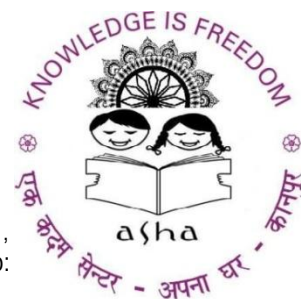


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Ek Kadam Project (APNA GHAR)

Run By Asha Kanpur

Residential Education & Capacity Expansion Project PROJECT PROPOSAL

Submitted to: Asha for Education – General Fund
Project Period: 1 April 2026 – 31 March 2027
Implementing Organisation: Asha Trust – Kanpur Centre
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Asha Trust is registered with the Office of Sub-Registrar, Asaf Ali Road, New Delhi - Registration Number
1316/4 dated 27/3/92. It is also registered u/s. 12A(a) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 - Registration Number
DIT(E)/96-97/A-960/96/74 dated 21/5/96.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ek Kadam – Apna Ghar is a residential educational project of Asha Trust, Kanpur Centre, dedicated to providing educational opportunities and a stable living environment to children from migrant workers' families, particularly families engaged in brick-kiln work.

The project was started in 2006 with nine boys as a model initiative. Over the years, it has developed into a well-established residential educational facility. The project records that 48 children have been accommodated and 35 children have graduated from Apna Ghar and progressed towards higher education.

The central challenge Ek Kadam addresses is educational discontinuity. Children of migrant workers frequently move with their families according to employment opportunities. As a result, children may experience interruptions in schooling, irregular attendance, learning gaps, and limited access to educational support.

Apna Ghar provides a stable residential and educational environment during the academic year, enabling children to continue their formal education while remaining connected with their families.

The project provides much more than accommodation. It offers formal schooling, academic support, study facilities, career guidance, health care, sports, cultural activities, communication and personality development.

The existing residential facility has reached the limits of its present capacity. Asha Trust, therefore, proposes to develop an approximately 10,000 sq. ft. First-Floor Facility to increase residential capacity and strengthen educational and community-use facilities.

The overall estimated cost of this long-term construction programme is approximately ₹2 crore. The construction is being undertaken as a phased, long-term development programme. It is not expected that the entire ₹2 crore facility will be completed within one or two years, as the pace of construction depends on the availability of funds.

Importantly, this is an ongoing construction programme, not a new project initiated from the outset.

Asha for Education's General Fund has already supported this construction programme. During 2024–25, ₹16,50,000 was received, and during 2025–26, approximately ₹18,50,000 was received. This support has enabled Asha Trust to complete a significant portion of the construction, and construction is presently continuing.

The present proposal is therefore a request to continue the development of the same long-term infrastructure programme.

With continued support of approximately ₹20 lakh per year, our expectation is that substantial portions of two important functional components—the Hall/Study/Community-use Block and the Residential Block—can be completed during the coming two years, while the remaining construction can continue in subsequent phases.

2. BACKGROUND OF EK KADAM – APNA GHAR

Ek Kadam began in 2006 as an initiative to address the educational difficulties faced by children of migrant workers.

The project particularly focuses on children whose families work at brick kilns and migrate for employment.

The selection process gives priority to children from the migrant labour community working at brick kilns. The project's documented guidelines also consider continuity of residence in Kanpur Nagar, enrolment in Apna Skool and other factors while selecting children.

The project has grown significantly since its beginning with nine children.

The residential facility developed over the years has included four blocks, with six rooms in each block, accommodating approximately 48 children. Each student is provided with a bed, study table and wardrobe.

The campus also provides facilities such as:

- computer lab;
- library;
- sports field;
- community hall; and
- community kitchen/mess.

This infrastructure has enabled Apna Ghar to function as an educational community rather than simply a hostel.

The proposed first-floor construction is a continuation of this infrastructure development.

3. WHY APNA GHAR IS NEEDED

For families dependent on seasonal and migrant labour, education is often affected by their livelihood patterns.

