STEP II – Asha-Houston New Project Proposal Template

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| **Project Name: Viveka Scholar Program – SVYM’s High School Education Initiative** | |  | |
| **Referred By:** | | **Date Received:** | |

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|  | **Project Contact Information** | **Asha Contact** |
| Name | **Naresh Bala** |  |
| Contact | **Program Director** |  |
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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.**

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| ***1. Name of the group/organization requesting funds.***  Viveka Scholar Program – Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement SVYM’s education initiative. |
| ***2. When was the group established?***  Registered as a Society, SVYM was established in the year of 1984.  Viveka Scholar Program came into inception in the year 2005, to improve the access to Professional degree courses, for children from economically challenging background. |
| ***3. Briefly describe the motivation for starting this group.***  We have seen that many smart students at the 10th std, PUC 1st and 2nd year, from economically poor background suffer from lack of opportunity. Their potential of reaching the best institutions in India is stifled by lack of proper education and coaching and access to tuition/ coaching institutes which enable students to get admissions in good colleges.  Viveka Scholar program is an initiative to address the issue of quality education and make accessible the coaching, quality tuition to the economically poor PUC students in government schools.  The vision of the project is to enable opportunities for children by improving; the learning environment in a School, the quality of the teacher student transaction and the quality of the child’s mental and emotional process. Enabling them to join the top institutions in the country, and provide them mentoring support. |
| ***4. Name the key people running the organization and describe their background***   |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Name** | **Position in GB** | **Profession** | **Gender** | **Age**  **(Yrs)** | **Yrs of association** | | Dr. M.R.Seetharam | President | Orthopedic Surgeon | M | 45 | 27 | | Dr. K.N.Chandrashekar | Vice president | Physician | M | 52 | 27 | | Dr. Sudheer Bangalore | Secretary | Physician | M | 44 | 7 | | Dr. Kumar G.S. | Treasurer | Pediatrician | M | 28 | 5 | | Ms. Malathi H.D. | Joint Secretary | Educationist | F | 39 | 15 | | Ms. Mamatha M.R. | Executive Member | Member, Karnataka State Child Rights Commission | F | 44 | 19 | | Dr. Dathathri H.A. | Executive Member | ENT Surgeon | M | 33 | 17 | |  | | | | | | | Dr. (Flt Lt). M.A.Balasubramanya | CEO | Anesthesiologist | M | 45 | 27 | | Mr. Naresh Bala | Project Director |  | M | 47 | 8 | |
| ***5. Briefly describe the aims of your group.***   1. SVYM aims to build a new civil society in India through its grassroots to policy-level action in Health, Education and Community Development sectors. Acting as a key promoter-facilitator in the community's efforts towards self-reliance and empowerment, Develop local, innovative, and cost-effective solutions to sustain community-driven progress.   Our Viveka Scholar Program aims:   1. To enable opportunities for high potential children by improving; the learning environment in schools. 2. Provide regular mentoring support for: better career growth prospects and overall development of child. 3. To enroll 80% of students in the PUC scholar program in meaningful professional courses. 4. Enable at least 75% of the students served to join Top institutions in the country. 5. Improve quality of education in the remote areas. 6. Overall development of a child – Life Skills, ability to question, confidence building, career counseling & seek excellence. |
| ***6. Does your group have any religious or political affiliation? If yes, please describe the type of affiliation and the reason for it.***  *No* |
| ***7. What non education-related community development activities is your group involved in?***   * Healthcare: Community driven model * Socio-Economic Empowerment – to initiate and develop processes that create community awareness and self-reliant community based organizations. * Rehabilitation of displaced tribals in H.D.Kote * Rural infrastructure - Housing |
| ***8. Does your organization have FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act of 1976) clearance from the Indian government? This is required for you to receive foreign funds. If yes, please provide FCRA details. If no, have you applied for Prior Permission (one time acceptance of foreign funds)? If yes, when was the application submitted?***  Yes, we have FCRA.  FCRA Details: 094590102, registered on 13th May 1988 |

