



Asha for Education

New York City/New Jersey

Asha for Education-NYC/NJ • P.O.Box 153 • New York • NY - 10040

www.ashanet.org/nycnj

Project Name: Supporting Education for Rural Children

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	Project Contact	Asha Contact
Name	Angela Jacob	Amit Sharma
Address	Seva Mandir Old Fatehpura Udaipur - 313004 Rajasthan, India	
Phone(s)	+91 2942451041 / 2452001 / 2450960	
Fax	+91 294 2450947	
E-mail	angela@sevamandir.org	

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.

Seva Mandir

2. When was the group established?

12th February 1968

3. Briefly describe the motivation for starting this group.

During the pre-independence period from 1900 to 1947, Udaipur was witness to an increasing awareness among educationists and liberal thinkers of the particular backwardness and political stagnation of Rajasthan. This provoked a movement towards change and inspired certain individuals, who had imbibed the concept of voluntarism, to seize the initiative.

In the late 1960s, Dr. Mohansingh Mehta, established Seva Mandir when he returned to Udaipur after a long career including a decade as India's Ambassador and six years as Vice Chancellor of the Rajasthan University. To Dr. Mehta, Seva Mandir embodied social obligation, character formation, awareness about nature and rural surroundings.

4. Briefly describe the aims of your group.

The long-term strategy of Seva Mandir focuses on creating the social, institutional, and livelihood bases for a democratic and participatory approach to development that benefits and empowers the poorest sections of society. This is achieved through the following overlapping strategic objectives:

- To create and strengthen institutions for development (at the village, organization and society levels)
- To enhance people's capabilities for self-development (both at individual and community level);
- To create sustainable improvements in the livelihoods base;

Each of these programs, in achieving its respective goals, is also designed to build values and social capacities needed to achieve development and democracy for the poor.

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

N/A

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

Seva Mandir's objectives, as described above, provide the basis for three separate programme sectors. non-education related areas of activity comprise:

- 1) Livelihoods: Natural Resource Regeneration, Non-Farm Income Generation
- 2) Capabilities: Health, Women's Empowerment, Child and Youth Development
- 3) Institutions: Village Institution Building, People's Management School

The programs are designed to build the values and social capacities needed in order to ensure development and foster democracy for the poor and deprived.

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.

The proposal being submitted by Seva Mandir to ASHA is to support education for rural children in Badgaon block of Udaipur district. It has the following three components:

1. Support for 20 Shiksha Kendras.
2. Supporting and maintaining 5 Activity cum Support centers (called as Sahyog Kendras) in Badgaon.
3. Supporting at least 25 out of school children of Badgaon block to attend two residential learning schools (camp) organized by Seva Mandir.

**Please see the supplemental report for full financial details and more in depth explanations.

8. Location of school/s Urban Rural Other _____

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

For Shiksha Kendra and Residential Learning Schools - Primary education

For Activity Centers – Primary and middle level education

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

One of the key underlying principles of Seva Mandir's SKs is that all children are uniquely endowed and therefore their pace of education has to be facilitated accordingly. Therefore, the teachers are trained to allow each child to learn as per his/her own pace and in their own way. To enable the child and teacher to have the freedom and pace of learning there is no strict curriculum or a syllabus for SKs. However, there is a set of guidelines on how to teach and to what learning abilities a teacher can strive to teach.

The use of interesting learning material, emphasis on helping children to think, interact, question and form concepts on their own and creating a joyful and stimulating learning environment for children are some key features of the Shiksha Kendras. The assessments of these children's performance have been indicating increased retention in school with improved learning levels.

Thus, Seva Mandir sees these centres as sites for demonstrating alternative models of quality education, which address the immediate unmet needs of children, rather than as permanent alternatives to the mainstream government system. It is a place that secures the all-round development of children and prepares them for the future and for future schooling. These centres take the child up to the level of Class 3, after which efforts are made to enrol the child to Government school.

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

Please see answer of next question

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.

As per the government's census of 2011, the literacy rate for Udaipur district is 62% - 49% for females and 76% for male. However, our own data suggests that the literacy rates for Seva Mandir's area of operation are much lower. According to a survey done by Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Seva Mandir's area of operation in the year 2007-08, the self-reported literacy rate among adults (ages 14 and up) was 33 % (female literacy levels were only 20.48% while for men it was 43%).

The context of Seva Mandir's work area is characterised by a significant number of children still out of school. In the year 2012, a household survey was conducted by Seva Mandir in order to gauge the current education situation covering 1828 households and 2478 children in the age group of 6- 14. Out of the 2478 children in the survey, 53% are currently out of school. 47% are currently attending school and 36% have never attended school.

For many children in the area we cover, they contribute substantially in domestic chores, the grazing of cattle and other agricultural work. As a consequence of high levels of poverty, young children are engaged in economically productive activities, a sizeable number of them also migrating outside their homes for labour. In the area covered by Seva Mandir, children as young as 10 years, migrate to Gujarat to work on cotton farms, in mines or other forms of casual labour. Many of the children who attend our seasonal schools are from such backgrounds. Furthermore, there are also children, who after graduating or dropping out of our Shiksha Kendras again become migrant labour to help support their families.

After passing out of the SKs and camps follow ups is conducted with the children and their families about the education status of the children. Many students passed out from SKs are in higher education and pursuing their graduation also. At present a pilot study is being conducted to know the status of pass out children from the SKs.

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.)?

No other services like food, health care and clothing are provided unless the village uses its fees to buy school uniforms or any other items for the children.