When parents move for work, children may have to:

- leave their existing school;
- change schools repeatedly;
- miss classes;
- lose continuity in the curriculum;
- fall behind academically;
- lack a quiet place to study; and
- eventually discontinue education.

The Apna Ghar model attempts to break this cycle.

Children receive a stable residential environment during the academic year, attend formal schools, and receive additional academic support on campus.

At the same time, the project maintains the children's relationship with their parents and families.

The objective is therefore not to separate children from their families, but to protect continuity of education despite the family's economic circumstances and migration pattern.

4. EDUCATION AS THE CORE OF THE PROJECT

The central goal of Ek Kadam is to enable children to obtain a good education and build sustainable futures.

Selected students are enrolled in quality schools for formal education.

The project also provides:

- textbooks;
- notebooks;
- school bags;

- uniforms;
- educational materials;
- academic mentoring;
- examination preparation; and
- career guidance.

Wardens monitor the academic progress of children in their respective blocks.

Career counsellors also support students in planning their future education and career pathways.

The project recognises that children have different academic needs. Therefore, additional academic support is provided to children who require help with homework, difficult subjects, examination preparation and development of regular study habits.

5. HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT

Education at Apna Ghar is understood broadly.

Academic Development

- Formal school education
- Academic mentoring
- Remedial support
- Examination preparation
- Career guidance

Health

Regular health monitoring is part of the programme. Arrangements have also been developed for medical support and periodic medical check-ups.

Sports

Children are encouraged to participate regularly in indoor and outdoor sports.

Social and Cultural Development

Children participate in social and cultural programmes and are encouraged to understand their community and wider society.

Communication and Personality Development

Communication skills, technological awareness, courteous behaviour and other life skills are encouraged as part of the programme.

6. ACHIEVEMENTS AND LONG-TERM IMPACT

The strongest evidence of Apna Ghar's value is the progress of its former students.

The project records former students who have entered employment, professional training and higher education.

Former students have progressed into technical employment, government-related training, engineering, programme management and university education.

Several former Apna Ghar students have pursued higher education at institutions including Azim Premji University, MNIT Allahabad and Ahmedabad University, among others.

These journeys demonstrate the project's long-term objective: not merely keeping children in school, but helping them progress towards higher education, employment and independent lives.

7. NEED FOR EXPANSION

The existing facility has served children successfully for many years. However, the project wishes to increase the number of children who can benefit from Ek Kadam.

The project's assessment identifies the need to add one more floor to accommodate more children, as well as additional space and resources for academic and extracurricular activities.

The proposed first-floor development will provide additional space for:

- residential accommodation;
- study and academic activities;
- larger hall/community-use space;
- toilets and sanitation;
- safe staircase access;
- ventilation and natural light;
- electrical and other essential services; and
- associated infrastructure.

8. OVERALL, FIRST-FLOOR DEVELOPMENT

Asha Trust proposes to develop an approximately:

10,000 sq. ft. First-Floor Facility

The overall estimated construction requirement is approximately:

₹2 crore

The facility will be developed progressively in phases according to the availability of funds.

The construction is already underway.

AFE General Fund support received during the previous two financial years has enabled the Trust to complete a significant portion of the construction.

Previous AFE General Fund Support

Financial Year Amount Received

2024–25 ₹16,50,000

2025–26 Approximately ₹18,50,000

Total Approximately ₹35,00,000

Construction is ongoing, and additional funding is required to complete the facility's remaining functional portions.

9. LONG-TERM PHASED APPROACH

The overall construction programme is a substantial infrastructure investment. Given the scale of approximately ₹2 crore and the expected annual availability of around ₹20 lakh, it would not be realistic to expect completion of the entire facility within one or two years. The project will therefore be implemented through successive phases. With continued support during the coming two years, Asha Trust hopes to make substantial progress towards completing two major functional components:

1. Hall / Study / Community-use Block

and

2. Residential Block

The remaining portions of the planned facility will continue to be developed progressively as additional funding becomes available.

This approach will ensure that each year's funding results in a meaningful, usable addition to the infrastructure.

