

Asha for Education™

Project Proposal Submission Form

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www.ashanet.org

Project Name: ASEEMA CHARITABLE TRUST

Date: Sep. 29, 10

	Project Contact	Asha Contact
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Part I: Information about your group/organization

Please feel free to attach any additional sheets and/or information such as brochures, press reports etc.

1. Name of the group/organization requesting funds.

Aseema Charitable Trust

2. When was the group established?

1995

3. Briefly describe the motivation for starting this group.

Aseema was established in 1995. Its mandate is to provide quality education to street and underprivileged children and to protect the rights of women and children.

Its core belief is that primary education is the right of every child.

–While the Government of Maharashtra has committed to make education free and compulsory for all, this commitment has been left grossly unfulfilled

–Further, even among those who do enroll at school, most do not complete their formal education.

Aseema established The Centre for Street Children in 1997 to address the above issues.

Aseema's Centre for Street Children started with only 18 children. Every year the number of children has increased and today we reach out to over 600 children who study in our Pre-Primary Centre, at the Pali-Chimbai Municipal School (PCMS) we have adopted, and at our Support and Activity Centres.

4. Briefly describe the aims of your group.

- to provide quality education to underprivileged children
- to prepare underprivileged children for entry into the formal system
- to provide on-going support to those enrolled in the formal system so that they do not drop out of school
- to work towards parental participation in children's education
- to improve the health status of the children who come to the Centre and provide nutrition
- to provide a system of non-formal education to those children who cannot avail of the formal system.
- to work towards self-sustainability from the sale of the products made from the art done by our children.

5. Does your group have any religious or political affiliation? If yes, please describe the type of affiliation and the reason for it.

No.

6. What non education-related community development activities is your group involved in?

- 1) Community Visits to our Children's Homes by our Social Worker.
- 2) Training of parents and helpers
- 3) Medical assistance
- 4) Formation of core group from among the parents of the children studying at our Centre

Part II: Details about your educational project/s**7. List the school/s run by your group, and their locations. If you are requesting funds for only a few of several schools, please specify which one/s.**

1. Pali Chimbai Municipal School (PCMS), Mumbai
2. Anganwadi in Jambhwadi (near Igatpuri, Nasik District, Maharashtra), serving 3 villages - Jamwadi, Fanaswadi and Gawalwadi
- *****3. Aseema's Rural Education Centre for Tribal Children in Awalkheda village, near Igatpuri, District Nashik. We are writing to request funding towards educational material and teaching aids for the Pre-Primary Centre.
4. Aseema's Pre-Primary Centre and Secondary Section at the Santacruz Municipal School (SMS), Mumbai.

8. Location of school/s ☒ Urban ☒ Rural ☐ Other urban slum areas**9. Specify the type of education provided (e.g. basic literacy, vocational training etc.).**

We believe in a holistic approach to education and plan to cover everything from basic literacy to analytical and emotional skills, physical wellbeing and vocational training.

10. Please tell us about your teaching techniques (conventional vs. alternative).

At the heart of Aseema's teaching approach is the relationship between the child and the teacher. The teacher is committed first of all to establishing and nurturing a bond with the child - a bond based on mutual respect, trust and love. Once this bond is formed, the child opens herself to learning and learns at a very rapid pace. And, whatever the child learns, she retains because the learning is self-motivated; it is based on her own needs and interests.

Aseema's Pre-Primary is run on Montessori lines and teachers in the senior classes follow the official curriculum using innovative teaching methods.

We have also recently learnt from, and have implemented the Integral Education Approach as pioneered by the Sri Aurobindo Intl Centre for Education in Pondicherry. This approach emphasizes the development of physical, emotional, and intellectual skills and sees them as fundamentally interconnected. The approach is fundamentally practical, and designed to prepare children for real life after they graduate.

We practice 'Activity Based Learning' in Stds. I -III which is a combination of the above two teaching approaches. This approach has provided an optimal learning environment for our students to explore their faculties. Freedom to choose work, individual pace of learning, learning experiences moving from concrete to abstract and thematic lesson plans have made schooling an enjoyable experience.

