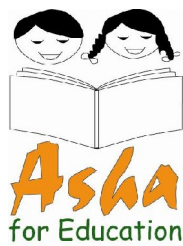


# WORK AN HOUR 2007

HELP EMPOWER. WORK AN HOUR.



[www.workanhour.org](http://www.workanhour.org)

## About Work An Hour

Each year, people from around the world come together in a demonstration of great human spirit, to help educate underprivileged children in India.

Work An Hour, or WAH, as it is popularly known, is a summer-long, global, online fundraising campaign based on a simple concept. Participants are asked to **symbolically Work An Hour towards the cause of children's education by donating an hour's worth or more of their salary.**

The campaign begins on July 4 and concludes on September 5, which is celebrated as Teachers' Day in India.

Asha's project partners chosen for WAH support typically require larger sums of money than what a single Asha chapter can raise, in order to facilitate fixed expenditure on items such as infrastructure, construction and other one-time costs and recurring expenses.

**In 2006, WAH raised over \$130,000 with a donor base of over 1,000 participants from around the world.**

All Asha projects are closely monitored by Asha project coordinators to ensure that the funds are being properly utilized and the proposed benefits are actually being realized by the children in the project.

The first WAH campaign started in 1998 and raised over \$30,000 with close to 700 donors. Last year, WAH raised over \$130,000 with a donor base of over 1,000 participants. Projects chosen in the past usually include a wide range of education initiatives, such as educating slum children, supporting schools for the disabled and non-formal education centers, educating children of prostitutes, and empowering rural and tribal communities.

## 2007 Theme:

Better Schools. Better Retention Rates. Decreased Child Labor.

To commemorate WAH's tenth year of unique fundraising, Asha for Education is highlighting projects that focus on decreasing child labor in India through increasing school retention rates and decreasing drop-out rates. Child labor has reached epidemic numbers in India with statistics varying from 12 million to over 40 million child laborers in the country. According to UNICEF, India has the world's largest number of child laborers under the age of 14. Along with Asha for Education, major international organizations, such as UNICEF, ILO and the World Bank, have recognized that part of **the solution to combating child labor around the world lies in strengthening school retention rates.**

Millions of children across the world, including children in India, work in hazardous conditions where their physical, mental, emotional and educational well-being is put in jeopardy. Child labor victims are often subject to psychological, physical or verbal abuse; have little or no pay; work excessive hours; work in dangerous environments; and have no access to education. Without education, children almost inevitably grow up to be adults who continue to work for low wages and this perpetuates the cycle of poverty and child labor.

**According to UNICEF, India has the world's largest number of child laborers under the age of 14.**

Although India has not ratified the ILO convention that calls for the immediate elimination of all forms of child labor, there are a number of laws in place that are targeted against child labor. In 1986, the Indian government passed the Child Labour Act, which bans children from working in hazardous environments. In October of 2006, the government extended the ban to children working as domestic help and in the food service sector. In addition, violators of the ban can be punished with a hefty fine or up to two years in prison. However many critics contend that though the recent ban is necessary, the government hasn't provided for alternatives for families who need the extra income that child laborers bring home, nor has it provided resources for children to go to school.

**Asha for Education recognizes these gaps in India's efforts to combat child labor and seeks to fill them by supporting grassroots, community-based NGOs that work to strengthen the educational needs of India's children.** By increasing access and opportunities to education for all children in India, Asha for Education volunteers believe that child labor can be reduced. Our 2007 projects, detailed below, focus on strengthening retention rates as a means to combat child labor. By supporting these 11 projects, participants from around the world are contributing towards not only educating a child, a village or a community – but also towards ending the ills of child labor. WAH presents a unique opportunity where participants own income from work can help alleviate a child from entering the perilous child labor market.

