Asha for Education™

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9 MONTH PROGRESS REPORT

Please send fill out this form and send back to Asha for Education **within 3 weeks** from the time you receive this form. Thank you for your time and patience.

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND MAIL IT TO:

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of the organization: Kalyania

Organization description: For some of us who lived in Kalyani and established themselves, Kalyani, an otherwise beautiful well laid out town was pock-marked with slum dwellers all around, an offshoot of Bangla Desh related migration problems. Many of the later migrants remain uncared for, living in roadside and riverside shanties with no availability of civic amenities of the town, no education motivation for their children as every member, child or grown up had to look for transient food sources. The parents lacked awareness in birth control, child health care and had little time to think about the luxury of their children's education. Then there are the women folk who had little option of earning other than as unskilled household maids or failing that, adopting the World's oldest profession. Finally, the town being largely residential, had an increasing population of gerentologically advanced seniors who needed especial care with love as in many cases their children were working in distant pastures. Kalyania was established to look into amelioration of some of the problems outlined above. It started with a primary focus on health care, attending to the senior citizens and subsequently took on the education for those who otherwise do not get it. The objectives finally jelled into:

- Generating health care with emphasis on the growing women folk and providing avenues for earning through vocational training, formation of SHGs (self help groups)
- Caring for the old, be it in health care, mind care or for a stress free nook in the form of Old Age Home;
- Education and off traditional, holistic education for the children of the deprived and the downtrodden, living largely in ghettoes or inhabitable locations.

With these in view a group of people consisting largely of Doctors, University Professors and retired execs established the Kalyania Society in 1998 with the objective of providing succor to those who need them most. Since then it has grown involving a good section of like-minded persons – young, middle aged and old.
The key objectives are:

- Holistic education for deprived children living by the river bank or ghettoes; Empowerment of women and children through non-formal and vocational education and training;
- Health care for children, women, the old in the community deprived financially, psychologically or both;
- A life support system for the gerentologically advanced
- A strong health care for the outreach where the public sector health care module is unable to reach.

Date of establishment: 1998
Contact person(s) Dr Partha Pratim Dhar, Secretary, Kalyania/ Dr. Chitreshwar Sen,Vice President, Kalyania

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India
Location (village/town) PO & PS : Kalyani

Description of area/School module: We are operating in a BPL dominated area, which was, before our intervention, totally neglected**.** The average family income of the community people was less than Rs. 1000/- and overall it ranged from 500 to 2000 rupees. The community primarily consists of unskilled brick kiln labourers, rickshaw and van pullers, some female household help with a sprinkling of the flotsam migrants and vagabonds. Initially, people here had no concern for health and education, and in such cases, especially the children are the worst sufferers.

A Kalyania team initially used to visit these areas for identifying these children, counseling the parents, persuading them to send their children to the School. The able bodied children specially were difficult to be persuaded into the schooling as they were potential wage earners for the families.

Now, the parents seem to be fairly motivated and several of them send their children to our School without requiring additional motivation**.**

We run one major Primary School as a multipurpose service provider called the Suhasini Shishu Niketan. The said School has several support Centers:

(i) The Kala Kendra, a Centre for training the young minds to the more aesthetic qualities like drawing and painting. (ii) Centre for Performing Arts teaching dancing, recitation, singing etc.

(ii) The Pathagar which has grown into a fairly well-stacked Library that not only serve the children of the School but proves useful to the seniors, presently closed due to lack of space.

(iii) As a means of women's empowerment is the The Sebika Training Centre where a handful of young girls are trained in becoming professional 'ayahs', taking care of the new born or the gerentologically advanced.

(iv) An on-going merit scholarships programmed for class IX-X and class XI-XII needy students and a

(v) A Kalyania Computer Training Centre which has recently been launched for class IX and advanced students and is likely to be inculcated into junior teaching programme when the set up becomes going.

Besides, there is a Tutorial Home with arrangement for free tutorial classes to help the students in their home work (as the home of the students does not have any atmosphere for studying) and to acquaint them with some creative exercises through indoor games, quiz games, story telling etc.

