



Asha-Kansas City New Project Proposal

Asha GKC

Project Name: "New Light"
Referred By: Urmi Mukherjee

Date Received:
June 11, 2018

	Project Contact Information	Asha Contact
Name	Urmi Basu (Founder)	Manorama A Koppula
Contact	Urmi Basu	
Address	New Light 162 Kalighat Road. Kolkata - 700026 West Bengal, India	
Phone	03324850068	+1-913-980-0811
Fax	- Nil-	
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Part I: Information about your group/organization

Please feel free to attach any additional sheets and/or information such as brochures, press reports etc.

1. Name of the group/organization requesting funds.

Jhinuk – NEW LIGHT

2. When was the group established?

2000



3. Briefly describe the motivation for starting this group.

Aptly named Play-School "Jhinuk" (meaning "a shell that nurtures a pearl or the first spoon used to feed a baby" in Bengali) is the newest addition to the bouquet of projects implemented by New Light for the welfare of women in prostitution and their children. "Jhinuk" meets the growing demand from mothers to strengthen intervention for the welfare of toddlers and older out-of-school children whose needs are largely neglected.

The school follows the Montessori system of teaching and accommodates toddlers and older children up to the age of five, counting to 27 young aspirants. Teachers are trained in the Montessori Method of teaching and adequate supplies of appropriate equipments; make learning a pleasure for the little ones. "Jhinuk" focuses on developing the schooling habit and grooms children to join the mainstream schools at the right age.



4. Name the key people running the organization and describe their background

THE FOUNDER

Urmi Basu is a woman of few means, facing staggering need, but her mission is clear. In her work with New Light, a non profit organization in Kolkata, India, she works to save girls from becoming victims of sexual exploitation and to improve lives of the children of sex workers. She is dedicated to correcting wrongs, one at a time.

"On a global scale the problem of prostitution is so complex and huge that I would be completely overwhelmed if I think about it." Urmi says. "I choose to reduce the aperture of my vision and concentrate my energy only on things that I can do."

New Light provides education, healthcare and nutritional support, as well as the opportunity to live free of abuse, violence and stigma to more than two hundred children of sex workers. In addition to running shelters for children, the agency founded in 2000 with just \$200 also aims to stop the trafficking of young girls into sex trade and to provide care to those suffering from HIV/AIDS.

It is the grass root nature of New Light that best underscores Urmi's conviction about helping others. Although many believe money is the only way to help, Urmi knows otherwise. "I have seen people helped just by a word of kindness or a moment of attention," she says. "In a larger context we can move governments and authority by raising a voice and taking an active interest in our communities."

Urmi, a trained sociologist, credits her parents with teaching her to cultivate courage and to be a compassionate agent of change. Her father a physician in the Kolkata neighbourhood of Batanagar, was a relentless worker for peace, justice and communal harmony. Neighbours in their small community looked to him as a friend, confidante and source of support. The family led a comfortable middle-class life until 1971, when clashes between communist inspired agrarian Naxalites and the government nearly destroyed everything they had. The arrest of hundreds of youth associated with the Naxalites resulted in unrest and street violence. Murder, arson, kidnapping and gunfights were common.

One March afternoon that year, nine year old Urmi watched as her parents stepped forward to rescue a young man whose life was being threatened by a rival political gang. The rescue was successful, but the family faced the threat of retribution for their actions. Soon after, Urmi's father was stabbed and their home and his clinic were burnt down. "It was a horrific moment for all of us," she says. Community leaders urged Urmi's family to move to a safer place. Her parents however refused and continued to work with young people in the community, teaching tolerance and compassion. Over time, their efforts were rewarded. "When the young people who had attacked our home and knifed my father came to ask for forgiveness," she says, "his kindness and compassion touched and changed their lives forever." Urmi's mother, who passed away in 2009 lived a full life till 81 and continued to command respect and love till her last day.



Urmi cites two lessons gained from the experience, both of which guide her work today. First she says, "There exists only one nanosecond between being dead and alive and none of us know when that moment is. So instead of being concerned about what is going to happen, we must open our mind and live life without fear of death. And second "every act of violence can be overcome with tolerance and compassion," she says. "Peace is the greatest power we have."

Urmi never hesitates to help those in need, even at the cost of her own safety. "The work I do brings me danger every day, but that is not important," she says. "What matters is not how much we do but that we at least can do something." She concludes by adding, "I would like to be remembered as someone who cared for her fellow beings and always fought for justice."



5. Briefly describe the aims of your group.

"Jhinuk" meets the growing demand from mothers to strengthen intervention for the welfare of toddlers and older out-of-school children whose needs are largely neglected.

It was founded with the vision of transforming the lives of children and other disadvantaged communities who lack adequate social-economic, educational, welfare and health facilities.

