

**VIVEKANANDA RESURGENCE FOUNDATION**  
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**PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR THE YEAR 2009-10**

Vivekananda Resurgence Foundation looks back to 2002 December, when its Man Making Education dream unfolded its tiny wings through Manav Vikas Kendra. It is known to all that this school is located in one of those unrecognized slums, with around 5000 residents of all religions and castes in, North West Delhi. Tough the area is having many small scale industries, but everything is messy, no record of employment, no wage agreement and so on, unhygienic and filthy environment. Even then Life flows on...

It started with all the required propoganda materials like well built shaman, public address system, encroachment of main road, attendance of one MLA of the area who is now a full fledged Minister in the local Govt., a dedicated social worker who was heading a medical centre in Delhi run by internationally recognized Ramakrishna Mission but the response from the local people of the slum on education was not at all encouraging. The children continued to play on the roads when their parents went to earn their living. This was in the initial period for one or two years. However, Manav Vikas Kendra started gaining confidence and after 7 years we are trying to avoid increasing number of students, because they can't sit, though we have increased the space by adding another room on rent and engaging another teacher. We started with around 30 students in 2002 and now we had in May'09 more than 60 students when the school went for summer break for 30 days. Regular feature of families living here is that in April and May each year there is large scale temporary migration to villages from where they came, partly to attend ongoing marriage season and work in ensuing plantation of crops with the onset of monsoon. Though the new classes are held from June but till mid July the average attendance is 18-20 students per day. This will gradually increase by August – September there will be maximum attendance. It carries one beautiful lesson for us is that these illiterate parents have yet to understand in 21<sup>st</sup> Century the real economic benefit of literacy without which they can't enter into skill development, otherwise they will be eternally at the mercy of clever employers of industry and trade!

The following Table I show average enrolment of last 3 years and number of students who got admissions in nearby Municipal school or Govt. School

TABLE I

	Enrolment in MVK	Admission in Municipal school
2008-09	60	28
2007-08	50	18
2006-07	40	15

We negotiated with MCD school authorities and by July 2009 around 29 students will be admitted in MCD School. The main difficulty is birth certificate and without that paper students are not admitted. The students have to appear in tests and then only they are taken into school, only because they belong to slums. **‘Thanks to slum dog millionaire’**

We asked one enlightened student to find out what some of our ex- students are doing, he came out with some figures. This is narrated below: (definitely this is not the true picture; we shall revise the figures, after proper survey)

Studying in	Class I	II	III	IV	VII
2009	1	1	3	3	1

The average child attending school was found suffering from malnutrition. We introduced mid- day meal project, initially it was for 3/4 days per week, now it is given in all the 6 days in a week. Last year it costs the organization around Rs 26,401 In the same manner we initially started giving each child one set of uniform for the whole year and one sweater in Delhi winter. As one set of uniform was not enough, now they are given two sets so that they may attend school with school dress on all the days. Last year it costs us Rs 14,496

We started taking the children out of their slum to different historical places so that each child gets some questions in his or her mind, how a town looks and what are these beautiful buildings and their past. Traveling is also education.

Now in India coaching before examination is normal and specially for children in Hindi medium Govt. schools, many of whom are found weaker than their counterparts in public schools. It is not to score very high marks, but just to get pass marks one require regular coaching specially when parents can't help. We started coaching arrangements in December, 2007 for students of Class X only in one subject—Math. and the result is encouraging. This has to continue and may include English. There is a feeling to start coaching of class IX students because many fail in this school exam. and discontinue their study. We intend to do that from this year. In 2007-08, 7 students underwent coaching but only 4 students could pass the examination. In 2008-09, out of 3 boys and 5 girls who appeared in class X exam., all of them passed the exam and one of them got 84 percent

marks in the Board Exam in Maths in which VRF organized coaching. We are all happy with the result.

### More to do

In the above paragraphs we explained how MVK is trying to fulfill the educational need of the small children of this colony, and what are the challenges. There is need to do some supplementary activities.

