



Asha for Education™

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www.ashanet.org

Please attach additional sheets wherever necessary. Thank you for your time and patience.

Name of the organization :- Society for Women in Rural Development(SWIRD)

Date of establishment :- The organization was established on the 24th December in 1991.

Location :- Rural area

Description of area

The project area of SWIRD is located in Kolaghat Block of Purba Medinipur district in the state of West Bengal in India. The project of 10 Balwadi schools have been developed in the rural area . Overall socio-economic background of the project area is very poor. The population density of the very high. A considerable portion of the population belongs to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) category , comprising of small ,marginal or medium size farmers and landless labourers. They generally belong to the scheduled caste and other lower caste communities. Majority of the community people fight for existence as daily wage labourers. Floriculture is one of the leading agricultural activities in this area and a large number of populations are directly and indirectly dependent on floriculture. Overall community health is very poor, while children and women are the worst sufferers. The health care service is miserable here. Literacy rate is very low especially among the women. Problem of school dropout and child labor is prevalent. Malnutrition among the children is the common feature. Most of the families are trapped for generation after generations in the vicious cycle of poverty and fail to break it. In most of the cases, parents can not fulfill the basic needs of their children and as a consequence child-labor system is predominant in our community. Gender inequality is very much prominent. The parents have a very low level of awareness regarding the need of children's education. However, due to the impact of variousness programmes in the area many rural families are sending their children to schools.The girl children are also getting scope of formal education. SWIRD has been facilitating this change in the community. Some sort of urbanization is being observed in few pokckets alongside the highways and railway station Thus a slow trend of gradual development is being observed in the area.

Contact person(s) (1) Mrs. Krishna Roy
Phone number :- Land Ph.913228257491
:- Mobile Ph. Contact no.- 8670247391
Email :- swird.org@gmail.com

Contact person(s) (2) Mr. S.B.Das
Phone number :- Land Ph. 913326528382 , Mobile Ph- 919433175794/919163731905
Email :- subratatharathidas@hotmail.com

Address SWIRD

Vill & P.O - Pulsita,
Dist.- Purba Medinipur,
West Bengal. India

Phone number Mobile Ph no(s) – 919433175794 / 919163731905 (S.B.Das)

Number of children currently enrolled in the project: - 402 children are currently enrolled in the project
(Number of girls: - 212 and Number of boys: - 190)

Current Girl/Boy ratio 53:47

Current Teacher/student ratio 1:40

Over all school attendance percentage 96.2% (average of 10 centers)

Medium of instruction Local language Bengali and English

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

Details on the school curriculum (please attach additional sheets if necessary)

Our curriculum involves learning by playing, story-telling, singing songs and rhymes, etc. which gives enormous joy in the learning system. With this curriculum in our project children are provided with elementary education with joyful method of learning by singing -dancing and playing. In a friendly environment the teachers nurture our children with motherly attitude. The children are taught language in mother tongue and in English & basic arithmetical lessons. Students are really interested to come to classes as our teaching technique gives them ample pleasure .We prepare these children for admission in the primary level and consider the Balwadi program for providing those poor children a steppingstone of education. We assist our out-going students to get admission in the local primary schools. Our teaching methods are very much different from the conventional method of teaching which is much popular to the children and their parents.

Long-term goals of the project (mention any changes you foresee)

We run this project as a part of the integrated process of social development with a long-term goal to eradicate the child labour practice from this area. We have developed 10 Balwadi schools as the steppingstone of education for about 400 preschool level children. The objective has been to introduce basic education for underprivileged rural children at their early childhood stage. After running this project for more than 15 years, including some 9 years as a partner of Asha-San Francisco, we can see that the project is moving towards the successful achievement of the goal. Previously we used to observe that the students in the primary level in our community had the tendency to dropout from school. Many of these children were becoming child laborers. SWIRD closely follow up this process and

motivate their parents to continue their children to send to schools. We have made our children habituated in the school atmosphere. It is mentionable that during last 9 years with the support from Asha for Education, we have been able to organize few workshops cum seminar in every year by involving almost all the parents of our students to prevent dropout and motivated them to continue their children's education in the Primary - High School and onward levels. We got remarkable result and have observed that 100% of the outgoing children have been admitted in primary schools in recent years. The child labor practice for commercial purpose is not much observed in the area. Even the girl children are not got stuck absolutely for doing household chores in their families. Thus a gradual change is being observed.

Description of current school facilities (building, equipment etc)

As far as the current school facilities are concerned, we have been running 10 Balwadi schools in rented buildings in different places. We don't have any building owned by SWIRD. Out of these 10 class rooms 8 rooms are Pukka and rest 2 rooms are fenced mud house. Since all these schools run in the rented buildings the lady teachers generally use the toilets of the building owners. However in most of the cases the school children are not allowed to use those household toilets. In rural areas small kids below 5 years generally go to open fields or road sides for this purpose. So they can somehow manage without any embarrassment. There is no specific play ground of these schools. There are many open areas around those schools. Small rural children generally play there. None of our schools has any table-chairs or benches in the classroom. Children sit on the mats on the floor. In few schools teacher use a chair but in most of the time they generally sit on the mat among the children. All our rented school buildings have electricity in the classrooms. There is no drinking water facility for children. They bring drinking water in water-bottles with them. However, we provide water jugs to store some water in the classrooms as well. Blackboards are there in all our Balwadi centers. In all our schools we have various types of attractive teaching aids and toys. Children are provided with various books, slate- pencils etc. We don't have any library or computer in those schools. We run those schools under moderate type infrastructure.