In Residential Learining Schools children are provided with all the material required as above for their studies. Additionally, we also provide them with basic toiletries for their stay. Since most of the children who attend are from very impoverished backgrounds, many suffer from pre - existing illnesses or are generally weak and malnourished and vulnerable to disease. Therefore, providing healthcare and medical aid are important components of the seasonal schools. The children are provided with nutritious and balanced meals and snacks to reduce anemia and general weakness. Since most of them have only one or two sets of clothes, we provide an additional set of clothes each time they come to the seasonal schools including sweaters for those held in the winter. We generally try to find some local donors to sponsor the sweaters for the children.

14. Does your school have:Its own building(s): Yes No Number _____

Number and type of classrooms (e.g. Pukka): _____

	Yes	No		Yes	No		Yes	No
Toilets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Playground	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Toys	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chairs & Tables	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Blackboard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Library	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drinking water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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)					

15. How many children are currently enrolled in your school(s)?Male 804 Female 638Age Range 6-14**16. How many staff are employed at your schools?**Teachers 34 Minimum Qualifications 8th class

Other staff _____

17. Average distance the children travel to attend your school 1-2 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.**

Most of the SKs in Badgaon have existed for more than 5 years and on average 6 - 7 children from a centre (with an average enrollment of 25) graduate from the SK every year. In last 5 years, including current year, a total of 489 children were admitted in government schools from Badgaon block alone and trend from last few years shows that more than 45 % out of these, join higher grades like grade 5 and 6. similarly, regular impact studies of the residential Schools are also undertaken. From our past experience, between 60 - 70% of the children enrol in regular schools after completion of the Learning schools. After introducing scholarships for camp pass out children, the retention of children in government school has also increased. Currently 234 children pass out from the camps of last 2 years are getting regular in their studies and getting scholarships.

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

Seva Mandir helps children who pass out from the SKs and the Residential schools to obtain admission in Government schools. Because the SK instructors are from the children's localities, they follow up with the children after they leave the SKs.

Additionally, from 2009 we are conducting a three year pilot study that awards a scholarship to children who pass out from the camps with the aim to retain children in either SKs or government schools. Last year's data shows out of eligible children around 78% did not migrate and were retained in school.

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.

In many villages there are government schools and/or ICDS (Integrated Child Development Center run Aganwadis). The physical presence of these schools exists, however, the regularity and quality of education is questionable.

Currently there are 8 Seva mandir run pre school centers and 10 Government run Aanganwadis in the villages where these schools are functioning. There is also presence of Government run primary schools in these villages however as mentioned the quality and distance is matter of concern for the parents and children.

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

Yes, Our shiksha Kendras are different from Governemnt run schools in many ways. There is a vast difference in basic teaching learning methods. Our schools follow a pedagogy based on the constructivist model where the teachers and children together try to construct knowledge. Teaching material and training are means of strengthening this pedagogy. Our emphasis is on comprehension and not completing schedules. Teachers are constantly exposed to the theoretical concepts of children's learning processes. Moreover, the children are also provided with ample space and opportunity in the class to explore, think and read on their own. On the other hand in most of other schools the pedagogy is not child centric and activiy based.

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

Complex and inter woven reasons prevent children from attending schools in our area. Accessibility and the poor quality of schools are major reasons. Non-comprehension in classroom, bad experiences in school (ill treatment by the teacher or other children) or simply the unattractive appearance and poor quality resources may cause a high number of children to drop out. Apart from this a range of economic and social reasons prevent the children from attending school. Many children contribute substantially towards domestic work, grazing of cattle and other agricultural work. Due to poverty, many children are also engaged in economically productive activities and many migrate from their villages for labour. Sometimes social and cultural influences prevent some children from attending schools, particularly girls.

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.

We involve the parents in the running of the school via regular parent/teacher meetings. Parents also make decisions about how school fees are spent via the Gram Vikas Kosh (village fund). There are some key aspects where we take the needs of parents into account:

- The schools we run are reliable. They open regularly and on time, and holidays are pre-announced. So, parents are not left guessing whether the school will be open that day or not.
- The SKs and Sahyog Kendra holiday calendar is very different from the government school's holiday calendar and decided in conjunction with the parents. The SK's holidays are decided as per local festivals and the individual needs of children and their families.

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

Similar to last year, next year also Seva Mandir will focus more on deepening and increasing the quality of education in the existing SKs. Seva Mandir will continue to evaluate the quality of government schools. As the quality of education increases in government schools and is able to produce educated children, the SKs of the region will be evaluated for their effectiveness.

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

During last 5 years, the support received from ASHA has helped Seva Mandir in providing quality education to many children. The education situation in our region is very different from what has been discussed in government statistics. We are always grateful to ASHA for keeping faith in our work and supporting our programme. ASHA can further help us in liaising with other cooperative agencies who can support Seva Mandir for improving the existing programmes.

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

1.	Name	Shiv Singh Ji
	Address	GVC member
		Pipad
		Badgaon
	Phone	

2.	Name	Aamar Singh Ji
	Address	GVC member
		Gariyo Ka Gura
		Badgaon
	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	Angela Jacob
Address	Seva Mandir, Old Fatehpura
	Udaipur, Rajasthan, India 313004
Phone	+91 292 2451041

Part III: Financial Details

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

28. What sources fund your group's activities at present? List the sources and the current and future funding from each of them. If these funds are meant for a specific part of your group's activities, please describe those restrictions.

Please refer to Annexure II

29. Please provide us with details of your projected budget for the next 3 years:

30. Salary expenditure details:

	Number	Salary Range
Teachers		Please refer Annexure 1.
Paid Staff		
Volunteer Staff		

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

Please refer Annexure 1.

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

Out of a total 576 children who attended SKs last year, 59 children were exempt from the fee leaving 495 students who paid fees of Rs. 100 per year.

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