STATISTICS

Number of children currently enrolled in the project

	(i)Suhasini Primary	(ii) Kalakendra	(iii) Computer Centre	(iv) Performing Art Centre
Number:	58	100	17	12
Ages of the children	4-10 yrs	6-15 yrs	7-40 yrs	6-15yrs
Standards taught	_KGI-Cl IV	Non formal	Basic	Non formal
Number of boys _____	23	35	07	00
Number of girls	35	65	10	12
Number of teachers	07+1 casual	02	02	02
Number of M teachers	01	01	02	00
Number of F teachers	07	01	00	02

Current T/S ratio	7 : 1	50 : 1	9 : 1	6 : 1
Salary of Teachers (Rs)	500-700	500	500	Honorary
School timings	8-11 hrs	09-11 hrs	Flexi	11-12 hrs
School days	Sun thru Fri	Sun	Thur(Mo,Ev,N)	Sun
Overall % attendance	95	50-95	95	100
Medium of instruction		Bengali at all Centers		

Economic background of the parents of the children : All below poverty line except perhaps some in the Computer Centre that come from lower Middle class
*Is the school in a rural or urban are*a: Semi-urban

Is it a residential school? No
How far away are the homes of the children? 1-6 km

How do the children get to school? Brought by parents on foot or bicycles mostly
School days : As above

FCRA Number: 11151090285

Below are some general questions regarding the project. Since your feedback is valuable to us, please make your answers as **detailed as possible**.

***Please tell us the progress of the school in the last 9 months* :**

Progress is satisfactory. The first batch that passed out Class IV this year had no difficulty in getting themselves admitted to higher class (V) on their own merit although the School monitored their admission. They appeared in both written and oral examination thru interview. Actually one, Priyanka Malo stood 2nd in the competitive examination at the Bidhan Chandra Roy Girl's College (cum School) out of 400 candidates who appeared for admission.
Progress has been possible thru improved approach to teaching using various tools procured thru Asha funds.
The Asha support has enabled the School to provide improved quality of cooked food served each day to students. Regular health check-ups and follow-up free medication wherever needed has improved perceptibly the health of students who often used to suffer from various tropical ailments – and is reflected in their significantly better class room attendance.
A boost in teacher's salary, token as it may be, has improved the enthusiasm among the teachers that is reflected in the performance of their students.
The added attention to their children has enthused the guardians who now regularly clean the School rooms, corridors and the adjoining Municipal Park that the School makes full use of in their functioning's throughout the year. This has also enabled the School to extend the class timings from 8-11 hrs to 8-12 hrs 5-days a week from this year.
Thus, Asha funds have been fruitfully utilized in a holistic integration of students, teachers and guardians of children towards an overall improved rating.

How do you think the school has improved in the last 9 months?

The progress of the School in the previous section is an indicator of how the School has improved thru Asha funds. The significant markers are a shift from strict Schooling approach to a holistic approach where the student's intellectual acumen are being fine tuned thru support Centers that have become significant in last nine months. The students are much more free socially and their interactive ability is greatly improved. There is hardly any performance phobia from which these students from socially downtrodden strata use to suffer from initially. The stigma is being gradually but steadily removed, making them more competitive. Other than physical improvements this is by far the most significant improvement in quality and performance.

What are the problems you have faced in the last 9 months?

The imposition by the Government of West Bengal necessitating mandatory year-end promotions to higher class is creating problems in performance among the weaker section of the students. Often, the students are retained in the same class for another thru mutual understanding among the three stakeholders.

Lack of space for the Pathagar (Library), health check up rooms, class room space for fine Art and other creative Arts are a major constraint in the holistic development envisaged and crimps the performance and morale of both students and their teachers. We urgently need atleast one covered (prefabricated, dismountable) space specially to enable the functions to go on during the prolonged rainy season spanning from June-October to conduct the Art related classes, a room to stack the Library books (Library is presently closed for lack of space) and a medical check-up room. The covered space can then be further utilized thru out the .year for other vocational training purposes specially for those students who for various reasons are not able to pursue studies in higher classes..

The extension of free medical clinic services to students and their guardians has put a financial crimp on resource mobilization for medical supplies demand for which has significantly increased.

There is need for further increasing the salary of teachers and ancillary support staff to bring it to atleast 50% of what is paid to the Municipality organized School counterparts.

