

Community Marriage Program for Poor Families

April 2, 2008 - Lok Samiti along with Asha arranged for the marriage of 22 couples from poor families on April 30th, 2007. Dowry is still a big social problem in most of UP. People from poor families find it very difficult to get their children married because of the high costs involved in organizing the marriage and because of dowry for the family of the girl. Families had chosen grooms/brides for their children and had contacted Lok Samiti. We checked the ages to make sure the girls were above 18 years and the boys were above 21 years. We supported families who belong to SC/ST/BC and most of them work as laborers.

Our plan is to spend as little as possible on the marriage so that we can send out a message to the community that a family with very limited resources can also get their children married. For those who can't really afford this too, then the community pitches in and supports the marriage. From each family we allowed 50 guests and about 2500-3000 people came.

Last year, we got plenty of support from the local community. Around Rs 125,000 was raised in cash, food, clothes, materials, etc was raised locally while about Rs 150,000 was received from supporters from different parts of the world. Today all the families are very happy. We would like to thank all those who supported this program last year.

Like last year we are planning to have the community marriage program on 10th May, 2008. This year we have 30 families and we need help to make this program successful.

Details of Marriage Program -

Date - 10th May, 2008 - Sunday

Time - 11 am

Venue - R.M. Lohiya P.G. College, Bhairav talab, Rajatalab, Varanasi

Total participants - 30

Expected Budget

1. Gift Items

A) Bicycle	30	Rs. 66,000=00
B) Watch	30	Rs. 15,000=00
C) Sewing machine	30	Rs. 66,000=00
D) Clothes (pant, shirt silk, etc.)	30	Rs. 45,000=00

2. Food (4000 members) Rs.100,000=00

3. Tent, baja, mike, music etc Rs. 30,000=00

4. Travel Rs. 10,000=00

5. Others Rs. 20,000=00

Total Budget Rs. 352,000=00

Local Contribution
Total support needed

Rs. 140,000=00
Rs. 212,000=00

Report of the Marriage Program -

28 couples get married in a community marriage program without any dowry

May 12, 2008 - At the Shree Ambika Prasad Singh Inter College, Bhairav-talab, near Rajatalab, 28 families got their daughters married without giving any dowry. There were supposed to be 30 couples who got married but because of some problems two of the marriages did not happen. We will be helping those couples in organizing the marriage at a later date.

All members of Lok Samiti have been helping in the organization of this program for the last one month and we have managed to collect about Rs. 250,000 in cash, food, bicycles, sewing machines, watches and clothes. All the support for this program has been received locally. We will create a list of all those supported the program and will also send out a report on the expenses incurred for this program. This program was attended by a local MLA, Gangapur Nagar Panchayat President, District Panchayat President, Block President, and the Block Development Officer. We thank all the people who supported us in this program.

A few photos from the event are included below -





The event also received some good press coverage in the local newspapers and the clippings are included below -



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