

Sarada Kalyan Bhandar

Project Contact:

Rekha Sarkar
Sector F/1 Sarat Pally,
Midnapore, West Bengal, India
721101
Phone: 91-3222-63866, 67545
Email: *kgp_skbtrust@sancharnet.in, rekha_35@yahoo.com*

Asha Contact:

Shouri Chatterjee
500 Riverside Drive, #525
New York, NY 10027
Phone: 212-316-8699
Email: *tuku@cisl.columbia.edu*

Part I: Information about your group/organization

Sarada Kalyan Bhandar (SKB):

This is a Women Public Charitable Organisation registered on July 21, 1984. (Regd at Midnapore sub-registrar's office, under 12A and 80G of IT Act 1961. Regd under FCR Act 1976. Regn number 147040060)

Founded in 1984, SKB is a charitable women organisation dedicated to improve the lives of the poor through the eradication of illiteracy. The efforts of SKB revolve around their Higher Education program, Child Welfare program and Child Health Care program. The Child Welfare Program focuses on the well being of children of nine local villages and together with the Health Care program, this provides them with essentials such as clothing, nutrition and health care side by side with their education. The Higher Education Program is to provide students with aptitude funds for higher education in different colleges in West Bengal.

Motivation for starting this group:

The principal motivation to have started this group is to help the financially backward rural communities through the fostering of education and health awareness.

Problems:

1. Parents being uneducated, studies of the child are completely ignored as they prefer their children to be a child labour.
2. Lack of an academic atmosphere and poverty stop the children from studying at home.

3. Lack of nutritious food, lack of health and hygiene and adherence to superstition result in a very high child mortality.
4. A complete lack of a value based society and ignorance of Indian culture among the youth in the community.

To address these basic social evils, SKB was founded.

Education enhances culture and slowly brings a positive change in society. Mother being the nucleus of the family can build a cultural base and in the long term help the society create a well balanced atmosphere.

Aims of Sarada Kalyan Bhandar:

1. Extending financial assistance to needy meritorious students of rural areas for their higher education including Medical, Engineering, Technical and Vocational training.
2. Improvement of education in backward communities from Nursery to Degree courses.
3. Care of destitute children.
4. Encourage education for women in backward areas.
5. Health care of rural children and women under the Child Health Care Mission and Rural Health Awareness program.
6. Eradicate illiteracy.
7. Encourage independence of women through the Women Self Independence Promoting scheme.
8. Encourage the girl child through the Girl Child Efficiency Development scheme.
9. Develop a value based society.

The group does not have any religious affiliations, although the Ramakrishna Mission and the Sarada Math contribute towards the well-being. SKB was recently donated land by the government of West Bengal towards the development of a school building. Even though the name by itself suggests some sort of religious affiliation, in West Bengal, the girl child at times is referred to as Sarada. Also, to note, Sri Ramakrishna, Swami Vivekananda and Sarada Devi's ideas and ideals are not confined to any religion and are widely accepted to be secular in West Bengal.

Non education related community work:

Health care for children is provided.

1. Regular blood grouping, eye and dental check up, deworming and vaccination of all children.
2. Children are taken in batches with their parents to the District Sadar Hospital for regular check-up by paediatricians. Medicine is also provided to those who need.
3. Disease, if detected, is treated with the help of the Sadar Hospital and the children are even sent to Calcutta in extreme cases.
4. Children are attended to by local doctors at least once a week in their centers.

5. Camps are arranged in collaboration with Nehru Yuba Kendra, Lions Club and Rural Development Association for imparting health awareness among the villagers.

