

WAH 2005 Proposal: Sahyog

Summary

Total Amount Required (USD): \$17,181

Target Amount from WAH 2005 (USD): \$10,000

Cost Type: Recurring Expenses

Number of People Served: Sahyog and Sahyog Sanghursh: 25-150, Sahyog Ekta: 50-200

Project Location (State): Maharashtra

Category: Non Formal Education, Alternative Education, Community Awareness, Disabilities

FCRA Approval: Yes

Nominating Chapter: Berkeley

Contact Person (also US contact): Barnali Ghosh

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Website: <http://ashanet.org/projects/project-view.php?p=363>

Site Visit: January 2005 (Report Pending)

Photos File: See Asha Project Website

India Contact: Neha Madhiwalla

E-mail: sahyog.chehak@rediffmail.com

Organizational Information

Name of the Organization:

Sahyog managed by the Chehak Trust*

Anusandhan Trust (Registered under the Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950)

Registration Number: (E - 13480)

Tax Exemption Certificate Number: PAN AAATA089R

Exemption End Date: Up to March 31st, 2007 (under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act)

FCRA Number: 083780565

MOA: Trust Deed

Note: Anusandhan Trust is the registered trust that runs several centers, of which CEHAT is one. Sahyog was an activity, which was incorporated as an independent activity directly under the Anusandhan Trust till such time as we were able to form our own organization. So we established Chehak Trust, but continue to receive funds through Anusandhan Trust until FCRA clearance can be applied for which will be 3 years after Chehak trust was formed.

Brief long-term Objective:

Sahyog aims to improve access to basic health and education services, both by collaborating with existing organizations as well as increasing community awareness and mobilization. The long-term objective of Sahyog is to create a secular, progressive and empowering space, which enables the development of a cadre of well-trained, socially committed young leaders.

Creation and Activities:

Sahyog started as a voluntary initiative of two researchers in an industrial slum in north-eastern Mumbai called Jari Mari, who started teaching adolescent girls who had dropped out of school. In 2000, this was made into a regular activity, with a paid teacher and independent rented premises. We started with about 20 girls. Over the years, Sahyog has grown into an institution, with varied activities directed at the above-mentioned objective. The staff of Sahyog, with the exception of three persons (including a part time

doctor, a special educator and a programme assistant) is drawn entirely from the local community, consisting of young women whom we have trained and encouraged to obtain higher education and qualifications. Over the years, we have trained our own staff and developed their confidence to a point that they are able to manage the day-to-day running of the organization on their own. Besides, they participate actively in the planning, evaluation and development of the organization. Sahyog works in two slum areas (one of which is a large industrial slum, Jari Mari, covering about 20,000 people) and the other is a resettlement colony, Dindoshi (covering about 10,000 people). Both areas have witnessed a lot of upheavals due to demolitions, eviction and resettlement, which has also affected Sahyog's work.

Currently, we have three core activities

Sahyog School Without Walls

This is the oldest program of Sahyog. Established in June 2000, this is a community-based school for out-of-school adolescent girls. It uses a learning-through-doing methodology, through which in addition to classroom teaching, we involve girls in community work, action research, mapping, etc. The primary aim of Sahyog's school is to give these girls confidence in themselves and develop their capacity for critical thinking. Sahyog also offers the girls opportunity to link with the formal system at the 3rd, 5th, 8th and 10th std through the Open Schooling system. This year, the first batch of girls cleared the school leaving examinations (17 girls). Over the years, more than 300 girls have passed through Sahyog and each year, on average, enrolment doubles. Currently, its two branches have about 50 girls each. There was significant dropout recently due to demolitions.

However, over the years, the school has established its identity and become well-known in the community. It has also provided us with young women with the commitment and confidence to expand our activities. The school has become a focal point for investing in the human capital of the community, so that we are able to create a large enough pool of educated and aware young women, who can become catalysts for social change. Sahyog also creates space for girls in the public sphere, where earlier there was no room for them.

Sahyog Sangharsh Special Education Program

In our effort to bring all children into the education mainstream, we felt the need to work with disabled children. Special education, in spite of state and philanthropic initiatives has remained the preserve of the well-to-do. There are virtually no institutions or approaches which cater to the needs of poor children and their families. So, in 2003, we decided to set up a deprofessionalised model of rehabilitation, which uses the abundant human resources that a slum can provide, but is low-cost and can be managed by local staff. Thus, with only two specialized teachers, we are able to cater 25-30 children with different kinds of disability (although predominantly we have students with mental retardation and hearing impairment). The local staff includes two assistants and five girls from the Sahyog girls' school. We organize periodic trainings and assessment camps to impart training to our local staff, which takes over the day-to-day instruction.

Being located in the community, and through constant interaction with the families of the children, we are trying to develop awareness about their rights (their children's and their own). Knowing the constraints within which families are trying to care for disabled children, we are able to deal much more sensitively with parents and families, who find formal special education institutions too forbidding and demanding. The aim of Sahyog Sangharsh is to teach disabled children to live independent and productive lives in their own society and community.

Sahyog School 7 teachers

Sahyog Sangharsh 2 special educators
2 assistant teachers
5 student volunteers

Sahyog Ekta 1 Program co-coordinator (trainer)
1 part-time doctor
3 health workers

Annual Budget:

	Total amount
Salaries	470400
Fellowship	24000
Rent	90400
Training	5000
Administrative expenses	10000
Books	20000
Teaching aids	10000
Specialist treatment	10000
Printing and Copying	15000
Travel	20000
Medicines	24000
Miscellaneous	40000
Total	738800
Current Re/US\$ Rate)	43
Budget amount in US\$	17181

Previous Funding: Asha for Education, Berkeley and Asha for Education, Atlanta have been supporting Sahyog School Without Walls, Sahyog Sangharsh and Common Expenses since 2002.