6. Does your group have any religious or political affiliation? If yes, please describe the type of affiliation and the reason for it.

There is no religious or political affiliation.

7. What non education-related community development activities is your group involved in?

"Jhinuk" addresses the health and nutritional needs of the children; they receive nutritious mid-morning snacks and lunch. Provisions are also in place for regular health checkups and vaccination.



8. *Does your organization have FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act of 1976) clearance from the Indian government? This is required for you to receive foreign funds. If yes, please provide FCRA details. If no, have you applied for Prior Permission (one time acceptance of foreign funds)? If yes, when was the application submitted?*

Bank Account NEW LIGHT

Account No. 3187000100033608

SWIFT Code PUNBINBCCCH

IFSC Code PUNB0008500

Bank Name Punjab National Bank

Branch Ballygunge

Address 18/1 Gariahat Road. Kolkata - 700019. West Bengal, India.

Regd. Charitable Trust No. 307/10/02

All donations exempted U/S 80G of IncomeTax Act 1961 DIT(E) 8E/119/0304/5605-37 Registered under FC(R)A

Part II: Details about your educational project/s

1. List the school/s run by your group, and their locations. If you are requesting funds for only a few of several schools, please specify which one/s.

Jhinuk play school is the school that is requesting funds to ONLY cover education related expenses.

The scope of the funding will help cover

Teacher Fees

School Admission / Monthly Fees

Cognitive / Pictorial Aid

Educational Support Materials

Caretaker Cum Caregiver's fees

Montessori Apparatus

Participation in Recreational activities & yearly Outing

Recreational Activities

Outing



2. Who owns the school legally? Is it the organization or trustees or an individual. Please provide details.

NEW LIGHT

JHINUK PLAY SCHOOL
146 KALIGHAT ROAD , KOLKATA - 700026

3. Location of school/s Urban Rural Other _____

JHINUK PLAY SCHOOL
146 KALIGHAT ROAD , KOLKATA - 700026

4. Specify the type of education provided (e.g. basic literacy, vocational training etc.).

Basic Elementary education

The school follows the Montessori system of teaching and accommodates toddlers and older children up to the age of five, counting to 27 young aspirants

5. Please tell us about your teaching techniques (conventional vs. alternative).

The school follows the Montessori system of teaching and accommodates toddlers and older children up to the age of five, counting to 27 young aspirants

6. What is the literacy rate in your local community? Please give a breakdown between boys and girls if possible.

No specific statistics available for the literacy rate but it can be said to be very low

7. Describe the socio-economic background of the children and their parents (e.g. education, occupational). If any of your students are employed, please tell us about that as well.

Children of prostitutes. Children of sex trade who are victims of circumstances.



8. What is the admission criteria for the students to join your school? Have you ever turned away students? If so, why? How many children attend your school currently? How many teachers do you have? How many full time students? How many part time teachers? How much is the fees? Is there an admission onetime fee? Do you have parent teacher meetings (parent involvement)?

The team @ New Light

The school accommodates toddlers and older children up to the age of five, counting to 27 young aspirants

Three teachers - BISWAJIT MONDAL - (TEACHER), LIPI ROY - (TEACHER INCHARGE), SIMA HALDAR - (MONTESSORI TEACHER)

9. In addition to education, does your group provide any other services to the children in your schools (e.g. food, health care, clothing, etc.)?

Yes, but funds are ONLY being requested towards supporting educational needs

Health, Nutrition and Clothing are also provided

10. How do you perceive that education will improve the lives of the children in your village?

Education is one of the most important aspect that can impact and improve the socio-economic change while helping people choose between right and wrong. This specific school will help lay foundation at a very young age and will instill the much needed discipline and interest in the educational programs while providing the necessary medical and nutritional needs.

The program does not stop here, NEW LIGHT believes that whether one addresses healthcare, poverty, population control, unemployment or human rights, there's no better place to start than in the corridors of education. To shape a better tomorrow New Light's main aim is provide first class education to each and every child.

In continuing that philosophy, they work with many other schools who take the kids that have gone through the elementary education



11. Does your school have:

Its own building(s): Yes No Number
 Number and type of classrooms (e.g. Pukka): 3

	Yes	No		Yes	No		Yes	No
Toilets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Playground	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Toys	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chairs & Tables	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Blackboard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Library	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Drinking water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Electricity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Computers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Laboratory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Teaching aids (e.g. books/slates)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. What is the age group of the children currently enrolled in your school(s)?

Youngest 3 years: Oldest 5 years
 [Average Age: 4)

13. How many staff are employed at your schools?

Full time Teachers – 3, Caretakers - 2 Other staff – 4 includes Social worker, center Incharge

14. Average distance the children travel to attend your school : 1km, this is in the heart of the Red light district of Calcutta and caters to the children of prostitutes

15. Please answer this if your school has existed for at least 5 years. How many children have gone through your program in the past five years and what are they doing currently? Please tell us about their future education possibilities. How would you visualize their future employment possibilities?

