

Asha for Education Fellowship Application Form

SECTION I: Personal Contact Information

Name: Mrs. E. Siddamma

Address: D-5, Bayview Apartments, Kalakshetra Colony, Besant Nagar, Chennai - 600 0

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Nominator: Shanmuga

Have you applied to Asha Fellowship Program before? No. If yes, when? _____

SECTION II: Summary of Work

Name of Project (if any): (To be decided)

Location: Village/City : Thiruvallur State Tamil Nadu

Which communities will your work serve? Location : Economically disadvantaged at Thiruvallur Dist.

Socio-economic background : Economically backward. They are however skilled in fishing, beekeeping, traditional farming. They have also been working as agri labourers and coolie workers in rice mills.

Type of work (select three maximum):

<input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum development	<input type="checkbox"/> Environment	<input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Technology
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Teaching methods	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health & Nutrition	<input type="checkbox"/> Corruption
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational system reform	<input type="checkbox"/> Income Generation/Micro-loans	<input type="checkbox"/> People's struggles (dams, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/> Computer based education	<input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Civic & Human Rights
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult literacy/education	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Reform	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alternate Eco. Development

SECTION II: Education

Degree, Certification or Training	Institution	Location	Year
B.A. Sociology	Bharath Education Society	Bangalore	1980-83
Teacher Training	Government Teacher Training Institute	Chitradurga	1979-80

SECTION III: Experience

Please describe the top 3 most relevant experiences.

- 1 **Search Training Centre** - Training for personality development and for social work. During this period I taught street children in Bangalore. I was associated with the Center during the period 1981-82
- 2 **CRY** - I was teaching the Irula children from 1990 onwards and motivating the tribes for their empowerment and teaching the children using non-formal methods of education.
- 3 **Bharathi Trust**- I founded the Bharathi Trust in 1990 and have been working as Managing Trustee with the Irula tribes since then.

SECTION IV: Organizational Affiliations & Memberships

	Organization	Your Role	Dates
1	CRY	Worked as a teacher	1990
2	RIOU	Started training teachers. I opened a school for rice mill children.	1996
3	HIVOS	As Managing Trustee of Bharathi Trust I have in association with HIVOS been working for the empowerment of Irulas and education of the disadvantaged	1997
3	Asha	As Managing Trustee of Bharathi Trust I have provided 8 motivational centres for Irula children	1999

SECTION VI: References

Name	Organization	Address/Phone/Email
Geetha Ramakrishnan	National Construction Workers' Union	3rd Cross Street, United India Nagar, Ayanavaram, Chennai - 600 023. Tel. No.6450071. E-Mail:nmps@eth.net.in
Krishnan K.	Sarpam Irula Sangam	184-21C, Jayanagar, Thiruvallure - 602 001. Tel. No. 954116-662607
Shyamala	Pennurumai Iyakam	A-5, Bharathiyar University Quarters, Coimbatore - 641046. Tel. No.(0422)422030. E-Mail:shyamali@eth.net

SECTION V: Proposal

Please answer the following questions in the space provided

Name of Project (if any): (To be decided)

Mission Statement (50 words or less):

Community based resource centre to educate economically disadvantaged, provide skills to sustain, revive indigenous medicine, agriculture, art and culture, life style and traditional skills. Design syllabus for social change. Involve resource persons from rural and urban sectors resulting in a model school

Clearly describe the need for the project or your work: Even though Bharathi Trust has enrolled the children into the government schools, there is a great need to improve the quality of teaching methodology and the syllabus. The resource centre will reinforce and motivate the government teachers and students by providing facilities in the form of library, laboratory and learning materials. There is a growing threat among the people in the villages of losing their traditional culture as more and more have begun to use environmentally non-biodegradable materials such as plastics which are endangering the environment and replaced usage of clay cups, trays, etc. The modern film culture has replaced the traditional dance, culture and music. The values of the local people have changed due to aping of the movie stars. The resource will rediscover the old values of the villages and wean the people from the present trends.

Clearly describe the proposed solution: The resource centre by providing facilities and demonstration programs shall attempt to rediscover the old traditional skills and bring about a socio-economic change in the society.

Clearly describe the expected impact of the project or your work: The villages surrounding the resource centre will be exposed to the revived techniques and learn to implement them in their day to day lives. The aim is to find a balance between the modern amenities available to them with the traditional skills and local resources so that there is a harmonious integration between the modern and the traditional.

Describe any innovative ideas & approach: The land which will be bought for the resource centre shall be an agricultural land whereby the food grains will be organically grown. The centre shall also utilise renewable sources such as wind mills, gobar gas, rain water harvesting. The structure put up for the centre shall be eco-friendly i.e. using hollow bricks, Mangalore tiles, etc. The Centre shall also grow herbal plants on the land. A library of traditional skills shall be built up that can be accessed by all interested in the cultural diaspora of the area.

Clearly describe why you will succeed: The reason why we will succeed is because we have been working with the Irula community in the area for the past twelve years. During this period, we have interacted with various communities and experienced first hand the life of the villager. The community will be involved with the working of the resource centre. They will find employment as artisans, develop their skills and the community shall take the responsibility of ensuring the quality of education in government schools. They will also help in the construction of the resource centre. The total involvement of the community shall ensure the success of the centre.

What activities will be undertaken for the project: Activities such as pottery, weaving, carpentry, dairy farming, organic farming, beekeeping, paper making, leather work, screen printing, embroidery, tailoring, dance, music, etc. Besides, the above activities, the children shall be taught the basics in reading, writing and arithmetic.

How will the impact of the work be measured (data collection, interviews, etc.): The resource centre will maintain records of the people who have visited and benefited from the Centre. Periodic visits to the government schools and neighbouring villages to measure the impact of our work.

What are the intermediate milestones: 1) To identify and document the existing activities and skill of the villagers around the proposed centre. 2) To construct a small structure on the land to serve as an office. 3) Identifying resource people who can provide their expertise in various skills. 3) To start vocational school (model school) for children 4) To train the children in various skills such as pottery, tailoring, etc.

What learnings from this work can be applied elsewhere & where: The experience gained from this resource centre can be applied in the nearby villages and later extended to the Taluks, District, State and lastly the entire country.

List the current financial resources, including any other grants or fellowships, available for the project/work. We have not received any fellowship or grant for the proposed resource centre. After approval from Asha and receipt of initial grant, we propose to approach, if necessary, various funding agencies, including State/National government for grants.

List any organizations, including universities, international agencies, NGOs, etc., involved in the work: So far, we have not approached any organisation with this project. We look forward to the approval of Asha initially.

What level of funding are you requesting from Asha for Education (stipend, project funds, etc.). The fellowship shall be US \$ 225 per month and US \$ 400 for one year towards travel, phone and other expenses. The fellowship shall be required for a period of five years.

SECTION VIII: Declaration

- I am 18 years of age or older
- I am prepared to committ a minimum of 32 hours per week to the proposed work
- I am prepared to committ to a minimum of 2 years to the proposed project starting May, 2002
- I am not proposing an academic research project
- I am not a prior recipient of Asha for Education Fellowship Program funding
- The proposed project/work is not affiliated with any religious or political organizations
- The proposed project/work is an independent and autonomous project
- The idea proposed is my original idea
- I have attached a resume and other pertinent information to this application

- I certify that I have answered all questions truthfully. I understand that if I have misrepresented myself or my proposed work, Asha for Education may disqualify my eligibiliy.*

Signature: _____
Name: E. Siddamma
Date: 22-Apr-02