#### Part II: Details about your educational project/s

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| ***1. 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***.  Our Viveka Scholar program picks up students from government schools in Karnataka – Bangalore, Tumkur, Bidadi, Hassan, Tumkur, Pavgada and Raichur.  Instead of setting up new infrastructure, we partner with Government & Privately run-aided schools in these regions through our “1947 initiative”. At present our 1947 initiative is running in over 250 schools (Public, Privately run (government funded)) serving over 40,000 students – expanding catchment area for our “Viveka Scholar Program”. |
| ***2. Who owns the school legally? Is it the organization or trustees or an individual. Please provide details.***  Government owns the majority of schools, few are jointly owned by government & private bodies (through Public private partnerships). |
| ***3.***  ***Location of school/s***: √ Urban √ Rural  Other |
| ***4. Specify the type of education provided (e.g. basic literacy, vocational training etc.).***  Viveka Scholar Program   * Academic support through partnership, with the institutions providing coaching/ tuitions for higher education in the vicinity. * Focus on Soft Skill: Every child in our program receives an hour of soft skill instruction in a week. The soft skill instruction is integrated into the curriculum and is designed to increase the self- esteem of the child. We have observed a direct correlation between a child’s academic performance and their self-esteem. |
| ***5. Please tell us about your teaching techniques (conventional vs. alternative).***  Our Viveka Scholar program uses conventional teaching techniques for coaching/ tuitions children. Our partner institutes conduct Tuitions/ coaching classes. Viveka Scholar program also uses internet as a tool, empowering students to gather/ seek knowledge and transform it into the ability to learn, enhancing their learning abilities. |
| ***6. What is the literacy rate in your local community? Please give a breakdown between boys and girls if possible.***  98% of the children the Viveka scholar program are first generation learners  - From a total of 413 children served so far: Viveka Scholar program has: 233 girls (55 %), and 180 boys ( 45%). |
| ***7. 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.***    Most of the students are 1st generation learners, and are from economically poor background.  Most of their families work as daily wage laborers, house- maids and factory labor*.* |
| ***8. What is the admission criteria for the students to join your school? Have you ever turned away students? If so, why? How many children attend your school currently? How many teachers do you have? How many full time students? How many part time teachers? How much is the fees? Is there an admission one time fee?Do you have parent teacher meetings (parent involvement)?***  Viveka Scholar program’s selects student on the following admission criteria:   * We select top 3 high potential students per school, from a large base of Project 1947 schools. * Students are shortlisted based on their academic performance and tests organized by SVYM. Our tests are limited to basic fundamentals for e.g. basic calculations in Maths which do not require any memorization of formulas, an aptitude test to measure learnability. * Shortlisted students go through personal interviews for evaluation of their motivation levels to succeed and excel, academic performance in the SSLC board exam. * Parents’ support and motivation levels matter a lot to us. Families of shortlisted students are interviewed personally to evaluate their motivations and aspirations for their child. * Students are met with their parents to understand the logistics of the programme and assess the parental involvement in the child’s academic future. During this meeting logistics of long hours away from, continued support for the child at home, etc... is discussed before the child is selected for the programme   We are serving over 40,000 students through our 1947 program in 5 districts of Karnataka, our aim is to increase the catchment area (for Viveka Scholar program,) and reach out to these partner schools. Making accessible; high quality education, career guidance and mentoring for holistic development of students.  Our Viveka Scholar program is a fully funded program, our students do not have to pay any fee. |
| ***9. In addition to education, does your group provide any other services to the children in your schools (e.g. food, health care, clothing, etc.)?***  - We organize health camps for our students in partnership with different organizations.  - Students attending coaching – academic, soft skill on weekends under the umbrella of Viveka Scholar Program are provided food and transportation facilities. |
| ***10. How do you perceive that education will improve the lives of the children in your village?***  The significant reason that we have witnessed in most of our children not sure of succeeding in professional course is due to the lack of role models from the community, we are sure with this programme we will not only helping these children build a meaningful career and future but becoming role models to inspire more children from the community they live in. |
| ***11. Does your school have:***  *We do not have our own schools. Viveka Scholar program is run in partnership with government and privately run aided schools. Most of the schools have their own buildings and have pukka classrooms. Government schools have started to get equipped with toilets, separate for boys and girls, however most of the private schools do not have toilets. Majority of the schools have electricity; however there are power cut issues during the day, which makes it difficult for schools to run the DVD/ OHP’s for teaching students.*  *Most of the partner schools do not have any library and laboratories.* Its own building(s): √ Yes  No Number One Number and type of classrooms (e.g. Pukka):Pukka  **Yes No** **Yes No** **Yes No**  Toilets   Playground   Toys  Chairs & Tables   Blackboard   Library  Drinking water   Electricity   Computers  Laboratory   Teaching aids (e.g. books/slates) |
