

Asha for Education Fellowship Application Form

SECTION I: Personal Contact Information

Name : Sanju Kumar

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Karnataka State, India

Phone : +91-9341315865

E-Mail : sanju200n@yahoo.co.in

Nominator : _____

Have you ever applied to Asha Fellowship Program before? **NO**, if yes when _____

SECTION II: Summary of Work

Name of the Project (if any) : Poverty alleviation through Micro Credit Program

Location : Gulbarga & Bidar

State : Karnataka (Northern part of Karnataka)

Which Communities will your work serve? : Poor & Economically Backward women, Women from Weaker section in the rural & urban area

Location : Gulbarga, Bidar & Raichur

Type of Work (Select three Maximum)

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

SECTION III: Education

Degree, Certification & Training	Institution	Location	Year
Bachelor of Agricultural Science	University of Agricultural Sciences Dharwad	Raichur Campus	2000
Training			
Micro Credit - concepts and evolution, empowering of rural poor through Micro Credit Program	NABARAD	Dharwad	2000
SHG Capacity Building	Council for Research, Education, Employment & Reproductively	Bidar	2004

SECTION III: Experience

I have over 6 years of work experience in developmental, rehabilitation, agriculture and micro credit program. I worked with leading microfinance institute in Karnataka. Currently I am also associated with Asha Deepa School for the Blind in the education and rehabilitation of visually challenged children. I have also worked for Council for Research, Education, and Employment & Reproductivity under its SHG capacity building wing. Around 500 women and 300 farmers benefitted from the program. I was also an independent consultant for start-up NGOs and livelihood promotion institutions.

SECTION IV: Organizational Affiliations & Memberships

Organization	Your role	Year
SAMRUDHI Micro Fin Society	Founder & Chief Executive	Since 2007
Jeevan Prakash Education Society	Director	Since 2003

SECTION VI: References

Name	Organization	Address/Phone/email
Dr. B.L Patil	Associate Professor Dept of Agril. Economics	University of Agricultural Sciences Phone : Email:
Dr. Anne Chappuis	Chief Executive, ViSTA,	Jublee Hills, Hyderabad Phone : Email:

SECTION V: Proposal

Please answer the following questions in the space provided:

Name of Project (if any): : Poverty alleviation through Micro Credit Program
 Mission Statement : "To empower the poor and underprivileged women to become economically self-reliant by providing cost effective and need based livelihood financial services in a financially sustainable manner"

Clearly describe the need for the project or your work:

India is said to be the home of one third of the world's poor. The World Bank estimates that over 600 million people in India survive on less than \$2/day, the yardstick commonly used to demarcate the poverty line. Sixty percent of the population lives in poverty and they suffer from high rates of hunger and malnutrition. These poor live on the brink of subsistence. The vast majority of the poor are landless laborers or marginal farmers who draw their livelihood from subsistence agriculture. The average daily wage for this population is Rs. 20 for women and Rs. 45 for men. To cope with their vulnerability, the poor take small credit during crisis periods from moneylenders who charge exploitative rates of interest—often as high as 72%-350% per year. This puts the poor in a debt trap, and often results in their falling into bonded labor—a system of indentured servitude in which a person "sells" his labor for a year in exchange for a loan thus poor falls in a vicious cycle of "**low income, low savings, low investment.**"

Clearly describe the proposed solution:

About 87 percent of the poorest households do not have access to credit for one or the other reason. If poor people can access low interest credit during times of crisis, they can avoid falling into debt trap. But bureaucracy and corruption prevents the poor from accessing credit from banks and the government. That is why SAMRUDHI attempts to alleviate poverty through the provision of Micro Credit—a powerful

poverty fighting tool that helps poor to come out of poverty by accessing collateral free livelihood based financial services. SAMRUDHI provides Microloans for income generating activities in an attempt to reverse the age-old vicious cycle of “**low income, low savings, low investment,**” into an expanding system of “**low income, injection of credit for investment, more income, more investment, more income.**” Poor & underprivileged women have been designated as the target group both because they are the most marginalized and because women tend to use resources more productively than men do. That is, they tend to invest the majority of their income in the household and for their children, and they tend to undertake small, manageable activities rather than risky ventures that could bankrupt families.

Clearly describe the expected impact of the project or your work:

By providing micro loans to women, SAMRUDHI expect to see a rise in household income that will benefit the entire family. An additional benefit is that SAMRUDHI will be empowering a marginalized group by enabling women to have ownership of assets.

The expected impact of our work:-

- Access to micro loans without any collaterals at their doorstep
- Increase & Diversify income & build assets
- Mitigate risk plan for the future make choice
- Increase calorie food consumption
- Invest in Children education & health
- Invest in housing water & sanitation

Describe any innovative ideas & approach:

- SAMRUDHI adapted the pioneering Grameen Bank (Bangladesh) approach to local modification. It lends to five-member groups of women and designates the group member the ultimate guarantor of each of its members. If one member does not repay, no individual in the group is eligible to receive another loan. Default member’s loan has to be paid by remaining members of the group.
- The keys to this approach include:
- ***Social Collateral.*** The poorest do not have physical assets that can be used as security. Instead, borrowers organize themselves into groups that take collective responsibility for repayment of one another's loans.
- ***Doorstep Banking.*** Providing financial services in the villages enables the rural poor to collect that day’s wages and avoid the costs of travel to mainstream banks. The illiterate poor are also unable to complete loan applications, which often require several trips.

