

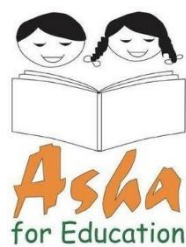


# SEVA MANDIR EDUCATION PROPOSAL

January - December 2021

SUBMITTED TO:  
ASHA FOR EDUCATION

SUBMITTED BY: SEVA MANDIR  
RAJASTHAN



Seva Mandir

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Commemoration of 13<sup>th</sup> year of partnership between Asha for Education & Seva Mandir is graciously acknowledged by us. Your committed support over a decade has not only sustained the education programme running for 15,000 out-of-school children in Rajasthan but has also given us the space to experiment and culminate newer elements for strengthening the project.

We also deeply appreciate the support extended by Asha For Education in the unprecedented times of global pandemic wherein educational needs of children were supported along with newly surfaced problems such as that of malnutrition and livelihood insecurity of the beneficiary's family.

Going forward, we are deploying the alternative model to engage children constructively and make teaching accessible in the prevailing circumstances where high level of dropouts is the biggest challenge to address and overcome. In decentralized teaching-learning pedagogy children are taught in open spaces, following the Government directives.

This proposal seeks continuation of support to ensure education of approx. 1,200 tribal children in year 2021 through Bridge Schools. The evolved action plan and budget is annexed in the following pages in detail.

Thank you once again for your sustained support to Seva Mandir. We look forward to cementing our partnership with you for children's welfare.

Warm Regards,

**Aarti Shah**  
**In-Charge, Resource Mobilization Unit**  
**Seva Mandir**

## ABOUT SEVA MANDIR

Seva Mandir is one of India's leading development nonprofit organizations. It currently works with 4,35,000 people across 1,300 villages of southern Rajasthan, where over 70% of the population relies on subsistence agriculture and most people live below poverty line. For 50 years, Seva Mandir has worked in partnership with these people, to improve their material well-being, and to build stronger and more ethical communities.

Through its programs on governance, health, education, sustainable use of natural resources, women's empowerment, youth development, childcare and social enterprise, Seva Mandir makes a tangible and transformative impact. It reaches out to 47,000 disadvantaged children through quality education, 11,000 women and children through health services; providing food security and sustainable livelihoods to thousands of families achieve through rehabilitation of hundreds of acres of land; and financial independence and gender equality to 11,000 women through women's groups and lending cooperatives.

## WHY SHIKSHA KENDRA

In the remote rural and tribal areas of Udaipur and Rajsamand districts, southern Rajasthan, access to education is a huge problem. Government run schools are unable to service the rural population efficiently due to the remoteness of most communities, with many centres understaffed and under resourced, or located many miles away from small villages and hamlets. This issue has led to many children being kept away from school and work in an attempt to support their family's incomes. One result of this is that many children remain illiterate or having a very low understanding of language and maths, catalyzing the devastating cycle of poverty.

The serious threat is of child labor and the children dropping out from education completely. Children are being pushed in household work, such as taking care of younger siblings, fetching water, grazing animals etc., and some into the informal labor force to survive their financially distressed family.

In response to this destructive situation, Seva Mandir runs its Shiksha Kendra Education Centre programme. Shiksha Kendras are 'bridge-schools' that offer education at a primary level to children aged between 6 and 14 years old, who have never attended school or have dropped out entirely. Bridge Schools offer an engaging, active and quality syllabus created by Seva Mandir, with the primary aim being to ensure that the children are able to read, write and articulate in Hindi alongside understanding fundamental mathematical concepts. Recently, English language classes have started to be introduced into these schools.

## ABOUT SHIKSHA KENDRAS – THE BRIDGE SCHOOLS

Seva Mandir's primary education intervention ensures that out-of-school children and school drop-outs in Udaipur and Rajsamand districts receive a quality and accessible education. Bridge Schools run by village communities with the support of Seva Mandir, have provided education to 39,000 children (44% of which are girls) over 25 years. The education programme enables children to become ready for the mainstream education. On average, approximately 6,000 students are enrolled every year, 20% of which graduate into higher education.

