

WAH 2002 Project Proposal

1. Name of the Organization:

Seva Chakkara Samajam (Seva Chakkara Orphanage School)

2. Date of Establishment: 1986

3. Please give the following if available:

a)Registration Number (Public Trust Act): 282 -1990

b)Tax Exemption Certificate Number:

DIT(E) no 2(86) 9495 dated 1-3-2000 sec.80G ITax

c)Exemption Valid Dates:

31-3-2002, renewal application has already been submitted

d)FCRA Number:

11/21022/94(185)/2001 -FCRA-IV dated August 8, 2001

4. How the organization was created and what are the types of activities it provides:

Mr. Velayudham is the founder of Seva Chakkara Samajam. A dedicated social worker who started the Samajam with the motto *Live to serve*. His desire was to create a caring and humane society, with the goal of uplifting the poor, downtrodden, mentally and physically disabled, and destitute children through residential education. He founded the Samajam, in 1986 with limited funds, and started with 5 handicapped orphaned children. Slowly, his work began to receive some recognition in the local Tamil newspapers, and with the aid of philanthropists, the Samajam primarily runs an orphanage, which currently provides a home for 72 children, and a school, the Seva Chakkara Orphanage School, to educate these children from Grades 1 through 5.

The reasons for running the *primary school* at the orphanage are:

- (a) The orphanage is located in a busy industrial area. By enrolling very young children in early grades, the Samajam ensures the safety and protection of these youngsters, who are too young to venture out without supervision.
- (b) Local schools are disruptive and rowdy for the very young children. The Samajam wants the children to learn in a calm and peaceful environment.
- (c) The orphans come from many different backgrounds and many come from villages. Many of the children do not have the required transfer certificates and proof of their grade. These children not accepted in local schools at their level of entry. At SCOS, the children are placed in classes according to ability. They are given an education so as to prepare them to take the Grade 6 open

examinations, which are conducted by the local schools.

The orphanage does not own any land, and due to limited space, it is not recognized by the government, since it does not satisfy the space requirements of government-recognized schools

After successfully completing Grade 5 at SCOS, the children seek higher education, and admission in the local schools, to join Grade 6. They take *open examinations* administered by the local schools. The local schools accept Transfer Certificates issued either by the President, or by an honorary Headmaster, and grants admission to those children who pass the open examinations. *All children continue to live at the orphanage* and their educational and living expenses are borne by the Samajam.

As the children grow older, the Samajam tries to provide them with *vocational training*, on a case-by-case basis. Recently, over the last few months, they have also tried to provide computer and typewriting education for children in Grade 8 and onwards.

Although most of the activities are for the children, the Samajam also provides what they can for helpless people who have nowhere else to go this includes a few elderly people who do not have any one to take care of them, and women who have been abused by their husbands. They attempt to find jobs for these women through donors, and support them until they become self-sufficient.

5. Names and Background of the directors of the organization:

The following is the committee that oversees the functioning of the orphanage:

1. M. Lakshminarasimhan : Honorary President: BA, BL (Judge Retd)
2. J. Dharamchand Lunkarji : Honorary Vice President (social worker & businessman)
3. K. Vaikunta Rao: Honorary Legal Adviser
4. D. Veeraraghavan: Chief Patron, I.I.T.M Professor, Chennai
5. N. Radhakrishnan: Deputy Sec, State Bank of India Puraswalkam Branch
6. R. Satyanarayanan: Honorary Auditor
7. A. Velayudham: founder, Honorary Sec
8. K. Lakshmi: Administrative Officer, Senior inmate of the orphanage
9. P. S. Srikanth: Public Relations Officer
10. S. Annamalai Chettiar: Patron Social Worker and Businessman
11. Padmanabha Iyyer : Project Convener, Samskrit Teacher

6. Name, Address, phone and email of the contact in the US.

Sanjeev Ranganathan,

501 W 121st, #32C, New York, NY 10027
Phone: 212-854-4685 (lab), 212-749-8664 (home),
E-mail: presi@cisl.columbia.edu

7. Name, Address, phone and email of the contact in India:

Mr. A. Velayudham,
C/O Seva Chakkara Samajam (Regd)
84/41 Swami Pillai Street,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India. 600112
Phone: 91-44-5383195
E-mail: srimatpapaji@vsnl.net

8. Number of administrative and field staff:

17 (including volunteers)

There are 5 administrative staff that includes their accountant, Sumati, also doubles as a teacher for the primary school.