How would you rate the overall effectiveness of this project over the past 9 months?

The overall effectiveness relates to access of funds to fill in the gaps that existed earlier in introducing qualitative improvement in performance. The fund has in short, regularized classes, improved health, bring a change in social and academic performance of students and freedom from stigma of being a BPL.

Please give examples of activities at the project in the last 9 months. Please give details.

The following diary of events clarifies the activities that the School, children and their teachers go through in a year.

Major Events Diary of the School:

- ….Admissions were held . Candidates and their parents were interviewed.
  41 students appeared for .seats in KG-1.
- **18.05.08**: Kabiguru Rabindra Nath Tagore's 140th birthday anniversary was celebrated at the park adjoining the School Bldg. Councilor Mr Somnath Behera was Chief Guest. Kalyania President and other GB members spoke briefly on life and works of RNT. The students entertained the audience with Rabindra Sangeet, recitations and dances.
- **16.06.08** : Start of providing cooked food to the children sponsored from the funds received from Asha Foundation for Education, Atlanta Chapter.
- **01.07.08**: Foundation Day of Kalyania and SSN coinciding with birthday anniversary of Dr. B C Roy, Founder of Kalyania township was celebrated .Children performed class

wise under the tutelage of their teacher's and prizes were presented by GB members present.

- **03.07.08**; NCC Battalion posted at Kalyani equipped the children with shoes and socks.
- **15.08.08**: Independence Day was celebrated through flag hoisting, national anthem etc. Children from Springdale School interacted with our students exchanging gifts.
- **31.08.08**: Under the auspices of The Rotary Club, a health check up was organized at NSCo-operative Training Centre by Doctors
- **05.09.08**: Children and their parents celebrate Teacher's Day by presenting flowers/greetings cards etc. to their teachers.
- **21.09.08**: The children's of the Kalakendra (93) were presented with dresses on the eve of the festivals of seasons i.e., Durga Puja.
- **26.09.08**: The pioneer dion of school education Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar's birthday anniversary was celebrated wherein the School in-charge Sm Kabita Bosu explained the singular role of Vidyasagar in revolutionizing education.
- **30.09.08**: On the eve of Durga Puja, State Bank of India Officer's Association presented the students (57) new additional School dresses in a pleasant ceremony organized by them at the Vidyasagar Mancha.- the 2nd largest auditorium at Kalyani.
- **12.12.08**: Mr Prosanta Sengupta provided additional set of warm clothing to all children of SSN, Kalyania.
- **24-26.12.09**: Representative of Asha Foundation Miss Uttara Sengupta, Washington, USA, visited Kalyania.
- **28.12.08**: The sit & draw art competition was organized wherein 193 participants that included all children of Kalakendra and SSN. SDO, Kalyani Mr Joydeep Mukherji, Dr. Shantanu Jha, Chairman of Kalyani Municipality and several Governing Body members gave away the prizes in different categories for both boys and girls. The performance in general was rated excellent for which the credit goes to Mr Panchanan Pal, a well known artist who teaches them voluntarily, assisted by Sm Mousumi Dey.
- **23.01.09**: Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birthday anniversary was celebrated with gusto wherein the children were explained the role of Netaji in piloting the freedom fight of India.
- **25.01.09**: Children's sports were organized in presence of well known sports authority Mr Amiyo Saha.
- **26.01.09**: Republic Day of India was celebrated with a lot of gusto. The National Flag was hoisted by Mr Sailenendra Kumar Ray.
- **31.01.09** Saraswati (Goddess of Learning) Puja was celebrated with a lot of fervour over the entire day where children, their guardians, teachers , employees and Governing Body Members with their families participated.

Visitors:

- Mrs. Arpita Mukhopadhyay and Mr Navajit Mukherjee , U.K. visited on 31.12.08
- Miss Uttara Sengupta, Washington, USA on behalf of Asha Foundation for Education, Atlanta Chapter, USA on 24-26.12.09
- Mrs Kalyani Sengupta and her daughter Madhukanta Sen visited the School and gave biscuits for children and three books.

Please explain how Asha funds were used in the last 9 months.

The following tabulated data provides for how the first installment from Asha Foundation for the School amounting Rs.1,19,800? received was utilized

Financial

Is there any other feedback you would like to provide to Asha for Education?

