

## Asha for Education Fellowship Nomination Form

### SECTION I: Nominator Information

Name: Shanmuga Subramanian  
 Organization (if any): Asha  
 Address: Permanent: 70, Z Block, Anna Nagar, Chennai -600 040  
 Phone: (609) 683 8384 (current); (044) 626 4837 (Chennai)  
 Email: shanmuga@princeton.edu; sshanmuga@hotmail.com  
 Affiliation with Asha: Active Volunteer since October 1998

Asha Member (Chapter Princeton)       Member/Employee Asha funded NGO (Name: \_\_\_\_\_)  
 Asha Fellow       Social Worker/Activist (Org: \_\_\_\_\_)

### SECTION II: Nominee Information

Name: E. Siddamma  
 Organization (if any): Bharathi Trust  
 Address: D-5, Bayview Apartments, Kalakshetra Colony, Besant Nagar  
 Phone: (044) 4468634  
 Email: [bharathitrust@yahoo.com](mailto:bharathitrust@yahoo.com)  
 Affiliation with Asha:

Asha Member (Chapter \_\_\_\_\_)       Member/Employee of Asha funded NGO: Bharathi Trust  
 Previous Asha Fellow       Social Worker/Activist (Org: Motivator in Manual Workers Union)

### SECTION III: Field of Work

Name of Project (if any):  
 Location: Village/City/District All Eight Blocks of Thiruvallur District      State Tamil Nadu

Which communities will Nominee's work serve?      the nominee's primary focus will be in the irula adivasi communities in north tamil nadu. Besides this the nominee will work for dalit and other castes esp. women in the same region as time permits or as needed.

Type of work (select three maximum):

<input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum development	<input type="checkbox"/> Environment	<input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Technology
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Teaching methods	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health & Nutrition	<input type="checkbox"/> Corruption
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational system reform	<input type="checkbox"/> Income Generation/Micro-loans	<input type="checkbox"/> People's Struggles (dams, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/> Computer based education	<input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Civic & Human Rights
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult literacy/education	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Reform	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic Development

## SECTION IV: Recommendation

**My relationship with Nominee** Friend and a member of Asha-Stars group working with the nominee.  
**How long have you known Nominee** Since Jan 2000

### Why should Asha support this Nominee as a Fellow?

It is my pleasure to nominate Siddamma for an Asha fellowship. Siddamma is far more experienced as an activist than I am nominating her rather than her nominating me is primarily because of my closer association with Asha.

Siddamma is a dedicated, honest, hard-working social activist. During the last decade, she has awakened the Irula community to fight against oppression and to demand their right for life with dignity. This Irula movement has spread to 100 villages. Her methods of motivating the people, building leadership from the oppressed, demanding the government to play its non-violent protests when it doesn't, while inline with spirit of India, are also quite innovative and refreshing. Asha can

Siddamma is looking for ways to build the next phase of her life's work. She feels it is time to build institutional and infrastructure for the people's struggle. The first project towards this would be the building of a resource centre. This resource centre will also serve as a model for other community-based and cultural base for further constructive work for the Irula community will also serve as a model for other communities to learn from. Asha fellowship will take care of financial needs of her family (of two children) and will help her focus on an important vote of confidence from Asha for her and the project at its earliest stage.

A weakness in Siddamma, that she shares with many good activists, is her active involvement in more things than can be done. This stems from the impatience to improve the lot of oppressed people during one's own lifetime. Her commitment and energy for Asha fellowship can play a crucial role in streamlining a large fraction of her energies, for the next few years, towards establishing the resource centre.

### Additional Comments:

Asha can make her fellowship more productive

# by making sure that Siddamma is invited for all Asha India biannual meetings.

# by inviting Siddamma to USA for a lecture-discussion tour atleast once during her Asha fellowship

# if Asha Chennai (and Asha India in general) uses her as a philosophy guide and strategic advisor

# if Asha volunteers visit her regularly for learning purposes

# by bringing Siddamma to interact with like-minded groups and individuals (eg. those working on teaching methods c

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ (Shanmuga Shanmuganathan)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ April 28th 2002

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