## Child Labor Fact Sheet

**246 million** children around the world are child laborers. (ILO)<sup>1</sup>

The largest number of working children – **127 million** – age 14 and under is in the Asia-Pacific region. (ILO)<sup>1</sup>

**73 million** working children are less than 10 years old. (ILO)<sup>1</sup>

Every year, **22,000 children** die in work related accidents. (ILO)<sup>1</sup>

An estimated **14%** of the child population in India between the ages of 5-14 years of age participates in child labor. (UNICEF)<sup>2</sup>

Only 59% of India's male children enroll in secondary school and not even half – 47% - of India's female children enroll in secondary school. (UNICEF)<sup>2</sup>

India's children cost cheaper than buffalos. While buffaloes may cost up to 15,000 rupees (\$350), children are sold at prices between 500 and 2,000 rupees (\$12 and \$45). (Bachpan Bachao Andolan (Save the Childhood Movement), India)

47 out of 100 children in India enrolled in class I reach class VIII, putting the **dropout rate at 52.79%**. (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyana, Indian government's Educational For All Movement)

One-third of the population or nearly **300 million people** in the age group 7 years and above are still illiterate in India. (UNICEF)<sup>3</sup>

Approximately 16.64% of villages in the country do not have facilities for primary schooling. (UNICEF)<sup>3</sup>

**42 million** children in the age-group 6-14 years do not attend school in India. (UNICEF)<sup>3</sup>

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1. "Facts on Child Labour." International Labour Organization. June 2004  
<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/inf/download/child/childday04.pdf>

2. Years 1999-2005. UNICEF. [http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/india\\_india\\_statistics.html](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/india_india_statistics.html)

3. "Global Campaign for Education – more teachers needed." UNICEF. April 24, 2006.  
[http://www.unicef.org/india/education\\_1551.htm](http://www.unicef.org/india/education_1551.htm)

## WAH 2007 Projects

### **Aralu Belaku**

Aralu's "Prasanthi Kuthir" in Bidar, Karnataka is a residential home for about 25 children between the ages of 4 to 10 who may be orphans, abandoned or victims of child labor. The center aims to provide basic necessities, rehabilitate them into young and independent children, and motivate them into joining and staying in mainstream schools. Aralu Belaku not only takes the children to a nearby government school but also provides a tutor at the residential home who further helps the children in their studies. The children's educational scores are above the average performance of other government school children, indicating the positive impact the residential home has had on its young residents. Aralu Belaku is also developing a small dairy farm on-premises, completely nurtured by the staff and the children themselves. The goal of the farming project is to foster self-sustainability and to impart the young residents with skills they can use after their schooling finishes.

*WAH donations will help fund meals for the children at the residential home.*

### **Assam Center for Rural Development (ACRD)**

The Kamrup district of Assam, a largely poor farmer community, is marked by scheduled castes and scheduled tribes (these are Indian communities that are recipients of special administrative and welfare efforts, as deemed by the Constitution of India). Many children of these poor, farmer families help their parents tend to the farm, thus becoming agricultural child laborers. In the 1990's, ACRD opened two schools in the Kamrup district – Nartap High School and Bonpura Primary School – to target these agricultural child laborers. Both schools tend to the various educational needs of over 370 students. Past Asha for Education support has helped to pay for teachers' salaries and to construct the school buildings. In addition, the schools, along with the funding provided by Asha, has created greater community involvement in ensuring that the children remain in school.

*WAH donations will help fund teachers salaries, cost of stationary and other recurring expenses.*

### **Baikunthapur Tarun Sangha (BTS)**

Baikunthapur Tarun Sangha or BTS has an important mission – to enroll every child in each of the six island villages of Kulti Islands in West Bengal into its creative and science based school. Founded in 1983, the school currently teaches over 200 children and has extracurricular activities such as dance, drama, botany and fishery. The school also aims to save children from the perils of child labor and specifically targets children working in prawn collection and agricultural industries. One method BTS employs to ensure that its students stay in school is by keeping the teacher-student ratio high (1 teacher: 13 students, higher than government schools). They also cater to 22 dropout girls by teaching them a condensed version of the curriculum.

