

**SWAMI VIVEKANANDA VIDYALAYA**  
**A school in Lodhar Village,**  
**Near IIT Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh**

**A project proposal submitted to**  
**Asha for Education**

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## 1. Contact Information

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## **2. Information about Parent Organization**

**Name of the group/organization requesting funds:** Jagriti Bal Vikas Samiti, Kanpur

**Website:** <http://home.iitk.ac.in/~ag/jagriti>

**Year Established:** Informally working since 1990;

Formally Registered under The Societies Registration Act in 1997.

**Non education-related community development activities undertaken by the Organization in recent past:**

- Health related activities: health awareness program, health camps, immunization program, health video shows, family planning. First aid and free medicines.
- Counseling and Computer training centers.
- Mobile library and mobile science lab.
- Vocational training in paintings, book binding, tailoring, knitting, handicrafts.
- Evening after school library for village children and adults.

**List of schools run by the group:**

- Swami Vivekananda Vidyalaya, Lodhar, Kanpur. We are requesting funding for this school in the present project.
- Non formal schools for the children of migrant labourers at various construction sites and brick kilns in Kanpur city. The number of such schools is currently 20.

### **3. Details of School for which funds are requested**

**Name of School:** Swami Vivekananda Vidyalaya, Lodhar, Kanpur.

**Classes Served:** KG to Class VIII.

**Location of school/s :** The school is located in a rural area. Though it is close to an urban area, it is still quite remote because of poor access roads.

**Teaching methodology:**

Our teaching methodology differs from conventional methods. It is hands-on and interactive. There is a lot of emphasis on learning by doing. For example, children do science experiments, make maps of their school and village, actually visit nearby farms and fields to collect samples of soil, seeds, flowers, roots, insects etc. They are encouraged to make their own magazines, write stories and poetry, make drawings etc. We hold science workshops (on human body, digestive system, skeletal system) where children make models with the help of junk strewn around in the surrounding like broken bottles, electric bulbs, pvc pipes, wires etc and learn various concepts. There is a regular drawing class in our school for all the children. We have about 6 computers (with Internet connectivity) which children use themselves. As part of our annual Social Science event children make very interesting charts to depict various aspects of India and the Indian culture, different states of India and their salient features. We have cultural events in which children present skits, songs, etc. There is also no corporal punishment in the school and the teaching philosophy is one of compassion for the students. Our students are very expressive and constantly ask questions from the teachers and are very confident. They regularly win awards in various competitions, like speeches, quizzes, dramas, drawing, etc.

**Literacy Rate in the surrounding Community :**

Approximately 80% like in the rest of the state of UP. Due to the school (which has been running since 1996), the village Lodhar has close to 100% literacy (excluding very old people).

**Socio-economic background of the children and their parents :**

The adults in the villages work either in agriculture (50%), or in and around the city as laborers or do other low income jobs. There are some well off families of land owners and rich farmers but they are only a few. Most villagers are generally poor. Many young men and boys have at least elementary education, but most of the old people are illiterate.

The caste divide, like in other parts of rural India, is very sharp. In Lodhar and neighboring villages we have predominantly backward castes, but some Scheduled Castes, Yadavs, Brahmins and Muslims. However the school is above any caste or religious bias and strictly adheres to secular and humanist values.

There is a government school very close to our school in Lodhar village; but it only provides primary education and, moreover, like many other government schools, it is poorly attended.

Usually boys of age 13 and above go to work in the fields of their parents or landed farmers. Most of the girls of age 10 and above have to help in household chores like cooking, fetching water, washing, looking after younger siblings etc. Many are forced to quit schooling after class V under family and societal pressure. Our school has improved literacy level tremendously among children, especially the girl children of the village and neighboring areas.

Over the past few years we have seen that the interest of families in sending students to schools has increased a lot. We are now receiving a large number of requests to accept children in our school.

**Admission criteria for the students:** Children of village Lodhar are given admission on a priority basis. The remaining seats are allotted on a first come first serve.

**No of Children currently in school:** 320

**Boy:Girl ratio:** 40:60 (Education is free for girls; boys are charged a nominal fee)

**No of Teachers in school:** 11

**Teacher:student ratio:** 1:30

**Other services provided to the children in the schools:**

- Nutrition every other day (chana, puffed rice, fruits, groundnut, jaggery etc.).
- A rich library with approximately 6000 books.
- A well-maintained science laboratory.
- Health camps, immunization program, visits by health workers and doctors.
- Sweaters, books, stationary to many needy children
- A well equipped computer laboratory with Internet connectivity
- Education tours(This year senior children were taken to Agra on a two days trip and junior classes visited the local zoo)
- Science Club activities. The annual Science fair is well attended; with close to 600 people from neighboring areas attending it this year.