There are 2 full-time paid teachers(Gauribai and Sukanya) and 2 volunteer teachers.

There are 7 other staff members who are required to run the orphanage for example cooks, sanitary worker, etc.

They also pay Rs. 2000 monthly to a medical attendant, who is also an on-call ambulance driver. This is not only for the children, but also the other residents who are sheltered by the orphanage.

9. A brief description of the long-term objectives of the organization:

- (a) To provide a happy childhood, and a good quality of life for the children at the orphanage.
- (b) To set up a spacious residential primary and secondary school for the children.
- (c) To set up a polytechnic, and train the children in vocational skills so that they can learn to be self-sufficient when they grow up.

10. Details of the organization's annual budget:

~\$26.2k. Some details have been attached in the estimated budget for next year.

Itemization:

- \$12k - food for all the inmates of the orphanage
- \$6k - residential school (teachers salaries, rent, administration)
- \$2k - children's education beyond class 5 plus, medical expenses.

\$3k- medical and other unexpected expenses that cannot be planned.
\$2k - new computer institute.
\$1.2k- expenditure in generating these funds. Including transportation.

11. Previous Funding Sources, if any:

(a) The Samajam has only a handful of regular, serious donors. They do not have a permanent corpus fund.

(b) A large component of funds for food is taken care of by donors who come to the orphanage to feed the children themselves. These people are not regular donors. They come in now and then, to commemorate days that are special to them. These visits account for a number of the meals.

(c) Some organizations like Vivekananda Ashram make donations in-kind. For example, they will donate staples like rice and vegetable oil. In this manner, most meals are taken care of at the Samajam. Some days they manage with less.

(d) The local Gujarati community does their best to support the orphanage when approached in times of need.

It is a dynamic state and Velayudham spends a sizeable amount of in search of new donors, time visiting existing donors, to keep this process running.

(e)The project was brought to Asha NYC/NJ last year after being visited by me Sanjeev Ranganathan (Asha-NYC/NJ) and Anita Balasubhramanian (Asha-Madison, Asha-Seattle). Since last year, Asha NYC/NJ (with the help of Asha CNJ and Asha Cleaveland) started taking the responsibility of improving the state of the orphanage. We started with completely supporting the residential school (\$5k).

12. Brief Description of any previous projects the organization has undertaken:

The programs that are run by the orphanage are described in question four. Asha-NYC/NJ has worked with Seva Chakkara on the primary school.

13. Describe the location and current conditions:

The orphanage is presently housed in the first and second floors of a small, rented house. They recently moved from a two-room accommodation that they managed with until December 2001. As they are located in the heart of Chennai (behind the Rippon building), the severe lack of space is obvious. The local community support is a vital component in sustaining them, and if they were to move out to a rural setting, they will lose this avenue of support. They lack a reasonable committed donor base that would continue support regardless of location.

The primary school is run in the second floor in a single hall, and in part of the veranda that is covered with a plastic sheet. This is the primary space for the

children from Grade 1-5V where they learn, eat, sleep and play.

The first floor has the kitchen, a hall, a puja room, a change room for the elder girls, and the space for the few elderly people who live at the orphanage. This is the space that is used by all the older children.

There are four bathrooms that are shared by all the residents of the orphanage. There are four groups, each with a team leader, and each with a mix of elder and younger children. The elder children make sure that all the younger kids are bathed, and wash their clothes as well. The children get up at 4:00 a.m. to enable all of them to be ready by 7:00 a.m.

In December 2001, the State Bank of India, donated four of their old computers, two new computers, a printer, a copy machine and nine old typewriters. Seva Chakkara is making an effort to set up a center to be able to provide vocational training for the children of the orphanage, and hopefully over time, establish some sort of stable income for the orphanage. These items are housed in the first floor of a house that is located on the same street as the orphanage.

