

**Budget for re-construction
Of
'Centre for Empowerment'**

Proposal submitted to: **Asha for Education, USA.** To be implemented by: **NISHTHA.**
Submitted on: September 2013

SI	Particulars	Amount (INR)
1	Re-construction of three rooms near the gate each of 12' x 10' and 6' x 36' wide hall, raise the floors by 2' of all three rooms and hall, with roof with GI sheet, including all plastering, floor complete.	118,000
2	Renovation of old room (already with roof, wall etc.) with plastering, raise floor by 2', repair of bathroom with GI sheet roof complete.	70,000
3	Construction of a kitchen for trainees/students/staff, etc., and toilet block with GI sheet roof and one tube well.	55,000
4	Earth filling of the whole front side of total whole area 17,835 sq. ft. so that the rainwater do not accumulate and drains out immediately. The level will be raised by 1 ft.	210,000
5	Repair and renovation of a room of 10' x 12', a verandah of 10' x 6' (with verandah and toilet), raise floor, complete plastering and put new GI sheet on roof.	110,000
6	Re-construct two verandah (of 4' wide) all through the two sides of the new building (of east and South), under the already existing extended 4' roof.	125,000
7	To construct a drain from the main gate (Southern side / Baruipur-Amtala Raod side) to the big pond of length 500' with inside 10" and outside 20" wall with depth 1'6". Total brick work including net cementing and finishing.	115,000
8	Earth cutting of the existing pond and raise the sides of the pond with the same earth and construct a drain fitted with a lock gate at the middle of the western side of the pond. This will prevent the outside water entering in the pond, increase the water holding capacity of the pond and the lock gate will be opened in case of excess water. The total area of earth filling of all the four sides of the pond would be 8,000 sq. ft.	112,000
9	Filling up the pond situated at the center of the location.	60,000
10	Repair the boundary wall (only one side) nearest to the pond including plastering (at least outside) and net cementing with 180' length x 8 height.	43,000
TOTAL		1,018,000

Background and Initial Budget:

Poor villagers of South 24 Parganas are marooned by torrential rain.

The people of the villages of Baruipur and Bishnupur I Block, where Nishtha has been working are faced with a terrible natural disaster. A sudden and deep depression in the Bay of Bengal has put us in trouble. Normally our work is very challenging and travelling to remote villages during the monsoon is extremely difficult. Now for the last few days, the depression has started devastating the communication and transport system and the high down pour has made the villages completely inaccessible. Even our Nishtha office at Baruipur is completely water logged with all the main roads under water. We are marooned. In their forecast, the meteorological department has announced that the heavy downfall will continue for another 48 hours and will start slowing down after next that. God knows when the roads to the villages will become really accessible. Before the water could recede, a heavy downpour during last week has put the people in suffering before they could recover from the month old disaster.

The conditions of the villages are worst. Most of the villages do not have an accessible road, and whatever there existed, have gone totally. The life in the villages are almost at stand still, the monsoon crop being the most important crop of the area has been totally shattered due to standing water. The families of these villages do not have any earning from agricultural field though normally lot of them used to earn by working as an agriculture laborer. These families do not have proper income and their children are also suffering along with the whole family, such as they cannot go to school, suffering from health hazards, do not have sufficient food, etc.

We know that the economy of the villages of this area is agro-based. 90% of the people of these areas are dependent on agriculture; some are farmers, some agriculture laborers, some purchase the agriculture products from here and sell those to urban areas to earn their livelihood, some are van pullers who carry the agriculture products to the markets. Since the stagnant water has totally devastated the agriculture farming, the villagers are faced with a disastrous situation.

In many villages stagnant water stands at waist level. In Keyapukur village, a child has died while playing in water at their own courtyard. One child of 9 years and a lady died due to snake bite at their own house. Two young girls are undergoing treatment as they also sustained snake bites. Since the houses are low based, the rooms/houses are inundated with water and the houses are now houses of snakes, centipedes and different insects. Now as soon as the water will start receding, the mud houses will start collapsing. The situation will further aggravate with occurrence of different types of water borne diseases because the sources of drinking water like tube wells, etc. are already under water totally polluting the water therein. The villages had very few latrines to use and the other practice open defecation. The waste including human soil is spread in the standing water contaminating the whole of standing and stagnant water. As the people do not have space to go for defecation, they are using this standing water as their latrine and using the same water for bathing, washing clothes, cleaning utensils and cooking. Thus, the life in the village now is like living in hell.

