



**PROPOSAL: SUPPORTING EDUCATION FOR RURAL CHILDREN IN
SOUTHERN RAJASTHAN: FOR 2018-2019**

Submitted To:

ASHA FOR EDUCATION



SEVA MANDIR

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Executive Summary

Asha for Education (AFE) has been supporting Seva Mandir's (SM) Education programs since 2008 to 2018. In the last year, the support from AFE has ensured access to quality education to reach total **2,041** children in which 1,355 children through SM's Shiksha Kendra or bridge schools, 25 children through residential learning camp program and 661 children through activity centers through the grant amount of **Rs.36,29,000** for 2017-2018. The relationship with AFE is becoming stronger with every passing year as it has not only provided financial support to the education program but also helped to strengthen the program, through the feedback provided to SM.

This proposal seeks a renewal of the support and requests a funding of **Rs.40,45,000** to support the educational needs of approximately **2,086** children (**1,400 children of 30 SKs** of Kotra block, **25 children of RLCs**, and **5 Activity centers** of Badgaon block for the period of **1st July 2018 to 30th June 2019**).

Introduction to Seva Mandir

Seva Mandir (www.sevamandir.org) is present in about 1200 villages of southern Rajasthan with its various interventions. The work area, largely tribal is still quite remote & many hamlets inaccessible or far from the central settlements. In 1968, adult education was the main response of SM given then low literacy levels of the area. Since then, SM's interventions have evolved to encompass programs on education, health, natural resource development, women's empowerment, community institutions and youth development.

Seva Mandir's work area is characterized by a large tribal population and many villages are still quite remote cutoff from main centre. The area has one of the worst statistics in the country in terms of health, education and economic development. Over the years, the spread of education has increased in these areas, many more children are now going to school and number of schools has also increased. But still, there are quite a few pockets where significant numbers of children are out of school. More alarmingly, the learning levels of those in school are much below the required level. This is so because the quality of teaching imparted in the schools is not up to the mark.

Seva Mandir's Education Program

Given that poverty and lack of quality education are the key factors that lead to a child not going to school, Seva Mandir's education program has attempted to ensure primary education to out-of-school children through Shiksha Kendras and Residential learning camps (RLCs), activity centers at government schools, and scholarship programme to ensure continuity of education. Currently, SM facilitates 151 Shiksha Kendras (SKs) in which more than 5500 out-of-school children aged 6 to 14 are studying.

Ensuring access to quality education through Shiksha Kendras- A brief description:

Shiksha Kendra's (SKs) are non-formal education centers run by community teachers in remote villages with the aim of providing access to quality education to out of school children between the age group of 6-14.

The comprehensive education provided by the SKs help children become independent learners. The primary purpose of Shiksha Kendra is to ensure that children are able to read, write, comprehend and articulate in Hindi and understand the fundamental concepts of Mathematics. This strong foundation in Hindi and Mathematics helps these children to enroll in higher classes in government schools. The village communities support the Shiksha Kendras by finding the space for running the SK, ensuring that children come regularly, monitoring the teachers, resolving any conflicts that may arise and occasionally contributing financially.

Shiksha Kendra is a bridge between education and community for the out of school children. It ensures to provide functional literacy in rural hamlets where Government schools have still not been able to reach to out of school children and where the access of quality education is in demand.

Due to a 3 kilometer walk to the government school, it was really difficult for the children of Tepur village to reach the school and on top of this the whole village is full of river beds washed by the Sabarmati River which flows through the village. This makes it even more difficult for the small children to walk. In a study conducted in 2017, it came out that there are 57 children between the ages of 6 to 14 years of age who are not able to attend school. The primary school teacher who has an enlisting in the Government School for all children from the 120 households in the village says that hardly any children come to the school. The terrain has been merciless and serves as a big reason for children not showing up. A discussion on this issue was done in the village committee where all the people supported to create a Shiksha Kendra in their village. In June 2018 a new Shiksha Kendra was initiated with the enrollment of 57 children from which, 35% are girls.



The entire area is not much different than Tepur village. A study was conducted in the Kotra block in 2017 covering 6 villages and 694 children (387 Boys, 307 Girls). The finding showed: 47% children were out of school in these villages. Among the children not in school, 157 were boys and 171 girls. Of the out of school boys, 33.7% had dropped out while remaining had never been to school. Similarly, 21.6% girls had dropped out and almost 79% had not been to school.

The Proposal

This proposal is to request **Rs. 4,045,000** and has three components;

- a) Renewal of the support and requests a funding of **Rs. 2,534,500** to support the educational needs of approx about 1,400 **children of 30 Shiksha Kendras** for the period of 1 year,
- b) **Rs. 722,500** for **2 Residential camps** for **25 children**,
- c) **Rs. 398,000** for the **5 Activity centers**.
- d) **Rs. 390,000** for program salaries.

