Navjyothi (NJSS)
Annual Update for the year 2019-2020
July 2020
Important Documents for Annual Review

- Site Visit Report: [NJSS Site Visit Report - Mar 2020](#)
- Budget for next year: [NJSS Budget for year April 2020 - March 2021](#)

- Fund Utilization Report is still due and awaiting audit completion
- Students List will be available after teachers return in July
Background of Navjyothi (NJSS)

• This project is located in rural areas near the city of Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh

• The area is famous for the Banarasi sari weaving industry. Most of the weavers are illiterate and very poor and most children in the area worked with their families in the local sari weaving industry

• Nandlalji started teaching kids from the neighborhood in 1994 and that is why he is called Nandlal Master or Masterji.

• He first started teaching with an informal teaching center in the evening with four children from Nagepur village. This inspired other youth in the neighboring villages to start teaching children in their villages. This effort over the years ramped up to support 10 such schools – 2 day schools and 8 night schools, without any outside support. These centers have now stopped and children have been integrated into ASV school or government schools nearby

• Asha Samajik Vidyalaya school was first supported by Asha Chicago in 1999. This is a regular day school and it is located on land that was donated by Nandlalji to Asha Trust
Asha Samajik Vidyalaya

- Asha Chicago first started supporting the Asha Samajik Vidyalaya in 1999
- This year the school was registered officially under the Right to Education Act
  - School building with library and computer room
  - Separate toilets for boys and girls
- There were 205 students in the last academic year
- Class 6 was added this year with 18 students and 80 students were admitted to preschool (LKG)
- In the New Session of School (April’19) – in Preschool (LKG) 80 Students & in Class 6 -18 Students has taken Admission.
- All children at the school are now wearing uniforms
- Various School Functions are celebrated like Independence Day, Republic Day, Gandhi Jayanti, Children's Day and other religious & social events
- Children are taught about issues relating to Gender, Human Rights, Child Rights, Domestic Violence & other social issues
Former non-formal teaching centers

- Helped introduce basic education to kids who had to work in the day

- Over time a lot of the kids transitioned to regular day schools
Pictures of school building at ASV
Pictures of school facilities
Children attending a computer class and Children in their new uniforms
Fans for the classroom and machining/ tools for children
Children’s Tour

• In the month of February, an educational tour was organized for the students of ASV & Kishori Shiksha Kendra girls

• They visited the Sarnath Temple, St. Mary’s Church & Government Handicraft Museum
Republic Day Celebrations
Asha Library

• Caters to children from LKG to college. About 250 children from nearby families along with children from the school are members of the library.

• The major objectives of this initiative is to make books available to children in the neighborhood and to also have an avenue to regularly communicate with the children. From time to time, training programs were organized focusing on their education, career and other social issues.

• Few major achievements are –
  • Three Students studying from this library have been selected for government jobs
  • Painting competition was also organized for students of ASV
Pictures of the Library
Kishori Shiksha Kendra

- Kishori Shiksha Kendra or Kishori Sewing Center is a program which targets adolescent girls who have never been to school and some who are recently married. Provides them with basic education, health camps, training in sewing & embroidery, awareness about their rights and other ways to empower them.

- There are currently 9 sewing and vocational training centers being run with around 189 teenage girls attending.

- Various trainings on self defence, women’s health, domestic violence, women’s rights & empowerment issues were also given.
  - This has helped the girls express their viewpoints clearly and also helps them stand up against any injustice or mistreatment.
As of now, 40 girls who were provided training from KSK are now running their own sewing centers making them more independent.

Celebration of “Balika Mahotsav” was organized at all these 9 Centers which included mass meetings, debate, cultural program & a rally was also organized for girl’s rights, domestic violence, drug addiction and other issues.

The girls from various centers visited the nearest police station where they have been educated on various helpline numbers & their Constitutional rights by the local police authorities.

