

Swami Vivekananda Vidyalaya
Lodhar Village, Near IIT Kanpur
Uttar Pradesh



Project Proposal
2013-2014

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of the parent organization	Jagriti Bal Vikas Samiti (JBVS)
Contact	Anurag Gupta (ag@iitk.ac.in): School Coordinator
Other contacts	Madhav Ranganathan (madhavr@iitk.ac.in): Secretary, JBVS Prabal K Maiti (prabalmaiti@gmail.com): President, JBVS Mahendra Verma (mkv@iitk.ac.in): Executive member, JBVS Brajesh Kumar (brajeshminu@gmail.com): Principal, Swami Vivekananda Vidyalaya
Address	Jagriti Bal Vikas Samiti Village: Lodhar, Po. Mandhana Distt: Kanpur U.P. INDIA
Phone(s)	917275002345 (Anurag Gupta) 919415086325 (Madhav Ranganathan)

Part I: Information about your group/organization and school

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/>

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

Registered in 1997 under The Societies Registration Act.

3. **What non-education related community development activities is/was 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.

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

Yes. Details: FCRA 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 proposal.** The rest of the proposal is pertaining to this school.
- Non formal schools for 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).**

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.



8. What is the literacy rate in your local community?

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

9. Describe 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. What is the admission criterion for the students to join your 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.

How many children attend your school currently? 280

What is your boy: girl ratio? 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 8000 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, stationary to many needy children.
- Education tours (this year senior children were taken to Agra on a two-day trip and junior classes visited the local zoo).

- Science Club activities. The annual Science fair is well attended. Last year, close to 600 people from neighbouring areas attended it.



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 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 17.)

13. Does your school have:

Its own building(s): Yes

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	Yes
Library	Yes

Drinking water	Yes
Electricity	Yes
Laboratory	Yes
Teaching aids (e.g. books/slates)	Yes
Computers (including laptops and tablets)	Yes

14. What is the age group of the children currently enrolled in your school?

5 years to 15 years.

15. How many staff are employed at your school?

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

Other staff: 1 Caretaker.

16. Average distance the children travel to attend your school:

One kilometre.

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. 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 neighbouring 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, BTech, 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.

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. 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.

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 neighbouring village, Nankari (located 2kms 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, 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.

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 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.

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 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.

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 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.

24. Do you have any suggestions for us?

- Lodhar school has a computer lab, a science lab and a library. We are looking for donated equipments and ideas on developing these labs.
- Sharing of ideas on using computer as a tool in education, donation of old laptops and tablets, software, web material, e-books, animations etc.
- Donations of interesting films, educational toys and books.
- Maintain website and make brochures.
- 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 making it 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 collecting Rs. 40 to 80 per month from each boy child depending on his class and there is a fee waiver for all the girls. For long term sustainability, we are planning on building a one crore rupees corpus whose annual profit can be used to (largely) take care of salaries.

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	Prof. Harish Chandra Verma
	Address	Department of Physics, IIT Kanpur 208016
	Phone	+915122597681; 9935271481 (mobile)
2	Name	Prof. Saikat Ghosh
	Address	Department of Physics, IIT Kanpur Kanpur 208016
	Phone	+918953443258

26. Please provide the contact information for the person from your group who will be responsible for the progress reports.

Name	Anurag Gupta
Address	Department of Mech. Engg., IIT Kanpur Kanpur 208016 U.P. INDIA
Phone	917275002345
Email	ag@iitk.ac.in

Part II – Financial Details

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.**

We are currently being funded by Asha for education and several individual donors. We have also received a support of one lakh rupees from IIT Kanpur, through its newly launched social outreach program.

28. **Salary expenditure details:**

	Numbers	Salary Range
Principal	1	10500/- per month
Teachers	10	8250/- per month
Supporting Staff	1	3000/- per month

29. **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.

30. **The details of present budget (2013-14) are as follows.**

S No.	Particulars	Description	Amount in Rs.
1	Salary of Teachers, Principal, and the supporting staff	96,000 p.m.	1152000
2	Medicine & Health	12 months @ Rs. 500 p.m.	6000
3	Nutrition	10 months @ Rs. 11000 p.m.	110000
4	Winter Clothes	150 children	15000

5	Stationery	12 months @ Rs. 1100 p.m.	13200
	School Functions		
6	Republic Day & Independence Day		5000
7	School Day		12000
	Science Exhibition		25000
	Study Tours		50000
	Maintenance of Building	Repair of roofs, regular maintenance	100000
	Library		
8	Text Books (2 sets for each class)	CBSE books until class 12	5000
9	Books, Magazines, etc. for Children		20000
	Books, Periodicals, etc. for teachers and adults		7000
	Laboratory Expenses		
	Non-recurring (Science Instruments etc.)		20000
14	Recurring (Purchase of Small items, chemicals, cost of running Lab, etc.)		20000
	Games & Sports		20000
	Teacher's Training Program		15000
15	Computer related expenditure (up gradation, CDs, professional charges for training etc.)		5000
16	Printing of Khilkhil magazine	6 issues Rs. 500 each	3000
17	Scholarship for graduated students (Class IX-XII)	10 scholarship @2500 p.m.	25000
18	Scholarships for current students	15 scholarships @ 1000 p.m.	15000
19			

Total	1643200
Office overhead 5% of the total	75634
Grand Total (2012-2013)	1725360