

# PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

a) The maximum budget allowed, per project, this Year is **\$15K**. However, if the consolidated amount from all the submitted projects exceeds more than is anticipated by the WAH Team, we reserve the right to reduce the total funds by certain percentage points and transfer the burden equally to all the submitting Projects,

b) The amount in the budget must be **less than total funds sent to this Project from Asha**.

c) The project partner must have permanent **FCRA or already process FCRA prior clearance** and the project needs to be current/ongoing project.

d) At least **2 years of partnership** (disbursal history) between the project partner and Asha.

e) The proposal should be for the **2014 to 2015 fiscal year (India)**. Funds have to be disbursed to the projects before March 2015. No exceptions. If funds are not disbursed in that duration, they will be used to support other WAH14 projects that did not meet their budget. (We will discuss this deadline again during WAH calls if there are any concerns)

f) Chapters should only **put forth budgets that they are willing to support** if the funds from WAH14 does not come thru for any reason.

g) If a project of your chapter is nominated in WAH 2014, you **must definitely have a WAH volunteer who will help the WAH team** on a need-by basis. Failure to communicate with the WAH team for all project needs (Jun 1 - Sep 15) may result in elimination of the project.

# Asha for Education™

## Project Proposal Submission Form

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P.O. Box 322 New York, NY 10040-0322

[www.ashanet.org](http://www.ashanet.org)

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**Project Name:** Jagriti Bal Vikas Samiti - Lodhar Project

**Project URL (on ashanet.org):** <http://www.ashanet.org/projects/project-view.php?p=99>

**Project Approved budget (on ashanet.org):**

**Date:** 06/06/2014

	<b>Project Contact</b>	<b>Asha Contact</b>
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Part I : Information about your group/organization

Please feel free to attach any additional sheets and/or information such as brochures, press reports etc.

1. ***Name of the group/ organization requesting funds.***

**Jagriti Bal Vikas Samiti, Kanpur.**

Organization website - <http://home.iitk.ac.in/~ag/jagriti>

School website - <https://sites.google.com/site/svvlodhar/>

School blog – <http://svvlodhar.blogspot.in/>

2. ***When was the group established?***

The group established (Registered) in 1997 under The Societies Registration Act.

3. ***Briefly described the motivation for starting this group.***

During the late eighties Vivekananda Samiti, a student wing of IIT Kanpur along with a few volunteers from outside took up the challenge of educating the children of migrant labourers on the campus. This activity led to a cooperative movement of migrant labourers in 1991. A group consisting of IIT students, faculty, and social workers continued to teach kids of the members of the cooperative. Around 1994 some members of IIT community and social workers felt the necessity of an independent forum to address the issue of education and welfare of underprivileged children. Thus a journey began.

4. ***Briefly described the aims of your group.***

Our aim is to improve the lives of the children by education. 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 are aware 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, Eklavya, and other groups. The idea is to equip the teachers with new pedagogical methods and conceptual foundations in various subjects. The teachers provide a free and friendly environment to the 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. Many of our alumni have done very well in their future studies.

5. *Does your group have any religious or political affiliation? If yes, please describe the type of affiliation and the reason for it.*

No.

6. *What non education-related community development activities is your group involved in?*

The group is involved in several community development activities benefiting the society at large:

- Health related activities: health awareness programs, health camps, immunization programs, health-related video shows, family planning, first aid and free medicines.
- Counselling and computer training program in village school at Lodhar for older students.
- Mobile library and mobile science lab.
- Vocational training in painting, book binding, tailoring, knitting, handicrafts.
- Evening after-school library for village community.

**Part II : Details about your educational project/s**

7. *List the school/s run by your group, and their locations. If you are requesting funds for only a few of several schools, please specify which one/s*

List of school/s run by your group, and their location. if you are requesting funds for only a few of several school, please specify which one/s.

Sl No	Name of school	Location	No. of Schools
1	Swami Vivekananda Vidyalaya*	Lodhar Village	1

**Requesting funds only for:** Swami Vivekananda Vidyalaya at Lodhar Village

\*Note: The organization also runs a variety of non formal education centers as need be around Kanpur & Lodhar, Asha also supports this but has a different project listing - <http://www.ashanet.org/projects/project-view.php?p=99>

8. **Location of School/s**                      Urban                      Rural                      Other  
 Rural (Close to an urban area but still quite remote).

9. **Specify the type of education provided** (e.g. basic literacy Alphabetical & Numerical along with Skills enhancement and vocational training etc.)

