

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

**A project proposal**

<b>Contact Information</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  
<http://home.iitk.ac.in/~ag/jagriti>

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

Informally working since 1990; registered under The Societies Registration Act in 1997.

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

- Health related activities: health awareness program, health camps, immunization program, health video shows, family planning. First aid and free medicines.
- Counseling and Computer training program in village school at Lodhar for older students..
- Mobile library and mobile science lab.
- Vocational training in paintings, book binding, tailoring, knitting, handicrafts. Very soon a teacher will be appointed for the same.
- Evening after school library for village children and adults.

**4. Does your organization have FCRA clearance from the Indian government? This is required for you to receive foreign funds.**

Yes.

No. 136530060, dated: 29 November 2001, through letter No. II/21022/73(146)/2001-FCRA.III

**5. 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.**

- 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.

**6. Location of school/s : Rural (Close to an urban area but still quite remote)**

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

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 wall magazine, write stories and poetry and make drawings 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. There is a regular drawing class in our school for all the children. We have around ten 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.

**8. What is the literacy rate in your local 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).

**9. 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 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.

As is a well known fact the caste divide in the rural India is very sharp. In Lodhar and neighboring villages we have predominantly some OBC, Yadav, Brahmins, Muslims and schedule castes. However the school is above any caste or religious bias and strictly adheres to secular and humanist perspective.

There is a government school very close to our school in Lodhar village; it only provides primary level 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 the household with 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.

**10. What is the admission criteria for the students to join your school?**

All the children of village Lodhar are given admission on a priority basis. The remaining seats are allotted on a first come first serve.

**How many children attend your school currently?** 320

**What is your boy:girl ratio?** Approximately 40:60

**What is your teacher:student ratio?** 1:30

**11. 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 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.

**12. How do you perceive that education will improve the lives of the children in your village?**

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, Eklavya, 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.

**13. Does your school have:**

Its own building(s): Yes Number 1  
Number and type of classrooms (e.g. Pukka): 8 classrooms (all pukka) and 1 science lab room

	Yes	No		Yes	No		Yes	No
Toilets	Yes		Playground	Yes		Toys	Yes	
Chairs & Tables	Yes		Blackboards	Yes		Library	Yes	
Drinking water		Yes	Electricity		Sometimes	Computers		Yes
Laboratory	Yes		Teaching aids (e.g. books/slates)			Yes		

**14. What is the age group of the children currently enrolled in your school(s)?**

5 years to 15 years

**15. How many staff are employed at your schools?**

Teachers 10 Minimum Qualifications: Graduate

**Other staff:** 1 Caretaker

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

**17. Please answer this if your school has existed for at least 5 years. How many children have gone through your program in the past five years and what are they doing currently? Please tell us about their future education possibilities. How would you visualize their future employment possibilities?**

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. Ten students from our school have successfully finished their first college degree. The number could have been higher, if the school was in an urban area. Seven of them are continuing education in the neighboring higher secondary school; two boys have started to work; most girls are doing household work. We are giving scholarship to three girls for their studies after they have passed out from our school after 8<sup>th</sup> standard. Some of these students are very bright and are keen to study further. We will try to support them till whatever stage they are willing to go. Some of them may get absorbed in Jagriti activities (press, teaching, computers, marketing etc.) in future. There are some that have gone on to higher studies, - B.E, BSc, etc. For various socio-economic reasons the drop out rate like most rural areas in the country is very high.

**18. Do you help your students with their future education efforts after they have passed out of your school? If so please describe your efforts.**

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. and 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 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. We are trying to work out, if transportation could be arranged for some of the girls, so that they could continue their studies.

#### Scholarships to current students

**19. 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 neighboring village, Nankari (located 2 kms away).

**20. 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 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. In our school students are not beaten up the way most government and private schools freely do. Teachers have been instructed to exercise maximum restraint. 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 now a days is non-existent in most of the government and public schools being run in two room houses. The teacher-student relationship is like friends and guides. Some villagers of course complain that in our school children are not properly beaten up with sticks. These parents still have older notions of 'spare the rod, spoil the child.' Our children get to do Science experiments, make charts, models etc, 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 almiras and cupboards.

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

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

**22. 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 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. They are quite cooperative. In the last meeting many of the parents requested us 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.