Part II: Details about the educational projects:

Currently children of nine villages are distributed under three centers. There are 462 children. They are currently being tutored under open skies or trees due to lack of physical infrastructure.

a) Baisakhipally Center:

This center covers one village having no built up accommodation. The center runs from 4pm to 7-30pm. Villagers share their cottages for remedial coaching. This center caters to about 70 children from nursery to Class X. There is no school building where the coaching can be conducted outside the school scheduled hours.

b) Rangamati Center:

This center covers three villages - Bhagabatipally, Rangamati and Pakhijapally with 122 children from Nursery class to Class VIII in the evening from 4pm to 6-30pm. Half of the classes are conducted in three rooms and a varendah spared by the adjacent primary school. The other half of the classes are scheduled outside in the grounds of the school. It is difficult to carry on classes during the rain and in summer because of the scorching sun. Classes in winter are shortened due to lack of sunlight.

c) Gabnala Center:

This center covers four villages - Khejurdanga, Nichu Gope, Hamarpata and Gabnala with 270 children from Nursery to Class VIII. The entire center here is conducted under Banyan trees and on a cemented platform made for paddy drying by the villagers. Here morning sessions run from 6-30am to 9-30am and evening sessions run from 4pm to 6-30pm.

In response to an appeal by SKB, the government of West Bengal has granted 0.33 acres of land on which education and health care programs can be conducted at a central location within commutable distance of all the children. The estimate for construction of this building is around US \$58000. Children from all the eight villages can come to this place. We have now fenced this land and have a platform here so that classes from V to VIII can be conducted. We are also inducting a ninth village, Indirapally, because it is adjacent to this plot of land. SKB runs the risk of losing this plot of land unless construction starts soon.

Activities:

1. Tutoring:

To assist children attending various schools in keeping up with their classmates.
To supplement the low standard of education provided by many government

schools.

2. Serving as school:

For children at the nursery level, as there are no schools in the vicinity.

For a number of schools upto IVth grade who do not go to school due to financial constraints, low merit and distance to government schools.

3. Providing an enabling environment:

Distributing nutritious snacks, clothing, study materials etc for primary level children.

Encouraging parents to send their children to school.

4. Providing medical care to the children of these villages:

Regular preventive health measures.

Regular health check-ups and referral to the government hospital in necessary cases.

Higher Education:

The other important aspect of SKB is in its Higher Education program. Under this program, meritorious students who are in financial needs are given a scholarship enabling them to study at universities and colleges. These students are sometimes from the villages aforementioned or from other rural areas, mostly, but not limited to Midnapore. There are around 470 students who are given financial assistance. (2001) As a matter of policy, SKB does not provide all the funds they need and expects them to earn some money. This enables SKB to reach out to more deserving young minds.

These students come back to SKB as tutors for the Child Welfare Program, or as regular donors. Many such students have now been successfully placed as doctors, professors, teachers, scientists, engineers etc.

Students coming out of the Child Welfare Program are expected to be recipients of the Higher Education Program as well. This year 6 students (out of 6, this was the first batch) passed Xth board exams and they are all in the Higher Education Program.

Under the Women Efficiency Promoting Scheme, deserving girls have been fully sponsored for higher education. There are only five women under this scheme.

Goals of the Women Efficiency Promoting Scheme:

1. To spread women education, create self independence among women.
2. To establish that women are not to be treated as second class citizens. In a poor country like India, women can support men in various aspects and thereby contribute meaningfully to the socio-economic structure of the society.
3. Increase literacy among women.
4. Eradicate social evils like early marriage, rape, torture, abuses etc.
5. To make women aware of their rights and laws existing in their favour.

Location of centers: Rural

Type of education provided: Basic literacy, remedial coaching, higher education for deserving candidates.

Teaching techniques: Non-formal. Physical training, Yoga, Music and Drawing are also taught.

Literacy rate in the local community:

Very low. For example, in a village of 140 families where there are 97 children within an age of 12, only 4 go to school (Indirapally which we want to induct into the fold of SKB.) Or, for example, among 900 adults, only 4 could sign their names.

Socio-economic background: Families of migrant labourers, rickshaw pullers, godown pullers, brickfield workers. The average income of the family is from Rs.500 to Rs.800 where the number of family members is 9-10.

The school has an office building where there is a small library housing over 2000 books. There is a computer there as well which is used for office work. There is no electricity/chairs and tables/toilets/laboratory at any of the other centers.