The pedagogy is activity based, multi-grade and local context orientated. Teachers are appointed from the local community and trained by Seva Mandir. The primary focus is on maths and language. English has been introduced in recent years to the curriculum. In Shiksha Kendras, digital tablets are used to teach English

through interactive videos and apps. Children also are taught WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) practices to improve their well-being. In Shiksha Kendras, children's parents contribute a nominal amount towards their education, which is used by the community for the children's education.



***Currently, 138 SKs are in function and reaching out to 5096 children.***

Bridge Schools are set up in remote communities once a need has been identified. This happens once Village Development Institution (village groups formed and facilitated with the help of Seva Mandir) approach Seva Mandir with a proposal to create a Bridge School in their area. When the proposal has been received, it is then verified by Seva Mandir by visiting the proposed area to fully assess the need.

Once the Bridge Schools has started, the Village Development Institution will recommend qualified and eligible local people to become teachers, which will again be verified by Seva Mandir. The overall monitoring of the Bridge Schools is conducted at the village level, including the review of the teacher's performance.

To ensure that the Bridge Schools fulfil their purpose, a number of systems has been put in place.

- All teachers receive full **training in academic** practices to assure that they can deliver quality education to the children.
- A management system has been put in place that promotes enthusiasm for teaching and that creates an *ecosystem of **accountability*** affirms the Bridge Schools will be run efficiently and successfully.
- A **camera monitoring system** to ensure that the centers are being open on time, during the allocated weekly schedule. The teacher must take a photo of themselves and the class at the start and the end of each day. At the end of each month, the photos are sent to the head of education for the specific block, where the photos are analyzed to check the date and time.
- **Teachers are from the local areas**, hence comprehend the context and challenges that the children face. The medium of teaching is thus also conducted in the local dialects along with Hindi.
- The children receive education until grade 4 in Shiksha Kendras and then join government schools in a higher grade. Students from Bridge Schools tend to **perform better** than their peers in government schools, receiving higher grades and having more advanced literacy skills.
- Since the Bridge Schools are more successful in providing education, **rural community's attitudes have become more positive towards education** and there is consistent enrolment every year. Encouragingly, the **proportion of girls students has increased** over time, which is an indicator of a change in traditional attitudes towards their access to education.
- **Examinations are held each year** to assess the children's progress.
- To ensure that children who have graduated from the Bridge Schools get to remain in higher education institution, they are **tracked periodically**. Team members from Seva Mandir and Bridge School teachers continue contact with the child's family and also with their new school.

## THE ALTERNATIVE STRATEGY OF EDUCATION DURING COVID 19

The prevailing Covid-19 situations seriously interrupted the flow of education done through center-based teaching and learning process. The educational activities that involve children's gathering is completely on hold as per the government directives.



Education is must for children to be remained connected with daily learning outcomes and without it they will engage into other household activities, earning livelihood and grazing domestic animals or may drop out permanently.

Our efforts thus, become critical & essential at the same time for retaining vulnerable children in the safety net, ensuring their education, well-being, health & hygiene. We are continuously devising alternative models to engage children constructively and make teaching accessible to them.

## PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOLLOWED IN ALTERNATE STRATEGY PLAN

Our supreme focus is to keep the students in the education net, for which we are continuing the engagement with them for making some level of teaching accessible to them. But with unanticipated countrywide lockdown, a major need of nutrition at homes have also emerged due to the economic dip and lack of livelihoods in families, affecting children the most. The serious threat is of child labor and the children dropping out from education completely. The children are being pushed in household work, such as taking care of younger siblings, fetching water, grazing animals etc., and some into the informal labor force to survive their financially distressed family.

Our efforts thus, become critical & essential, at the same time from retaining them in the safety net, ensuring their education, well-being, health, & hygiene.