11. What is the literacy rate in the local community?

Almost nil - a few persons have completed Standard VII but most have never been to school.

12. Describe the socio-economic background of the children and their parents (e.g. education, occupational). If any of your students are employed, please tell us about that as well.

This is a tribal belt and the majority of the people belong to the Thakur Tribe. There are a few scheduled caste families.

The people here are predominantly farmers. But most of them either have a small landholding or no land at all. Some work on someone else's land in exchange for 50% of the crops grown. The common crops grown are Nagali, Varrai & Rice. The amount of food grains received is not enough to satisfy their families for even 6 months. Thus nothing remains to be sold. Farming can only be done from June to September, in the monsoon season. After the monsoon there is an acute shortage of water, the land is parched and no irrigation facilities are available.

The next occupation - contract labour or construction work by both women and men gets them upto 3 days of work a week and about Rs.700 per month. They are under a contractor who hires them when work is available.

Collecting and selling wood from the forest, 12 kms away, is another way to bring in income, especially for women. They can earn upto Rs. 50 per week. The Forest officials often confiscate implements as deforestation is illegal. In addition to needing the wood to cook food, they sometimes exchange the wood for grains in Igatpuri.

13. In addition to education, does your group provide any other services to the children in your schools (e.g. food, health care, clothing, etc.)?

Nutrition, health care, clothing, celebration of festivals, outings, excursions, picnics at both rural and urban schools.

14. Does your school have:

Its own building(s): ☒ Yes ☐ No Number 1

Number and type of classrooms (e.g. Pukka): Currently under construction.

	Yes	No		Yes	No		Yes	No
Toilets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Playground	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Toys	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chairs & Tables	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Blackboard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Library	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Drinking water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Electricity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Computers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Laboratory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Teaching aids (e.g. books/slides)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

15. How many children are currently enrolled in your school(s)?

Male 713 Female 475

Age Range 2.5 - 18 years

16. How many staff are employed at your schools?

Teachers 115

Minimum Qualifications S.S.C

Other staff 30

17. Average distance the children travel to attend your school 0.1-0.5 kilometers in hilly terrain

18. How many children have gone through your program in the past five years and what are they doing currently? Please tell us about their future education and employment possibilities.

In 1997, we started Aseema's Support Centre with 18 children in Mumbai and today all our children are enrolled in Schools and Colleges and the number of students has steadily increased.

In partnership with the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM), we are reaching out to 1200 children studying in the Pre-Primary to Standard X, by running three municipal schools – the Pali-Chimbai Municipal School (PCMS) in Bandra (W), the Santacruz (W) Secondary Municipal School (SMS) and the Kherwadi Municipal School (KMS) in Bandra (E). We also run a Lifeskills Training Programme for students who for some reason are unable to cope with academics. This programme aims to develop the confidence of the student with skills that s/he has interest in, and enables them to earn a sustainable income. We have 10 students who have completed Std. X are pursuing higher studies.

At the anganwadi in Jambhwadi, the number of children has risen steadily from 20 to over 40.

For the Rural Education Center at Awalkhedha, Aseema intends to reach out to 150-200 children, starting with about 60 in the first phase (Pre-Primary). The goal is explicitly to train children to have real-world skills which they can use to make an income, and also assist in providing an enabling environment for this - e.g. in this area, the soil is very rich, but there are chronic water shortages most of the year. So Aseema is going to build a rainwater harvesting pond to help develop the area agriculturally. Aseema is also going to link up with an agricultural college (possibly in Nasik) to provide agricultural training to the children (and parents).

19. Do you help your students with their future education efforts after they have passed out of your school?

Most of our children are still in school. We have about 10 students who are enrolled in local colleges, these students attend classes at the Support Centre where they get academic help and also participate in co-curricular activities. We intend to help them with their future education.

20. Are there any other schools (Kindergarten/Balwadi, Elementary school, High school) in the area? If so, please list the schools and the range of classes each of them offers.

