

Funding Proposal for Sarvodaya ParivarTrust

Executive summary

1. SPT has grown over the years. They continue to provide quality education to growing numbers of tribal children. Khadaki School has added one more standard this year, taking it to STD 1 to 7. Zero class has evolved into teaching after hours in Government schools in very remote villages, ensuring that their education is improved.
2. Number of students has increased to 230 at Pindval, 204 at Khadaki & 409 in zero class. Out of this, residential students are 230 at Pindval & 120 at Khadaki.
3. SPT is also addressing the question of studies after 7th standard. They are giving scholarship of Rs 6000 per child to study further in the city. They arranged for vocational training at a training institute near Amdavad for 37 unemployable youths from the surrounding villages.
4. SPT believes in simple living & frugality. The cost per child per year is only \$167 at Pindval & \$154 at Khadaki. Very good projects like Timbaktu have 145 children & cost per child per year is \$290. SPT's rationale is that these children come from so poor families and they are so much better off than other kids who do not get admission in SPT, that they do not want to increase the disparity. They are in a remote, poor area & are dependent on donors. SPT wants to stay at a cost level that can be sustained. I personally believe that they should increase the facilities, number of teachers, food etc. But the funds available are a constraint.
5. The education is good, diverse & relevant. Children are taught to think on their own & be self-reliant. Students elect their leaders & manage most of their activities. One day in the year, they also take over the management of school & teaching.
6. Many cultural activities are done. These children can compete well with city children in folk songs & folk dances. Khadaki boys topped the District level folk dance competition.

7. Children are happy being in school. You will never see so many smiling faces anywhere else. The drop out rate is negligible. In other schools in tribal area across India, the drop out rate is very high.

8. SPT has been serving the hills for over 40 years.

- They give subsidized food grains to the poorest people, who walk 10 to 15 miles to SPT & carry grains on their head.
- About 2000 families are supported with a subsidy of Rs 4/kg.
- They are providing free primary health care at Pindval, Khadaki & six other villages to over 30,000 patients / year. These are astounding numbers, but SPT has been doing this for decades.
- They have also trained 7 midwives to help pregnant women. Supplements for iron, calcium, vitamins are distributed free of costs. They distribute free nutritious food for the pregnant women. Medical examination is done every 15 days. SPT is collaborating with an NGO in Dharampur run by Dr Daksha Patel, who returned to India after working in UK & USA for many years. Full medical treatment is given free of cost to tribal women at her clinic to those needing special attention.
- Water & soil conservation Projects: This is a major new initiative.



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Principal Sujataben at overflowing concrete dam on Paar river at Khadaki school; Earthen Check dam to for water management & ground water recharging; Stone Palas for preventing soil erosion & building terraces for farming on a hill; Water in the reservoir upstream of a check dam in the monsoon.

- Building check dams is a project that creates income, improves farm productivity, improves lives of women when wells are recharged & they do not have to walk for miles to fetch water. This transforms the lives of the tribals & gives them a means to become self- reliant.
- Building Palas prevents soil erosion. SPT plans to build help build 1383 palas to protect 1386 acres of land

SPT needs Rs 2.72 million (\$59,200) for 2009-10 for check dams & palas. I have proposed that we contribute 10%. If Asha has more funds, this % may be increased.

- SPT also operates two nurseries & distributes over 30,000 saplings / year.
- SPT organizes group marriages, as tribals do not have Rs 5,000 (\$100) for the simple ceremony. Although marriage is essential as per their culture, most end up living together till children grow up & help raise money.
- SPT runs a weaving center for Khadi for income generation. Rs 850K (\$19K) were earned for the labor by tribals.
- SPT is engaged in advocacy for land rights of tribals, income under NREGA scheme and many social causes.



SPT's School at Pindval that Asha supported for repair & restoration.

Sarvodaya Parivar Trust (SPT) report 2008- 09 & funding proposal 2009-10.

Year 2008-09

1. Pindval center: Residential school, started in 1995 has been serving 42 villages within a 15 to 20 mile radius from Pindval. 132 boys & 92 girls studied in STD 1 to 7. As these children come from extremely poor families, all educational materials, dorm facilities, all meals, health care, clothes, beddings etc are provided by the trust.

2. SPT has school only up to 7th STD. What happens to students after they pass from Pindval? Well, very few students can afford the cost of Rs 6,000 per year per child of high schools in the plains to study at Dharampur. Most parents can not afford the cost & the child drops out of school. Last year SPT identified 8 students who had the ability to study further but were going to drop out for lack of funds. SPT is sponsoring their education in Dharampur and have contributed Rs 48,000.



Pindval school campus.

