

**Empowering Girl students
In
Swami Vivekananda Vidyalaya
Lodhar Village, Near IIT Kanpur
Uttar Pradesh**



**Project Proposal
April 2021-March 2022**

A summary: SVV: PROMOTING GIRL EDUCATION

In India, female children typically get less privileges compared to boys, Swami Vivekananda Vidyalaya (SVV), has focussed on girl education since the beginning (1997). For many years, we provided free education to girls. At present, due to fund shortage, we take nominal fee from girls (see Table below). As we describe below, SVV emphasizes on innovative and child-friendly education with a philosophy of *learning by doing*. We combine curricular excellence with complete personality development. For the same we organize many events, such as Vigyan mela, cultural functions, educational tours, sports and quiz competitions. Girls perform very well in these events. The lady teachers also discuss gender-related issues with the girl children.

The children like the school so much that the graduated students remain connected with the school. We have been providing scholarships to the graduating children when they go for higher classes (class 9 onwards) depending on the availability of funds.

In this proposal, we propose the following (see the budget section for details):

1. Free books to all the girl children
2. Scholarships to 100 girls in our school + 10 scholarships to the graduating girls
3. Advanced computer training + Vocational training to all the girls in the school (class 5 onwards) and to the alumnus.
4. Partial support to the teachers who will participate in the above activities.

Duration: 3 years

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of the parent organization	Jagriti Bal Vikas Samiti (JBVS)
Contact	Mahendra Verma (mkv@iitk.ac.in): School Coordinator
Other contacts	Madhav Ranganathan (madhavr@iitk.ac.in): Secretary, JBVS Prabal K Maiti (prabalmaiti@gmail.com): President, JBVS Annapurna Dixit (annapurna4201@gmail.com): Principal, Swami Vivekananda Vidyalaya Raju Gaur (rajugaurjbvs@gmail.com): Administrative Coordinator, JBVS
Address	Jagriti Bal Vikas Samiti Village: Lodhar, Po. Mandhana Distt: Kanpur U.P. INDIA
Phone(s)	8953903078 (Mahendra K. Verma) 9140659959 (Annapurna Dixit)

Part I: Information about your group/organization and school

1. Name of the group/organization requesting funds.

Jagriti Bal Vikas Samiti, Kanpur.

Organization website - <https://sites.google.com/site/jbvsamiti/>

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

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

School Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/svvlodhar/>

School YouTube channel- <https://www.youtube.com/user/ankit66281/featured>

Tablet website - <https://sites.google.com/site/svvtab/home>

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

3. Non-education related community development activities.

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.
- Vocational training in painting, book binding, handicrafts.

4. FCRA clearance from the Indian government and requirements for us to receive foreign funds

Details: FCRA Registration No. 136530060, dated: 29 November 2001, through letter No.

II/21022/73(146)/2001-FCRA.III

On 20.05.2016 we have received the renewed certificate, valid for a period of five years with effect from 01-11-2016.

5. The School run by our group and its location.

- Swami Vivekananda Vidyalaya, Lodhar, Kanpur. **We are requesting funding for this school in the present proposal.**

6. Location of school/s:

Rural (Close to an urban area)

7. About our 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 thirteen computers with internet connectivity that are used by children. Children are using apps for many topics on tablets. 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.



8. The literacy rate in our local community.

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

9. The socio-economic background of the children and their parents (e.g. education, occupational).

The adults in the villages work either in agriculture (50%), or work in and around the city as labourers. 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 neighbouring 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.

10. The admission criterion for the students to join our school.

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

Children's strength: 310 (expected)

Boy: Girl ratio: 2:3

Teacher: Student ratio: 1:28

11. In addition to education our group provides other services also to the children in our schools (e.g. food, health care, clothing, etc.)

- Nutrition every other day (chana, puffed rice, fruits, groundnut, jaggery etc.).
- A rich library with approximately 12,000 books.
- A well-maintained science laboratory.
- A well equipped computer laboratory with internet connectivity.
- Health camps, immunization program, visits by health workers and doctors.
- Sweaters, books, stationery to many needy children.
- Education tours (Every year senior children are taken to some historical places like Mathura & Agra on a two-day trip and junior classes visit some local places like Bithoor, JK Temple & Zoo Kanpur etc.).



- **Science Club activities** - The annual Science fair is one of the main activity of our school. Students of around 15 nearby schools visit on this event and learn to prepare the working models of science. Every year around 700 to 800 people from neighbouring areas attended it.



12. Our aim is to improve the lives of the children by education.

We aim to provide our children with 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.

(Also see item 18.)

13. Our school has its own building(s)

14. Number and type of classrooms (e.g. Pukka): 9 classrooms (all pukka), 1 science lab, 1 computer lab, 1 library, and 1 office.

Infrastructure	Yes/No
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. The age group of the children currently enrolled in our school-
5 years to 15 years.

16. Our staff -

Teachers 11; Minimum Qualifications: Graduate with B. Ed.

Other staff: 1 Caretaker.

17. Average distance the children travel to attend our school:
Seven kilometres.

18. Our Alumni and their future employment possibilities

Our school has been running since 1996. So far 337 students (182 girls and 155 boys) have passed class 8th from our school. The number could have been higher if the school was in an urban area. Some of these students are very bright and are keen to study further. Some of our alumni are pursuing higher studies – B.A., M.A., B.B.A., B.Tech., B.Sc., M.Sc., and B.Ed. 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 graduated from our school.

19. We help our students with their future education efforts after they have passed out of our 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 (6 KM) 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. Other schools in our area-

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. We are different from other School because – 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 participation, 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, skits and 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. Huge demand for enrolment in our school because -

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. Parent-Teachers Association. (PTA)

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. Our future plans and impact of our school- 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 the possibilities of 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. Self Defence Training – Due to increment in crime rate happening in our environment it becomes necessary for girls to be self dependent and self sufficient to face any kind of challenge in their life. To do so we are encouraging and motivating our students to learn self defence program, So that when any Non-happening condition comes to them they can save themselves and if needed others also who in need.

We want to introduce training program for the same, So that they get properly trained for it and be self capable for them.



26. School fees (Computer)-

There is a fee waiver for all the girls. All girls pay the Computer fees right now of about Rs. 50- Rs. 100 depending on their class.

S.No.	Class	Fee
1	1 – 2	50
2	3 – 5	70
3	6 – 8	100

27. The details of year budget for 100 girl students are as follows.

S No.	Particulars	Description	Amount in Rs.
1	Uniform (1 sets per head)	100*Rs1200	120000
2	Stationery	100 * Rs. 1500	150000
3	Medicine & Health	1200	1200
4	Sports & self defence training	12* Rs 5000 p.m.	60000
5	Art & Craft + vocational training	12*5000 p.m.	60000
6	Scholarship for graduated students (Class IX-XII)	10 scholarship @2500 p.a.	25000
7	Partial salaries of 4 supporting Teachers (including computer teacher)	4*12*4000/- p.m.	192000
	Total		6,08,200/-
	Total for 3 years		18,24,600/-

Justification: 1. We will provide uniforms to 100 girls. We will select these students among all the students based on academic performance. If project continues, we will be able to provide uniforms to all the girls every two years.

2. Vocational & art-craft training will be useful to students for generating income. We plan to sell the products of the school among the campus residents.

3. Average salary of the teachers of our school is 15,000/- pm. We request for partial salary support to 4 teachers who will aid in the above activities, e.g., vocational and computer training.