Application for grants from Asha for Education by Samavesh Society Bhopal

1. *Organisation Name* (as registered): *Samavesh Society for Development and Governance*

2. Please enter a brief, descriptive project title for the proposed project
"Science Activity Centre" *at Bhopal*

3. Organization Mission *
Provide information about the stated mission of the organization

'Samavesh's vision is 'To promote an environment in which vulnerable and deprived sections of the people participate in equitable and democratic processes of learning and their own development.'

The main focus of Samavesh's programs is :

- To strengthen the Government School System so that children from deprived backgrounds receive better quality education.
- To build social and technical capacities amongst community members in rural and urban areas, to initiate and sustain changes in education, health and livelihoods.

4. Organization Website
Provide the website of the organization, if any- ***samavesh.org***

5. Project Contact Name *
Enter the name of the main contact for the project.
Dr. Anwar Jafri, Director Samavesh

6. Project Contact Email *
Enter the email Address of the main contact for the project
anwar.jafri@samavesh.org

7. Project Contact Phone Number *
Enter the phone number of the main contact for the project.
91 9827765522

8. Alternate Contact Name *
Who would be the alternate contact person if the main project contact is unavailable?
Mr. Ajit Singh, Associate Director Samavesh

9. Alternate Contact Email *
What is the email address of the alternate contact person?
ajit@samavesh.org

10. Alternate Contact Phone Number *
What is the phone number of the alternate contact person?
91 9479373030, 91 9826520065

11. Project Demographics:
The program for which we are seeking support from Asha is spread out in poor bastis and slums of new and old Bhopal.
A Brief Profile of Poor Bastis in Bhopal

- *The **current population** of Bhopal is 25,65,000. Total no. of identified slums in Bhopal is 389 and total population in these is 5,68,433 (this makes the slum population 22% of the city population).*

- ***Urban Poverty:*** *Although, separate figures for poverty in Bhopal are not available, according to the Planning Commission, more than 42% of the urban population of Madhya Pradesh is designated below Poverty Line (BPL), compared to 37% in rural areas.*

- ***School Education:*** *Children from the slum areas mainly go to government schools around their colonies. According to the DISE report Average Annual Dropout Rate in Government schools in Bhopal are 3.91 percent at the Primary level. However, it is seen to increase as one moves to higher grades. It is 6.11 percent at the Upper Primary level, and 23.39 percent at Secondary level and 5.46 percent at Higher Secondary level. Boys tend to drop out slightly more than girls, and dropout rate increases as pupils move up the grade ladder.*

Project Demographics: Under our ongoing program, supported by Azim Premji Foundation, we have set up 40 Activity and Learning Centres (ALC) in poor bastis of Bhopal. A survey of communities around 22 of the 40 ALCs has provided the following data about our project demographics.

No. of Families Surveyed (Socio-economic)							
Economic Class	Category				Total	%	Remarks
	SC	ST	OBC	General			
Extremely Poor	269	90	666	120	1145	64.54%	< Rs. 6000/Month
Poor	200	54	225	32	511	28.80%	> Rs. 6000 and < 15000/Month
Lower Middle	48	9	59	2	118	6.65%	> Rs. 15000 and < Rs. 36000
Total	517	153	950	154	1774		

The table above shows that amongst the 1774 families surveyed around 65% were from very poor backgrounds and another 29% from poor backgrounds. It is children from these and similar families who visit and are supported by our 40 Activity and Learning Centres (ALC) in Bhopal.

12.Project Location *
Which city/state is this project planned?
The project location is in Bhopal city in Madhya Pradesh, India

13. **Project Executive Summary – Problem**
Briefly highlight the problem that you are trying to address. Please keep your descriptions brief and to the point. (Limit of 2500 characters).

Our work is focussed on children in poor bastis and slums of Bhopal. These children are mainly enrolled in Government schools, which lack basic facilities, as well as adequate numbers of trained teachers, which in turn affects the teaching of basic subjects including language, maths and science.