Location and Demographic details:

The project is located in Mumbai, in two separate slum settlements. It covers a population of approximately 30,000 people. The settlements themselves are much larger and Sahyog's reach is also widening. The population is predominantly poor, largely migrant and belongs to the backward castes (both Hindu and Muslim). About 80 percent of the population is Muslim. The literacy rate (in 1997) for women was only 60 percent, which is much below the city's average. Most of the people here are employed as casual or informal sector workers, having very unstable income and no social security. Most of the girls in our school are the first generation to go to school.

About 20-25 percent of the children between 6-14 years are out of school in both these areas, according to our annual surveys. For the 15-18 year olds, less than half are in school. Child labor is quite common. Although much of it is masked by the fact that they work in the home doing home-based work (packing, sorting, cleaning, assembling, stitching, finishing, etc)

Beneficiaries of the project:

1. Children who are currently out-of-school as well as those who are already enrolled in Sahyog, includes girls between 10-19 years, disabled children of any age and gender. (Sahyog also caters to younger out-of-school children through another project)

2. Women, children and adolescents who utilize the medical services and health education services of Sahyog (includes those who seek general health care, pregnant women who seek maternal health services and T.B patients who receive treatment and counseling at our centre).
3. The larger community of Jari Mari and Dindoshi who benefit from the community awareness building initiatives of Sahyog as well as programmes such as eye camps, birth registration campaigns, etc.

Expected outcomes for people served by the project:

1. Improvement in enrolment rates of the children in the relevant age group in the community
2. Enhancement in levels of literacy and numeracy of the students enrolled in Sahyog.
3. Increase in the number of girls who appear for and pass examinations at the 3rd, 5th, 8th and 10th grade levels
4. Empowerment of the girls who study in Sahyog in terms of the capacity to negotiate with various people in their lives as well as making more independent and informed decisions about their lives.
5. Enabling the disabled children to lead more independent lives and find useful work.
6. Create a supportive environment for the education of both girls as well as the disabled children within the community.
7. Improve the utilization of healthcare for maternity and reproductive health services by women as well as girls.
8. Control the spread of T.B through effective treatment and preventive measures.
9. Increase the general awareness about health and education – in terms of scientific knowledge, available services and awareness about the rights of people to services.

How long will the benefit last:

1. Sahyog's inputs directly affect the lives of a few children. However, their presence in the community creates a much larger impact - in terms of offering role models to other girls/disabled children.
2. The benefits of Sahyog are incremental – as each generation of students widen the pool of trained, educated people who are offering services to the community – either through Sahyog itself as through other organizations.
3. Sahyog's work is contributing to the creation of a new leadership – especially among the women in the community, which will take a long time to become apparent, but is there.

Number of people reached:

1. Students in the girls' school. Currently approx 100 are enrolled. Since 2002, nearly 400 girls have passed through Sahyog

2. Disabled children. Currently 25 are enrolled. Since 2003, 40 students have passed through Sahyog.
3. Approx number of patients seeking clinic services in a year – 500
4. Approx number of women registering for maternal care services in a year – 100
5. Number of patients receiving treatment for T.B in our clinic – 60
6. Women attending health education sessions on a regular basis – 80
7. Approx attendance at eye camp – 700

Other sources of funding (confirmed and anticipated):

1. Donations by individuals (anticipated)
2. Grant by Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation for running community schools (confirmed) Rs. 90000
3. Returns from sale of materials produced by Sahyog (anticipated)
4. Honorarium received by individual staff members and trustees for doing training for other organizations, which are pooled, back into Sahyog
5. Fees for using clinic services (which cover some part of the drug cost)

Duration of the project:

Long-term

Government Involvement:

1. The government provides iron folic acid tablets, contraceptives (condoms and oral pills) and T.B drugs for our clinic on a regular basis. Additionally they also occasionally give us some drugs such as ORS salts and Vitamin A syrup.
2. We interact very closely with the local health post of the municipal corporation for providing services to the T.B patients, as well as conducting public health measures such as immunization and health awareness
3. The children from Sahyog can appear for examinations in the local municipal schools on special request.
4. We also collaborate with the government to give training on life-skills education to adolescent girls at the state level as well as district level. Sahyog is a resource organization for the state government of Maharashtra.

Personnel Involved:

Teachers in the girls school – 8 (4 Jari Mari, 4 Dindoshi)

Teachers in the special education programme – 2
Assistants in the special education programme – 2
Community health workers – 4 (2 Jari Mari, 2 Dindoshi)
Programme assistants – 2 (salary not budgeted in WAH proposal)
Consultants – Doctor – 1, Special education expert – 1
Managing Trustee – 1 (honorary)

References:

Ms. Vijaya Chauhan (Formerly with UNICEF, Mumbai, Education Unit). Women's activist and well-known educationist. vijayachauhan@hotmail.com

Dr. Leena Abraham (Reader, Tata Institute of Social Science, Sociology of Education Department)
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Dr. Sanjay Nagral (Consultant Surgeon, Jaslok Hospital, Chairperson, Forum for Medical Ethics Society, Honorary surgeon, Dept. of Gastroenterology, K.B. Bhabha Municipal Hospital) nagral@vsnl.com