

Application for Project Funding

Please complete this form as fully as possible and attach additional sheets wherever necessary. Indicate any of the items that do not apply to you by N/A. We will also appreciate it if you could send us your latest annual report and any relevant literature concerning your organization that may aid us in our decision. We thank you for your time and patience.

I. Organizational Profile

- Name of the organization : Bhagwan Shri Ram's Academy
- Date of establishment : Aug 18, 1995
- Name of contact person : Shailender Nagpal
- Mailing address : 76 Wilson Drive, Framingham, MA 01702
- Phone : 508-532-1099
- Email : shailendernagpal@hotmail.com
- URL :

1. Give a brief account the history of your organization.

Bhagwan Shri Ram's Academy (BSRA) is a school, an educational institution, that has been established in the village of Sotai, District Ballabgarh, Haryana, since 1995. Children of this village have been receiving free education from this school for more than 10 years, they would have otherwise been raised at farms, and be illiterate. Very poor farmers live in this village, who cannot afford to send their children to schools in the district of Ballabgarh. A government school was established in the area recently, but does not provide quality education – the school building is in bad shape, there is no playground, and the teachers are not serious about education.

BSRA has provided good education facilities to the village, as it is run privately through the S.L.Nagpal Educational Society. This society operates another school in the DLF Industrial Area of Faridabad city, which was started in 1991 with the similar purpose of providing free education to slum dwellers and poor industrial workers. These children had no future, and often found their way into child labor and as domestic help. This school has been very successful there, educating hundreds of children and creating a mindset for education amongst poor neighborhoods. It now operates as a regular school with a nominal fee of Rs. 50 per month per student.

The medium of instruction in both these schools is English, and teachers are required to have at least a Bachelors degree, alongwith specialization in their subject areas. The teachers are well paid, and provided transportation to and from both the schools. The

motivation level of the teachers is high, and therefore they teach the poor kids with honesty and passion.

The school operated by the S.L.Nagpal Educational Society in DLF Industrial area is self sufficient and has all the right ingredients for having a proper school. The school in the Sotai village has to see some improvements, and that is why we are writing this proposal. Our goal is to provide quality education, so we need certain amenities which we haven't been able to secure so far. For example, we desperately need to set up a library for children's books, a computer room, a small playground, and add more classrooms. Getting uniforms and books has always remained a challenge, as is the need to pay for utilities and salaries. When the society pays for the latter, the former is ignored, as there are limited finances.

We are seeking a funding partner who can work with us to develop a better infrastructure at this school, so we can run it properly, and fulfill our mission of making education a natural path for a child to take in a village. We'd like to be able to have a playground for children to play games or participate in sporting events, have a stage with PA system so that we can conduct the morning assembly, etc, etc. These were activities I grew up with as a child. We want the fans to work during the summer in the classroom, and lights to see when it is dark. Our students also come back for evening tuitions, and we'd like to be able to pay teachers to spend the extra hours. We want computer rooms, libraries, and even a science lab.

Currently, we have students till 5th grade, we'd like to add more classes, upto 10th grade. Especially, given the fact that we have approval to hold 10th class board examinations. Eventually, we will achieve self-dependence when we see that parents are making this natural choice to send children to school when they are of age 4.

We've been asked before if the school has any religious affiliation or agenda, and the answer to that is no. This school welcomes students of all faiths, and religious affiliation is not even a question that we ask students during registration. We also have a 1:1 ratio of boys and girls. The name of the school is attributed to the faith of the founder, Mr.S.L.Nagpal, who believes in Lord Ram. Mr.Nagpal is a successful advocate, and is well connected. Many times when in an absolute crunch situation, he has got VIPs in the area to visit the school and make a donation.

1. What is the total annual budget of the organization?

The total budget is approximately Rs. 7 lakhs. It changes from year to year, depending on projects we implement. This amount includes staff salaries, utilities, maintenance and cost of books and uniforms (1 set).