- In baseline tests of 748 children of classes 3rd to 8th from these bastis, conducted this year, we found 204 (27.27%) at simple story reading levels and the rest at sentence levels or even lower.
- In another midline test, 244 students of classes 7th to 12th , who have applied to function as Chote Gurujis in the ALCs, were tested in language and maths. Of these only 131 were at basic comprehension levels of reading and writing.
- Only 90 of the 244 applicants for Chote Guruji could add and subtract numbers. And only 40 of them could multiply and divide or solve simple word problems.

- As a result of this low levels of academic learning few students from poor economic backgrounds venture to take up science and maths at the higher secondary stage (classes 11th and 12th) and then at college.

So, the compounded problem we are trying to address can be stated as follows:

i) strengthen the quality of learning of science, maths, and language for students at primary and secondary levels using FLN (Foundational Learning & Numeracy, as described by State Govt documents) as our target.
ii) through this approach reduce the drop out rates of children in these communities in our project areas.
iii) encourage more children to take up science, maths and IT subjects in higher secondary and college levels.

14. Project Executive Summary - Solution Approach/Activities
Briefly highlight the approach your organization is taking towards solving the problem outlined above. What are the main activities that the project plans to do? Please keep your descriptions brief and to the point. (Limit of 2500 characters).

The Project support requested from Asha is to set up a ***'Science Activity Centre' Bhopal,*** which will be part of and support the larger ongoing program in the poor bastis and slums of the city.
This larger ongoing program, titled ***'Harvesting the Promise of Children: Through Development of Individual Capacities and Social Responsibility'*** is supported by Azim Premji Foundation, Bengaluru. This 3 year program, initiated in April 2024, has created community based multi-layered social action platforms in the city to support vulnerable children between 6 to 18 years.

Main goals of the program:
Goal I- Develop and implement effective means to tackle major vulnerabilities around education amongst children between 6 and 18 years by establishing Activity and Learning Centres (ALCs) in 40 locations in poor bastis of Bhopal. This program intensively covers 1600 children (1200 between 6 and 14 and 400 between 14 to 18 years) and extensive reach to an additional 2400 children between 6 and 14 years.

Goal II: Build capacity of 400 older girls and boys, in the age group 14 to 18 to become active and responsible members of the community by taking up social roles and responsibilities.

- 400 adolescents (Chote Guruji & Chote Ustad), in teams of 10 help to run 40 **Activity and Learning Centres** for 1200 young children. *(Chote Ustad provide Art and Craft inputs to young children. Chote Guruji are trained to mentor young children in language and maths – through reading and writing stories and solving maths worksheets.)*
- the 400 adolescents (Chote Guruji & Chote Ustad), are provided inputs to develop independent study skills for their own studies and ensure completion of secondary and Higher Secondary school.
- Through the 40 ALCs we have initiated a program to open science clubs and motivate middle and high school kids to enjoy science through activities and small projects.

Proposal to Asha:
We request Asha to support the setting up of a ***'Science Activity Centr****e' at Bhopal for 1 year. The Centre will operate from a rented space, with support from Asha and provide training and capacity building to Chote Gurujis to:*
i) design, make and carry out small science toys and projects – and experience science as fun & learning;
ii) Design simple science activities and projects to support and guide 13 science clubs being set up amongst the Activity and Learning Centres (ALC) in our field area.
iii) Allow Chote Guruji to carry out science experiments that they are unable to do in school.
iv) Develop basic computing and IT skills, using a computer net with 11 terminals for Chote Guruji and for dropout youth, who want to develop vocational skills.

16. Project Executive Summary - Outcomes *
Briefly highlight the expected concrete outputs and outcomes that you expect at the end of the project. Please provide succinct and exact descriptions. (Limit of 2500 characters). (Ex. Students of Class V will be able to speak and write English fluently)

Expected outcomes of setting up the 'Science Activity Centre' *are focussed on capacity building of 400 Chote Guruji who in turn mentor younger students.*

Objective: to motivate and create deeper interest in the learning and understanding of science amongst 400 middle and high school students from the project area.
Target Group: 400 Chote guruji supporting the 40 Activity and Learning Centres in Bhopal
Expected Outcomes:

- Setting up 13 active and regular Science Clubs amongst the 40 Activity and Learning Centres.
- Increase the number of students taking up science at Higher Secondary and College levels by at least 20 % amongst Chote Gurujis and other students in the project area.
- Create active interest in making science toys (see for example science activities from Arvindguptatoys.com) and taking up simple science projects by at least 200 of the Chote Gurujis.