*WAH donations will help fund the construction of a computer center and a library and the installation of solar lighting for the facility.*

### **Institute of Social Work Primary Education Project (ISW)**

In the slums of Kolkata's docks, the Kiddipore School, run by ISW, aims to provide vocational training to over 50 adolescent destitute girls. ISW's other educational center, in Barasat, is a transit school that helps dropouts from government schools reenter the educational system. The Barasat School, which teaches over 300 children, recently had its first student take the *Madhyamik* (10th standard board exam). In addition, the schools have added computer education to its curriculum. ISW also plans to introduce meals for the children and think that this might be an incentive to keep the kids for longer hours in the center.

*WAH donations will help fund teachers' salaries at the two schools and the construction costs of a library.*

### **Khajurdaha Nabankur United Club – LTTO**

The Learn Together Teach Other program of Khajurdaha Nabankur United Club teaches children of agrarian families living below the poverty line in West Bengal. The project covers an area of 30 villages. Of the 8,780 children in the 5-14 age group in the villages, only 1,645 children are served by the 11 government-run primary schools and an additional 570 are served by the only government-run secondary school in the area. By providing schooling, LTTO addresses the basic educational needs of children and helps to mainstream their education, thereby fighting the scourge of child labor.

*WAH donations will help fund the construction of LTTO school run by KNUC.*

### **Needy Illiterate Children Education (NICE)**

In many rural communities in India, government schools often do not offer a proper standard of education or vocational training. Many children dropout of these schools and migrate to bigger towns or cities to earn a living. NICE aims to counter this problem by providing a residential school around the Mynampadu Village in Andhra Pradesh for children who dropout from school. The free school offers a high standard of formal education until 10<sup>th</sup> grade followed by vocational training for 2 years (12<sup>th</sup> grade). They also plan to provide low cost loans after high school to allow these young adults to setup their own businesses in the local community. In addition, NICE works with parents of child laborers to liberate their children and get them enrolled in school.

*WAH donations will help fund the teachers and staff salaries.*

### **Sankalp Welfare Society**

In the urban landscape of Gurgaon in Haryana, the number of unskilled migratory workers flocking to this rapidly growing city is large. Children of these migratory workers are often left unattended or accompany their parents to hazardous work places such as construction sites. *Sankalp*, which means a pledge, created a free, non-formal school that provides education, nutrition, medical facilities and clothing to children of migratory workers. Older students are also taught vocational skills such as candle making and tailoring. In addition, they have set-up a mobile school for the children who cannot commute to the schools from the slums.

*WAH donations will help fund a 40-seat school bus to transport graduated students from the mobile and outreach schools to the main Sankalp school.*

### **Team for Education and Action (TEA Trust)**

Only one school exists in the entire Karambakkam village in Tamil Nadu. The Little Flower School, run by TEA Trust, targets the many children of nearly 5000 families who migrate to this village to work in the brick kilns. Often, many of these children will accompany their parents to the brick kilns, engage in child labor and not attend school. TEA Trust's school caters to over 150 children from grades 1 to 6 and houses 50 children in their residential school. In addition to their basic academic needs, the Little Flower School also organizes science camps, environmental education, health and nutrition camps, and alternate vocational training for the children. TEA Trust and the Karambakkam community recognize the importance of education in reducing child labor. Says one TEA Trust coordinator, "Through our work with child laborers we have come to understand that most of the children drop out of schools because of the irrelevant education systems and not because of poverty. Once a child drops out of school and stays at home, the parents take the child to work and that is how most children end up working."

*WAH donations will help fund the repair and maintenance of the Little Flower School.*

### **Timbaktu Collective**

In the Ananthapur district of Andhra Pradesh, the largely agricultural region is impoverished because of unreliable and sparse rains. There is also large scale degradation of land due to flawed farming techniques. Timbaktu Collective, a voluntary organization, started an alternative education program that targets children of struggling farmers who dropout to help their families tend to farming. The program consists of a day school in each of six villages and a residential school at Timbaktu. The collective has overtime come-by some lands where the organization practices permaculture. The schools incorporate academics, skill-training, nutrition, healthcare, arts and crafts, games and sports. In addition to running the schools, Timbaktu also organizes camps for residential children trying to integrate many of their activities like arts and crafts, developing stories, and nature walks to provide them well rounded education.