The strength of the school fluctuates from year to year, and that changes the budget. At one point we had 100 students enrolled, with 8 teachers... these days the strength is less than 50, with 6 teachers. That's an incredible student to teacher ratio, but we decided not to fire teachers because we have fewer students. Its really hard to recruit teachers in this area. Our focus is to increase the number of

students, but unfortunately it has not kept up. We've noticed that when we organize events at the school and invest in infrastructure, the strength goes up! But that has'nt been happening recently, as money is scarce.

2. Please provide details of your last three completed projects that were funded by other sources. These could include for example, books donated by some organization, money for the building or land provided, any organization sponsoring the meal plan or some similar project.

- Project I

1. Name: *Boundary wall construction*

Brief description: We decided to enclose our school premises so that we can organize activities without worrying about the safety of children. This project was completed successfully, alongwith the construction of a gate.

Funding agency and amount: ASHA-UIUC, S.L.Nagpal Educational Society.

Duration of project: 3 months

Comments: Part of the project cost was met by ASHA-UIUC

2. Name: *Lavatory construction*

Brief description: We were having trouble with students using the open land behind the building for lavatory purpose. This was not only unsafe due to presence of farm animals and snakes, but also unheigenic. Teachers were having the biggest problem

Funding agency and amount: ASHA-UIUC, S.L.Nagpal Educational Society.

Duration of project: 3 months

Comments: Part of the project cost was met by ASHA-UIUC

3. Name: *School uniforms and teacher's salaries*

Brief description: We distributed free uniforms to new incoming students every year, and to old students every two years. This is an ongoing project. Our funding partners helped out with this last year, alongwith the funding of a fraction of teacher's salaries.

Funding agency and amount: ASHA-UIUC, ASHA-UT-Dallas.

Duration of project: 1 year

Comments: A significant part of the salaries were met jointly by ASHA-UIUC and ASHA-UT-Dallas.

3. How did you find out about ASHA?
I attended ASHA events when I lived in Seattle, and volunteered for them for a very short while.

4. Briefly state why you have chosen ASHA and how you think ASHA can help your organization achieve its goals.
We chose ASHA because we saw the kind of projects ASHA did, and we fitted their profile for an organization that they would help.

5. How many people are employed in your organization?
Currently, 6 teachers, 1 principal, and 2 support staff. This changes every few months. If we have more funding available, we hire more teachers. Sometimes teachers leave, and it takes time to find a replacement. The remote area of Sotai is not an easy place to work, and many of our teachers are young, who get married and stuff, and choose not to work there anymore. We want to secure funding so we have at least one or two extra teachers in the school.

II. Project Details

1. Project Name: Infrastructure and fraction of annual expenditure of Bhagwan Shri Ram's Academy

2. Project Location: Village Sotai, District Ballabgarh, Haryana

Project related correspondence address: 76 Wilson Drive, Framingham, MA 01702

3. Please provide the following details regarding the people involved in the particular project for which funding is requested.
 - o Paid staff
 - *Description of work: Teacher*

 - *Number of full-time employees: 6*

- *Number of part-time employees: 0*
 - *Average monthly salary of a full-time employee: 3000*
 - *Average monthly salary of a part-time employee: n/a*
- *Volunteers*
 - *Description of work: The volunteers include the founder, and the board of directors of this organization (S.L.Nagpal Educational Society).*
 - *Number of full-time volunteers: 1*
 - *Number of part-time volunteers: 6*
4. Describe the target population in terms of age, sex, number and any other relevant background information.
- *Age: 4-16*
 - *Number: 400*
 - *Socio-economic strata: children of village farmers*
 - *Any disabilities: none*
 - *Amount of time spent by each student at school: 6-10 hours*
 - *Any other relevant information: we want to ensure that there are enough activities in the school so that most children spend the time there – studying, playing, and enjoying their childhood.*
5. Specify the criteria used for the selection of students and the fees charged per student.

Selection criteria: None. Most students are enrolled in Kindergarten, if they are 4-6 years old. If they are older, then their level is determined by the teachers, who work harder on these children to get them up to speed at the right level.

Fees: None. The school offers free education

6. What are the long-term aims of this project?
- The project for which we are seeking funding will allow us to develop some basic infrastructure, and secure funds for teachers salaries, books, and student uniforms. Once this is done, we hope that our school will operate like a “normal” school, without insecurities about its future. The villagers will view our commitment and continue to send their kids to school.

