

# Asha for Education™

## Project Proposal Submission Form

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www.ashanet.org

**Project Name:**

**Date: 20/ 08/ 08**

	<b>Project Contact</b>	<b>Asha Contact</b>
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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.

**1. Name of the group/organization requesting funds.**

Bal Ashram Trust

**2. When was the group established?**

Bal Ashram in Rajasthan was established in 1998 as rehabilitation cum training center of Bachpan Bachao Andolan (Save the Childhood Movement) to cater specifically to the special needs of victims of child labour. The Bal Ashram, over the past 10 years has developed into a full-fledged strong entity of its own. It has an independent legal status. Bal Ashram trust has now been registered separately under Indian Trust Act on 21st December 2004 and exists as a registered Public Trust .

**3. Briefly describe the motivation for starting this group.**

Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA) is the largest civil society movement on the issue of child rights. Started in 1980 under the leadership of Kailash Satyarthi, BBA has rescued more than 76,000 child/bonded laborers from various industries like carpet weaving, brick kilns, stone quarries, zari, circuses etc. Without rehabilitation, rescue is not complete. It is to fulfil this need Bal Ashram was established in 1998.

The Ashram was started as a center for rehabilitation of victims of child labour and child trafficking. Hundreds of children are released each year from various types of hazardous occupation where they are exposed to the worst forms of exploitation. Many of them are liberated from bondage. Many of them are trafficked and trapped in work places hundreds of miles away from their homes and suffer the most inhuman conditions. The Bal Ashram came about from the experience of Bachpan Bachao Andolan (Save The Childhood Movement) of rescuing child/bonded laborers from various industries like carpet weaving, brick kilns, stone quarries etc. The comprehensive rescue operation needs to be followed by rehabilitation of the children. It is this necessity that led to the formation of Bal Ashram.

Bal Ashram in Rajasthan was therefore established as a transit rehabilitation cum training center of Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA) to cater the special needs of victims of child labour and give them a feeling of cohesiveness, education and vocational training thereby helping them to become self supportive, confident and to overcome the trauma of the past. Bal Ashram Trust is the legal entity that now takes care of Bal Ashram activities.

To extend the same spirit to the dalits and backward classes who are essentially Banjaras (nomadic tribes) of Rajasthan, the Bal Ashram Trust supported a school in Jodhawas village for 3 years with the support of Asha for Education and another school in Bhilwadi village with BBA's own local funds for 1 year. There were 31 children studying in the school in Jodhawas of which 4 children got enrolled in nearby Government schools. In order to support the two Tribal schools, we are seeking funds from Asha for Education for successfully resuming the activities in the two schools.

**4. Briefly describe the aims of your group.**

Bal Ashram's vision is to create a child labor free society, where all children receive free, compulsory, quality and meaningful education. The underlying objective of the Bal Ashram is to impart formal education along with vocational education. The Ashram also inculcates in the children a deep sense of social justice, gender equity, environmental concern and an understanding of India's rich cultural heritage. Thus Bal Ashram aims to -

- To provide education, vocational training, social and environmental education, leadership skills, self-esteem, medical aid counselling and transit rehabilitation with residential facilities for children released from bondage and child labor.
- To provide a sense of security and dignity to the freed children who were victims of mental trauma, hardship and deep agony.
- To ensure the cognitive, emotional, moral and social development of these children.

**5. Does your group have any religious or political affiliation? If yes, please describe the type of affiliation and the reason for it.**

No

**6. What non education-related community development activities is your group involved in?**

While the Bal Ashram Trust is involved in many community related activities through the Bal Ashram activities in the surrounding areas. The Ashram has successfully transformed more than 85 surrounding villages into child friendly villages. Child friendly villages are those where no child is working and all of them are in school. Besides, the children also form an elected assembly which is recognized by the Gram Panchayat. The children's assembly and the adult's assembly then work together on various issues related to the village. The concept works on the principle of empowering the children and making them leaders in their own right.

Given that the state of Rajasthan is one of the most backward states in terms of illiteracy, child marriage, female infanticide and feticide, discrimination against women, etc. Various superstitious practices abound in the region due to which the girl child and women suffer the most with multiple sociological and psychological impacts. In such a region, Bal Ashram has successfully transformed several villages into child friendly villages. Many of these villages now have child leaders like Santosh and Snehlata. While Santosh, a girl of 15, has successfully withdrawn many children from work and enrolled them in schools, Snehlata, another 14 year old, fought with the village community to stop child marriages in her village. Many more such child leaders are now torchbearers of a child friendly world.

The institution has been a venue for capacity building and empowerment of local village representatives, women, with women joining the elected village board of Panchayats (Local Self Governance). The Ashram also regularly organizes programs in schools and villages to build awareness on child labor. It has provided a platform to sensitize the local community especially women to raise social issues.