*WAH donations will help fund sanghas (informal unions) dedicated to child development.*

### **TRY – To Reach You**

In the burgeoning metropolis of Chennai, Tamil Nadu, commercial sex workers often have to leave their children unattended. Many of these children do not go to school and are either left on the streets of the slums or fall victim to the commercial sex trade or to child labor. TRY has created a home for children of sex workers, where they are given full-time care and sent to school. Currently, the home houses 12 children of sex workers. The organization also provides counseling and vocational training to the mothers and organizes community events to raise awareness about the commercial sex sector.

*WAH donations will help fund the further construction of the residential home.*



### **Vikasana Bridge School for Child Labour Rehabilitation**

Vikasana is an NGO that operates in over 250 villages in Shimoga district of Karnataka. Vikasana bridge school is a component that is supported by Asha and caters to children in the Bhadravathi taluk. The region has various industries such as farming, coffee estates, hotels and steel factories. The area is also rain fed making it a viable place for successful agriculture while the surrounding regions tend to be drought prone. The wage rate for the local workers is very low. Adults are often forced to migrate to this area in search of employment and this has led to an increased dropouts from schools. Many children are forced to work with their parents, some of them working in coffee plantations, brick-making or as agricultural / domestic workers to supplement income for the family. The Vikasana bridge school helps such children to catch up with their education and transition into formal schools. The director of Vikasana now has judicial authority to get police to conduct raids and rescue child laborers. Asha for Education has helped over 50 former child laborers return to school over the past two years.

*WAH donations will help fund the purchase of farm land for the school to help the school reach self-sustenance.*



## About Asha for Education

Asha for Education is a global non-profit organization dedicated to catalyzing socio-economic change in India through the education of underprivileged children. The organization is registered as a 501(c)3 organization in the United States and all donations are fully tax deductible (tax ID number 77-0459884). Donations made in other countries are tax deductible as per the local laws.

Asha for Education has been an innovative supporter of secular and non-political educational projects throughout India for the past 15 years. Created by three students at Berkeley in 1991, the organization has amassed a group of people, from all over the world, seeking to foster idealism and egalitarianism. It has become a magnet for students, young professionals, and those who simply want a chance to contribute to the betterment of the world. There are currently over 60 chapters worldwide, with 45 in the United States alone.

Comprised of over 1,000 volunteers, Asha for Education has raised over \$12 million in the past fifteen years, and supported over 400 projects all over India. With minimal overhead costs, mainly borne by volunteers, the organization is able to send 100% of donations directly to projects. But Asha for Education is not just a funding agency; it is also a partner with those grass-roots organizations who are doing the daily work to make a change in their communities and in their country. Asha creates a relationship, built on trust, friendship, and shared ideals, with our project partners. Volunteers must physically visit a project site before funding can commence, and thereafter, a steward will regularly communicate with local directors and leads to provide support, advice, and most importantly, act as humble cheerleader of the incredible work they are doing everyday.

Charity Navigator, the premier independent evaluator of charities in the US, has for the past three years awarded Asha for Education with its highest four-star rating in the categories "Top Ten Charities Worth Watching" and "Top Ten Slam Dunk charities." This accolade recognizes Asha's low overhead costs, efficiency in fundraising and our donor privacy policy. For more information, please visit <http://www.ashanet.org>.



## Contacts

**For press:** Reena Vadehra at [rvadehra@gmail.com](mailto:rvadehra@gmail.com)

**For other enquiries:** [wah@ashanet.org](mailto:wah@ashanet.org)

**Visit our website <http://www.workanhour.org> to learn more!**