

Project Title: Empowering Futures - expanding Human Uplift Trust (HUT) Vidhyashram with a English medium school

Proposal for one-time grant to support the construction of **one educational classroom of 400 sq ft** in the English medium school being built.

Project Summary

- **Goal:** To strengthen educational access and quality for **HIV-affected and socially disadvantaged children** at **Vidyashram - House of Hope**, a residential home and learning center run by HUT in Perambalur.
- **Need:** Children from these vulnerable backgrounds often lack strong English-medium foundation, digital exposure, and structured school infrastructure, which limits their opportunities in higher education and employment. The case study of a student named Ranjith, who had to discontinue college due to the English language barrier, is highlighted as a turning point that led to this initiative.
- **Current Status & Infrastructure Gap:** Vidyashram currently cares for **85 resident children**. They have a long-term plan to develop a formal English-medium school on their campus to provide quality, stigma-free schooling. They have already constructed 4 classrooms and have 9 more under construction with funding from GIC Re CSR fund. This request for *one additional classroom* is a crucial step towards completing the total of 14 required classrooms and other facilities needed to achieve **formal recognition under Tamil Nadu Matriculation norms**.
- **Support Requested:** Construction of **one classroom** of 400 sq ft, including furniture. The estimated total cost for this one classroom is **₹10,04,000** (Ten lakhs four thousand only).
- **Beneficiaries:** Directly, **85 HIV-affected children** (25 HIV-positive and 60 from HIV-affected families). In the long term, the school expects to extend its reach to **500 more children** from nearby rural villages in the next five years.

Key Aspects of the Vision

The broader vision for the school includes:

- A formal, structured **English-medium** school system.
- **Digital learning** tools and a computer lab to bridge the digital divide.
- Science laboratories, a library, and child-friendly learning spaces.
- A safe, inclusive, and stigma-free environment.
- Sustainable practices, including a proposed rooftop solar plant and water conservation systems.

Institutional Background (Human Uplift Trust - HUT)

- **Established:** HUT was founded in 1987. Vidyashram, the children's home, was founded 18 years ago, around 2007, by Dr. Raja Venkatesh and his wife Dr. Indhra.
- **Work:** For nearly two decades, Vidyashram has served as a residential home and learning environment for children affected by HIV, orphanhood, and severe socio-economic hardship.
- **Partnership with Asha for Education:** Asha for Education is noted as a long-standing partner who has supported Vidyashram for many years, including earlier educational expenses and classroom development.
- **Registrations and Certifications:** The document includes numerous registrations and certifications confirming the trust's legal status and compliance, such as:
 - Trust Registration (1987, amended 2007).
 - Income Tax Registrations (12A and 80G).
 - FCRA Certificate (valid until 2028).
 - CSR Registration (2023).
 - Building Stability and Safety Certificates from the District Collector and Fire/Health departments.

Case Study: Ranjith – A Dream Interrupted by Language Barriers

- **Early Childhood and Survival:** Ranjith arrived at Vidyashram as a frightened six-year-old. Following his father's death from AIDS and his mother's inability to care for him while battling the same illness, he and his younger brother were left to survive on the streets. His early life was defined by extreme hardship, selling fish for a few rupees and spending cold nights without shelter.
- **Transformation at Vidyashram:** Upon being brought to the center, Ranjith experienced safety, regular meals, and medical care for the first time. He quickly demonstrated remarkable academic ability and a strong interest in mathematics and science.
- **Academic Excellence:** Ranjith consistently performed well, eventually securing excellent marks in his higher secondary examinations and achieving a school rank—a significant milestone for a child once living on the streets. He earned admission to a reputed college in Trichy for higher education.
- **The Turning Point:** Despite his intelligence and work ethic, Ranjith faced a critical barrier in college. Having studied entirely in a Tamil-medium environment during his early years, he struggled to cope with instruction and materials provided in English. This foundational language gap proved insurmountable, and he was forced to discontinue his college education.
- **Current Status and Institutional Impact:** Today, Ranjith works in a small supermarket for a modest income. His story serves as a pivotal turning point for the Vidyashram team, highlighting that while rescue and basic education are essential, a strong English-medium foundation is critical for first-generation learners to succeed in higher education and the modern job market. This realization is the primary driver behind the current initiative to establish a formal English-medium school on campus.

