

# Vanavasi Ashram Trust Wayanad, Kerala

Primary Steward: Kavitha

Secondary Stewards: SS &/ Anish

## Project Description

- A rural residential school in remote Wayanad district of Kerala to serve the tribal children
- Tribal communities served: Paniya, Kurruchias, Kuruma, Adiyar, Kattu Nayikar
- First generation school goers
- Urgent funds needed to run the school due to delayed government funding
- Amount Requested (US\$): 14700 per year
- Purpose of Funding Request: Teachers' salary
- # of Beneficiaries: 180-200 students
- The school may close down w/o our funding

# Project Goals

- **Current Condition of Beneficiaries**

There are 180-200 students currently enrolled. 90 boys and 89 girls. The trust is looking for immediate funds to run the current academic year.

- **Short-Term Objectives**

- To obtain funds from the government and NGOs and run the school this year

- **5-Year Vision**

- To make the school self sufficient with available resources
- Or, if the struggle continues, hand over the school to another trust

**Pankaj Gupta's recommendation:**

“There is no stability because this is indeed a very tribal area and funding is not easy at all.”

“This is a solid project that Asha supported for so many years. Dr. Nambiar is a very sincere lovable gentleman doing great work even in this old age. However, it seemed like Asha could not continue on for ever 3 years back and there didn't seem to be a path to sustainability....

If there are funds, the project, its goals and Dr. Nambiar are as solid as they come IMHO.”

# Project Background/Impact

- How did the request reach us?

Asha has supported this project for many years. Stanford and SV funded for 2 classrooms. SV gave \$35000 to support 175 children in 2007. This project has been up for discussion since January 2010.

- Sources of Information: [website](#), Dr.Nambiar, BijuOm

- Successes/Impact Thus Far

- Many students have completed education or are doing a degree
- Old students have come back as teachers to the school: male and female wardens, 2 primary teachers and computer instructor
- The school started with one tribal girl enrolling and now there are around 90 girls
- Vocational training has helped both parents and children with a better livelihood

- Challenges

- Not enough community support
- Not enough parents' support
- The budget for running the school with 100% capacity is around Rs.27 Lakhs per year
- Residential school nature results in more funding needs
- No consistent funding from the government

# Organization Description

- Name of Organization
  - Vanavasi Ashram Trust, Wayanad, Kerala
- Background of Directors
  - Dr.M.P.Appanu Nambiar(chairman): Retired Principal of University teacher Education centre, Kannur, Kerala, India
  - N.A.Raman(Secretary) : Tribal Social worker running a Ayurveda Medical shop in the locality
  - Vellan, Kayal makki (Vice-Chairman) : A tribal leader
  - M.Remamani : Retired school teacher
  - Chandu, Choyimoola. : Ex.Grama Panchayath memberTribal leader
  - Dr Binu Nambiar : Medical Practitioner
  - Karappan : Tribal leader
- Other Activities of the Organization
  - Vocational training
  - Agricultural training
  - Medical camps

Any red flags?

- Religious or Political Affiliations - No
- FCRA status – Yes.

## Issues with government funding

- Always delayed
- Never adjusted for inflation
- The government issues norms to maintain the number of staff:
  - They are paying Rs.2250 for a cook and Rs 1250 for a helper to cook.We have one accountant,one clerk two wardens ,two cooks two helper to the cook,two ayas,two sweeper,two peons one watchman etc.These are govt.norms.If we are not depending on Govt. grants we can reduce the number.
  - The number of teachers are high also due to these norms
- Dr.Nambiar has travelled to Delhi three times to inquire about funds for last year. They have not received yet.
- If any one is willing to enquire about the grant of Vanavasi Ashram trust for the year: Contact Mr.Mukharjee from Tribal Affairs,Govt of India is 91 9868179541.He visited the school and gave a good report three years ago. He was instrumental for getting the grant for 2008-2009.
- Need to raise 30% of funds even after getting government funds

## Other clarifications

- Who runs the school in Dr.Nambiar's absence

In my absence the secretary of the trust, principal and the teacher in-charge of the boys' and girls' hostels are looking after the school.I will be returning first week of October.

- Why was the idea of a missionary rejected

Agents of missionary approached to know whether it will be sold out, Did not mention for what purpose. I do not think that they had the idea of running the school.

