

Dear Ms Fernandes ,

We are submitting a six months' proposal. Since we don't find the possibility of resuming in-person schooling within the next 6 months, then we are providing only one proposal budget i.e. of home-schooling. Giving under the answers to your general questions and please see the budget below. As per your advice, we are also indicating the line items as essential vs. optional.

General Questions- Answers :-

1. How is the home schooling going?

We have been implementing our home-schooling activities nicely. Parents are helping their children to stick to their studies. Our teachers have been visiting children's homes periodically to conduct home-based tests as per schedule. However, unfortunately, due to recent cyclonic weather Gulab , in the 3rd week of September, our activities have been slightly affected. The cyclone brought heavy spells of rain all over our project area for three-four days causing waterlogging in most of the project villages. Consequently, our teachers could not do any home visits during that period and one scheduled test could not be organised. Out of ten project villages, six villages are still partially waterlogged with badly muddy situation and concerned teachers have been instructed to suspend their home-visit activities until the situation becomes normal. However, the parents have been requested to ensure that the children stay in touch with their studies. Since monsoon season is almost over, we are expecting the situation will become normal shortly. We are happy to mention that we have been able to implement the home-schooling model successfully.

2. How are the children doing?

Our children are doing well. They are studying with the help of their parents at home and giving home-based tests. Mark sheets are being prepared regularly to assess their progress. We have provided newly enrolled Lower Nursery children with basic learning and English alphabets, numerical-counting, picture books and drawing –materials etc. With the help of those study materials and their parents, elder sisters and brothers, they are getting rudimentary lessons. They are very much interested in their picture books, drawing books etc. We have been organizing monthly health check-ups also in small batches by our project doctors. Minor health sicknesses have been treated by our project doctor. As such there have been no serious health issues of any children. However, few cases were referred to the specialist doctors of our area. Otherwise, children are okay and they are eagerly waiting for the normal school to open.

3. What is the status of the pandemic?

The Covid-pandemic situation has been improved a lot in our area. We can hardly find any Covid positive patients or Covid related death cases. Few patients, who are getting infected, are suffering from mild symptoms. In most cases, they are treated at their homes. Cases of hospitalization have been reducing in the last few months. West Bengal government has not yet lifted Covid-19-related

restrictions. People are to keep wearing masks and maintain social distancing and the usual coronavirus disease-related health and hygiene protocols.

4. How are staff members doing (teachers, field monitors, doctor, and accountant)?

Excepting six teachers, living in the waterlogged - muddy areas due to recent heavy downpours, the rest of the project staff members are fine.

5. How are you doing?

I am recovering from fever, prolonged cough and cold (probably due to my post Covid sickness) . I am just okay now, but not absolutely cured.

6. Has the regulations been lifted to allow children to go back to school? If not, have they provided estimated dates?

As per a newspaper report, the West Bengal government may discuss about school-reopening after the ensuing Durga Puja. Schools may be allowed to resume only the senior classes after puja vacation, which is also depending upon the Covid-19 situation in the state. However, only the high school children may be allowed. If the situation improves further, then only the primary schools will be permitted to reopen. But we haven't seen any news report about the reopening of the government preschools (Anganwadi schools).

Since our project preschools are at the comparable level of government Anganwadi (preschools), we should follow Covid related restrictions applied for those Anganwadi schools. We are absolutely in dark regarding any decision of the concerned authority to resume the Anganwadi schools.

Under this circumstance, we feel that our preschool project children should be asked to come to school only when government preschools (Anganwadi schools) start. Therefore we are not in a position to predict any possible date to resume our school. We assume that the probability of in-person schooling within the next 6 months is very low. Hence, it is better to decide to continue with our home-schooling model for another six months.

7. Are there any other updates or changes that have occurred since the last time we communicated?

Apart from the updates given above, there is an important issue that needs your kind attention. Regarding the salary of our project teachers and staff, all of them believe that they have been putting much labour to establish the new model. Organising three home-based tests per month involves 9 visits to each child: (1st round visits for question paper distributions, 2nd round visits for collecting answer sheet followed by the work of checking those answer sheets and 3rd round visits for returning those checked answer sheets for guiding parents in each cycle of 10 days) to the doorsteps of about 40 children by each teacher, (comes to 360 visits per month per head). In fact,

the new model has put them under much more work pressure in comparison to the workload of regular school. In these circumstances, they were not happy with 75% of their salary, given during the last six months (Apr-Sep 2021) and henceforth they have requested us for 100% salary. We also feel that their expectation of getting a 100% salary is very much justified. We request you to kindly consider their expectation and put it accordingly in your chapter meeting.

I would like to communicate that few parents have suggested concerned teachers for arranging parent-teachers meetings in small batches to give them orientations regarding their role to run the home-schooling model. We also feel that it would be helpful for our new model to organise parents-teachers meetings at least once a quarter. We can do it without making any gathering but doing in small batches by involving about 10 parents in each batch with the concerned teacher of each school.

Given below the BUDGET:-

Budget for Home-Schooling

**Schools will remain closed but students will be studying at home
with parents-teachers coordination with home based tests thrice a month)**

OCTOBER 2021 TO MARCH 2022

Sl.	Expenditure line items	Amount (INR)	Essential Vs. Optional
1.	Salary for 10 Teachers for 6 months from October 2021 to March 2022 (@ Rs. 2300 per month X 6 months X 10 heads)	138000	Essential
2.	Salary for 2 Field Monitors for 6 months from October 2021 to March 2022 (@ Rs. 2800 per month X 6 months X 2heads)	33600	Essential
3.	Salary for Accountant for 6 months from October 2021 to March 2022 (@ Rs. 2600 per month X 6 months)	15600	Essential
4.	Salary for Doctor for 6 months from October 2021 to March 2022 (@ Rs. 3100 per month X 6 months)	18600	Essential
5.	Prevision of medicine for the poor children to replenish doctor's medicine stock. (@ Rs 1000/- lump sum per month X6 months - from October 2021 to March 2022	6000	Essential
6.	Travelling Allowances for two field monitors for 6 months from October 2021 to March 2022 (@ Rs.1100 per month X 6 months X 2 heads)	13200	Essential
7.	Expenses for printing a bunch of 428 test papers, thrice a month for the period of 6 months from October 2021 to March 2022 (@ Rs 910 per bunch X 3 occasions /month X 6 months)	16380	Essential
8.	Allowances to meet fuel and minor-maintenance cost of the motorbike of the Project Director including field tea- refreshment etc. for 6 months from October 2021 to March 2022 @ Rs2500 (monthly) x 6 months	15000	Optional
9.	Travelling / field refreshment allowance for 10 teachers for 6 months from October 2021 to March 2022 @ Rs12per day for about 25 days in a month = Rs300. (@ Rs. 300 per month X 10 teachers X 6 months)	18000	Essential
10.	Administrative Expenses for SWIRD @ 2600 per month for 6 months from October 2021 to March 2022 (Rs.2600X 6)	15600	Essential
Total requested budget for 6 months from October 2021 To March 2022		2,89,980	

Thanks and regards.

Tuhin Choudhuri.
Project Director (Hony.)
SWIRD