No	**Head**	**Total**
1	**Supplementing salary of existing staff** (a)Teachers five: salary raise from Rs,500/- to 700/- (b)Sebikas (2) by Rs.100/-	 12000 2400
2	**Salary for supplementary staff** (a)One teacher for class IV @ 600/-pm (b)One Office Assistant (School) @1200/- pm	 7200 14400
3.	**Tiffin** to students @3000/- suppl. pm	36000
4	**Development:** (a)Furniture for additional class room IV	 9000
	(b) Teaching aids including visuals	10000
	c) Medical support to students and their Guardians (40 x 60 x12)	28800
	TOTAL	**1,19,800**

The financial support from Asha has enabled Kalyania to expand the activities and performance base of the School thru (i) a token raise in Teacher's salary, (ii) improved diet and health related services to the students, (iii) improved classroom presentation using visuals procured thru Asha funds, (iv) introducing computer training for class III and IV students, (v) Involving the students in a talent based manner into fine and performing Arts. This will now permit these students to participate in district level competitions, recitation, song and dance competitions and make them possibly more competitive to face the challenges of the modern world that they will face on leaving the School. .

Follow up for admission to higher classes after passing out Class IV of SSN in other Schools was hardly needed. Still, it is projected to introduce a fellowship of ca Rs.500/- pm for the best student passing out Class IV each year until he passes the School-leaving examination (Class X). It is also projected to start a Vocational Training Centre for those who do not perform well in higher classes so that they can earn their own livelihood with dignity.

The basic need for all these will be a stronger tie-up with Asha Foundation to improve facilities and other support systems that are procured from this fund. Any withdrawal at this stage may well crimp the bold strides the School is taking now towards holistic progress and thus restrict it to negligible impact scenario. Total budgetary provisions of the School for 2009-10 are appended to visualize the magnitude of the financial involvement. With funds from Asha to the tune of Rs 1,70,285/- that we have already received, we can just about manage.

Suhasini Shishu Niketan – A Kalyania-Asha Foundation Enterprise
Budget estimates for the Financial Year - July 01, 2009 to June 30, 2010

Sir No.	Description	Estimate parameters*	Annual outlay (In Rupees)	Asha outlay sanctioned
1	Staff honorarium (T+ AS+)	At prescribed rates	114100	55000
2	Free Meal expenses	22(D)x10(M)x60(S)@ Rs.5/-	66000	33000
3	Printing & Stationery	500(per M)x 12(M)	6000	
4	Books, Exercise books, teaching aids etc		20000	20000
5	School uniform, warm clothes etc		18000	18000
6	School building rentals	2200x12(M)	26400	26400
7	Taxes and water charges etc	Annual	2000	-
8	Art & Drawing School related:		3000	
(a)	Honorarium & Conveyance charges		3600	-
(b)	Teaching materials & Aids		10000	10000
(c)	Sit & Draw, Tiffin, prizes etc.		5000	-
10	Centre of Performing Arts		10000	
9	Ayah Training vocational	Gross exp for all activities	6000	--
10	Annual sports, cultural function etc.		10000	-
11	Comprehensive outdoor medical support-staff, students, guardians)		15000	-
12	Addl Furniture etc.		2000	-
13	Electric bills		4000	4000
15	Repair & Maintenance	Comprehensive	50000	-
16	Park maintenance	Comprehensive	18000	-
17	Staff Welfare Medical Fund	Corpus (ca.5% of total)	18000	-
18	Postage, Stamp duty etc.		5000	-
19	Audit fee		1000	-
20	Miscellaneous expenses	At approx. 3% of the gross	12000	-
21	Administrative costs	At 15% 0f total	60000	
	TOTAL		**485000**	**166400**

Gross Outlay proposed: Rupees Four hundred eighty five thousand only
*= Days; M = Months; S = No. of students

Please send fill out this form and send back to Asha for Education **within 3 weeks** from the time you receive this form. Thank you for your time and patience.

_Sd/- P. P. Dhar_____
Your Signature
Dr. Partha Pratim Dhar, Secretary, & Project Co-ordinator, Kalyania_____
Your Name Printed
_____
Date: Sept. 09, 2009