In the area we are requesting funding for there are two zilla parishad schools from Std.I to IV and 2 anganwadis (like balwadis) in Awalkheda. These are all in a dilapidated condition. The teachers are not adequately trained and all classes are in one room and taught by one teacher. No teaching aids or educational material is provided. In view of this children drop out of school and show no interest in education. There is only one high school in the area in Igatpuri town, 5km from the main center.

Please note that Aseema intends to integrate and improve the existing system as much as possible. Right now, the anganwadi in Jambhwadi is employing the govt. teacher, who Aseema has provided additional training to.

21. Is your program different from that provided at these schools? Please explain.

As in Mumbai in Igatpuri we intend to provide resources (human and financial) that the existing schools do not have.

Medium at our school is English. Children will be provided vocational training. Medical camps are conducted for eyes, dental and general health examination. Teacher training programmes, teaching aids and educational material are being provided. School uniforms, a nutritious mid-day meal are being provided. A helper is appointed to assist and bring the children to school each day. Our teaching approach as explained above is different from most conventional schools.

22. Why are the children in your school/s not attending government/other schools in the local area?

Aseema has conducted a survey of all the families (200) living there and the existing schools and found the educational facilities very inadequate. The schools are in a dilapidated condition and children of Standards I to IV are grouped together and taught by one teacher. Due to the lack of a robust infrastructure, sufficient administration, and a conducive learning environment, most of the children who do attend frequently drop out of school.

23. Do you try to involve the parents of the children in the running of the school (e.g. in setting the syllabus etc.)? Please specify.

Yes. We have set up a village committee of the parents to see that the children attend school regularly. We have also appointed helpers to bring the children to both anganwadis (Jambhwadi and Awalkheda). They also cook and serve the midday meals to the children. Aseema is providing them with all the facilities for preparing the meal for the children. The entire expense towards providing the meal is borne by Aseema.

24. What are your expansion plans for the future (e.g. adding more classes or schools)?

Setting up a full-fledged Education Centre for tribal children - this will cover all ages from 2.5 years to 17 years. This will not be a "regular" school, but rather a holistic education center.

25. Do you have any suggestions on how Asha can be a positive influence in changing the education scenario in India?

Asha can contribute by providing both financial resources and professional expertise (eg. teachers/doctors/those with agricultural training who would like to volunteer).

26. If possible, please provide us with the contact information of two individuals from your community who can describe the impact of your program.

1	Name	Justice P. N. Bhagwati, Former Chief Justice of India, Member of the U.N. Human Rights Committee
	Addresses	Justice P. Bhagwati S – 296 Greater Kailash II New Delhi 110 048
	Phone	

2	Name	Mr. Darryl D'Monte, Ex-Editor Times of India, Journalist, Chairman of Celebrate Bandra Festival
	Addresses	Carter Road Bandra Mumbai 400 050
	Phone	26427088/ 2645 9286

27. Asha for Education requires reports from its projects every six months to continue funding. Please provide the contact information for the person from your group who will be responsible for these reports.

Name	Ms. Natasha Albuquerque
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Address	G-3 Josephine Apartments, Ground Floor, Chimbai Road, Bandra (W), Mumbai 400 050
Phone	26407248

Part III: Financial Details

Please feel free to attach any information such as annual reports, budgets etc.

28. What sources fund your group's activities at present? List the sources and the current and future funding from each of them. If these funds are meant for a specific part of your group's activities, please describe those restrictions.

We get donations from a number of individuals, corporates and donor agencies, e.g. for the rural schools we have received funds (total Rs. 10 lakhs) from Percy Gandhi, Lotus Trust, Ekta Foundation, etc.

The urban school has received from from:

Vidya Trust, UK (social worker)

Tech Mahindra Foundation

FIL Fund Management Pvt. Ltd.

United Way of Mumbai

Save a Family Plan

Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

Gulf Polymers

We also make an income from the sale of products made from the children's art.

29. Please provide us with details of your projected budget for the next 3 years:

Year(s)	Recurring costs	Fixed costs
2010	9,27,675-	20,97,797
2011	13,77,968	60,00,000
2012	19,92,554	1,20,22,100

30. Salary expenditure details:

	Number	Salary Range
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