

Khushboo Welfare Society – A Proposal.



Presented by Ranga
for ASHA-Austin.

Introduction to KWS.

- A center for children with mental and multiple disabilities.
- Started on 13th November 1995.
- Started by a group of individuals touched by personal crisis.
- Impacts around 150 children every year.
- Employs 10 teachers, and 11 therapists/support staff.
- Started with 10 children and 3 teachers.
- KWS has its own building, (9000 sq.ft, disabled-friendly)
- KWS provides reliable school bus service for the children.



KWS Premises at Gurgaon, India.

Aims and objectives of KWS.

- To provide early intervention to children who are mentally challenged.
- To identify the educational needs of the children.
- To impart relevant training to beneficiaries to make them self-reliant.
- To promote individual abilities for rehabilitation and vocational training.
- To educate the parents, caregivers, and community members on various aspects of mental retardation, and means of coping with a mentally challenged at home.
- To aid integration of such children within the community.
- To provide spiritual support to concerned families.
- To aid legal interest of such persons.
- To assist other like-minded NGOs in India.

Towards sustainability (?) : Very tough!!

- Donations and contributions from individual persons (mostly).
- Corporate contributions for specific programs or segments
- Funding of specific programs by Funding Agencies
- Government's aid for 'Special Education' Program
- Charity and Fund Raising events (Delhi Hutch Half Marathon)
- User charges from beneficiaries
- Sale of products produced by Vocational trainees
- Income from sale of Greeting Cards and Calendars, published annually
- Interest from investment of Sustenance Corpus funds



Bead-making in progress.

The children.

- Currently enrolled at school : 62
- Male : 51, Female : 11
- Age range : 6-24
- 2 vocational trainees are > 30.
- 50 children in therapy department (periodic scheduled visits).
- 100 children in OPD (need based and parent training).
- From all backgrounds, both underprivileged and well-to-do.
- Doesn't discriminate on the basis of religion/caste/sex.



6-8 year old children at KWS.

Programs.

- SPARSH – Identification and intervention for disabilities for pre-school infants (of upto 6 years). It is an OPD and early intervention program.
- BLESSINGS – An academic program for children above the age of 6 years.
- SAMVEDAN – A program for children with severe to profound disabilities.
- SAMARTH – A vocational training and rehabilitation program for adolescents.
- SAATH SAATH – An internship program for vocational trainees and their parents.



Class in Progress.

Special needs.

- Low student-teacher ratio.
- Anganwadi workers for massage, and care.
- Intangible yardsticks for measuring success.
- Success would mean helping a child to swallow food, in 6 months or so.
- Yoga, music, exercise and games activities.
- Greeting card, craft, bead-making, Tailoring, candle-making, etc.
- Kitchen and food.



Anganwadi worker providing massage to a child.

Services provided.

- Education (6-24 years).
- Vocational training.
- School bus conveyance.
- Health care.
- Therapeutic assistance.
 - Physiotherapy
 - Multi-sensory stimulation
 - Speech therapy
- Prosthetic aids.
- Adapted specialized furniture.
- 53 students paying 400 INR a month; 9 students receiving services free of cost.



Multi-sensory stimulation unit.

AID-TAMU.

- Project coordinator; and Bharath was an active member, in 2005-06.
- Elaborate review process. After 3 months of almost every week CSH, we decided to fund KWS. Overall, 10 CSH hours.
- 2500 USD towards help in setting up Occupational Therapy Unit, out of yearly fund-raising budget of 7000 USD.
- Very communicative, and open to all questions.
(Answers to Questionnaire).
- Very prompt in the updates on the progress of the NGO's activities and funds utilization.
- Overall, AID-TAMU was very happy with KWS.
- The NGO chairperson happens to be the aunt of one of my very good friends from undergrad. Actively keeping track of the NGO since 2005; and involved with it in my own personal ways.

Where the money goes? - Infrastructure.

- Investment on their own facility and making it disabled-friendly : 1995 to 2003, rented premises; had to relocate from one to another, due to whims of the landlords.
- Installment payments towards the cost of the land (0.5 acres), provided to them at a concessional rate by the government of Haryana (HUDA).
- Construction of a ramp to provide access to second floor from first floor, pending, as of 2006.
- 1 school bus, and 1 school van, as of 2006, with plans of getting a second school bus. Transports 50 children everyday.
- Occupational therapy unit – space, tools and equipment.
- Multi-sensory unit – space, tools and equipment.



KWS Center

Where the money goes? – Staff salaries.

- 11 teachers (roughly 5:1 student to teacher ratio)
Teachers : Minimum qualification of a degree/diploma in special education.
3,426 to 15,734 INR (77,511 INR a month)
- 10 support staff (therapists, and administration)
Therapists : Psychologist, Pediatrician, speech therapy, multi-sensory developmental therapy, physiotherapy, occupational therapy.
1,000 to 10,366 INR (40,925 INR a month)
- 5 volunteer staff (no salary).

Expansion plans.

- KWS has plans to add more classes and increase the number of children by progressively bringing up the numbers; 20 children on the waitlist. More so due to their strict rule of maintaining the low student to teacher ratio.
- Add more skills under the vocational training program. Currently provides, facilities of tailoring, cooking and home management, handicrafts – paperwork, candle-making, ceramic-ware, etc. and gardening. Will ensure the special children of KWS become productive members in their own household and in the society.
- KWS plans to provide a day-care facility for children with disabilities to assist working parents and for their occasional short residential stay facilities.
- Taking our services to the door-step of those children living in rural areas, who are unable to come to the center.
- Expansion of the early intervention program.

Checklist.

- **KWS Video.**
- **Handout.**
- **Testimonials (AID-TAMU).**
- **Site-visit report (AID-TAMU).**
- **Answers to Questionnaire (AID-TAMU).**
- **Financial statements (2006, 2007).**
- **ASHA-Austin Proposal.**