Objectives

The objectives of the Shiksha Kendras program are:

- To ensure quality education to 1400 out-of-school children of marginalized communities, in the age group of 6 to 14 years, who are deprived of education.
- 25% children will graduate from Shiksha Kendra at the end of the year and will continue their study in govt. schools.
- Enable communities to experience high-quality education and provision the same.

Proposed Activities at Shiksha Kendras:

1. **Running Shiksha Kendra:** 30 SKs will be run with the support of communities. The teaching method will be based on activity based child centric approach to improve children learning level. After reaching at level 3, children will be graduate from Shiksha Kendra and will enrol with the formal school system for further studies.
2. **Capacity Building:** The instructors at Shiksha Kendra's' are locally appointed i.e. they are from the same communities, who are willing to work in villages but often have limited academic qualification. Hence, Seva Mandir invests a lot in their capacity building trainings and tries to build their academic competencies so they can deliver high quality education. Every year, one annual instructors training (6 days) is conducted and monthly meetings with instructors are also conducted at block level to discuss various teaching learning practices and problems faced by the instructors at the centres.
3. **Special activities and celebration:** All SKs will celebrate an Enrolment Day in July. This activity is a drive to encourage out of school children to enrol at the SKs. Independence day and Republic day will also be celebrated either individually or collectively, with other SKs from nearby.
4. **Evaluation of children:** To mark the progress of children, every year two standard evaluations are conducted Mid-term evaluations in Nov-Dec and Annual evaluations in the month of April-May. The results will be generated to classifying children in three levels 1, 2 and 3. These levels are roughly equivalent to government classes.

5. Continuing studies into Government schools: Students from SKs are encouraged to enroll in a Government school once they develop strong competencies in language and in mathematics. This is a significant success for the Shiksha Kendras as it shows that children, many of whom come to SKs with no prior education, were well prepared for entrance into higher level government classes.

6. Monitoring of SKs: Seva Mandir's Education Department and field staff will make regular visits to Shiksha Kendras. Regular visits helps in gathering the details such as the participation of children, use of learning materials, blackboards and books, the level of interaction between instructors, children and parents, and the activities conducted. To ensure teacher's presence, Seva Mandir has established camera monitoring system at each SK. The payments to instructors are based on the number of days in which teacher's presence is captured through date and time stamped photographs.

B. Residential Learning Camp:

A 6 months residential camp, broken into three modules is held every year for especially vulnerable children who can't attend regular schools. About 150 children attend every year. Seva Mandir encourages children to attend 3 consecutive camps unless s/he enrolls into a school. The camps are fully residential for both children and teachers. The two main subjects taught in the camp would be language (Hindi) and Mathematics. For overall development of the child, sessions on health, hygiene, environment, art, games, outdoor sports, etc would also be an integral part of the camp. The objective of the camps is to enable out of school children "to be able to read and write independently and with comprehension".

Proposed Activities:

1. Methodology to be adopted for Community Engagement and Participation

a) Selection of Children

Village level meetings will be conducted to identify the children in the village who are out-of-school or have dropped out. Children will be selected on the basis of their age and the status of their family.

b) Selection of Teacher

10 teachers will be selected on the basis of a written test to evaluate their skills in mathematics and Hindi. Short-listed candidates will be called for the interviews to ensure that the selected teachers have the right attitude and personality to deal with the children.

2. Capacity Building of Teachers through Teachers' Training

Six Days teachers training will be conducted before the commencement of each camp. The sessions in the training will focus on content and pedagogical aspects of Hindi, Mathematics, and English. The math sessions usually involves solving worksheets. This also involved discussions on how to teach these topics to the children, for example how

to introduce a topic like multiplication to the children. Most of the times teachers' themselves came up with lot of ideas discussed in the class. Language sessions included both Hindi and English sessions. The pedagogy also focuses on concrete to abstract in mathematics and using meaningful texts and context in case of language rather than only memorizing alphabets.

3. Health Checkups and Nutrition: A general health check-up will be done on weekly basis, along with general health checkup; dental checkups will also be done once in a camp. Students will be provided a balanced diet to improve their strength. To ensure good health, nutritional supplements, and fruits will also be provided to the children during the camp. A continued focus on sanitation, hygiene, cleanliness, and nutrition is and will be kept within the camp.

4. Physical Education: Children will also have games period allotted to them once in a day between their classes. Moreover, they will get schedule of the games in the evening after their classes got over at 5 pm. They get to play volleyball, kabaddi, cricket, and badminton.

5. Performance Indicators of the Project

Monitoring regular classroom Activities: Seva Mandir believes that each child learns at his/her own pace and children's learning should be facilitated by the instructors, so the children at the learning camps are never forced to learn things, rather they are given space to learn at their own individual pace. Classroom observations, besides the weekly meetings and discussions with the instructors, will be done to continuously make improvements among the instructors and the children at the camp.