| ***12. What is the age group of the children currently enrolled in your school(s)?***  Students in Viveka Scholar program are aged between 15-18 years. |
| ***13. How many staff are employed at your schools?***  For SVYM’s scholar program: 1 program manager and 1 program coordinator.  Partner Employees (Deeksha & Vishwabharathi): A total of 11-13 teachers are engaged in the programme.  A total of 12 soft skill trainers are engaged for counselling and mentoring of the students. |
| ***14. Average distance the children travel to attend your school?***  A child has to travel an approximate distance of 15-20 Kms, to attend Viveka Scholar program support classes. |
| ***15. Please answer this if your school has existed for atleast 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 scholar program has served 413 children so far, over a period of 5 years. Most of the students from our scholar program are pursuing professional degree courses.  We can say that 90% of the students in this programme will be able to be gainfully employed not just on academic grounds but through our mentoring programme |
| *16. Do you help your students with their future education efforts after they have completed school? If so please describe your efforts.*  Most of the students need access to financial institutions, which can then fund their higher education. At SVYM, we help students and their families to engage with these financial institutions and apply for loans.  • Access to loans – Professional courses  • Through our Top-Up Program we encourage parents to invest in children’s higher education, a part of which is also raised by engaging with donors. |
| *17. Do the students who have studies or graduated get involved in the school afterwards and help the next batch?*  - Yes, our students do get involved and help the next batch by providing mentor support to students in their PUC. And share their experiences and learning’s as a part of their journey of Holistic Development. |
| ***18. 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.***  Not Applicable |
| ***19. Is your program different from that provided at these schools? Please explain.***  Children in pubic schools face a lot of challenges in terms of, the opportunities to pursue higher education and quality supplemental support. Through our 1947 program, we work with many bright students in Government schools – making accessible quality education. These children when given mentoring support and access to meaningful financing options can compete effectively for mainstream high end livelihood jobs such as vocational, medical, finance and engineering.   * Our Viveka Scholar Program is designed for these children. Apart from teaching them the academic courses, our program focuses on overall development of the students – by providing them career counseling, mentoring and life skills support. * Mentoring is one of the key focus areas of our program, regular mentoring not only helps a child in learning but also help her/him make informed career choices. * Children are motivated to seek knowledge by exploring/ browse Internet and report their learning’s. * Our philosophy of holistic education is based on the premise of Spirit of excellence, knowledge and enquiry. |
| ***20. Why are the children in your school/s not attending government/other schools in the local area***?  Not Applicable |
| ***21. 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.***  The parent community is involved in the programme, where they have regular meetings with our staff to understand the child’s progress and drawing out plans for the child’s future aspirations |
| ***22. 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?***  The past 5 years has been a significant learning for the project that has led to evolving of strategies that can scale and make a meaningful impact in the lives of the children we serve. In this journey the scholar programme results of 2011 has thought and convinced the project on the criticality of life/soft skills mentoring to the children we serve because of the eco system they live in post school/college hours.  Given these learning we wish to deliver a programme that will cater to the needs of the children in the 11-12th standards of exploration, building resilience, habituating success and excellence as part of their lives.  The programme will be a model that will be built on tough filtering of students in the rural parts of Karnataka, so we nurture the talent of zeal and commitment of the children in rural areas, who are mostly deprived of the privilege of access to information and continued mentoring from resources from the industry professionals. We are convinced of the fact that the children who will qualify through our rigorous selection, rigorous, demanding and challenging mentoring process will prove impactful to the children in building a life built around success and excellence.  We are currently working with over 250 schools through our 1947 initiative – in rural areas of Tumkur, Hassan, Raichur, Pavgada and Bidadi; we wish to expand our scholar program in all these schools (currently our scholar program is only running in Bangalore/ Mysore) over coming years.  Children in rural areas have great scholastic aptitude but have no access to mainstream opportunities; through our scholar program we not only bridge the gap but also uncover these gems in rural areas, by increased outreach through 1947 program.  Our program focuses on bringing in changes in villages by:   * Building excellence, (Holistic development: confidence building, mentoring, career counseling and academic excellence): which means students make informed career choices and aspiration to excel. * Changing Mindsets – Parents to start investing in children’s highereducation. * Enabling more and more students to better opportunities of livelihood |
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***24. If possible, please provide us with the contact information of two individuals from your community (not related to the school) who can describe the impact of your program***.

