

VISWA BHARATI VIDYODAYA TRUST, GUDALUR

PROPOSAL 2019 -2020

Introduction

Asha Colorado has been supporting VBVT for over a decade now and it has been a very substantial support not only in terms of the funds received but also in terms of the kind of programmes it has been able to spearhead. Access to schooling has been one of the major issues in this forested area for the tribal child and the support for children's travel has helped over two hundred children in these last 10 years. The Foundation Course that it has supported has taken roots in the villages through the youth it has trained and has now a number of youth taking leadership in the villages. Out of this experience we have come to realise that we need to reach out to a larger number in a more systematic way and we are now seriously contemplating a Community College. Last year, Asha Colorado supported the Maths and Science Resource centre which has taken off really well and created a number of hands-on activities for children. This is going to become a separate programme of VBVT.

Vidyodaya School

Vidyodaya School is now all set to expand from a Primary school and become a High school. This is a decision taken by the Trust as it has become a Model for Tribal Education in India. In fact, as mentioned last year, Survival International had taken Vidyodaya as a case study for education in their forthcoming book on what kind of education should be provided to indigenous communities.

This academic year, 2019 – 20, the school has had 19 new admissions taking the total number of students to 75 so far. Last year 4 students completed their schooling here and left to join higher classes. Admissions are not over yet.

Transporting children in order to access good education continues to be a major requirement for the school. As there are only 2 adivasi hamlets in the vicinity of the school, most of the children have to come from villages that are quite far and where they do not have schools or where the schools are not running well. There are as of now 56 children who are being transported.

Given below is the distance-wise distribution of children. The costs of transport has also increased by over 50% in the last year with fuel prices being hiked up enormously. We have therefore requested Rs. 559,600 toward this.

Distance-wise student distribution April 2018 & June 2019:

Distance	No of students (June 17- April 18)	No of students (June 18)	No. of students (June 2019-20)
0 – 5 km	28	18	19
5 – 10 km	9	9	9
11 – 15 km	0	0	0
15 – 20 km	40	33	47
Total	77	60	75

Maths & Science Resource Centre

Thanks to the support given by ASHA Colorado last year, this project took off so well that it is expanding to other schools too. A British charity has come forward to support this project for the coming 3 years and so we are not putting this before ASHA this year.

ADIVASI FOUNDATIONAL Programme 2019 – 20

Initially we had a year-long Course running in the VBVT campus for around 20 youth. However, given the costs of the programme and the need to reach out to a larger number, the programme is now re-oriented. We now use the youth already trained through earlier two Foundation Courses to have a field based Foundational programme. VBVT now feels that given it's various interventions with the youth through the Industrial Training Institute and the interventions in the villages through games, the youth need more and more skills that match the local requirements so that they are not compelled to migrate to cities.

Over the years we have encouraged large numbers of children to go to school and now they need the kind of skills to work and grow. We need to offer them skills that will also give them a livelihood. Given the adivasi situation and culture, we feel that it is better to help them establish small jointly owned enterprises rather than train them to work under some one else and again end up at the bottom of the economic and social ladder. However, this call for not just a vocational skill, but also managerial skills and marketing skills.

In this context VBVT has helped a group of girls to start a small enterprise in a village in Pattavayal Area to make greeting cards using the string art method. This was initiated last year and has been going on successfully giving employment to six girls and one boy. We hope we can initiate more of these joint ventures.

The Team, having had three years experience, is ready to undertake any course in Foundational Skills and Values. This is a service that VBVT is now offering to anyone who wishes to have it as a course.

We have requested Rs. 618,000 towards this programme.

- ANM Foundation course – Last year we conducted very successfully this programme to a new batch of Auxiliary Nurse-Midwife (ANM) trainees (21 of them) for 45-days. It was around Values and skills. A very structured course was organised. ASHWINI has approached VBVT to conduct a similar session with the next batch too. This will begin in August 2019.

- ITI students – This programme was initiated last year too and again it has worked very well. Last year we went to the ITI offering services but this year the ITI has come to VBVT requesting our intervention from admission to course support and follow up.

- Community College – The idea to initiate a Community College modeled along the lines of the very successful programmes for disadvantaged youth in the USA, seems to have caught the imagination of the foundation course team. This seems to be a natural and organic development of the whole process of building skills that can cater directly to the local community in Gudalur and with their active participation. A concept paper on this has been put out for suggestions and hopefully in small way we hope that we can get it going before the end of this academic year.