The condition of Nishtha is also very bad. Over the years, Nishtha had developed a demonstration plot for encouraging bio-farming in the area. Farmers from different village used to come here, see, and get training on preparing bio-pesticides and bio-fertilizers. The plot is for their learning as to how to reduce production cost and increase production protecting the bio-diversity. In the plot, Nishtha has a Training Center and a Day Boarding Center for 100 most vulnerable out of school girl children. Children of "Jagaran" programme come to the center regularly and many programmes including trainings are conducted here. Children of the 'Night

Shelter' (Children of the sex workers) also come to the center for playing, working together with children of normal society and other reasons; often their mothers also come to the centre. In addition to these, Nishtha has been using this centre as a platform for uniting the children of the sex workers with the children of the main society so that children of the main society feel that the sex workers' children are also innocent and virtuous just like them. Side by side, the sex workers' children also develop themselves considering them as a part of the main society. Thus, this center is very important and extremely valuable for children of main society as well as children of sex workers. The name of the center is 'Sarada Bhavan.' This was built up by Nishtha with its effort over many years. This center has been very badly damaged with the standing water and the amount of total loss is near about 15 lakh rupees.

The guava garden has been totally damaged. The garden is totally inundated and Nishtha are faced with tremendous loss. The guava garden is totally devastated. The guava trees are lying under water and after the water recedes, slowly these trees will die. It is very expensive to start a new guava garden. Some trees have already fallen in the garden and the remaining will fall as soon as the water recedes. The soil is also damaged. Nishtha will have to spread new soil in the garden and plant saplings afresh. Moreover, this year we had purchased 500 flowers and fruit saplings and planted in the open space in the front side just before the onset of the monsoon. All the new saplings including the old ones are gone. The total loss of the garden has been nearly Rs.7.5 lakh.

There was a training hall starting from the boundary wall, four rooms and toilets and bathrooms and one deep tube well which is the only source of drinking water. The training hall was also being used as shelter of the trainees coming from distant villages and also for residential staff. They used to spend the night here and go back next morning. The rooms were under 4' (four feet) water. The kitchen and floors of the hall and rooms are under water. The walls of the kitchen and toilets have fallen down and will have to be re-constructed. One of the main walls has developed a crack and the main building has developed a distinct bend. The condition of the building is very weak. A strong wind may cause a devastating accident any time.

At present our priority has become to reconstruct the hall and the rooms which are used as training hall and often used for residential purposes. The construction with RCC roof (like Night Shelter) will be very costly. Hence, we have decided to go for low-cost construction with RCC pillars, brick wall and roof with GCI sheets.

Nishtha will construct a hall (60 ft x 22 ft) along the boundary wall with open in one side facing the garden and construct four small (with partition) rooms on the opposite side of the garden. Hence, the net area of the hall becomes 60 ft x 12 ft, and each of the four rooms becomes 15 ft x 10 ft. Nishtha will also construct one toilet block with one latrine and two urinals. In addition, one deep tube well will be sunk to provide drinking water. These construction of hall, rooms and toilet block will need nearly Rs.3, 80,000 and the installation of one deep tube well with PVC pipes will require nearly Rs.80,000.

This infrastructure is very important to Nishtha. It has a playground, pond, school, both fruit and flower garden, agriculture plot, training centre, etc. Here, the children play around and the soft and soothing environment of the place helps the children to grow innocence in their mind and the children like and love this environment very much. This is in the village also. This is the only place where Nishtha brings the children of the Night Shelter and helps them develop their mentalities and make them a part of the main society.

Nishtha has decided to approach other donors to support and slowly develop the other losses/damages like garden, main boundary wall, garbage pit, main toilet block, etc., and also decided to approach ASHA for the above mentioned construction of hall, rooms, latrine, toilet and tube well.

