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.
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.*
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.
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).
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).
- ASHA-Austin Proposal.