3. Khadaki Center: The residential school in this very remote village had 100 students in STD 1 to 6. 28 pre-school students from Khadaki village study in "Zero Cass". 61 local students from Khadaki village also study in the school, but go home for the night. Collaboration with Khadaki's Government school is good. Class 1 & 2 students of SPT go to Government school for classes & students of STD 3 to 7 of Government school go to Khadaki

center for classes. SPT Khadaki's one teacher goes to Government school to teach. This kind of flexibility helps them overcome shortages & pool their resources.

4. SPT Khadaki organized a "Bal Melo" or a children's fair. 350 children from surrounding remote villages, many from the villages where Zero classes are operating, attended the fair. They stayed for two days & two nights. Jyoti & I were also invited & stayed for a night. It was a joyous, festive occasion. Many of the kids were venturing out of their villages for the first time. Every child participated in story telling, were taught new songs & dances, made paintings & participated in a competition for cultural program of dances, plays & songs. Well known folk singers Vinay & Charu (both are MBA's from IIM Amadavad) also participated & had a sing along with all the kids. The kids performed their folk dances with gusto rarely seen in city kids. A few kids from a school in the big city of Vadodara also participated. City kids were outclassed in song & dance by the adivasi children due to sheer exuberance & rhythm in their folk dances & songs.



The folk dance by Khadaki students won the district championship



5. Khadaki students had made a scale model of their campus. We were amazed at the skills, perseverance & talent showed by the students of STD 1 to 6 in making the model.

6. Khadaki center had also started Zero classes in 8 remote villages. As the need has changed, these classes have evolved into special tutoring classes. SPT appointed teachers in 8 villages help the local Government schools teach 353 students in after-school hour classes. This is necessary as the teachers at Government schools are not adequately equipped to teach so many students. SPT appointed teachers are trained by SPT & have a supervisor who visits remote villages & guides teachers. The locally appointed teachers, though at a low salary, stay with SPT & make very valuable contribution.

7. The local youths in remote villages, like where Zero classes are operating, have large number of partially educated but unemployable youths. They have very little education & no skills. Most of them end up being casual



Folk Dance by Khadaki students was full of rhythm & grace.

labor, barely eking out the subsistence wages. SPT is collaborating with other NGO's who run vocational training schools for imparting skills like carpenter, mason, welder, electrician etc. SPT selected 37 unemployable youths & sent them for 2 months of intensive training in Amdavad. The cost of travel plus fees was Rs 2000 / trainee. SPT is planning to send about 40 youths in 2009-10. The students contribute 25% of the total cost in most of the cases.

8. A common problem across India is the education of the children of Nomadic people. They move from one place to another, have

no home, do not belong to any village & their children are totally illiterate, perpetuating the vicious cycle of poverty, illiteracy & nomadic life.

SPT is collaborating with an activist & social worker Mital Patel, who is running schools for nomadic children at Prantij (2), Vijaypur, Thorad & Surendranagar. SPT is paying the salaries of 5 teachers amounting to a total of Rs 89,621 (average of Rs 18,000).

9. SPT has been serving the adivasi communities for over forty years in a variety of ways. A report on other activities is in annex.
10. SPT has taken a major initiative for water & soil conservation, which helps the entire adivasi community in many ways. So far, SPT has given support for building 63 Check dams, of which, 8 were built last year.

SPT insists on getting consensus among villagers & willingness to work voluntarily on the project, before SPT guides a project. Villagers are very poor. If they work without wages for building the check dam for their village, they would go hungry. SPT therefore provides 4.5Kg (10 lbs) of grains for every 1 CuM (35 Cuft) of earth work done by them. That is the only compensation. The costs incurred for these two important activities have made major demand on SPT's funds & SPT has operated with deficit of Rs 2.59 million (\$ 56,000) last year. However, the need of this work is so urgent & results are so good that SPT has decided to increase both activities this year.

SPT has requested that Asha lend support to their activities for water & soil conservation in addition to the school. These activities are linked to social up-liftment & well-being of the villages, including all children.

Khadaki is increasing one more STD in 2009 to provide education up to 7th STD. The number of students at Khadaki has increased to 215 from 171 last year.

The detail of the proposed budget follows. SPT has requested for the maximum support. The recommendation of contributing 30% of the school expense is by Tushar. They need more.

Asha had contributed \$18,000 in 2007-2008 & \$ 35,500 in 2006-07 for all projects of SPT.



Thank you Asha

Annex

Nov 1, 2009

Funding Proposal for Sarvodaya Parivar Trust (SPT)

Background:

Sarvodaya means progress for ALL, not for only the majority, not only for the educated elites, but for ALL, including the poorest & the humblest person, standing last in the line in our socio-economic hierarchy.