Under the circumstances, it is our earnest appeal to you to kindly support Nishtha with nearly **Rs.4,60,000** to construct hall, four rooms (with partition wall), one latrine, two urinals and sink one deep tube well.

ASHA has always been with Nishtha and supported Nishtha in its most challenging work. Asha has been with Nishtha during its most unfavorable and difficult days. Hence, it is our strong faith that thinking about these children, this time also ASHA will stand by us at this juncture.





AshaWide meeting discussions (Sep 15) minutes:

Attended by: Pradeep, Rajeev, Abhyuday, Padmanava, Chandan

1. Asha has multiple projects with Nishtha , for example, Asha Atlanta provides night shelter for children of sex workers and Asha DC/Atlanta supports Jagaran project for empowerment for rural girls. Apart from that, Atlanta has support-a-child efforts for 30+ students.
2. Sharada Bhavan, a center for empowerment for all Nishtha Kids destroyed by the flood (4-5 ft initially and now 1-2ft). It also has a school as a part of the building.
3. Boundary wall and training hall damaged; residential area also damaged (pictures above)
4. Toilets blocked
5. Lack of drinking water (deep bore well)
6. Garden, agricultural areas has been damaged
7. Water logging is still there
8. 4.6 lakh rupees needed to repair of building (hall, 4 + 2 toilets) + drinking water
9. Nigh shelter + Jagaran = Around 100 Asha girls benefit from the center
10. The long term solution is discussed and project partner would send modified budget for this infrastructure.

Additional Budget after discussions with Engineer:

Email from Project Partner:

Thank you very much for your tele-conference. According to the discussions, we have prioritized the whole problems and prepared a list. There has been enormous damage, like damage of walls, garden, training hall, residential room, drinking water tube well, kitchen, latrine and urinals, boundary wall, garbage pits, etc., including damage of the land, the costly guava orchard, etc. We have prioritized the neediest ones. For example, repair the walls, raise the completely damaged floors and repair, increase the height of the roof and re-construct the same.

As you have suggested, we have taken advice and suggestions of a local experienced persons. Side by side, as per your suggestion, just today we had a discussion with an Engineer at the spot. He has suggested the following measure **for long term solution**:

- The Engineer has suggested us to dig the existing big pond to increase its water holding capacity and with the excavated earth, we should raise the four sides of the pond.
- We should also immediately repair the nearest wall of the pond with plastering and net cementing (at least outside) to prevent entry of water from outside. A drain be constructed fitted with a lock gate at the middle of the western side of the pond so that when opened, the excess water will drain out of the boundary wall.
- He has also advised to construct a drain from the main gate (Southern side / Baruipur-Amtala Road side) to the big pond of length 500' with inside 10" and outside 20" wall with depth 1'6". Total brick work including net cementing and finishing. This drain will drain out the water of the whole area and take down to the pond. In case of excess water, the lock gate will be opened and the excess water will drain out of the boundary wall.
- The best work would have been to fill-up the whole area with earth and raise the ground level. But as this is very costly, he has suggested raising the ground level of the main and essential part by earth filling, which is the front area as this is most frequently used by the beneficiaries. This total area would be 17,835 sq. ft and the level be raised by 1 ft. This filled up earth will be dressed sloping towards the drain.
- His fifth suggestion has been that the small pond (near the gate) in between also be filled-up with earth.

Accordingly to the Engineer, if the above work is done then water will not be stagnant in the front side and the stagnant water will not be able to create that damage to the building as has been done this time. He has suggested doing the above work in the first year and continuing the project work by doing the minimum repairing work to the other components to avoid any accidents.

With continued efforts, we expect that there will be more fund raising next year also and with that fund we will re-construct and repair the residential rooms, veranda, training hall, etc. We understand that it is very difficult to organize so much of money to repair the huge damage caused to the infrastructure in one year.

I am also sending a tentative budget for the work we are planning to do this year. This tentative estimate has been prepared by the Engineer and he shall prepare a final estimate and budget later if asked for and he shall need nearly a week. The toilet and other infrastructural components are not included.

Addition budget came around INR 5.4 Lakh.