**Goals of school and the desired impact on the lives of the children:**

We aim to provide our children a holistic education where they acquire literacy, learn formal subjects, as well as inculcate the cherished values of dignity, equality, cooperation, self-expression, sense of freedom, self learning, and scientific approach. Our children have awareness of health-care, hygiene, nutrition, and computers. The school provides a strong foundation to children so that they can handle their future confidently.

We have a team of dedicated teachers, who are constantly exposed to trainings and lectures by students and faculty from IIT Kanpur, Ekalavya, and other groups. The idea is to equip the teachers with new pedagogical insights, conceptual foundations in various subjects. The teachers provide a free and friendly environment for rural children to learn without fear.

We believe that education will transform the attitude of the children. We have already seen them become more self-confident and aware. This effort will eventually make them more responsible individuals and lead them to transform the society around them.

**School Amenities:**

- Own Building
- 9 classrooms with benches, chairs, tables, blackboards and chalks
- 1 science lab room
- 1 computer room with 6 computers
- 1 library room with over 7000 books
- 1 office room
- Toilets (Gents and Ladies)
- Power fittings (fans, lights, etc)
- Drinking water facility
- Teaching Aids, Toys etc.
- Playground

**Age group of the children currently enrolled:** 5 years to 15 years

**No. of teachers employed :** 11

**Minimum Qualification of Teachers:** Graduate

**Other staff employed in school:** 1 Caretaker

**Average distance the children travel to attend your school:** 1 km

***Progress of Students who have graduated from the school:***

Our school has been running since 1996. So far about 1600 students (900 girls and 700 boys) have graduated from our school. With constant encouragement and child friendly approach we have been trying to persuade children, especially the girls to continue their education at least up to 12<sup>th</sup> standard and possibly even further. Four of our students are currently pursuing their Masters after successfully completing their bachelors. Another 15 students are in various stages of their bachelors degrees, some of them have already completed. One graduate from our school is currently pursuing a BE degree; and one of them has taken up a job as a school teacher.

***Scholarships and Counseling for students graduating from the school:***

We are providing scholarships to some of the needy graduating students. We are in constant touch with them. We invite them to our Science mela and cultural activities, educational tours etc. We provide vocational training and English tutoring to some of these children. Some of the IIT students have offered to volunteer in this effort. Lack of motivation on part of the parents and the obvious economic bottleneck plays vital role in the high drop out rate once children have studied till class 8. Parents, when confronted come out with very difficult requests like more funds, a vehicle to take their children to the nearby (6km) higher secondary school etc.

Currently, we are providing scholarships to 10 former students to pursue higher studies. In addition, we are providing scholarships to 15 students currently enrolled in the school on a merit-cum-means basis.

***Other schools in the area:***

There is a government primary school in the village, where education standard is very poor. There are some private schools (up to intermediate level) in the neighboring village, Nankari (located 3 kms away).

***Unique features of the School relative to other schools:***

Our program is fundamentally different than the existing education methodology, which is often unfriendly to the student and geared towards rote learning. In our school our learning is participatory, dialog and activity based. The children ask questions, do experiments, draw maps etc. There is a lot of emphasis of free communication. As a result, they are quite good in creative writing, expression, drawing, and skits, making models. Corporal punishment is strictly forbidden as is the use of abusive language and discriminatory policies. We give adequate space for outdoor and indoor activities. The teacher-student relationship is both healthy and friendly. Our children get to do Science experiments, make charts, models etc. The annual science fair showcases all the science projects carried out by the students. It is part of the school annual function which runs for 3 days and has various cultural programs in addition to the scientific demonstrations. It is extremely popular in the village and is regularly attended by more than 500 people from the village and other villages nearby.

Our school fee is the lowest in the neighborhood. Education is free for girls and the boys pay anywhere between Rs.40-80 per month. This is a boon for girls from poor families. Most parents with very low income send their children to our school. For girl children in the village, this school provides a safe learning space close to their homes. There is a small fraction of parents who prefer English medium education for their children; they are sending their children to local private schools. Such parents are generally better off and can afford high tuition fees of their children.

Over the last few years, our children have been performing very well in numerous competitions in Kanpur city in speech, drawing, quizzes and dramas. This has greatly enhanced the name of the school

in the region. More and more parents from neighbouring villages come to us and ask us to admit their children in the school. For the last two years, we have had to turn away applicants for lack of space.