Thus the Rehabilitation centre has a multiple role to play in the society, of providing rehabilitation to rescued children, generating awareness among the community members on various social issues, educating and empowering the children and the community members to fight for their rights, and replicating the efforts of the organization in the elimination of child labor, through cadre building.

Bal Ashram is also a partner of Government of India in implementing the Universal Birth Registration campaign in the two districts of Alwar and Dausa in Rajasthan. The campaign aims to accelerate the rate of civil birth registration in the state of Rajasthan through awareness building, strengthening the information system, sensitisation of the registering unit and organising and mobilising people and civil societies.

This proposal aims to resume the school in Jodhawas and to seek funds for the school in Bhilwadi both of which are especially for the Banjara Community children and especially the girls. Besides, awareness would be generated on child labour, forced labour, rights of the people especially the fundamental rights of education, life of dignity and equality.

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

**7. 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.**

Currently, Bal Ashram provides non-formal education within its precincts. Besides the non-formal education for children below 14 years of age, the Ashram also conducts vocational training for children over 14 years of age. They are given training in tailoring, carpentry, motor winding etc., depending on the flair and interest they display. In 2009, 110 freed child laborers were rehabilitated through education and vocational training.

Besides this, the Bal Ashram Trust was running a school in Banjara community which is nearby Bal Ashram, especially for the children of Banjara community. These denotified tribes are mainly engaged in selling household items from door to door. Because of this nature they are giving least importance to their children's education. After having run the school for 3 years Bal Ashram is seeking the continuation of support from Asha to provide the education facilities for tribal children in Jodhawas and Bhilwadi villages.

**8. Location of school/s**     Urban     Rural     Other \_\_\_\_\_

**9. Specify the type of education provided (e.g. basic literacy, vocational training etc.).**

Children in the age group of 10-13 would be given non-formal education for a time period of one year wherein they would be taught the 3 Rs-reading, writing and arithmetic. This would be a bridge course to enable them to take up formal schooling of a grade they are eligible as per their age.

For children in the age group 6-10, formal education of a grade of their age would be provided after a brief non-formal course for a month (for children 7-10). This difference is made because it is usually seen that the later the children start their education, the more the time they take to imbibe the basics. Besides, older children need to learn the curriculum till a grade they are eligible to take admission for in formal schools. Hence, the change in format for children of different age groups.

**10. Please tell us about your teaching techniques (conventional vs. alternative).**

Lesson plans are prepared every month and the children are taught accordingly. Initially the children were taught in very general way. After some times when they started showing their interest in studies, and started following the syllabus of CBSE and DPEP primary education. The teaching style has been changed and it has got a good response. Now poems replace the songs and lessons will be taught through stories and pictures. Children started participating in group discussion on some subjects. In a week they were taught folk songs, dances and some new games.

Social and Cultural Education is also provided to the children in which the children are engaged in a process of learning through play, songs, theatre, stories etc. Social awareness is generated among the children against social evils like illiteracy, child labor, child marriage, discrimination against the girl child, etc. Children will be orientated on child labor, child trafficking and other social evils such as child marriage, dowry system etc. that prevail in the society for half an hour in every week.

**11. What is the literacy rate in the local community?**

73%

**12. 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.**

This project proposal aims to seek the continuation of supporting the projects of running two schools for Banjara communities in Bhilwadi and Jodhawas villages. Most of them keep moving from place to place in the state. Since they keep moving, their children are deprived of education. Of late however, many of these tribes are trying to get into the mainstream.

Sufficient measures need to be taken to facilitate this process. It is keeping this in mind that Bal Ashram Trust started a school with the help of Asha for their children. The efforts put by Bal Ashram Trust have helped these tribes receive facilities of drinking water and electricity. In fact, the ashram is home to a few children from the tribals who keep shifting from place to place in the vicinity of Bal Ashram.

The naive tribes are currently caught in the web between their current way of life of shifting from place to place and their efforts of mingling with the mainstream society. The mingling process starts with the basic requirement of searching for a job and earning a livelihood. During this, most of the tribals have their children engaged in work. Ignorance of their rights and illiteracy often lands them in indentured labor like construction work. It is to aid these tribals that the Bal Ashram Trust plans to start the schools.

It is not known how many of children for whom the schools are meant are involved in any economic activity. But it is a certainty that most children would be in work.

**13. In addition to education, does your group provide any other services to the children in your schools (e.g. food, health care, clothing, etc.)?**

The school opened for tribals would be involved in providing education, and bringing the community to the main stream of the society. The teachers are employed from the nearby villages. The school would also act as information centers for the tribals in case they want to know about their rights, how to approach the local government for various schemes etc. Thus it would facilitate their inclusion in the mainstream society. While the children receive education on health, hygiene and nutrition, at a later stage Bal ashram would conduct health camps which are often conducted in the child friendly villages that it operates.