Our long term aim is to develop a social awareness that education and schooling is the normal thing to do for children, and not child labor or farm help. By luring parents to send their children to school with the promise of free education in the right environment, we can cultivate a mindset over 15-20 years to make

education the norm. Then we hope to make the school self-reliant by introducing a reasonable fee.

7. Briefly sketch a timeline for the targets of this project, describing your objectives and the dates by which you expect them to be achieved.

The school uniforms and books will be purchased in Apr'2007, when the new session begins. We think there will be new enrollments, the number of students will likely be 50.

Also starting in April, we'd like to begin construction of the school stage, and have it complete within a month

Some playground equipment for children will also need to be made as a one-time purchase in April. We'll likely have it installed within a month

The library room has already been built. Now we need to furnish it and add books, and recruit a librarian. This will likely happen over the next 4-5 months. This will be completed by August, 2007.

8. Is this project being funded in part by any other organizations? List and describe which aspects are already funded.

Currently, the only other sponsoring agency is the S.L.Nagpal Educational Society, which gets smaller donations that get used for all kinds of mini-projects within the school. However, the library and stage are major projects, and have not seen the light of day because of insufficient funds. We will initiate these important infrastructure projects only when we receive funding, or when our internal funding situation changes.

The playground equipment project will most likely be funded internally.

9. Have you approached any other ASHA chapter in the past for funding this project? If so, when, and who was the contact person in the chapter you approached?

We have not approached any other organization yet for funding these projects.

III. Budget Details

1. Is this a one-time request or would you require support for a longer time? In the latter case, specify the duration for which you would need to be supported.

We are requesting part of this project as a one-time infrastructure development grant. This includes the following items:

Library

Rs/- 5 lakhs

School stage with PA system Rs/- 2 lakhs

The other part of this project is recurring costs. We need this support for 5 years.

50% Teacher and staff salaries, per year	Rs/- 1.8 lakhs
School uniforms for 50 students (2 sets) (includes shoes, blazers, shirts, etc)	Rs/- 1.25 lakhs
Books for children, once a year	Rs/- 0.25 lakhs

2. Enter the amount you are requesting for this project.

- Year I : 10.3 lakhs
- Year II : 2.3 lakhs
- Year III : 2.3 lakhs
- Year IV: 2.3 lakhs
- Year V: 2.3 lakhs

3. List an itemized budget for the amount you are requesting (e.g. textbooks, furniture, meals etc...) during the *first* year of funding. (*If any item is more than Rs.1000, please give the itemized breakdown of the amount.*)

As indicated above, the total cost of this project in the first year is Rs\ - 10.3 lakhs, or roughly \$23,500

4. If you are requesting funding for more than one year, please provide a projected budget for the following years.

As indicated above, the funding amount for subsequent years is Rs/- 2.3 lakhs per year, or roughly \$5,000.

I hereby certify that the above information is true to the best of my knowledge and that the application may be rejected or funding denied if any of the information is ascertained to be inaccurate or misleading any time in the future.

Shailender Nagpal
(Signature of the co-ordinator)

2/27/2007
(Date)

Please mail/e-mail the completed application form and attachments to:

ASHA-Urbana-Champaign(UC)

1401, W. Green St.
Room# 280, MB# 83
Urbana, IL 61801
USA.

ananthar@uiuc.edu

If you have any questions regarding the application, feel free to send an email to *asha-illinois-projects@egroups.com*.

For more information about the Urbana-Champaign chapter of ASHA, visit our website at *<http://www.ashanet.org/uiuc>*.

Item	No.	Unit cost	50% cost	Head Total
50% of staff salaries, per year	10	3000	1500 12 months	180000

Item	No.	Unit cost	Total
School uniforms (2 sets, includes blazer, shoes)	50	2500	125000
School books	50	500	25000

Sub Total **330000**

**Equipments &
Material**

School library
(whitewash, furnitue,
books) **500000**

School stage with
Public Address system **200000**

Rupees **1030000**