Asha for Education
Fellowship Nomination Form

SECTION I: Nominator Information

Name: Shanmuga Subramanian
Organization (if any): Asha
Address: Permanent: 70, Z Block, Anna Nagar, Chennai -600 040
Phone: (609) 683 8384 (current); (044) 626 4837 (Chennai)
Email: shanmuga@princeton.edu; sshanmuga@hotmail.com
Affiliation with Asha: Active Volunteer since October 1998
☐ Asha Member (Chapter Princeton) ☐ Member/Employee Asha funded NGO (Name: ____________)
☐ Asha Fellow ☐ Social Worker/Activist (Org:__________________________)

SECTION II: Nominee Information

Name: E. Siddamma
Organization (if any): Bharathi Trust
Address: D-5, Bayview Apartments, Kalakshetra Colony, Besant Nagar, Chennai - 600 090
Phone: (044) 4468634
Email: bharathitrust@yahoo.com
Affiliation with Asha:
☐ Asha Member (Chapter ___________________) ☐ Member/Employee of Asha funded NGO: Bharathi Trust
☐ Previous Asha Fellow ☐ Social Worker/Activist (Org:Motivator in Manual Workers Union)

SECTION III: Field of Work

Name of Project (if any):
Location: Village/City/District All Eight Blocks of Thiruvallur District State Tamil Nadu
Which communities will Nominee’s work serve? the nominee’s primary focus will be in the irula adivasi community of north tamil nadu. Besides this the nominee will work for dalit communities esp. women in the same region as time permits or n
Type of work (select three maximum):
☐ Curriculum development ☐ Environment ☐ Appropriate Technology
☐ Teaching methods ☐ Health & Nutrition ☐ Corruption
☐ Educational system reform ☐ Income Generation/Micro-loans ☐ People’s Struggles (dams, displacement, etc.)
☐ Computer based education ☐ Food & Agriculture ☐ Civic & Human Rights
☐ Adult literacy/education ☐ Land Reform ☐ Economic Development
SECTION IV: Recommendation

My relationship with Nominee  
Friend and a member of Asha-Stars group working with the nominee.

How long have you known Nominee  
Since Jan 2000

Why should Asha support this Nominee as a Fellow?

It is my pleasure to nominate Siddamma for an Asha fellowship. Siddamma is far more experienced as an activist than me. The reason I am nominating her rather than her nominating me is primarily because of my closer association with Asha. Siddamma is a dedicated, honest, hard-working social activist. During the last decade, she has awakened the Irula α to fight against oppression and to demand their right for life with dignity. This Irula movement has spread to 100 villages. Her methods of motivating the people, building leadership from the oppressed, demanding the government to play its non-violent protests when it doesn’t, while inline with spirit of India, are also quite innovative and refreshing. Asha can

Siddamma is looking for ways to build the next phase of her life’s work. She feels it is time to build institutional and infrastructural change. The first project towards this goal would be the building of a resource centre. This resource centre will be the heart and cultural base for further constructive work for the Irula community. It will also serve as a model for other communities to learn from. Asha fellowship will take care of financial needs of her family (of two children) and will help her focus on an important vote of confidence from Asha for her and the project at its earliest stage.

A weakness in Siddamma, that she shares with many good activists, is her active involvement in more things than one can handle. This stems from the impatience to improve the lot of oppressed people during one’s own lifetime. Her commitment and Asha fellowship can play a crucial role in streamlining a large fraction of her energies, for the next few years, towards establishing the resource centre.

Additional Comments:

Asha can make her fellowship more productive
# by making sure that Siddamma is invited for all Asha India biannual meetings.
# by inviting Siddamma to USA for a lecture-discussion tour at least once during her Asha fellowship
# if Asha Chennai (and Asha India in general) uses her as a philosophy guide and strategic advisor
# if Asha volunteers visit her regularly for learning purposes
# by bringing Siddamma to interact with like-minded groups and individuals (e.g., those working on teaching methods c

Signature:  
(Shanmuga Shanmuganathan)

Date:  
April 28th 2002
Asha for Education, Rev.0008-01 Page 3 of 4

Member/Employee Asha funded NGO (Name: ____________________)

Social Worker/Activist (Org:___________________________________)

D-5, Bayview Apartments, Kalakshetra Colony, Besant Nagar, Chennai - 600 090

Social Worker/Activist (Org:Motivator in Manual Workers Union, TN)

The nominee's primary focus will be in the Irula Adivasi community in north Tamil Nadu. Besides this, the nominee will work for Dalits, and lower castes, esp. women in the same region as time permits or need occurs.

People's Struggles (dams, etc.)
Friend and a member of Asha-Stars group working with the nominee.

It is my pleasure to nominate Siddamma for an Asha fellowship. Siddamma is far more experienced as an activist than me, so I believe she can manage her family's (of two children) needs and focus on the mission. The fellowship will play a crucial role in streamlining a large fraction of her energies, for the next few years, towards the specific goal of bringing Siddamma to interact with like-minded groups and individuals (e.g., those working on teaching methods or with Adivasi communities).

Asha for Education, Rev. 0008-01
Page 4 of 4