

PEOPLES' ACTION FOR LITERACY AND SELF HELP
(A Programme of Development of Poor Tribal Children and their Communities)

I Background of the Project

This PALAS Project is 10 years running. And we hope to continue offering this vital service to the education of poor, tribal children and the development of their communities. This Project-Programme involves setting up a MODEL of NON-FORMAL EDUCATION for Literacy, Numeracy, Environmental Care, General Information, Self-Expression Exercises and SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

Why?

Because education does not reach the poor in our area of Mission-service. Even if some structures of education are set up by the government their content of syllabus and often, their communication methods, do not suit the needs of poor tribals. Our PALAS Programme tries to remedy the lacunae in the educational system.

How?

We have researched and developed a need-based syllabus and curriculum; with a compendium of attractive teaching aids; and training of local, tribal youth to conduct the learning programme. We secure peoples' participation in the process. We have integrated in the learning programme the whole field of SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE so that the poor, rural learners and their communities may adopt and adapt better practices for greater productivity to meet their needs for food, education, medicine, shelter, social justice.

II Children and Other Learners in the Project

The poor Children Learners and others who benefit from our Programme live very frugally off the earth. Their's is a Subsistence Economy. The landless among them migrate seasonally for wage-labour. Even drinking water is scarce. Medical help is distant and inadequate. Rainfall is erratic. Agriculture is a struggle. But agriculture is their best hope in the circumstances.

The Children Learners' ages range from 4 ½ to 13. But these are regular learners. Besides them, youth and adults, among them girls and women, often use our teaching-learning material, to gain useful information, to widen their knowledge or advance in literacy and numeracy.

Out of 400 children whom we work to educate nearly 250 will be girls.

III Activities under the PALAS Project

1. Motivating poor, tribal parents to send their children to the Learning Programme.
2. Developing suitable syllabus, teaching aids and communication methodologies.
3. Training of local tribal youth to function as teachers and community workers.
4. Holding special information and demonstration sessions on Sustainable Agriculture.
5. Using the learning centers as a base for women's development, health work, etc.
6. Seasonal micro-watershed programmes for environmental restoration.

IV To Whom Should Aid be sent for the Above Project?

The Legal Holder of the above Project is:

Fr. Godfery D'Lima
Director
The Shirpur Vishwa Mandal Sevashram
Shirpur, District Dhule 425 405
INDIA (Maharashtra State)

We have Government of India permission to directly receive Foreign Contribution in the following Bank: STATE BANK OF INDIA, SHIRPUR.
SAVINGS A/C No. 33/6050

V Help Required for the PALAS Project (25 Learning Centres for 12 months)

1. Teaching Aids

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| 1.1 Chalk, paints, charts, posters, AV software
for 25 Learning Centres @ Rs. 1,500/- per Centre | Rs. 37,500 |
| 1.2 Sustainable Agriculture Syllabus Inputs & Health Action
including making available vegetable seeds, cultures,
compost experiments and resource persons guidance
@ Rs. 1,000/- per center x 25 centres | Rs. 25,000 |
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| | Rs. 62,500 |
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2. Teachers' Training and Stipends

2.1 25 Teachers Inservice Training involving 2 days per month. Food and Travel @ Rs. 100 per Teacher: 25 Teachers x 12 months x 2 days x Rs. 50 (per day)	Rs. 30,000
2.2 Resource Persons Stipend for each training @ Rs. 1000/- (annually 12 Trainings)	Rs. 12,000
2.3 Annual Teachers' Exposure Programme for Field Site Visits to other centres	Rs. 25,000
2.4 Monthly Stipend to Teachers @ Rs. 600 per Teacher 25 Teachers x 12 months x Rs. 600/-	Rs. 1,80,000
2.5 2 Supervisors moving from centre to centre @ Rs. 2,000/- per month for 12 months	Rs. 48,000

	Rs. 2,95,000
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3. Coordination

3.1 1 Coordinator for overall organization, village meetings, other programme facilitation @ Rs. 3,000/- per month, 12 months	Rs. 36,000
3.2 1 Service Assistance to Coordinator @ Rs. 2,000/- per month for 12 months	Rs. 24,000
3.3 Accountant @ Rs. 4,000/- per year	Rs. 4,000

	Rs. 64,000
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4. Motivation, Networking, Community Mobilisation

This vital function of keeping the 25 centres networked, meeting regularly with the villagers, reaching learning materials to the classes, where even public transport is not available needs jeep travel averaging 60 kilometres daily @ Rs. 4.50 per kilometer over 250 working days annually.

Travel and transport costs = Rs. 4.50 x 250 x 60 Rs. 67,500

Office centre (including postage, stationery, electricity, maintenance, etc.) annually Rs. 20,000

Rs. 87,500
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Summary of Expenses on the Programme for which Help is Required:

1. Teaching Aids	Rs. 62,500
2. Teaching-Training & Stipends	Rs. 2,95,000
3. Coordination	Rs. 64,000
4. Office, Networking	<u>Rs. 87,500</u>
Grand Total	<u>Rs. 5,09,000</u>

We need Rupees Five Lakhs and Nine Thousand Only for expenses over the next 12 months.

Please note that the increase in budgeted expenses from previous years is due to increase in prices since the last budget was made two years ago.

We have continued to integrate Health with Development in the Educational Programme.

VI Contribution of the Beneficiaries to the Programme

In promoting the contribution of Beneficiaries to the running of the Programme it must be borne in mind that this practice is often at variance from the totally free assistance some other organizations and even the State offer. WE BELIEVE that motivating a community, however poor, to offer some of its own resources to any development programme is a self-respecting and sustainable way of progress. Thus the programme becomes more accountable to the community and vice-versa.

Whatever we recover of costs from the community is used for the progress of the programme itself.

Community contribution to the programme is as follows:

1. Contribution towards Learning Materials

Each learner is provided with a slate, a primer text (when required), colour crayons, pencils, etc. approximately costing Rs. 25/- per head. Such learning materials are purchased at cost from our travelling shop (on Jeep).

Contribution of 400 children to purchase of Learning Materials
@ Rs. 25 x 400 Rs. 10,000

2. Contribution of Learners/Parents towards Teachers' Stipend
Each learner pays Rs. 4 per month for 10 months. Totalling:
400 learners x Rs. 4/- x 10 Rs. 16,000

3. Communities Contribution of Rent-Free Village Premises
for the Centres
Rent estimated at Rs. 150 per month for 10 months Rs. 41,250

4. Miscellaneous Contribution of Community to Programme

In some cases residence for the teacher is provided free.

Or the costs of the sustainable agricultural inputs or the health materials is paid for. However such contributions are not estimatable at this stage.

Total Estimatable Contribution of Communities : **Rs. 67,250**

VII Continuation & Viability of the Programme

We hope that this initiative of ours which we have sustained over 10 years to date, will find support, as it has so far, and elicit more community resources.

We do not need expensive equipment or buildings. We invest in poor but capable people and their children. In addition to the above programme we initiate watershed development, credit unions, women empowerment.

The PALAS Programme offers a model for rural development that has been well tested in the hills of Shirpur among the poor tribal community living there.