SPT is located in Dharampur district on the border of Gujarat & Maharashtra in South Gujarat. 95% of population is of Adivasi and most live the life on subsistence wages. Inspired by Vinobaji Bhave to go to the remotest place & serve the people whom no one was serving, SPT has been serving these simple and poor people for over 40 years.

SPT is highly respected in the area due to sustained, enlightened & self-less service given.

SPT has undertaken many activities depending on the needs of the people & for the development of the area. Further to running schools at Pindval, Khadaki & Zero class, watershed management & soil conservation are the two major recent initiatives by SPT.

Check Dams

In the last six years SPT has helped build 63 check dams, which are by the villagers & for the villagers.

It rains heavily, more than 150" in 3 months, in these hilly areas. As the forests have been decimated by city contractors, water is not retained but flows away with great force down the slope, taking the top soil with it. Soon after monsoon, the area experiences shortage of water & even wells go dry in summer. People need to walk for miles to fetch water.

Check dams are built in the streams & rivulets to block the flow of water & accumulate water in small reservoir upstream of the dams. These are small dams, built with rocks & earth with a plastic barrier to

retain water. The size depends upon the location & topography. They range between 50' to 100' long, 8' to 15' high & 20' to 30' wide at the bottom.

The villagers collect the rocks & soil from surrounding areas & build dams under supervision & direction of trained SPT personnel. Everything is done manually & is hard work. Everyone in the village joins the workforce.

SPT insists on getting consensus among villagers & willingness to work voluntarily on the project, before SPT guides a project. Villagers are very poor. If they work without wages for building the check dam for their village, they would go hungry. SPT therefore provides 4.5Kg (10 lbs) of grains for every 1 cuM (35 Cuft or about 3 tons) of earth work done by them for check dams & palas. That is the only compensation.



Meeting with villagers for Pala building Project.

Ganeshbhai & Sujataben, Principals of Pindval & Khadaki schools, conducted the meeting superbly. Villagers also agreed not to bring liquor in the village for next 3 years and many other conditions for the welfare of the village. These simple people keep the promises made.



Villagers unanimously requested for SPT's guidance for Pala project.

Advantages of the check dams are:

- Water in the reservoir enables farmers to water their fields even if rains are irregular.
- Water in streams & reservoir empties in two to eight months after monsoon, but percolates in the ground, thereby recharging ground water & supplying water to wells for many months.
- Farmers near the stream are able to take a second crop in winter, which was impossible before check dams.
- The barrier prevents fertile top soil being carried away by water, depositing it upstream of the dam. Farmers cart away this soil for their farms in summer.
- Water is available to birds & wild animals for 8 to 12 month.

These inexpensive dams, on average costing Rs 40,000 (\$900) provide 6000 to 7000 lbs of grains to villagers in exchange for their labor. However, they need minor repairs every year.

SPT plans to build 7 new check dams (Rs 280,000 or \$6300). The repair of dams built in past will need about Rs 220K (\$4800).

Soil erosion prevention initiative by building “Pala” or stone barriers.

The small farms are built on hills. During the monsoon the water flowing down at high speed also takes fertile top soils. SPT has initiated a program to build palas on a large scale with high success.

In last 8 years, 947 farmers have benefited by building 5131 palas, thereby protecting 4666 acres. For this, 3.8 million Cuft (approx 320,000 Tons!) of earth work was done & 552 tons of grains was distributed by SPT to villagers in compensation of their labor for building palas. These are very impressive achievements.

In 2009-10, SPT plans to help build 1383 palas to protect 1386 acres of land at a cost of Rs 1.9 Million (\$41,300)

Nursery & Forestation:

SPT runs two nurseries where 35,000 saplings were grown. These are distributed to the villagers for planting in their backyard & common land. It is expected to cost Rs 148,000 or \$3200.

Leveling of fields is also done under SPT direction to prevent soil erosion. Villagers get grains as compensation. The budget is Rs 209K (\$4500)

Total amount needed for the activities of water & soil conservation, and forestation is \$60,100.

The costs incurred for these important activities have made major demand on SPT's funds & SPT has operated with deficit of Rs 2.5 million last year. However, the need of the work is so urgent & results so good that SPT has actually decided to increase both activities this year.

SPT has requested that Asha lend support to their activities for water & soil conservation in addition to the school. These activities are linked to social up-liftment & well-being of the villages, including all children.

SPT can also provide training to other projects supported by Asha for soil & water conservation, if so desired by the projects.



Murals at Khadaki.

Jyoti & Tushar Shah,