As per the evolved strategy considering COVID situation, below are the activities planned:

### 1- Providing Educational Support & Hygiene Kit

- Provision of timely study material kit distribution for every child (Kit will be prepared based on learning levels of students)
- Small group teaching through daily visits of teachers.
- Teachers will be involved with parents for creating a dialogue regarding their contribution on continuity of their children towards education



### 2- Regular Capacity Building of Teachers

- Quarterly meeting Virtual/Online and Offline training in small group at block and zone level
- Timely Teaching-Learning Method (TLM) kit and reading learning material for Teachers

### 3- Hygiene and WASH Awareness

- Regular dialogue with children and families Information and awareness targeting children, family and community at large.

### 4- Implementation Plan & Responsibility of Teachers

- Each and every teacher will work for six hours as earlier.
- Child's home visit is mandatory in their daily routine. Every teacher will have to complete work and maintain their daily work plan and register as per their daily/weekly schedule.
- The teachers will have to stay/engage with children in each child's group or location. No group has to teach more than 4-5 children at a time. The mode of teaching will be followed by activity-based learning.
- Provide the children with study materials and stationeries time to time so that they may continue learning from home. Study kits will be distributed in small kits in multiple rounds.
- The teachers will have to join the online mode or offline meeting in a small group for their capacity building part whenever required. And prepare the monthly progress report.
- Strictly follow the corona safety rules and build regular communication around Covid-19 awareness (wearing mask, appropriate distance and frequently hand wash) with key stakeholders during their daily home visit.



### 5- Monitoring:

To supervise the above roles & responsibilities of the teachers the following mechanism will be followed:

- Weekly planning and monthly report submitted by teachers
- Camera monitoring to ensure teachers and children regularity on daily basis.



## PROPOSED PROGRAMME

The support solicited from Asha for Education for year 2021 is towards the above-mentioned revised education programme. This shall warrant the continuity of education of approx.1200 out-of-school children situated in tribal belt of southern Rajasthan.

Budget details can be found below:

S.No.	Budget Head	Details	Total Amount	Remarks
1	Teachers' Stipend	Rs. 5,500 per month for 27 teachers on an average based on monthly monitoring for 12 months.	17,82,000	Rs. 5,500 per month for 27 teachers on an average based on monthly monitoring.
2	Study Material	Rs. 15,000 per Bridge Schools for 27 Bridge Schools.	4,05,000	30 students on an average are enrolled at Bridge School. Cost includes procurement of study material comprising of worksheets, stationery items, colors, bag etc. for individual student. Also sanitation kit to be provided to each beneficiary which includes masks & soaps. Material distribution cost is inclusive in the cost head.
3	Evaluation	Rs. 2,500 per Bridge School for 2 evaluations in a year.	67,500	May-June & Nov-Dec are the two rounds of conducting the children's evaluation in the year.
4	Teacher Meeting and Trainings	Rs. 600 per teacher for 27 teachers for 4 meetings in a year; one residential training of 6 days @ Rs.1,500 per teacher.	1,05,300	Trainings in smaller groups at zonal level imbibing digital support will be conducted. Frequency of such trainings will be increased as Residential Training has been put on hold. Modules and training material shall be distributed to teachers to upgrade their knowledge & skills. Additionally, due measures to ensure safety of the instructors attending the trainings shall be taken.
5	Rent & Repair	Rs. 250/month rent for 27 Bridge Schools.	81,000	Provisioned at the rate Rs.250/month. Safety Audits are held to highlight the infrastructural need of the Bridge Schools.
6	Travel	Rs. 5,000 per month for 1 year	60,000	Includes program monitoring at field, block and headoffice level.
7	Camera Monitoring System	Rs. 7,000 per camera (for monitoring) for Bridge Schools.	-	Existing camera devices are available and in functional state.
8	Staff Support	Charging part salary of Rs 26,500 per month for 13 months.	3,44,500	Staff support to implement and monitor the overall programme. Includes support of field workers, project manager, area coordinator and subject expert. Annual increment of 6% in reflected in the cost head.
	<b>Gross Total</b>		28,45,300	
9	Support cost	6% of total amount.	1,70,718	Includes accounting support, electricity, photography, IT support, reporting and communication etc.
	<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>30,16,018</b>	

## PHOTO GALLERY



**Decentralized model of education adopted to ensure continuity of education during Covid times.**

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