**23. What are your expansion plans for the future (e.g. adding more classes or schools)? How do you see your school impacting the village five years from now?**

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. Currently we have no plan for extending school for higher classes as that will require more infrastructure and more resources for teacher's salary etc. However, we are open to ideas on this. We explored getting more land from the Village Pradhan and are hopeful that something will happen in this regard. Once we have more land, we can try to extend to Std. X.

**24. Do you have any suggestions for us?**

- . Lodhar school has a computer lab, a science lab and a library. We are looking for ideas on developing these.
- . 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
- . Maintain website, make brochures, collect newsletters and articles
- . Help us upgrade sport activities for the school children.
- . Vocational training for older children.
- . Give ideas on retaining manpower and strengthening the organization
- . Give ideas on moving towards a sustainable school. In order to achieve this self-sustenance, we would have to charge Rs. 350 per child per month. The village children cannot afford this amount. We are having collecting Rs. 60 per month from each boy child.

**25.. 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	Mr. Mahendra Dwivedi	2. Name	Prof. Rekha
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Address	Coordinator, ASHA India
	A893, Indira Nagar
	Lucknow- 226016
Phone	0522-2347365

○Address	Department of Mathematics and Statistics
	IIT Kanpur
	Kanpur 208016
○Phone	0512-2598562

**26. 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	Mvdhav
Address	Jagriti Bal Vikas Samiti Village: Lodhar, Po. Mandhana Distt: Kanpur U.P INDIA
Phone	919005776138
email	<a href="mailto:rajugaur@rediffmail.com">rajugaur@rediffmail.com</a>



● **Part III: Financial Details**

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

**27. 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.**

ASHA-SV for Education for the children of migrant labourer (MLP):  
Year 2002-03

Association for India's Development (AID):

ASHA-Seattle:

for Swami Vivekananda Vidyalaya - Lodhar, Organizational expenditure, and curriculum development

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

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Year(s)	Budget Amount
08-09	678040.00
09-10	745844.00
10-11	10,53,470.00

**29. Salary expenditure details:**

	Numbers	Salary Range
Coordinator (Principal)	1	6700/- per month
Teachers	10	4000/- per month
Mobile Library Incharge	1	3200/- per month
Computer Instructor	1	3000/- per month
Supporting Staff	1	1500/- per month
Volunteer Staff	4	0/-

**30. Please provide details of the fixed costs of your school/s for the next three years.**

Not applicable

**31. How many of your students pay school fees? Please provide details.**

There is a fee waiver for all the girls. All boys pay the fees right now of about Rs. 40- Rs. 80 depending on their class.

**32. What amount are you requesting from Asha, and for what specific purpose?**

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	24000
3	Medicine & Health	12 months @ Rs. 400	4800
4	Nutrition	10 months @ Rs. 9000	90000
5	Winter Clothes	100 children @ Rs.100	10000
6	Stationery	12 months @ Rs. 1000	12000
7	Postal Charges	For affiliation documents	5000
8	School Functions		
	Republic Day & Independence Day		3000
	School Day		10000
	Science Exhibition		20000
9	Study Tours		40000
10	Visit to Zoo		8000
11	Maintenance of Building	Repair of roofs, regular maintenance, etc	200000
12	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
13	Laboratory Expenses		
	i) Non-recurring (Sci. Instruments etc.)		20000
	ii) Recurring (Purchase of Small items, chemicals, cost of running Lab, etc.)		20000
14	Games & Sports		10000
15	Educational Toys		10000
16	Teacher's Training Programme		
	i) Conducting one large scale Training Workshop with 50 participants, for four days		15000
	a) Materials (Rs. 4,000)		
	b) Food/Refreshment (Rs. 50 x 50 x 4 days = 10,000)		
	c) Conveyance/Transportation Charges (1000/-)		
20	Plantation		3000
21	Computer related expenditure (upgradation, CDs, professional charges for training etc.)		50000

23	Printing of Khilkhil	12 issues@1000	12000
24	Scholarship for graduated students (Class IX-XII)	10 scholarship @2500	25000
	Total		1399600
	Office overhead	10% of the total	139960
	<b>Grand Total (2011-2012)</b>		<b>1539560</b>