**14. Does your school have:**

Its own building(s):  Yes  No Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number and type of classrooms (e.g. Pukka): \_\_\_\_\_

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Toilets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Playground	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Toys	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chairs & Tables	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Blackboard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Library	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Drinking water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Electricity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Computers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Laboratory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Teaching aids (e.g. books/slates)				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**15. How many children are currently enrolled in your school(s)?**

Male 31 Female 37 Age Range 6-14

**16. How many staff are employed at your schools?**

Teachers 2 Minimum Qualifications Graduation  
 Other staff 1

**17. Average distance the children travel to attend your school 3-4 Km**

**18. 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 and employment possibilities.**

In Jodhawas, 31 children underwent formal education in the last 3 years. Of those 31 children, 4 children got admission in Government school who got replaced by new admissions thus regaining the strength back to 31. In Bhilwadi the number of tribal children is 37. Presently, the total strength of the children who will receive education in these two schools is 68. More and more children can be benefited if the schools are provided with good inputs and proper educational facilities. Thus we seek funds and support for the proper functioning of these two schools.

**19. Do you help your students with their future education efforts after they have passed out of your school?**

Yes, the schools would give guidance to students who want to continue further education after school. The assistance would be in terms of assisting them in the course to select and where to study. For children interested in the vocational training provided in the Ashram, they would be facilitated to do likewise.

**20. 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.**

Yes, there are schools in the neighbouring villages (a vicinity of 6-8 Km from where the tribals stay). However within the community, there are no schools.

**21. Is your program different from that provided at these schools? Please explain.**

The programme is same in the sense of educational curriculum that would be provided. But the school would go beyond equipping the students with the curriculum. They would undergo cultural and social education to foster a sense of pride in them. Besides, they would also be given the choice to take up a vocational training course in the Bal Ahsram in case they are interested.

**22. Why are the children in your school/s not attending government/other schools in the local area?**

The programme is same in the sense of educational curriculum that would be provided. But these schools would go beyond equipping the students with the curriculum. They would undergo cultural and social education to foster a sense of pride in them. Besides, they would also be given the choice to take up a vocational training course in the Bal Ahsram in case they are interested.

**23. 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.**

Yes, the parents would be involved in the process. Parents would be persuaded about the necessity of education for their children and their encouragement is essential to keep the children in school. Besides, parents' help and views would be sought whenever a child wants to take up a vocation in the Bal Ashram. There are meetings with the parents of the children and discussions with them about the importance of hygiene and health. In the class, children are informed about the preventive measures of some of the diseases and about the importance of balanced environment.

**24. What are your expansion plans for the future (e.g. adding more classes or schools)?**

Our expansion plan for this project involves seeking funds for the second school in Bhilwadi along with the previously funded school in Jodhawas for the Banjara community. The extension of these schools are limited till the children are joining in a school for formal education. During the interaction with the community, it is expected that the necessity, if any, to open more schools or training centre would come up. Based on this, the expansion of the program would be decided.

**25. Do you have any suggestions on how Asha can be a positive influence in changing the education scenario in India?**

Asha could undertake a series of advocacy, mass mobilisation and community development activities at national, state, district, and village levels to sensitise policy makers and general public about the need and importance of their meaningful interventions to ensure quality, meaningful education, accessible to all children.

**26. If possible, please provide us with the contact information of two individuals from your community who can describe the impact of your program.**

<b>1</b>	Name	Mr. Adesh Sharma
	Address	Village Papri Viratnagar, Jaipur, Rajasthan
	Phone	9828264042

<b>2</b>	Name	
	Address	
	Phone	

**27. 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.**

Name	Ms. Neha Malhotra
Address	L-6, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019
Phone	+91-11-26224899

**Part III: Financial Details**

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



**31. Please provide details of the fixed costs of your school/s for the next three years.**

**32. How many of your students pay school fees? Please provide details.**

The students need not pay any fee. In fact every student who has 75% or more attendance would receive a scholarship of Rs. 100 every month in their account which is opened in the name of the student at nearby Post office.

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

Items	Amount	One time / Annual
Building Maintenance	Rs. 1000 * 12 months *2 Schools = Rs 24000	USD 532
Basic infrastructure-Blackboard, Water provision, Maps, Charts etc.	Rs. 5000* 2 Schools =Rs 10000	USD 222
Clothing	Rs 300*2 sets of uniforms* 68 children = Rs 40800	USD 905
Teachers	Rs. 6,000 * 2 teacher for 2 Schools*12 Months = Rs 144000	USD 3,193
Supervisor	Rs 7000*12 = Rs 84000	USD 1,863
Accounts and Administration	Rs. 4000* 12 months = Rs 48000	USD 1,065
Books & Stationery	Rs. 1000 *68 students = Rs 68000	USD 1,508
Shoes	Rs 150*2 Sets of shoes* 68 children = Rs 20400	USD 452
Local conveyence	Rs. 2000 *12 months = Rs 24000	USD 532
Communication costs	Rs. 1000 per month*12 months = Rs 12000	USD 266
Miscellaneous	Rs 1,800	USD 40
TOTAL (For one year )	Rs 477,000	USD 10,578