Regular weekly meetings with the instructors will be held during the camp in which the instructors will discuss progress of the children as well as the difficulties they face in pedagogy. These discussions and meetings will be facilitated by one or two Seva Mandirs' staff members. In these meetings, the instructors will also be asked to discuss about their next week's lesson plans so they can conduct the classes in an organized, efficient and fruitful manner.

The individual progress of children will be monitored through personal student portfolios and accordingly individual, group activities and exercises will be conducted. These measures will help us to ensure that all students develop the ability to read, write, speak and reason on their own. Periodic evaluations will be conducted both in the beginning and at the end of each camp. The weekly tests will also be conducted to mark the continuous progress of children.

The Expected outcomes:

- Primary Education will be provided to 25 children of year 18-19 batch through three residential camps.
- At least 60 %of these children to enrol in formal schools after finishing two camps.
- Regular health check-ups to be provided during the camps to 100% children.
- Children will gain knowledge in mathematics, literacy skills, and hygiene.
- 100 % of children becoming literate by the end of the camps.

C. Activity Centers in government schools:

Seva Mandir has been running 5 Activity Centers in the Government schools from 2009 with the support from Asha for Education and 661 children of grade 1 to grade 8 were reached through these Activity centers in the last year.

This program had started as a pilot to gain experience of working in Government schools. The experience shows that it has been successful in helping children studying in Government schools. Activity centers have helped children retain in schools and also helped in reducing drop outs to a certain extent. However, till now they have struggled in creating its own space/value and showing a big impact on school teachers and school environment. This program faces issues like transfer of teachers, high teacher student ratio in school, teachers' attitude and non acceptance of activity based learning etc. These issues led to disappointment and stop a center to function in a structured way.

However all these odds, Seva Mandir has been successful in maintaining continuity of the program in 5 schools. Interventions through Activity centre has played an important role as per the findings of the study conducted by Seva Mandir. Seva Mandir would like to continue with it. In near future it might be possible that we can shift the Activity centre module from one block (Badgaon) to other block (Kotra) as per the need of intervention.

Budget:

The total budget requested is **4,045,000** of which:

- a. **Rs. 2,534,500** to support the educational needs of approx **1400 children of 30 Shiksha Kendras** for the period of 1 year)
- b. **Rs. 722,500** for **2 Residential camps for 25 children, c)**
- c. **Rs. 398,000** for **5 Activity centre** and
- d. **Rs. 390,000** for program salaries.

Budget 2018-19					
Budget for the year 2018-2019					
S.N.	Budget Head	Details	Budget for the year 2018-19 (in Rs.)		
A	Shiksha Kendras				
1	Instructor Stipend	Rs. 5,000 per month for 30 instructors on an average based on monthly monitoring for 12 months	1,800,000		
2	Study Material	Rs. 15000 per SK for 30 SKs	450,000		
3	Evaluation (twice a year)	Rs. 2,500 per SK for 2 evaluations	75,000		
4	Instructor Meeting	Rs. 600 per instructor for 30 instructors for 4 meetings in a year	72,000		
5	Instructor training	Rs.1,500 per instructor for 6 days residential training	45,000		
6	Rent & Repair	Rs. 250 /month rent for 30 SKs, Rs. 3,000 for annual repair for 5 SKs	22,500		
7	Camera Monitoring	Rs. 7,000 per camera for 10 Shiksha Kendras	70,000		
	Program Total(A)	Total	2,534,500		
B	Residential Learning Camp				
S.N	Budget Heads	Detail	Camp 1	Camp 2	
			(50 days)	(50 days)	
1	Lodging & Boarding	Rs. 170 per day 28 people (25 children and 3 teachers)	238,000	238,000	476,000
2	Medicine and Toiletries	Rs. 300 for 25 children	7,500	7,500	15,000
3	Travel Cost	Rs. 500 for 25 children	12,500	12,500	25,000
4	Study Material	Rs. 350 for 25 children	8,750	8,750	17,500
5	Uniforms	Rs. 300 for 25	7,500	7,500	15,000
6	Teachers' Stipend*	400 for 3 teachers	60,000	60,000	120,000
7	Teachers' Training	1,500 for 6 days for 03 teachers	27,000	27,000	54,000
	Program Total (B)		361,250	361,250	722,500
C	Activity Center				
1	Teacher stipend	Stipend @ 4500 for 12 months for 6 teachers	324,000		
2	Study material	Library books, study material, worksheets etc	50,000		
3	Infrastructure Cost	Repair and maintenance if required @ 1000 per center	5,000		
4	Training	6 days residential training @ 1500 for 6 teachers	9,000		
5	Miscellaneous Cost		10,000		
	Program Total (C)	Total	398,000		
D	Program Salaries	Program coordinator for all three programs@ 30000 for 13 months	390,000		
	Grand Total (A+B+C)	Total	4,045,000		