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| Naresh please suggest whom to add |  |  |  |  |
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***25. 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.***

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| Suman | sumanr@svym.org.in |
|  | +91 9008911006 |
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#### Part III: Financial Details

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

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| ***1. 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.*** |

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

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| **2012-2013** | **Line Items** | **Amount in INR/ Annum/Per Child (Recurring Cost)** | **Amount in INR/Annum/Full-Batch(15 students)** |
|  | Tuition Fee | 13,000 | 1,95,000 |
|  | Books Cost | 4000 | 60,000 |
|  | Internet Access Scholarship | 6000 | 90,000 |
|  | Transportation | 1500 | 22,500 |
|  | Mentoring Cost | 7200 | 1,08,000 |
|  | **Per Child Scholarship Cost** | **31,700** | **4,75,500** |
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|  | Management Cost | 4000 | 60,000 |
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|  | **Total Cost/ Child** | **35,700** |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | **Program Cost for 200 children** |  | **5,35,500** |

\* Please note that we do not have any fixed cost for our Viveka Scholar program.

***3. Salary expenditure details:***

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|  | Number | Salary Range |
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| ***4. Please provide details of the fixed costs of your school/s for the next three years.*** |

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

##### We are seeking Asha’s support in funding

##### a) Program Costs for academic year June 2012- July2013. Amount requested: **INR 5,35,500**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Line Item | Amount | One time / Annual |
| **Scholarship Cost** |  | **Annual** |
| Tuition Fee | 13,000 | 1,95,000 |
| Books – Study Material | 4000 | 60,000 |
| Internet | 6000 | 90,000 |
| Transportation | 1500 | 22,500 |
| **Life Skill mentoring cost** | 7200 | 1,08,000 |
| SVYM Management | 4000 | 60,000 |
| **Per Scholar Cost** | **35,700** | **5,35,500** |

#### IMPORTANT: For Asha-Houston Use Only

**To be filled by project steward:**

***1. What parts of the above budget was approved?***

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| Line Item | Amount | One time / Annual |
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***2. What is the total amount approved in US dollars ($), and for what time period?***

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| Year | Amount |
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| ***3. Please list out the first year’s goals of this funding (ie. what are the metrics by which we will measure the progress of this project? Please try as much as possible to list out objective things that can be measured.)*** |