10. PROJECTED CAPACITY

The planned residential expansion is expected to provide accommodation for approximately 24 additional children in the completed residential portion.

The additional space will also reduce pressure on the existing accommodation and improve the overall educational environment.

11. CONSTRUCTION AS AN EDUCATIONAL INVESTMENT

The proposed construction should not be viewed simply as a building project.

The building is an essential enabling resource for the educational programme.

Additional residential and study space will allow the project to:

- reach more children;
- provide a stable environment for learning;
- improve academic support;
- create better study conditions;
- provide safer and more organised accommodation;
- support children's physical and personality development; and
- strengthen the long-term sustainability of Ek Kadam.

The financial support already received from Asha for Education has helped convert resources into long-term educational infrastructure. Continued support will allow this investment to be completed and put to effective use.

12. CHILD SAFETY AND WELL-BEING

Since Apna Ghar is a residential educational facility, the safety and well-being of children are central considerations in the campus's construction and management.

The new facility will incorporate:

- safe staircase access;
- adequate ventilation;
- sufficient natural and artificial lighting;
- secure doors and windows;
- safe electrical installations;
- hygienic sanitation facilities;
- appropriate supervision; and
- child-friendly residential arrangements.

The physical infrastructure will complement the project's existing systems of supervision, academic monitoring, health care and child development.

13. MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The Ek Kadam Project is managed through a structured system involving the project coordinator, assistant coordinator and different committees.

The Project Committee reviews the project periodically, guides the management team, takes major project-related decisions and supports resource generation.

The project also maintains systems for:

- administration;
- planning;
- staffing;
- reporting;
- budgeting;
- evaluation;
- feedback; and
- accounts.

Construction expenditure will be documented through bills, vouchers, expenditure records, progress documentation and utilisation reporting as required.

14. SUSTAINABILITY

The proposed first-floor construction will create a long-term asset for Ek Kadam.

Once completed, it will serve successive batches of children and strengthen Apna Ghar's capacity for many years.

The project will continue to mobilise support for recurring educational and residential expenses separately from the construction programme.

The construction investment will therefore strengthen the physical foundation required for the continued delivery of the educational programme.

The support already received in 2024–25 and 2025–26 has established a strong foundation for this phased development.

15. SUPPORT REQUESTED FROM ASHA FOR EDUCATION

Asha Trust respectfully requests continued support from the Asha for Education – General Fund towards the ongoing First-Floor Construction Project of Ek Kadam – Apna Ghar.

The present funding request of ₹19,01,375 is presented separately in the accompanying Budget Proposal.

The current request represents the next phase of an already-supported construction programme.

16. CONCLUSION

Ek Kadam – Apna Ghar began with nine children in 2006. Over the years, it has grown into a residential educational community that has helped children from migrant-worker families continue their education and move towards higher education, employment and more independent lives.

The next challenge is to ensure the project reaches more children.

The proposed first-floor development will provide the infrastructure required for this expansion.

This is an ongoing construction programme, supported by Asha for Education's General Fund during the previous two financial years.

During 2024–25, ₹16,50,000 was received, followed by approximately ₹18,50,000 during 2025–26. This support has enabled the Trust to complete a significant portion of the construction, and the construction is still continuing.

We recognise that a ₹2 crore construction project cannot realistically be completed in one or two years when annual funding is around ₹20 lakh. A phased approach is therefore both practical and financially responsible.

With continued support, we hope to complete the major Hall/Study/Community-use and Residential blocks over the next two years, while the remaining portions of the 10,000 sq. ft. development are completed in later phases.

The present funding request and detailed cost calculation are provided separately in the Budget Proposal.

The objective is not simply to construct a building, but to create the physical infrastructure necessary to provide educational continuity, safety, stability and opportunity to more children. Our goal is to ensure that migration and poverty do not decide whether a child gets an education.

Thank You:

With a deep sense of humility and gratitude, we admit that we are proud of our work. However, we have a long but possible road to reach our goal.

We sincerely thank you for your continued support.



(Mahesh Kumar Pandey)

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