

Asha Samajik Shikshan Kendra, Mirzapur

Summary

The Asha Samajik Shikshan Kendra program in Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh, addresses the severe lack of basic education and awareness among marginalized communities, particularly tribal groups such as the Musahar, Kol, and Bhil. Operating six evening education centers with trained local teachers, the initiative provides vital learning opportunities for 150–180 children while engaging parents through community meetings. The program has begun to create real change, but with the withdrawal of prior funding, continued support is needed to sustain and expand this essential effort.

Background

The district of Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh remains far behind on the path of development. Many villages continue to lack basic amenities such as drinking water, electricity, roads, education, and healthcare. Its geographical setting further complicates developmental efforts. The main livelihood sources are agriculture and labor in local mines. Due to the absence of reliable education and healthcare services, people face persistent challenges. Awareness of government schemes is low, preventing access to available benefits. Tribal communities such as the Musahar, Kol, and Bhil face even greater hardships, being socially and economically marginalized.

Initiative

Recognizing these challenges, Asha Trust began working in select villages of the Chunar region three years ago. Their approach is rooted in, “Education as the foundation for change.” Six education centers were operating under the name Asha Samajik Shikshan Kendra. Centers ran for two hours each evening after regular school hours in community-selected public spaces. Each center served an average of 25–30 children, facilitated by a local community worker. Workers received teacher training three times a year to ensure engaging and effective learning methods. Community meetings accompanied educational efforts, raising awareness among parents and fostering collective participation.

Impact

Through these centers, Asha Trust had established a strong presence in marginalized communities. Children were receiving consistent educational support, while their families are beginning to engage with broader issues of health, awareness, and government entitlements. The initiative has fostered hope and built momentum for long-term social change.

Funding Challenge

Until now, this program was supported by the Belgian organization Mala Sponsorship for Indian Children. Unfortunately, they are unable to continue funding from this year onward. Without new support, the efforts risk being halted midway leading to disappointment among children and community members who have begun to see real progress.

Request for Support

To ensure this transformative initiative continues, Asha Trust Team is seeking support from Asha for Education: Boston Chapter. Sustaining these centers will help complete the work they have begun—uplifting the lives of children and empowering marginalized tribal communities in Mirzapur.

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