17. Project Executive Summary - Metrics/Measuring Success *
How will you evaluate the success of the progress of the project each year? How would you ascertain that the outputs are the results of the proposed work?

Success of each component of the project will be measured as follows:
For creating interest in making science toys and taking up science projects:

- Provide photos and short videos of the functional science toys along with its creators.
- Written record along with photo of the science project, by student.

Setting up 13 active and regular Science Clubs

- *Textual and photo record of science club activities;*
- *Observation records by team members after monitoring visits;*

Increase in number of students taking up science at Higher Secondary Level

- Keep annual records of Chote Guruji passing out of class 10 and entering class 11 and eventually college over time.
- Keeping record of students, who were provided counselling to take up science.

For computing and IT skills: we shall use a basic curriculum to be followed in the teaching learning process. To test the outputs and learning, we shall take periodic quizzes and tests, followed by an end of course assessment.

18. Project Executive Summary - Long Term Impact *
Briefly highlight the potential long term direct impact of the project. (Limit of 2500 characters).

- Larger number of high school and higher secondary school students doing well in science and maths;
- Larger number of higher secondary students getting admitted to colleges with science, engineering, medicine and nursing as subjects of study.
- Larger number of youth in project area with understanding and concern for solving local issues and problems of the community. (e.g. testing quality of drinking water in pipes; ensuring better management of waste material in the area; efforts to ensure bio-diversity of school and community region;)
- Demand from neighbouring and other localities and non-profits to help them use this approach in their regions.

19. Project Executive Summary - Highlights *

What makes this project unique? Is there a new approach tried here? Are the tools being used better than existing ones?

This overall project uses very innovative approaches to solving the challenge of education quality in government and lower level private schools:

- It uses high school students, from local communities as mentors and motivators for younger children.
- Teaching is the best way of learning: our approach helps the Chote Guruji to become aware of their own learning process and gaps and helps them to develop as confident 'self-learners'.
- Provides self-respect and dignity to children and youth, who run the Activity and Learning Centres from an early age.
- This is a sustainable and economic approach since it makes large number of local youth volunteers available to help with education and other local issues;
- Helps the creation of aware and active citizenry, through responsible and active participation in community affairs from an early age

20. Proposal and Budget Documents

Upload a folder or zip file containing all documents you wish to submit to us (Eg. to Google Drive etc.). Make sure the document is viewable publicly and enter the link here. (Highly recommended). If you are not sure what proposal to use, feel free to use: https://wiki.ashanet.org/download/attachments/76383666/Asha_Project_Proposal_PDF.zip?api=v2

21. Total Funding Required (in INR) *

What is the total funding amount required for the project (from ALL funding sources)

The program to set up 40 Activity and Learning Centres titled: 'Harvesting the promise of Children' has received a total sanction of **Rs.2.25 crores over 3 years from the Azim Premji Foundation,** Bengaluru.

Of this amount the existing **science outreach program (science clubs and science van activities)** is already supported through the **Azim Premji Foundation** with an annual operational cost of **Rs.10,44,000. This support covers the core educational staff and outreach activities.**

22. Total Funding Required from Asha for Education (in INR) *

What is the total funding amount requested for the project (from Asha for Education)

Total funding required from Asha for Education

- One-time setup: Rs.3,26,400
- Operational support (per year): Rs.8,52,000

For one year, the total requested support would be: Rs.11,78,400.00

To strengthen the work currently being done by Samavesh, it would greatly help to have a dedicated Science Activity Centre. The funds being sought from *Asha for Education* are to enable this.

To run the Science Activity Centres effectively, we require support for rental space, utilities, essential staff, and minimal operational expenses. We are requesting this from Asha. In addition, we are requesting support for setting up a modest Computer Lab and a Basic Fab Lab. We already have some basic science lab setups that are currently being used in our outreach activities. These will continue to be used in this Lab set up.