10. ***Please tell us about your teaching techniques (conventional vs. alternative).***

We use innovative teaching techniques to impart effective education. It is hands-on and interactive where the emphasis is on learning by doing. For instance, children conduct science experiments, make maps of their school and village, visit nearby farms and fields to collect samples of soil, seeds, flowers, roots, insects etc. We hold science workshops (on human body, Digestive system, Skeleton 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. As part of our annual Social Science event children make very interesting charts depicting various aspects of India and the Indian culture, different states of India and their salient features. We have ten computers with internet connectivity that are used by children. Our prime focus is on the all-round development of the students. Apart from regular studies, they are encouraged to make wall magazine, write stories and poetry. There is a regular drawing class in our school for all children. Occasionally, cultural events are organized in which children present skits, songs, etc. Besides, there is no corporal punishment in the school and the teaching philosophy is one of compassion for the students.

11. ***What is the literacy rate in the local community?***

The village Lodhar has close to 100% literacy (excluding very old people). The main reason for this accomplishment is our school.

12. ***Describe the socio-economic background of the children and their parents (e.g. education, occupational). If any of your students are employed, please tell us about that as well.***

The adults in the villages work either in agriculture (50%), or work in and around the city as laborers. There are only a couple of well-to-do families of land owners and rich farmers. Most villagers are generally poor. Many young men and boys have at least elementary education. The caste divide in the rural India is very sharp. In Lodhar and neighboring villages we have people predominantly from OBC, Brahmins, Muslims, and schedule castes. However, the school is above any caste or religious bias and strictly adheres to secular and humanist perspective. Usually boys of age 13 and above go to work in the fields of their parents or other land owning farmers. Most of the girls of age 10 and above help in the household chores like cooking, fetching water, washing, looking after younger siblings etc. Many are forced to quit school 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 neighbouring areas. It is worth mentioning that our school provides free education to girls. Over the last several years parents' interest in educating their children has increased; we receive overwhelming number of requests for joining our school.

13. ***In addition to education, does your group provide any other services to the children in your schools (e.g. food, health care, clothing etc.)***

- Nutrition every other day (chana, puffed rice, fruits, groundnut, jaggery etc.).

- A rich library with more than 10000 books.
- A well-maintained science laboratory.
- A well equipped computer laboratory with internet connectivity. We have also started to recently experiment with using tablets in our curriculum.
- Health camps, immunization programs, visits by health workers and doctors.
- Sweaters, books, stationary to many needy children.
- Education tours (this year senior children were taken to Lucknow visited Science city, Cimaxshow movie and dinosaur park. Besides it they saw Imambara and Planetarium. 3-D show on a
- One -day trip and junior classes visited the local zoo).
- **Science Club activities** - The annual Science fair is well attended. This year, close to 700 people from neighbouring areas attended it.

14. *Does your school have :*

9 classrooms (all pakka), 1 science lab, 1 computer lab, 1 library, and 1 office.

Toilets: Yes

Playground: Yes

Toys: Yes

Chairs & Tables: Yes

Blackboards/Greenboards: Yes

Library: Yes

Drinking water: Yes

Electricity: Yes

Laboratory: Yes

Teaching aids (e.g. books/slates): Yes

Computers,laptops and tablets: Yes

15. *How many children are currently enrolled in your school (s)?*

**Total strength:** 264

**Boy: Girl ratio:** 40:60

**Teacher: Student ratio:** 1:25

16. *How many staffs are employed at your schools?*

Teachers 11; Minimum Qualifications: Graduate with B. Ed. Other staff: 1 Caretaker.

17. *Average distance the children travel to attend your school.*

Five kilometre.

18. *How many children have gone through program in the past five years and what are they doing currently ? Please tell us about their future education and employment possibilities.*

Our school has been running since 1996. So far about 1600 students (900 girls and 700 boys) have graduated from our school. The number could have been higher if the school was in an urban area. Ten students from our school have successfully finished their first college degree. Seven of them are continuing education in the neighboring higher secondary school and two boys have started to work. Some of these students are very bright and are keen to study further. Some of our alumni are pursuing higher studies --

B.E, BBA, B.Tech, BSc, etc. 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 12th standard and possibly even further. We are giving scholarship to three girls for their studies after they have graduated from our school.