How do you need to improve these facilities?

We need to have our own pakka buildings for all these 10 Balwadi schools. There must be toilets in all those schools. It would be nice to have benches in those class rooms and Table-chairs for the teachers.

How do you think the school has improved in the last year?

The overall deference from what our students were previously and what they have become presently is the main qualitative indicators of improvement. However it is not a very easy task to measure this improvement. We feel that improvement is a continuous process and can't be shown separately for last one year only. Let us explain how our schools have improved since we have got Asha funding. We are happy to tell you that Asha funding has brought a remarkable change for our rural schools for poor children. We have observed an encouraging reaction from the community that many local parents became interested to admit their babies to our schools. Our target group children have always been the under-privileged down trodden children who previously used to come to our Balwadi centers irregularly, without any school dress and books etc. A remarkable improvement has been observed in terms of daily presence of children to the schools. Previously the children were very reluctant to come to the schools

but after our school has taken a new shape, the children don't want to be absent. The number of students especially the no. of girls has been increased. Regular attendance by the students in the classes is very high. We have 100% achievement in the admission test of our outgoing children for class-I in primary level. The local people admit this fact that SWIRD project schools are better in all respects in comparison to other preschools in the area.

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

Although we don't have any preset indicators to gauge the overall effectiveness of this project over the past year, yet an overall impact assessment can be done, which will certainly highlight that SWIRD Balwadi project has few important social impacts in the local communities. The project has effectively sensitized the parents of the little children to get into formal education. Parents are sensitized that putting their children in play group formal school from the early childhood is essential. Our project is really effective in the community in terms of facilitating formal education for girl children. The scenario of girls' education all over rural India is miserable. In our project we give thrust on girl's education and motivate especially the parents of the girl children for formal education. The ratio of girls and boys is almost equal, which proves that our project is effective. Another mentionable point is that during mothers meeting our social animators and teachers motivate the mothers for qualitative upbringing of their children and also give emphasis on family planning and birth control issues etc. This kind of work for last 15 years has brought a positive and visible result. Previously the number of children of a mother had been four- five or more. Now it has come down to one – two or maximum three. Therefore quality in nurturing their children has been improved. Thus we can tell that our Balwadi project is an essential part of integrated process of comprehensive social development by keeping our children at the focal point, which is highly effective in the community.

How much longer do you foresee requiring Asha funding, and for what purposes?

We mentioned it in the last year also that we don't have any other source of income excepting Asha funding to run those schools and we are absolutely dependent upon grants from any funding body like Asha. We require running cost support for the continuation of our schools. Therefore we are not in a position to mention any specific timeline for requirement of Asha funding. We can continue with this project only when Asha supports us.

Current expenditure details :- (Breakup is given below)

Expenditures	INR
School Dresses (2 Sets each) for 400 Balwadi Students	1,76,000.00
Shoes & Socks for 400 Students	64,000.00
School Bag for 400 Students	40,000.00
Teaching Materials & Others Slate, Chart etc Drawing Books, Books, etc	37,500.00
School Floor Mats, Drinking Water bottles (5000+ 16000)	21,000.00
Medicine Exp	11,710.00
Ten School Shed Rent (For January2018 to November .2018)= 11 months	55,000.00
Salary for 10 Teachers (For January2018 to November .2018)= 11 months	2,20,000.00
Salary for 2 Field Monitors(For January2018 to November .2018)= 11 months	55,000.00
Salary for Accountant(For January2018 to November .2018)= 11 months	24,200.00

Salary for Doctor(For January2018 to November .2018)= 11 months	33,000.00
Travelling Allowance	11,000.00
Awareness camps for prevention of dropouts (2 events)	48,630.00
Half yearly Examination Expenses	5,240.00
Administrative Expenses	24,777.00
Audit Fees	5,000.00
Total expenditure for the period from 1st January2018 to 5th December,2018	= 8,32,057.00
Fund balance (Cash at bank & Cash in hand) Expendable amount for remaining period of December 2018	+ 58,473.82
TOTAL	INR 8,90,530.82

Current total income of your project

Our Current total income of the project is **8,90,530.82 INR**

Please give us details on the sources and amounts of funding the project receives

Particulars of income	INR
Receipts from last year's closing Bank balance	1,272.82
Last year's cash in hand	0.00
Grant assistance received from Asha for Education	8,81,000.00
Bank Interest A/c	8,258.00
Total project income in 2018	8,90,530.82

Percentage of funds currently sponsored by Asha. = 98.92 %

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

Our project for this year will be ended on 31st December 2018. In order to get ahead start for processing of next year's application , we have already submitted 2019 proposal. As per Asha guideline we are also submitting this narrative report of project implementation before the ending of funding cycle (in the 1st week of Decemcer 2018). Receipt payment account till 5th December 2018 is submitted accordingly. Unspent amount will be spent for running the project during remaining period.

Prepared by SWIRD Team

Submitted by

Krishna Roy,

Secretary

SWIRD.