Customized microloans. SAMRUDHI designs loans with small, weekly repayments corresponding to wage structures, consumption and income generating loans to prevent emergency “distress sales,” and small first loans to inculcate credit discipline and collective responsibility. Interest and loan repayments are made equal for easy comprehension.

Clearly describe why you will succeed:

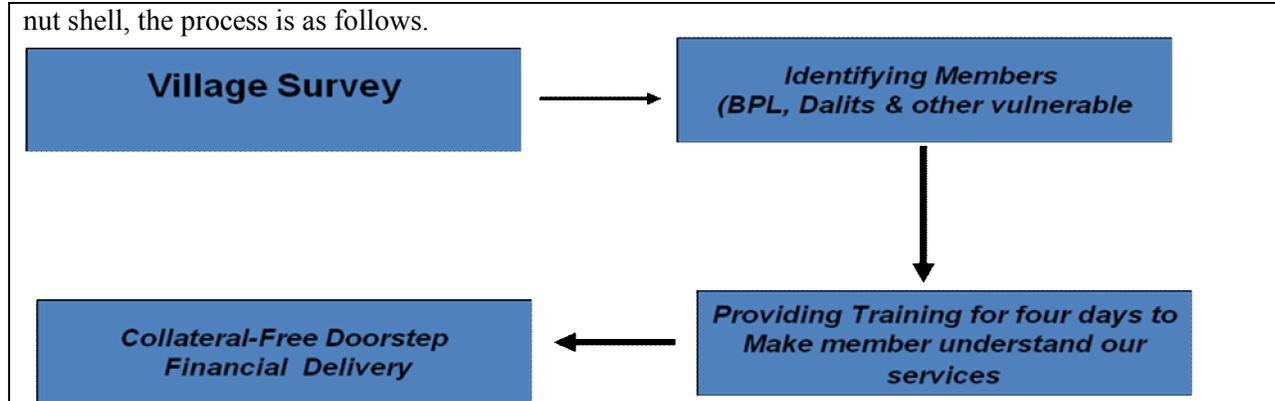
Knowledge of the work domain

I am very well acquainted with the geography, people, their need, people culture. I am very much aware of the need of the microcredit to the poor women. I am very capable of working with the community, rural & urban poor women because of my long experience in the developmental sector.

Efficient methodology

We are following Grameen model which own Nobel Prize with local modification as per the need. In a

nut shell, the process is as follows.



What activities will be undertaken for the project?

The following activities will be undertaken for the project & it is a continuous process to enroll new beneficiaries.

1. Village/Area Survey & Selection
2. Projection meeting with beneficiaries
3. Group formation of poor women
4. Training & Capacity building of women beneficiaries
5. Micro loan appraisal & approval
6. Disbursement & weekly Centre Meeting
7. Loan utilization Verification

Other activities such as adult literacy program of our beneficiaries, Awareness on health & sanitation, gender issues etc are addressed during the project program.

- ⇒ **Trainings on the business/enterprise/trade:** - Many of SAMRUDHI's targeted women are agriculture and daily wages laborers and lack expertise in business/enterprises they want to undertake. SAMRUDHI will provide training to such members in their interested trade/business.
- ⇒ **Market information on the business/enterprise/trade:** - SAMRUDHI's member may undertake various trade & business with the microloan availed from SAMRUDHI and end up with no market for the product they produces. In order to avoid members to undergo losses, SAMRUDHI will provide information on the market & viability of the business they wish take.
- ⇒ **Risk mitigation** – through education, linkage and micro insurance

What learnings from this work can be applied elsewhere & where:

The new modification to the Grameen model can be replicated anywhere to provide livelihood based microcredit to the poor women in urban & rural area

List any organizations, including universities, international agencies, NGOs, etc., involved in the work:

- BASIX- www.basixindia.com
- Sanghamitra- www.sanghamithra.org
- Myrada- www.myrada.org/
- Prerana : Raichure Area
- Chetana : Haveri Area
- Prawarda : South Karnataka

What level of funding are you requesting from Asha for Education (stipend, project funds, etc.) :

Funding Request:

Year	Living Expenses		Allowance for Travel etc.		Total	
	Rupees	USD	Rupees	USD	Rupees	USD
1	96000	2400	36000	900	132000	3300
2	96000	2400	36000	900	132000	3300
Total	192000	\$4800	72000	\$1469	264000	\$6600

- **USD1 =Rs.40/-**

The funding requested is for two years. The amount requested has 2 parts - Living expenses and an Allowance to cover Travel, Communication costs etc. In the first year the funding requested is Rs. 8,000/month for Living expenses and 3,000/month as Allowance for Travel etc.

Since SAMRUDHI Micro Fin Society is a start up organization and as chief executive, I may not access honorarium or salary towards my own livelihood or living until it becomes financially self sustainable which is expected to happen in the next two year.

Section VIII: Declaration:

Y	I am 18 years of age or older
Y	I am prepared to commit a minimum of 32 hours per week to the proposed work
Y	I am prepared to commit to a minimum of 2 years to the proposed project starting
Y	I am not proposing an academic research project
Y	I am not a prior recipient of Asha for Education Fellowship Program funding
Y	The proposed project/work is not affiliated with any religious or political organizations
Y	The proposed project/work is an independent and autonomous project
Y	The idea proposed is my original idea
Y	I have attached a resume and other pertinent information to this application

I certify that I have answered all questions truthfully. I understand that if I have misrepresented myself or my proposed work, Asha for Education may disqualify my eligibility.

Signature: _____

Name : Sanju Kumar

Date : 20th December, 2007