

Proposal by Swati Mahila Vikas Samiti:

Summary: This proposal is mainly for the improvement in the standard of women in Chitakut and Boudha districts in UP. One of the means of achieving this is through basic education for women. They are requesting ASHA to help them in this cause by raising Rs5,62,000 for their project.

Details:

The Chitrakoot and Baudha districts in UP are well known for their backward way of life. Most of the land here is mountainous and unsuited for agriculture. The most common occupation here is illegal lumbering in the forests. Most of the women are involved in this. There are lots of instances of dacoity and political and caste related violence. In between all this, women fit in the bottom-most class of the society. In Baudha district, not all the villages have schools and the kids have to go out of the village for "Secondary education". Most times, since the roads are not safe, the girls are not allowed to tread these paths and they don't get secondary education. The "Purda System" is still practiced in some parts of the district and women mostly spend their lives in the kitchen. The girls are married off at a very young age and this affects their health as well as social status.

To improve the condition of women in this area, "Swati Mahila Vikas Samiti" was est. in 1999. This samiti was formed by some local women who wanted to address the problems faced by women in this area. This samiti is against gender-based discrimination and is working towards an equal-opportunity society for women. To achieve this motive, the samiti intends to build on the following three foundations:

1. The samiti believes that the biggest hurdle is the lack of education for women.
2. Gender based discrimination leaves total control of economic issues to men and women become mute spectators. To overcome this, the samiti intends to make women self-sufficient and thereby increase their standard of living.
3. This second-class status of women directly affects their health. However, in the family, their health is not given any importance. The samiti wants to ensure that all health benefits are accessible to women.

This proposal is along the lines of the one drawn by samiti under Gudakala gram panchayat of Nareini Block of Baudha District. The proposal is outlined below:

Most of the people in this village have their own land and farming is the main source of income. The purda system is enforced quite strictly in this region and women mostly work in the house

and are not allowed to participate in the socio-political issues. There is no facility for secondary education for girls. The samiti proposes the following methods to improve this situation:

1. Field visits and interaction with the women in the village; especially dalit women.
2. Form a kishori womens committee: This committee will focus on solving the problems being faced by illiterate kishori women.
3. Developing the capabilities of kishori women: The committee will work towards discovering the hidden talent among girls and develop those talents. This will be achieved through group discussions, arts and competitions. The women would be encouraged to take on an active role in society and shoulder more responsibilities.
4. Girls will be taken to different schools in the village and district level to increase awareness.
5. Girls will be told about gender discrimination and the problems being faced by women so that they carry this awareness with them wherever they go after marriage.
6. Reading materials will be prepared for all of the above and distributed amongst the girls in the village.
7. For the girls who cannot go to the school daily, there'll be a weekly study program. Many of the kids who are school drop-outs can also avail of this facility.
8. The girls who've gotten married and have gone to their in-laws will be followed up with through letters.

BIO-DATA

Name: Smt. Avadhesh Gupta

Age: 30 years

Gender: Female

Address: Sri Dashrat Prasad Gupta
Naya Bazaar, Opp PWD,
Karvi, Chitrakut

Education: BA

Training: Gender Education, Female issues screening, producing hand-crafted goods, handpump operation, UNICEF water related health issues, videography.

Work Experience:

1995 - 1998 Vanangana - Samanvayak (An organisation working towards women's rights
in Chitrakut district)
1992 - 1995 Member of womens support group in Bandha village.

Responsibilities: Co-ordinate the programs organized by the organization, educating women on technical advancement, maintaining the handpump in the block. Social work in 47 Indira Residentail colony. Formed a self-sufficiency group for women and headed it. co-ordinated womens development efforts in 10 villages for education and social issues. ducating them about gender based bias.

Dec 1998 - Jul 2000 Junior coordinator; Women's Issues, Varanasi.

Aug 2000 - MAr 2001 Ashankalik Parashrami Society, Chitrakut

Worked towards uniting rural women towards social development.

Apr 2001 - present Sachiv swati Mahila Vikas samiti, karvi, chitrakut.

BUDGET:

1. Stationery Rs 2,000/- Annual
2. Wages - Teacher Rs 1,000/- per month
- Samanvayak Rs 2,500/- per month
3. Travel expenses Rs 3,600/- Annual
4. Gender Training Rs 1,600/- Annual
5. Reading Materials Rs 3,000/- Annual
6. Miscellaneous Rs 2,000/- Annual
7. Shelter/Camps etc. Rs 2,000/- Annual

Expenses for the 1st year Rs 56,200/-