

# **Project Proposal on 'Night Shelter' for the Children of Sex-Workers**

## **AREA OF IMPLEMENTATION**

**Baruipur Block, South 24 Parganas District, West Bengal, India**

## **PROJECT PERIOD**

**April 2015 to March 2016**

## **IMPLEMENTED BY:**

**NISHTHA,**

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## ABOUT ORGANIZATION

'NISHTHA', a community based organization was born in the mid-seventies. From the very inception, its aim was to empower the women/children through awareness building on their rights and demand such rights on necessity. Nishtha presently works in more than 300 villages in five blocks in the South 24 Parganas district. Its campaigns against child marriage, trafficking, domestic violence and gender discrimination has endeared the organization in government and non-government circles by its inherent qualities. To address these issues several women's community groups has been formed by Nishtha which create influential new social networks in the rural areas, have empowered women to mobilize their communities to take action to improve their environment, speak up against violence, and advocate for their rights.

## RATIONALE

The red light area is situated in the Puratan Bazar area of Baruipur under Dist. South 24 Parganas. There are 105 sex workers live permanently in this area and about 150 floating sex workers visit every evening to run their business. The sex workers live in the very small and dirty rooms, sometimes without any window. All the rooms do not have the facility of the electricity. The roads are very dirty and the Kancha (un-metalled) drains emit very bad smell. One can see waste materials are dumped here and there. From the morning country liquor are sold and many people start consuming this liquor from morning. The environment of the area is always very tense, unhealthy and dangerous, as there is no law and order present in the area. The brothels are owned by some *maasi* and some anti social elements and the sex workers work under their control. The sex workers do not have any protection here and they are manhandling by the *maasi* and the hooligans frequently. Some rich person or hooligans or any antisocial can easily take away any girl by paying money.

The children of the sex workers are getting attached with the social environment of the area. They neither go to school nor do they have any idea about health and hygiene. Their mothers have little chance to take care of their respective children. The children are all malnourished as their mother fail to give them proper and nutritious food. The income of the mothers is quite low and they are to part with some portion of their income with the *maasi* and the *babus*. The children also develop many antisocial habits and learn abuses and rough and slang words. Most of them specially the boy children are offenders. They sometimes are sexually abused. When they grow up many of them also become anti socials, alcoholic and drug addicts. They do not have any alternative better way to live. So even when some of them get some better chance, they fail to adopt this and ultimately return to their own area and lead the same antisocial life. The condition of the girl children is more pathetic. Many of them in their early teens have to accept the same profession as their mothers have.

The children born of commercial sex work are forced or lured to the trade against their will and at very early age. Ignorance acts as an advantage for baiters in this trade and they are concerned to inculcate the same among the off-spring to retain their stranglehold encourage immoral activities using the children, alike their mothers. As for fathers, very few of them are involved in children's life

in purposeful manner. Thus, the socio-economic background of the fathers does not have any impact on the children. It being the mother's earning that fathoms the grooming of children. The meagre earning of the working mothers are devoured in meeting room rent, satisfying the police and pimps, daily meals, cheap dresses and cosmetics, paying for health maintenance, country liquor that forms an integral part of the profession. It leaves very little for the children and their future. The children, in turn, learn to stay out of the way during the time of their mothers are in business. They get addicted to various vices like smoking, chasing and liquires, learn about sex and sexuality and pervarsive abuses. To supplement the mothers' meagre income children often do menial work for the clients and others. Held in contempt and austracized by the inmates of the non-sex workers' households these children lead a miserable existence.

Even though primary education is compulsory in India and the children from red-light areas are eligible for admission. However, it is the discrimination and neglect that refrains the children from continuing education. The teachers as well as the parents of the other children object to their admission and the unfair upbringing prove to be a disaster.

The only way to save the children of the sex workers from becoming anti socials is to provide a safe protected place to live, embedding values and ensuring proper formal education.

## **BACKGROUND & ACTIVITIES IN THE PAST**

NISHTHA has started a Day Shelter for children of sex workers at Baruipur red light area providing safety and foster care with dinner, clothing and story telling, games, non-formal teaching, recreation and health facilities to 41 children in age group of 3 to 14 years. It is an protection cum teaching centre for which, the funds are being sought.