**19. *Do you help your students with their future education efforts after they have passed out of your 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 and Social Science mela and cultural activities, educational tours etc. as volunteers so that they can also participate and display their models. This enhances their self-esteem and gives them a sense of achievement in their otherwise strife ridden lives. We are planning to provide vocational training and English tutoring to 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 eighth standard. 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. We are trying to work out, if transportation could be arranged for some of the girls, so that they could continue their studies.

**20. *Are there any other schools (Kindergarten/ Balwadi, Elementary school, High school) in the area? If so, please list the schools and the range of classes each of them offers.***

There is a government primary school in the village, where education standard is very poor. There are several private schools (up to intermediate level) in the neighbouring village, Nankari (located 2 kms away).

**21. *Is your program different from that provided at these schools? Please explain.***

Our program is fundamentally different than the existing education system, which is unfriendly, rote & information based. Also the student-teacher relationship is a distant one in generic schools. In our school, learning is participatory, dialog and activity based. The teacher-student relationship is like friends and guides. Our children get to do science experiments, make charts, models etc, something which is unheard of in many private and governments schools, where most of the teaching material is either missing or is nicely locked up in almirahs and cupboards. There is a lot of emphasis on free communication. As a result, they are quite good in creative writing, expression, drawing, and skits, making models. In our school, students are not beaten up the way most government and private schools freely do. In our school education is free for girls and we charge minimal fee for the boys and this itself makes our school unique compared to other schools. We give adequate space to outdoor and indoor games which nowadays is non-existent in most of the government and public schools being run in two room houses.

**22. *Why are the children in your school/s not attending Government/ other schools in the local area?***

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experiments, make charts, models etc, something which is unheard of in many private and governments schools, where most of the teaching material is either missing or is nicely locked up in almirahs and cupboards. There is a lot of emphasis on free communication. As a result, they are quite good in creative writing, expression, drawing, and skits, making models. In our school, students are not beaten up the way most government and private schools freely do. In our school education is free for girls and we charge minimal fee for the boys and this itself makes our school unique compared to other schools. We give adequate space to outdoor and indoor games which nowadays is non-existent in most of the government and public schools being run in two room houses.

Ours is the best school in the neighbourhood in terms of complete education. There is a huge demand for enrolment in our school. Besides, our school fee is the lowest in the neighbourhood. Most parents with very low income send their children to our school. In addition, our school is situated right in the village. Both the factors act as a boon so far as girls from poor families are concerned. Their parents have no excuse to stop their daughters from attending the school. This is a great help to many parents as they can send their girl children to school without any worry.

**23. *Do you try to involve the parents of the children in the running of the school (e.g. in setting the syllabus etc.)? Please specify.***

We meet the parents regularly, on an average every three months. 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 about the progress of their children. They are quite cooperative. For several years, many of the parents have been requesting us to upgrade the school to the higher secondary level. We have asked them to 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; and (iii) children are given basic hygiene facility and sanitation.

**24. *What are your expansion plans for the future (e.g. adding more classes or schools)***

Currently, we have 13 rooms altogether with nine classes (from KG to VIII) and separate rooms for office, science lab, library and computer education. Many parents ask for facilities up to class X so that their children can continue their education in the village itself. This will require more land. We explored getting more land from the village Pradhan and are hopeful that something will happen soon in this regard. However, extending the school for higher classes will require more infrastructure and more resources for teacher's salary etc. We are open to ideas on this front.

The school is poised to impact the village significantly in the next five years. It is already the nucleus of several activities for the village (health-camps, library, internet, etc.). The school is trying to ensure that every child, especially girls, from the village is exposed to a clean and honest environment for working towards a meaningful future.

**25. *Do you have any suggestions on how Asha can be a positive influence in changing the education scenario in India?***

26. *If possible, please provide us with the contact information of two individuals from your community who can describe the impact of your program.*

1	Name		2	Name	
	Address			Address	
	Phone			Phone	

27. *Asha for Education requires reports from its projects every six months to continue funding. Please provide the contact information for the person from your group who will be responsible for these reports.*

Name	<b>Anurag Gupta</b>
Address	<a href="mailto:ag@iitk.ac.in">ag@iitk.ac.in</a> , Department of Mechanical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur - 208 016, India.
Phone	917275002345

**Part : III Financial Details.**

Please feel free to attach any information such as annual reports, budgets etc.