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
0-5 years	69	50	119
6-9 years	104	84	188
10-14 years	68	78	146
15-25 years	4	5	9
Total	245	217	462

Staff Employed:

There are currently 24 student volunteers and 29 SKB members who are involved in this project. Student volunteers participate in SKB higher education programs and are selected on the basis of merit and need.

Minimum qualifications: BA/BSc/MSc

Average distance children commute: About 0.5km (maximum 1km)

Part III: Financial Details:

Sources that fund SKB's activities at present:

1. Asha NYCNJ - \$5000
2. India Friends' Organisation - \$1000
3. Street Children Association - sponsors 20 orphans
4. Sarada Math, Ramakrishna Mission - Rs. 50000
5. Individual donors and sponsors

6. Alumni

Details of projected budget:

(In Rupees)

Capital expenditure:

Building construction	26,00,000
Medical Van	4,00,000
Medical equipment	75,000
Equipment and instructional material for camps (3x7000)	21,000
Furniture and fixtures	15,000
Utensils (3x6,000)	18,000

Total 31,29,000

Projected Added Recurring Expenditure:

Personnel

Project Assistants (1000x12x3)	36,000
Accounts Clerk (2000x12x1)	24,000
Typist (2000x12x1)	24,000
Medical Officer (3000x12x6)	2,16,000
Nutritionist (2000x12x1)	24,000
Doctors (1000x24 visits)	24,000
Field Supervisor (3000x12x1)	36,000
Helper (2000x12x1)	24,000
Cook (1000x12x3)	36,000
Driver (3000x12x1)	36,000
Caretaker (2000x12x2)	48,000

Program costs

Assistance for medicine

(300 per child per annum for 100 children)

	30,000
Maintenance of vehicle	15,000
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	<u>10,000</u>

Total 8,02,000

Recurring costs of child welfare project: (based on 2000-01)

Teaching allowance	2,65,183
Study material	14,256
Nutritious snack	68,638
Clothing	20,564
<u>Annual Sports & Prizes</u>	<u>14,025</u>

Total 3,82,666

Recurring costs for Higher Education Program: (based on previous years)

Average stipend of Rs. 177 given to 342 students every month:

Total 7,27,920

Recurring costs for women higher education: (based on 2000-01)

	(for one)	(for five)
Food and lodging in the college dormitory	9,600	48,000
Tuition and study material	2,400	12,000
<u>Incidental expenses</u>	<u>600</u>	<u>3,000</u>

Total 12,600 63,000

Salary Expenditure Details:

Local scholars are inducted into the Higher Education Program on condition that they will teach at SKB. All scholars and teachers get salaries based on the following:

If the person teaches for 3 days a week, 3 hours a day, the remuneration is Rs.300 a month. Everyone gets their salary at this rate.

The drawing teacher, music teacher and project assistants get Rs.1000 a month.

Amount requested from Asha: (Annual)

Child Welfare Project	\$3300 (Rs. 1,58,400)
Child Health Care Project	\$1200 (Rs. 57,600)
Women Efficiency Promotion Scheme	\$1500 (Rs. 72,000)

Total

\$6000

History of Asha with SKB:

1994-1998:

Asha LA

Involved people: Kaushik Sen, Daipayan Bhattacharya, Debjyoti Banerjee

Funding:

1994:	\$1750	Child Welfare Project
1995:	\$1750	Child Welfare Project
1996:	\$1750	Child Welfare Project
1997:	\$2000	Child Welfare Project
1998:	\$2100	Child Welfare Project
Total:	\$9350	Child Welfare Project

1999-2001:

Asha NYC/NJ

Involved people: Jai Sanyal, Gayatri Panjabi, Diptabhas Sarkar, Shouri Chatterjee

Funding:

1999:	\$5000	Child Welfare Project \$2500, Child Health Care Project \$1000, Women Efficiency \$1500
2000:	\$3900	Child Welfare Project \$2400, Women Efficiency \$1500
2001:	\$5000	Child Welfare Project \$2500, Child Health Care Project \$1000, Women Efficiency \$1500