***Involvement of Parents of children in school activities:***

We meet the parents of the children regularly, on an average every three months. There is also a school committee which has 6 members (out of 13) from the village. We consult them on all major logistic issues, like fees, starting new class or a new activity, building extension, school functions, children’s performance etc. The parents are informed of the progress of their children. Many of the parents keep in touch with us even after their child has graduated from the school. Recently, there has been a lot of requests to upgrade our school up to the higher secondary level. We have asked them help us in improving the standard of our school on three grounds (i) Ensure that children punctually attend the school every day.(ii)They get some time to do school work at home. (iii)Children are given basic hygiene facility and sanitation. We have also requested the parents to regularly deposit the school fee.

***Expansion plans for the future:***

The school is currently affiliated with National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS). However, with the new Right to Education (RTE) act in place, it is expected that NIOS will be discontinued in another year. The school is therefore trying to raise funds and resources to become affiliated with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

Currently we have 12 rooms all-together with nine classes (from KG to VIII) and separate rooms for science lab, library and computer education. Many parents ask for facilities up to class X so that their children can continue in the village itself. We are currently exploring getting more land from the Village Pradhan so that we are able to apply for CBSE affiliation. Once CBSE affiliation is obtained, we will extend the school to Std X.

***Other Support Requested:***

- Developing the computer lab, science lab and library
- Sharing of ideas on using computer as a tool in education, donation of old laptops, software , web material, e-books, animations etc.
- Donations of interesting films,educational toys and books
- Website support, school marketing material like brochures, etc.
- Improvement of sport facilities and vocational training facilities
- Give ideas on moving towards a sustainable school. In order to achieve this self-sustenance, we would have to charge Rs. 365 per child per month. The village children cannot afford this amount. We are having collecting Rs. 40-80 per month from each boy child.

***Names and Contacts of References:***

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## 4. Financial Details

### ***Current/Past Sources of Funds for School:***

- Asha for Education, Seattle chapter, USA.
- Asha for Education, Washington DC chapter, USA
- Focus India Forum, Singapore
- Local Donations in both cash and materials from individuals
- School Fees

### ***Budgets for the past year, current year and next year:***

Year(s)	Budget Amount
10-11	<b>12,64,164</b>
11-12	<b>15,39,560</b>
12-13	<b>18,47,472</b>

### ***Salary expenditure details (monthly):***

Designation	Number	Salary Range
Coordinator (Principal)	1	7700
Teachers	10	2 @ 6500 1 @ 6300 1 @ 6100 2 @ 6000 1 @ 5000 1 @ 4500 1 @ 3800 1 @ 3500
Supporting Staff	1	2000
Volunteer Staff	4	0



**School Fees:** No fees charged from girls, Rs. 40-80 p.m. for boys depending on their standard. All the children regularly pay the fees.

**Total Annual School Budget April 2010-March 2011:**

SN	Particulars	Description	Amount in Rs.
1	Salary of Teachers, Principal, Computer Teacher	61,900 p.m.	742800
2	Supporting Staff	12 months @ Rs. 2000 p.m	24000
3	Medicine & Health	12 months @ Rs. 400 p.m.	4800
4	Nutrition	10 months @ Rs. 9000 p.m.	90000
5	Winter Clothes	100 children @ Rs.100 p.m.	10000
6	Stationery	12 months @ Rs. 1000 p.m.	12000
7	Postal Charges	For affiliation related documents	5000
8	School Functions		
	Republic Day & Independence Day		3000
	School Day		10000
	Science Exhibition		20000
9	Study Tours		48000
10	Maintenance of Building	Repair of roofs, regular maintenance, etc	200000
11	Library		
	i) Text Books (2 sets for each class)	CBSE books until class 12	25000
	ii) Books, Magzines, etc. for Children		20000
	iii)Books, Periodicals, etc. for teachers and adults		20000
12	Laboratory Expenses		
	i) Non-recurring (Sci. Instruments etc.)		20000
	ii) Recurring (Purchase of Small items, chemicals, cost of running Lab, etc.)		20000
13	Games & Sports		20000
14	Teacher's Training Programme		15000
15	Plantation		3000
16	Computer related expenditure (upgradation, CDs, professional charges for training etc.)		50000
17	Printing of Khilkhil magazine	12 <a href="#">issues @ 1000</a> p.m.	12000
18	Scholarship for graduated students (Class IX-XII)	10 scholarship @2500 p.m.	25000
19	Scholarships for current students	15 scholarships @ 1000 p.m.	15000
	<b>Total</b>		<b>1414600</b>
	Office overhead		
	10% of the total		
		141460	
	<b>Grand Total (2011-2012)</b>		
		<b>15,55,060</b>	

**Amount Requested From Asha for Education:** Rs. 10,00,000 (Rupees Ten Lakhs)