to provide education to unprivileged children and concentrates also on empowering women and emancipating them from inequality and violence.

The situation of women in Uttar Pradesh is considerably poor; women are often subjected to problems related to domestic violence, dowry and rape to name a few. The reservation for women in local panchayat bodies, has brought about active participation of women in local governance, however most day to day activities of life are still conducted by the male members of the household. Asha Navjyothi is run in the Araji block of Varanasi district and is famous of the making of the Banarasi silk sarees through handlooms. The weaving and artisan work of these sarees is also done by the women of these villages and therefore many of them do not attend schools. Some of the women also get married at very young age. Numerous laws have been passed by the government to protect and safeguard the rights of women; however there are not always put into practice. Unless there is a substantial change in the mindset of the largely patriarchal society, there will continue to be a gender based inequality.

NJSSS provides primary education in 2 main centers in UP at Nagepur and Harsos. NJSSS has 8 Kishori Kendras, at Benipur, Kallipur, Mediganj, Bhimchandi, Harsos and Nagepur. Currently there are around 200 girls that attend these centers. These centers provide education and guidance to the adolescent girls (Kishoris) whose average age is around 15, most of whom have never had any kind of schooling or education. These centers aim to provide basic reading and writing skills to these girls along with other vocational skills such as sewing.

NJSSS promotes events in which people from Varanasi city come and disseminate information on various matters pertaining to health and welfare of the society. Another interesting aspect of the NJSSS is the self-help group (SHG) program. The SHG groups which are run by women provide micro-financial and advisory services to its members on multitude of issues related to family matters and property. These groups have empowered the women financially and socially.

Kishori Training Program held in May 2008: During the summer vacation in 2008, Navjyothi had organized a training programme for the Kishoris (younger women) wherein they were taught about sewing, handicraft making, painting, beautician, music and dance. Around 65 women had taken part in this training program. This program was well received and was conducted for a week.

We plan to conduct a similar Training camp for the Kishoris in this year's summer vacation. We would like to extend the training program from a week to a month wherein the younger women will be provided vocational training.

Proposed Kishori Training Camp

Tentative Schedule

Date: 10th May to 10th June , 2009

Place : ASHA Saamajik Vidyalay Nagepur, Varanasi

Expected no. of Women: 200

Age Group: 14 to 22

Main agenda:

- 1) Stitching, weaving, embroidery (Silai, Kadai, Bunai)
- 2) Painting
- 3) Mehendi and beautician
- 4) Computer training
- 5) Arts and music
- 6) Making of Agarabhatti, candlemaking and soap.
- 7) Educating them over issues such as health, gender behavior, panchayati raj, governmental laws such as RTI/NREGA, sexual health.

Budget for the Proposed Program:

	Budget Items	Expenses
1	Kadai machine	Rs 6800
2	Pico machine	Rs 4000
3	Interlock machine	Rs 3500
4	Raw materials for the above programmes	Rs 12000
5	Salaries of invited experts and teachers	Rs 15000
6	Travel Conveyance expenses	Rs 6000
	Total	Rs 47300

Motivation:

Navjyothi is on its way towards empowering women with education, financial independence and self-confidence.

- 1) Financial Independence: Through these training camps and also through the Kishori Kendras, the younger women are provided with vocational training in stitching and sewing. These women can then later utilize these skills in making small items such as handkerchiefs, undergarments etc. We are currently also working toward providing an easy way for the women to sell these items made by them.
- 2) Computer based Learning: We are on the way to procure a couple of computers for the primary schools at Navjyothi. During the summer vacation, we can utilize them to provide computer based-education to the Kishoris.
- 3) Education: The camp provides a wonderful platform to discuss and educate the women on several social and economic issues.

किशोरी लड़कियों एवं महिलाओं के लिए विशेष ट्रेनिंग का कार्यक्रम



भंगठन की महिलाओं को स्वास्थ्य की जानकारी देती स्वास्थ्य कार्यकर्ता