1. Tution for school going children. As explained above these children require some help so that they understand what they were taught in the classes during the day. Those who can afford go to Private Tutor and there are many who can't afford. We have to help such children so that they don't drop out for lack of understanding what is taught in the class.
2. Many parents specially mothers are illiterate and working. An effort has to start to provide learning opportunities to some mothers who are willing. This has to start at an early date.
3. We are thinking to restart the Medicare centre but it is not getting shape due to many factors. This has to start at an early date. Patients are many, Govt. hospitals are far away and overcrowded and private practitioners are costly. Something has to start.

### FINANCING OF THE PROJECT

Funds for the Project are collected only from voluntary donations and not from state, because that is slow and cumbersome. Table II shows the funding position for last 3 years

Table II  
FUNDING OF VRF

Year	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07
Total Expenditure	1,22,000	91000	61,000
Received from			
Asha, Munich	1, 18,654	49682	70,200
General Reserve	61,917	17,368	nil

The above picture shows how ASHA, MUNICH is helping VRF in its mission to convince slum children to come forward to get skill development through elementary education. In 2006-07 VRF failed to use the entire fund received due to factors beyond its control. However, with permission of ASHA, Munich surplus fund was utilized next year. Next point to note is that Indian IT Act allows only 15 Percent of fund received in any year to be transferred to General Fund after meeting all expenses. That is why we find in 2008-09

substantial funds at the disposal of VRF and in emergency this may be used to bridge the gap.

#### Proposal for 2009-10

VRF started MVK in December 2002 and after 6 long years we are discussing among ourselves whether or not we should fund this project from inside the country and let ASHA, Munich, help other organizations who are trying to help educating children of first generation education. The decision is in the affirmative and we may assure the members of ASHA, Munich, that VRF will always remember their help with all humility.

For the year, 2009-10, we request ASHA, Munich to contribute only half of our total requirement and may be from next year we may not disturb you for donation. We have already approached various chambers of commerce in India to convince their corporate members to sponsor our needs. Corporates have social responsibility too. We may inform you that Confederation of Indian Industry already sent a delegation to visit our Manav Vikas Kendra in May, 2009 and we are waiting for their communication. One of the branches of Canara Bank in Delhi has assured us to help something but due to economic slow down they are hesitating. However, we are sure MVK has earned public credibility in all these years and will be financially self-sufficient in next one or two years. We give details of our Budget proposal for 2009-10.

Heads of Expenditures	Actual for 2008-09	Proposal for 2009-10
Salaries	51,000	1,04,000
Rent	15000	15000
Dresses and Bags	15000	12000
Mid-day meal	26000	35,000
Academic Tour	4500	5000
Teaching aid	4000	5000
Repair and Maintenance	4000	5000
Others	2500	4000
Total	1,22,000	1,85,000

#### Explanations:

Salary includes salary of 3 teachers at Rs 1500 per month against two teachers now. Now we have only two teachers for around 60 students

Salary of existing helper at Rs 400 per month

Salary for coaching tutors (2) to teach Math and English to class X and class IX students for 3 months. Rs 20,000

Salary include that of a new supervisor at Rs 2000 per month to monitor the functioning of the school. The present incumbent has appeared in BA final examination of Delhi University and a child of this slum. His father is a vegetable hawker. The boy earns some penny by distribution of news papers in the morning. He is attached to school.

Mid-day meal-- Cost of biscuits etc has gone up and per head expenditure will be about Rs 2.5 against Rs 2.0 perday last year.

Last year ASHA, MUNICH paid around 100 percent of the total expenditures like previous years. This year we shall request you to donate around 50 percent of the above budgeted expenditure. Rest we shall raise donations from within the country.

The members of the Governing Body of VRF are all committed to help the children of the poverty stricken families of this country. Every one of them not only helps VRF but they help many other organizations who are committed to help the hapless people of this country. Only limitation is that the organization is full of senior citizens and younger generation is to be convinced the long term advantage to help these children to maintain a healthy and brave social atmosphere where man and women will freely move without fear in the society. Now we call many human beings as anti social, but we may forget the responsibility of the society to give them proper value oriented education when they needed it most. We have not missed the bus, still there is time to work unitedly to improve the quality of human life in India, in general and in Delhi in particular.

Dr. N. Bhattacharya  
4.7.09