14. What is the goal of the WAH project (describe the background of the children, what changes this projects aims to bring about in the current condition):

Towards the end of last year, the orphanage was asked by the landlord to leave from their two-room location. The new current location, to which they moved, is a few miles further away from the local schools that the children were attending. This move has caused the following serious repercussions on the children:

- I) There are *seven handicapped children* at the orphanage who attend these schools. Commuting has become extremely difficult for these children, because:
 - (a) The special-hand peddled bicycles the children use tend to keep breaking down due to the longer distance and the condition of roads available. These bicycles are constantly under repair.
 - (b) They are having to travel a longer distance in the extreme weather conditions like oppressive heat or torrential rains of Chennai. This is not just an ordeal for the children, it also poses a great *health risk* to them.
- II) There are *eleven other teenage girls* who attend the schools, and as this location is much closer to central and the main road, they are subjected to harassment, like eve-teasing, on their way to and from school. The perpetrators are aware that the girls are from an orphanage, thus making these problem worse.
- III) The *younger children in Classes 1 through 5* are too young to venture out into the busy city roads. They stay cooped up at the orphanage all the time; eating, sleeping, studying and playing within the four walls of the orphanage. Although, the space now is marginally better now than their previous quarters it completely stifles the energy in these kids. They study all day and are quite smart, but their

attention span is limited due to extreme boredom of being in a claustrophobic space all the time. The school only has the means to support one educational camp per year.

All of these problems, which cover a *majority* of the children except the elder boys at the orphanage (38 youngsters, 11 teenage girls, 7 children with physical disabilities, a total of 56 children), can be solved by providing the children with *safe transportation*.

The solution being submitted for WAH is the purchase of a *School Bus*, a 31-seater vehicle called a Maxi-Van (This is smaller than a mini-bus, but larger than a Maruti van.)

There have been many necessary transportation requirements in the past:

- I) The children were requested to sing for All India Radio. They had to be transported to the studio and back, and this had to be arranged by hiring a van.
- II) When the children or elder residents of the orphanage fall sick, they need to be taken to the doctor and an ambulance has to be arranged for them.

Although NYC/NJ is working with the orphanage to understand each of their problems and tackle them one at a time, the situation of the children in the first two classes needs urgent help. At this point of time, our chapter is not in a position to handle the request for the same.

We are also requesting that, through WAH, we also fund the requirement of the orphanage to hire a driver for the first two years. This will give them and Asha NYC/NJ sufficient time to have a sustainable model, to make provisions to meet Driver Expenses after these initial two years.

15. Beneficiaries of the project (how many children, number of males/females age and demographics and other relevant details):

There are 72 children at the orphanage at present that will benefit from the proposal. The boys-to-girls ratio is around 2:1. There are also a few elderly people and a few abused women who are sheltered at the orphanage and will benefit from the transportation.

16. A) Details of funding requested:

Exchange Rate: \$1 = Rs.48 is used

Amount of money required:

TATA Maxi-Van V LP 709 (30+1 seat)	Rs. 5,21,968	\$10,875
Body Building	Rs.1,70,000	\$3542
Insurance	Rs.17,000	\$354

Registration	Rs. 7,000	\$146
Driver Salary at Rs.3000 monthly (Rs.3,000x12monthsx2years=Rs.72,000)	Rs. 72,000	\$1,500
Total amount requested :	Rs.7,87,968	\$16,417

B. Duration for the request:

For the School Bus, we are requesting a one-time funding.

For the driver salary expense, we are requesting a two-year funding.

17. Detailed breakup of the costs involved along with details of money received from various sources, if any:

None.

18. How long will the benefit last? Please give an approximate US\$ child/year estimate for the project:

The benefit will last for the lifetime of the school bus. Conservatively, projecting this as 10 years, and projecting that it will effect 70 children every year, the child/year estimate of the School Bus is: $\$17,125/(70*10) = \24.4 . The number of children in the orphanage is expected to grow, so the child/year number will become progressively smaller over the years.