The newest addition but all systems are in place and the school has 27 young aspirants already and has a capacity of 30



16. Do you help your students with their future education efforts after they have completed school? If so please describe your efforts.

Yes.

Since this is elementary education which is the right age to develop schooling habit and groom children to join the main stream, the organization works with multiple other local schools that help absorb these kids into the main stream school programs

<http://www.newlightindia.org/education.php>

Provides the names of local schools that help with enrolling kids into mainstream school programs

17. Do the students who have studies or graduated get involved in the school afterwards and help the next batch?

NA

18. Are there any other schools (Kindergarten/Balwadi, Elementary school, High school) in the area? If so, please list the schools and the range of classes each of them offers.

<http://www.newlightindia.org/education.php>

Provides a list of all schools in the area that help New Light with taking the kids after they are done with the initial program.



19. Is your program different from that provided at these schools? Please explain.

The school follows the Montessori system of teaching and accommodates toddlers and older children up to the age of five, counting to 27 young aspirants. Teachers are trained in the Montessori Method of teaching and adequate supplies of appropriate equipments; make learning a pleasure for the little ones.

20. Why are the children in your school/s not attending government/other schools in the local area?

Kids are neglected children of the prostitutes and if for the welfare of women in prostitution and their children

21. Do you try to involve the parents of the children in the running of the school (e.g. in setting the syllabus etc.)? Please specify.

Yes, one of the activities of the program is to spread awareness among parents and involve them.



22. What are your expansion plans for the future

Current goal is to sustain and provide quality education, foundation and all the health and nutritional needs

23. Any additional details you would like to provide to us.

No more to provide other than thanks for the support and all you do

24. If possible, please provide us with the contact information of two individuals from your community (not related to the school) who can describe the impact of your program.

Urmi Mukherjee – 913-703-8048

25. Asha for Education requires reports from its projects every six months to continue funding. Please provide the contact information for the person from your group who will be responsible for these reports.

Name	Urmi Mukherjee and/or Viswa Ammula
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Address	
Phone	913-703-8048, 816-728-0720

Part III: Financial Details

1. What sources fund your group’s activities at present? List the sources and the current and future funding from each of them. If these funds are meant for a specific part of your group’s activities, please describe those restrictions.

1. Founders contribution.
2. Individual donors.
3. Asha Kansas City Chapter fundraising event(s)
4. Asha Funding for Teachers’ salaries, School supplies, school furniture

***2. Please provide us with details of your projected budget for the next 3 years:
Rs.5,03,000 per annum for three year (an average of \$8000/year)***

***3. Salary expenditure details:
Details provided in the table on page 10***

4. Please provide details of the fixed costs of your school/s for the next three years.

Fixed costs are not part of the scope of the request....these are funded by other means like Founders contribution, local funds etc.

5. What amount are you requesting from Asha, and for what specific purpose?

**NEW LIGHT
162 KALIGHAT
ROAD,
KOLKATA -
700026**



PROJECT NAME: JHINUK PLAY SCHOOL
 146 KALIGHAT ROAD , KOLKATA - 700026
 ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2016 - 2017

S.No.	PARTICULARS	Unit	Measure					
				Amount	Months	Amount (INR)	USD	
1	Program Running Cost							
	Education							
	Teacher Fees	2	Monthly	8500.00	13	221000.00		
	School Admission / Monthly Fees	1	Monthly	1500	12	18000.00		
	Cognitive / Pictorial Aid	35	Average			10000.00		
	Educational Support Materials	35	Average			30000.00		
	Caretaker Cum Caregiver's fees	2	Monthly	3500.00	13	91000.00		
	Montessori Apparatus	1	Average			35000.00		
	Nurse Salary	1	Monthly	4000	13	52000		
	Recreational Activities	1	Average			5000.00		
	Outing	1	Average			20000.00		
		TOTAL EDUCATION & RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES					4,82,000	

IMPORTANT: For Asha-GKC Use Only

To be filled by project steward:

1. What parts of the above budget was approved?

Line Item	Amount	One time / Annual
All of the above line items		Annual



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2. What is the total amount approved in Indian Rupees and for what time period?

Year	Amount
April to May 2018 to 2019	

Total amount of Rs. --- was approved for full year.

3. Please list out the first year’s goals of this funding (ie. what are the metrics by which we will measure the progress of this project? Please try as much as possible to list out objective things that can be measured.)

1. Surprise Annual Visits to the school by Manorama, Urmi or Viswa (US residents)
2. Monitor quality of the three teachers hired
3. Talk to kids on what they like and what they have leant
4. Do a survey of the level of enrollment interest in this school