Breakdown of Full School Funding

The total funding for the **Vidyashram school** project is estimated at **₹13.47 crores**. This comprehensive budget covers land acquisition, existing structures, ongoing construction, and the currently requested classroom.

The project has been funded in several stages:

- **Land Acquisition:** The 1-acre site is valued at **₹8.3 crores** and is already registered in the name of the Human Uplift Trust.
- **Initial Infrastructure (Completed 2015):** **₹2.85 crores** was used to construct 9,500 sq ft of dormitories, a kitchen, a health clinic, and a library.
- **Classrooms and Toilets (Completed 2022):** **₹0.59 crores** supported 1,950 sq ft of construction, including four classrooms and a toilet block.
- **Ongoing Construction (2024–25):** **₹1.63 crores** from the **GIC Re CSR fund** is currently being used to build nine classrooms, a computer lab, a library, and science laboratories.
- **Current Request:** The Trust is requesting **₹10.04 lakhs** from **Asha for Education** for one final classroom to reach the total of 14 needed for official state recognition.

Other Historical Sources of Funds

Human Uplift Trust (HUT) has received support from various state and international agencies for earlier educational and care activities:

- **Government Support:** Multiple grants from the **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)**, ranging from approximately ₹7.16 lakhs to over ₹20 lakhs annually between 2015 and 2024, for residential centers and special training for HIV-infected children.
- **Asha for Education:** A long-standing partner that provided roughly ₹20.69 lakhs (2020–21), ₹18.44 lakhs (2021–22), and ₹29.81 lakhs (2022–23) for educational projects and classroom construction.
- **Corporate and Private Foundations:**
 - **Price Waterhouse Coopers (Overseas):** ₹14.96 lakhs for laboratory classroom construction (2017–18).
 - **EVADÉH France:** Several grants totaling over ₹21 lakhs for nutrition projects between 2017 and 2020.
 - **Thalie ART Foundation:** ₹3.64 lakhs for an art classroom.
 - **SUDE Paris:** ₹15.00 lakhs for rural schooling (2022–23).
- **Individual Contributions:** The founders, **Dr. Raja and Dr. Indhra**, donate **half of their clinic income** to support the resident children.

Request for One-time funding for one classroom from Asha for Education

Category	Description	Amount (₹)
Site Preparation & Earthwork	Clearing, leveling, excavation (1.5m depth incl. shoring), backfilling, anti-termite treatment	27,000.00
Foundation & Substructure	PCC (1:4:8) bedding, RCC footings/pedestals (M20, 1% steel), DPC (bitumen membrane)	1,10,000.00
Superstructure - RCC Framework	Columns, beams, lintels (M25), RCC slab (4-5" thick incl. formwork), staircase (RCC + MS railings)	2,64,000.00
Brickwork	External 9" thick exposed, internal 4.5" thick, premium wirecut bricks	1,82,000.00
Roofing & Waterproofing	RCC slab roofing + weatherproofing, gutters/down-take pipes (PVC)	77,000.00
Flooring & Dado	CC flooring in corridors/toilets, vitrified tiles in classrooms/labs, granite sills	1,10,000.00
Doors, Windows & Fixtures	MS/wooden doors, aluminium windows (powder-coated + mesh), MS grills/ventilators	25,000.00
Finishing Works	Internal plaster (non-exposed areas), painting (acrylic emulsion + weatherproof external)	18,000.00
Plumbing & Sanitation	Water supply lines, sanitary fittings, small septic tank/soak pit	36,000.00
Electrical Works (Basic)	Wiring conduits, DB panels, LED lights, fans, earthing	55,000.00
Miscellaneous & Contingencies	Architectural/structural fees (5%), approvals, labor overheads, insurance, escalation buffer (5%), temporary works	1,00,000.00
Total Requested Cost	For construction of one educational classroom of 400 sq ft	10,04,000.00