For budget details, see below-

	Description	Cost
Tools & Equipments:		
Computer Lab with 11 terminals	**Main Computer, B/W Printer, UPS, Dell wyse 3040 Thin Client wifi model, 11 LED HD Monitor, 11 Keyboard and Mouse set, one Ethernet hub and Cat 6 cable for electrical wiring** 1) Main Computer- Rs.35,000/- 2) B/w Printer- Rs.15,000/- 3) UPS- Rs.3,000/- 4) Dell wyse 3040 thin client- Rs.35,000/- 5) 11 Led HD Monitor- Rs.55,000/- 6) 11 Keyboard and Mouse- Rs.11,000/- 7) One Ethernet hub port- Rs.5,000/- 8) Cat 6 cable electrical wiring- Rs.6,000/-	Rs.1,65,000.00
Basic Fab Lab		
Creality K2 SE x1	Buy Creality K2 SE Combo High-Speed Multicolor 3D Printer | Robu.in	Rs.54,000.00
Oscilloscope x1	Siglent Technologies Siglent Plastic 100Mhz,4 Channel Technologies 1Gs/Sec Sampling Rate,14Mpts Record Length With Low Speed Serial Bus Trigger And Decode Sds1104X-E (Corded Electric,Grey),10 Liters : Amazon.in	Rs.58,400.00
Other	1) Bench Power Supplier - Rs.9,000/- 2) Working table and chair - 15,000/- 3) Miscellaneous expenses- 25000/- (for electrical fittings and connections for Computer lab & Fab lab)	Rs.49,000.00
	Total cost:	**Rs.3,26,400.00**

	Description	cost per annum
Infrastructure:		
Rental Space & Utilities	Rs.15000 rent + Rs.5000 electricity, internet, other maintenance	Rs.2,40,000.00
Personnel:		
Lab Manager	Salary Rs.30,000 per month	Rs.3,60,000.00
Lab Assistant	Salary Rs.20,000 per month	Rs.2,40,000.00
Other utilities:		
Team local travel	Rs.1000.00 per month for two persons	Rs.12,000.00
	Total cost:	**Rs.8,52,000.00**

23. Other Funding Sources *
What are the other funding sources for this project (Confirmed, Tentative etc.)
The other confirmed funding source for this project in Bhopal city is 'Azim Premji Foundation' for the period 2024 - 2027. And this funding is expected to continue even after that.

24. Check all the fields that apply to your project *
Please check only those fields which apply *STRONGLY* to your project.

Listed only fields that apply strongly
Primary Education
Secondary Education *
High School *
Vocational Education (preparatory training for vocational and counselling for vocational)
Alternative Education/ Activity Based Learning
Community Based Intervention
Resource Centre *
Technology Assisted Learning
Focused Primarily on Urban Slums *

25. Other projects of the Organization
Briefly list other project efforts of the Organization (ongoing or completed), if any

26. Affliation with Asha for Education *
Does your organization (or any of its members) have any current or prior association with Asha for Education and/or any of its members? If so, explain.
Our organisation does not have any current of prior association with Asha for Education and any of its members.

27. Does the organization have a FCRA?
Yes, the organisation has FCRA.

28. Does the organization have any religious and/or political affiliation? If so, explain.
None

29. **Additional Comments**

Please enter any other information that you think is vital - and has not been covered before.

The idea of the Activity and Learning Centres (ALC), which are actively supported by older school students called Chote Guruji, has been picked up by our rural area programs at two locations, namely Panna district, where we run 30 ALCs and Dewas district, where we have 15 ALC in Madhya Pradesh. The rural centres receive support from the village level women's forums, which have been set up by our team in villages to strengthen women's needs for better livelihoods and for participation in local panchayat level governance. The ALCs in these rural areas also face a challenge in finding adequate numbers of Chote Gurujis to organise activities for the ALC. So our science activities in the rural areas will be supported by the Urban Resource Centre that is being requested, and the young Chote Guruji from rural areas will be sent to Bhopal to be trained here.