Since these children are not like the other children of the main stream society, NISHTHA has developed a different teaching methodology so that the process is made more joyful and attractive. The basic literacy was encouraged in matched to surrounding nature and commonly practiced and understood activities. The aim is to make the education effective in real life and enable the children to grasp more effectively. The major emphasis is laid upon speak sober laguange and stop currently practices abusive languange. They are also emphasized upon developing smooth communication. Nishtha also pays special attention upon behavioural changes, grow hygiene habits, etc. These components are equally important and should go along side education because in order to make them able to build relation with the normal children of the main society, these components are importantly essestial.

Nishtha has been working on this, and running the night shelter for the last eight years, and has been running the day shelter with support from AID for the last five years. On working during the period, Nishtha has experienced that the felt need and objective of past years have been attained to a great extent. We are proud to share that two of the supported children are continuing their education in college and have been selected for the government job, these girls themselves never belived that not just they will be safe guarded from entering back to their profession of their mother or grandmother but actually get a dignified respectful job. The school teachers and other parents have gradually

started accepting these children. Thirty are continuing education in formal school out of which eleven children have moved to high school level.

## **AIM**

To provide protection, relief and some essential rights to children of sex workers.

## **PRESENT TARGET GROUP**

30 children in age group of 3 to 14 years.

## **OBJECTIVES**

- To provide a conducive atmosphere for children born to commercial sex workers by keeping them away from abusive language, running errands to get liquor and drugs, physical abuse and above all, a safe environment for joyous learning.
- To ensure education of these child in formal schools / institutions.
- To ensure greater acceptance and sensitivity towards these children in local community as well as government authorities and other stakeholders

## **STRATEGIES**

- To run the centre as a full fledged night shelter for all the children of Baruipur red light area in Nishtha's safe shelter during night time.
- To admit and help retention of eligible children of sex workers in mainstream schools.
- To ensure enabling facilities for the children to ensure their proper protection and development including educational materials, clothing, night meal, hygiene materials,
- To promote behavioural change in the children by developing finer senses so that they can reduce their aggressiveness.
- To educate the community and involve government authorities and other stakeholders to ensure greater acceptance and sensitivity towards these children.

## **ACTIVITIES**

- Running a full fledged night shelter for all the children of Baruipur red light area in Nishtha's safe shelter to these children at night when they are most vulnerable. The shelter will run from 5 PM to 9.30 AM next day.
- Ensuring retention of the school going children and their admission in formal school.
- Promoting the development of hygienic habits like tooth brush, combing, hand washing, etc.

- Providing hygiene kits to the children.
- Provide clothing and other materials for the children.
- Providing night meal to these children.
- Organize mothers' meeting once in every quarter.
- Conducting regular home visits to interact with their mothers.
- Arrange for exposure visits twice a year to Nishtha's village centres.

## **BUDGET**

The overall cost of implementation of the proposed project will be INR 4, 29,700.00 (Rupees four lakhs, Twenty-nine thousand, and seven hundred only). The detailed budget is attached as annexure.

<b>Budget for night shelter supported by Asha for Education for the period April 2015 - March 2016</b>		
<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Particulars</b>	<b>Budget</b>
1	Salary of Social Worker (Rs. 4000 X 2 head X 12 Months)	96000.00
2	Salary of Cook (Rs.3000X 12Months )	36000.00
3	Salary of care giver for boys (Rs.3000 X 12Months )	36000.00
4	Part Salary of Accountant (Rs. 5000 X 12 Months )	60000.00
5	Clothing for Children (Rs. 300 X 30 heads )	9000.00
6	Rent for the centre for boys (Rs. 1500 X 12 months )	18000.00
7	Dinner for 30 children (Rs 14 X 30 heads X 340 days)	142800
8	TA for Staff (Rs. 600 X 12 Months)	7200.00
9	Toiletry for children (Rs 30 x 30 heads x 12 months)	10800.00
<b>10</b>	<b>Administration &amp; Monitoring</b>	
a	Electricity, electrification, electrical fittings, other maintenance etc	4000.00
b	Printing , postage & stationeries	2000.00
c	TA for monitoring	2400.00
d	Miscellaneous Exp.	3000.00
e	Audit Fees	2500.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>429700.00</b>