- More about the tribal community

We have six different tribal communities Katunaika, Paniya, Kuruma, Adiyar, Kuruchiya and Oorala. Each of them have separate dialects, gods and system of worship, Not the traditional system of worship. We do not ask about their religion. I have noticed them participating in Christian and Hindu festivals which is nearer to their residence. We have Hindu, Muslim and Christian in our staff.

- School syllabus

Every year Govt.of Kerala recommends our grant proposal and forward to Tribal Ministry,Govt.Of India. School affiliated to Institute open Schooling of HRRD Ministry,Govt.of India.Certificate is at school. NoOBE-0900200 dated 28th March 2000. We can send it later if needed.We have been running the school on the basis of this certificate for the last ten years. We are following Kerala Govt.Syllabus.

## Budget for Requested Funding

- Salary for 11 teachers for current academic year
  - \$14700 per year from proposal
  - Principal @ of \$150 per month for 12 months = \$1800.00
  - Science, Math, Social studies @ \$125/month for 12 months for 3 teachers = \$4500.00
  - Primary teachers @ \$100 per month for 12 months for 7 teachers = \$8400.00
- Requesting for
  - \$6625 in August
  - \$5300 in December
  - \$3975 in February
- Asha will be funding 23% of the total expenses.
- It costs \$70000 per year to run the school

## Other requests

- Jeep \$15000 for Bolero Jeep
- Special teachers' salary \$ 7950/year
- Rest Rooms \$4000
- Chairs \$3000
- Well construction \$4000
- Play ground \$4000
- Food for boys \$13350/year
- Food for girls \$13350/year

# Other Funding Sources

- Previous/Other Funding Sources
  - Asha has funded \$129,000 so far (NYC/NJ, SV, Stanford, Atlanta, WAH)
  - Government funding constitutes major portion:
    - Usually of the order of Rs.20 Lakhs
    - But latest report says that government gives small loans
- If funding has been discontinued from another source, reasons for the same — High budget, too unstable, Funded for around 7 years by Asha
- One-Time Costs/Continuing? Plans for self-sufficiency
  - No major plans for self sufficiency
  - Ideas for self sufficiency
    - Rubber plantation
    - Dairy Farm
    - Marriage Hall
    - Holiday Resort

## Site Visit Report

- Last Site Visit Report: Jan 2006
- Internship done by Allison Zaitchik (December 22<sup>nd</sup> 2008)
  - Taught English: one day for each class
  - Requests Asha to consider funding as she feels the school will be closed without our help
  - Teachers are doing more than what they are paid for and may leave w/o financial support
  - Need for a Jeep
  - Need for a washing machine

# SWOT Analysis

## Strengths/Opportunities

1. Great service for the tribal community. All first generation school goers
2. Infrastructure available for housing 500 students
3. Government funding available but not consistent
4. The project (if successful) will surely prevent child labor, illicit liquor making and will give a better opportunity for these tribal children

## Weaknesses/Risks

1. Mr. Nambiar is not able to sustain children in the school and the drop out rate is difficult to control
2. Self sustenance plans are not concrete
3. Too huge a budget to handle
4. If Mr.Nambiar retires, who will take over this project?

## Steward Recommendation

- A very needy project that requires Asha Stanford's support
- Need to work closely with Mr.Nambiar to try and steer the project in the right direction
- Need to get audit reports to see how the funds are/were spent (If the trust gets government aid, then what will Asha's funds be used for?) – Audit reports received.
- Need to see if the struggle for controlling school drop outs continues – Dr.Nambiar says he has a scheme.
- Need to get the trust to start generating revenue from other sources

## Questions for the project partner

- Split up for expenses for \$70,000 - given
- Any outstanding loan details: Rs.27 lakhs - Yes
- When is he expecting government aid? – Anytime for last year
- How does he plan to get the rest of the funds? – Individual donors, Bijuom and other Asha chapters
- Is he willing to maintain the current strength and not increase enrollment? – He is willing to reduce the number if needed. But don't want to.
- Justify need for 12 teachers and 16 non-teaching faculty (including wardens) – Government norms
- Can he pursue one idea per year that will generate revenue – I am not sure. He wants us to recommend any trust that can assist the school.