28. *What sources fund your group's activities at present ? List the sources and the current and future funding from each of them. If these funds are meant for a specific part of your group's activities, please describe those restrictions.*

Source of fund	Activities	Specific activities
CAF India		
IIT Kanpur		
Individual Donors		
Asha for Education		

29. *Please provide us with details of your projected budget for the next 3 years:*

Year (s)	Recurring Costs	Fixed costs
2014-2015	INR 1708200	INR 130000
2015-2016	~INR 1800000	Currently not available
2016-2017	~INR 1880000	Currently not available

10. *Salary expenditure details:*

	Number	Salary range
<b>Teachers</b>	10	INR 95000 per month
<b>Paid staff</b>	2	INR 17,000 per month
<b>Volunteer staff</b>	Multiple students from IITK	No Salary
	<b>Total:</b>	INR 1,344,000



31. ***Please provide details of the fixed costs of your school/s for the next three years.***  
Repair of roofs, regular maintenance

32. ***How many of your students pay school fee? Please provide details.***  
All male (~106 students) students pay between INR 40-80 per month.

33. ***What amount are you requesting from Asha, and for what specific purpose?***  
Refer to pages 9-11 of the attached budget proposal

34. ***What is the status of this project in terms of RTE compliance (if the RTE bill applies to this project, please provide further details)***

35. ***For what period are the above funds requested?***  
Academic year 2014-15

**To Be Answered by The submitting Chapter**

**36. In case WAH could not raise the funds for this proposal, what is the back up plan for the chapter?**

If WAH funds are not available for the this project, the chapter will try to raise money for this project through their regular fund raising opportunity and will try to seek for additional one time donors from the Cornell community.

**37. (WAH Specific)**

- A. **Impact:** What is the reach and impact that the project has had on the local community? What fundamental problem(s) does the project address? Please provide concrete examples, numbers etc. Please provide at least one impact story/example that could be used to showcase your project during WAH.

The locality surrounding the school has almost 100% literacy owing to the efforts of this school. The school has free education for girls, thereby providing ways for increased education of women. Please refer to this website for some success stories of the school - <https://sites.google.com/site/svvlodhar/about-us/our-pride>

- B. **Innovation:** Does your project employ an innovative model? If so, in what area and how? Can this be replicated across other projects?

The school has a very innovative science program and students are involved with scientific experiments, model making etc..The school also has a very good support system for students who pass out of the school and helps them with scholarships (if required).

- C. **Quality:** Within the context of the community, resources and the type of school the project runs, has anything been done to improve the quality of the project, ie., improving overall efficiency, quality of education, infrastructure, improving health and nutrition and awareness, etc. ? If so, what has been done and how was this accomplished?

This school has good infrastructure - pakka classroom including science and computer lab, library and has a good student-teacher ratio of 1:25. Further the school requires the teachers to have some basic teaching qualifications such as B.Ed.

- D. **Sustainability:** Is the project entirely dependent on funds from Asha for Education?

- i) If so, has anything been done to procure other funding for the project? Why/Why not?

Supported by other sources too.

- ii) If not, what other types of funding are available to the project, and what

percentage of their expenses is funded by Asha? Is there an alternate source of funding that other projects could benefit from?

The school also gets funds from other sources such CAF India, IIT Kanpur and other several individual donors. Last year, Asha Cornell supported about 12% of this project costs, we mainly supported only the teaching costs at the school.

- iii) Self sustainability - Has the project taken steps towards self-sustenance? If so, what are the plans for the project in the next two years?

They are still addressing the major needs for the school – such as infrastructure and enrolment, at this time of growth they are also contemplating establishing a corpus fund that can help it sustain itself.

- E. **Scope & Growth:** Are there plans to expand the scope of the project? If so, in what way? Has the scope of the project expanded in previous years of operation? If so, how was that accomplished?

The school is very ably run by professors from IIT Kanpur and they are making a lot of efforts to make this school more accessible to students (like providing bus services to girls so as to encourage them to attend school etc.). The school has general PTA meetings to talk to parents and address the major concerns. Efforts are being made to make the school cheaper without loss of quality of teaching by trying to establish corpus funds. There is more information in the project proposal above (Q.24).

- F. **Merit:** Why did you choose to submit this project, as opposed to any others you may have considered to submit, to WAH 2014?

We are a relatively small chapter in terms of raising money through events and depend largely on WAH funds to completely support our bigger projects. Further, it is to be noted that this project is extremely well run and provides great input to their local community and is an ideal example for other schools than can be funded by Asha for Education.

**NOTE:** A projects team consisting entirely of reviewers from chapters which have NOT submitted a project will be responsible for final evaluation of the individual projects.