19. Other sources of funding (confirmed and anticipated), if any:

None.

20. Proposed means of continuing the project after current funding:

Asha NYC/NJ will work with Seva Chakkara and ensure that it is a sustainable project.

21. To what purpose would the requested funds be directed? An itemized split up of costs: blackboards, chalks, tables, chairs, toilets, buildings, teachers, salaries, etc.

Exchange Rate: \$1 = Rs.48 is used

Amount of money required:

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Total amount requested :

Rs.7,87,968

\$16,417

22. Duration of the project:

Lifetime of the School Bus

23. Itemized description of the various phases in the project and their associated timelines?

Immediate implementation.

24. Number of project personnel involved in implementation of the project and their

The primary person for implementing the program is a School Bus driver who has to be carefully selected. The teachers and the caretaker will travel with the young children, and supervise them on their outdoor educational trips.

25. Reference of lead people supervising the project:

Sanjeev Ranganathan.

26. Number of people reached by the program and how many have completed the literacy program (number of boys and girls)

Currently, there are 72 children who will immediately benefit by the program. 15 children have completed their literacy program in the past. The children at the orphanage are in the phase of entering college. There is only one child in college right now (the son of Gauribai)

27. Standard Proficiency of the participants at the end of the project:

N/A

This project will enable the children at the orphanage to concentrate on their studies instead of getting distracted by commute. It will also enable the younger children to undertake trips to historical and other educational locations.

28. Is there any governmental involvement in the project? If yes, how?

No.

29. Specify the nature of funds requested.

This is a one-time-request proposal.

Estimated Budget for year 2002:

(All \$ calculations are assuming \$1=Rs.50)

Residential school up to grade V:

Teachers - 4x2000 p.m.+1x3000 p.m. principal

Caretaker for the children -1x1000 p.m.

Admin costs of the school, telephone, etc-1x1000 p.m.

Drawing, Yoga, Music teacher - 1x1000 p.m.+1x1000 p.m.

local total = 15000 p.m.x12 = 1,80,000 ~ \$3.6k

Rent for the orphanage including the school: 10000 p.m.

local total = 10000p.m.x12 = 1,20,000 p.a. ~ \$2.4k

Food for the 100 people living at the orphanage on a day with donors including milk for the children Rs(5+10+10)=Rs.25

Per month = 25x100x30 = 75,000 p.m.

local total = 75,000x12 ~ \$17k per year.

Uniforms = 15,000(cloth)+4000(tailor) p.a. (This is for 50 kids the orphanage will increase to by next year.)

Note Books = 9000 p.a.

Text books = 13,000 p.a.

Other Stationary = 7000 p.a.

5 tables+5 chairs = 15000 p.a. (one time.)

Toys+Educational material = 15000 p.a.

local total = 78,000 p.a ~ \$1560

Educational camp = 22000 p.a. ~ \$440

Teachers training program

(travel) 4x500 = 2000, (stay) 4x50 per dayx 20days=6000

local total = 8000 ~ \$160(it may be a few \$100 more with materials)

Medical expenses: (Very variable)

10 per.day per.childx50(children)x30days = 15,000 p.m.

local total = 15,000x12 = 1,80,000 ~ \$3.6k

Children continuing secondary school: (34 children)

Fees = 35x 1,050 p.a.p.c = 36,750 p.a.

Uniforms = 35x600 p.a.p.c = 21,000 p.a.

Text Books= 10,500 p.a.

Note Books= 25,000 p.a.

local total = 93,250 p.a. ~ \$1865

(Ofcourse these children also need to be clothed, by doctors, etc.)

Maxi-Van = 7,50,000 ~ \$15k.

Computer Institute:

Rent is 3,500 p.m. and Mutu (a Masters in CS) is being paid 5,000 p.m. to run the institute. Electricity, telephone(networking), Stationary for the typewriting institute - ribbons, etc 6,500 p.m. The overall cost comes to 15,000p.m. Income 5,000p.m. from the institute, they still need 10,000 p.m. to break even.

local total = 10,000x12 = 1,20,000 ~ \$2.4k