This year again awareness program was organized for the girls of KSK and women from village focusing on their health, especially on menstruation. Various meetings, trainings and workshops were organized on the topic of menstruation at all the and cotton sanitary pads were also being made by the girls at selected centers.
भीख नहीं अधिकार चाहिये, जीने का सम्मान चाहिये

हालचाल में महिलाओं के मुक्ति के लिए आज के समय में बालिकाओं की संख्या में वायरल बनने लगी है। ताझे महिलाओं को अपने अधिकारों का अभियान चाहिए।

बालिकाशोधक रोक समिति

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बालिकाशोधक रोक समिति
Summer Camp Program for KSK

- Teenage summer training program was organized from 15th May to 15th June 2019, in which about 81 adolescent girls participated.
- In the camp, training was given for computer work, handicrafts, beautician, martial arts, dance, painting, scooter or bike driving.
Women Self Help Groups (SHG)

• Women traditionally do not have much rights – whether it is the household or the community. The objective of SHG is to organize the women into groups so that they can deal with issues common to them

• There are about 81 women self-help groups running with a strength of more than 2000 women

• Every month the money from groups is being deposited and women are trading among themselves as per their need. The saving of all the groups collectively is close to fifteen lakh rupees (1.5 million)

• Training of group operations was given to the leaders of these groups

• In order to empower women in these groups, training programs were organized on issues such as violence against women, women's rights, their participation in Panchayat, and participated in various events organized by them

• The women from these groups had helped lead the efforts to conserve water and the protest against the local Coca-Cola bottling plant
Women SHG meetings
Community Marriages

• Community marriages have been organized by Lok Samiti for more than 10 years as part of their efforts to promote less expensive weddings with no dowry
• Support for this event is primarily provided by local donations in cash and kind
• Gifts are provided to the newly wed couple
• About 50 guests are invited per family
• Last year the program had to be cancelled due to elections and this year it had to be cancelled due to COVID-19
Lok Samiti

- Lok Samiti – a people’s organization with no religious or political affiliations was founded in 1999. Any sustained change can only be brought about by people participation rather than a single person

- Helps organize people so that they can represent themselves. The organization is democratic in structure with the representatives answerable to the people

- The group focuses on the issues of the people and works to find their own solution by collaborating with other Lok Samiti or other groups in the area

- Lok Samiti has committees in 20 – 25 villages

- Encourages people to stand for elections to the Panchayat – Mukesh was elected as Pradhan in Nagepur and Urmila was elected as a Panchayat member in Benipur
COVID-19 Relief Work

- Mostly fundraised locally to provide relief
- Distributed 3100 relief packets to poor families
  - Relief packets contained - daily use dry items like flour, rice, pulses, biscuits, namkeen, bath soaps & vegetables
- Distributed about 9200 food packets & water to the migrant workers passing through the area
- More details in the report –

- After relief work, next phase involved conducting a detailed survey of all the migrant laborers who have returned home from the cities. Report available here –
COVID Relief
• Children of Class 7 from ASV School receiving books, masks, pens, box, etc. as part of COVID-19 Relief efforts (July 6th, 2020)

• In the future, children from each class will be called one day at a time and will receive similar items
• Masks being made at the Kishori Shiksha Kendra

• Masks are being distributed for free to children of ASV school, girls from KSK and women from the SHGs
• Teachers of the KSK planning the mask making

• Target is to make 5000 masks

• Currently the masks are being distributed for free but in the future, they are planning to sell each for Rs 2.

• Material is currently being provided by Lok Samiti
Site Visit to Navjyothi

• Site visit conducted in Feb-Mar 2020 by Atilla Csapo, who is a volunteer and president of Chance India Foundation (www.chanceindia.org)

The budget contains three main sections:

- **ASV school**: Rs 9,40,000
- **Self Help Groups (SHGs)**: Rs 4,50,000
- **Kishori Kendras**: Rs 6,40,000
- **Construction**: Rs 3,00,000

The total allocation for NJSS for this year from Asha-Austin team is ~13,50,000. I propose that Asha Austin supports the ASV school and SHGs for a total of Rs 13,90,000.

The Kishori Kendras and Construction budget was submitted for support to the Asha General Funds last week. We had an Asha-Projects conf call on 06/27 to discuss this proposal. This was approved and funds have been disbursed (07/06/2020).