



*Asha for Education*TM

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Asha for Education: Our projects

Over the past fourteen years, *Asha for Education* has worked with over 416 non-governmental and governmental organizations in India with the objective of bringing about positive socio-economic change. In 2004 alone we collected nearly \$ 2.4 million, and have disbursed about \$1.5 million to our project partners. Using these funds, we have provided infrastructural support for school buildings, teachers' salaries, meal programs for children, learning aids. In addition to monetary support, Asha has promoted socially meaningful curriculum development and child-centered learning techniques thus improving the quality of education and making it more accessible to underprivileged children. *Asha* is actively involved in campaigning for innovative education techniques in government schools and has been working closely with other organizations in reviewing the government's curriculum framework.

Our project partners are aware of and sensitive to the unique learning requirements of groups such as street children, children of prostitutes, children with speech, vision and hearing impairments, slow learners and physically and mentally challenged children. There are several initiatives within *Asha* that help bring projects and resources together, forming a mutually beneficial relationship. The resources available from these initiatives are incorporated into other projects as well. The onus is on the Asha volunteers working on projects to leverage the available resources from other projects working in the same area, so that the project is benefited. Some such initiatives are *Asha Special* (focusing on disabilities), *Asha Akshar* (focusing on educating the children of domestic labor in households), *Asha N-logue* (focusing on technology and development), *Asha Sanctuary* (focusing on children of prostitutes) etc. *Asha* is also sensitive to preserving the culture and identity of the groups we work with (for instance, many of India's indigenous tribes have their own unique culture). The groups supported by *Asha* are located all over India, have a diverse target population and often a unique approach to education. However, our project partners are ultimately all similar in one respect. *Asha* supports only groups that do not have any political or religious biases.

The volunteers of *Asha for Education* play an active role in identifying, reviewing, approving and monitoring the projects that we support. Individual volunteers from each chapter do a site visit of the project to study it before funding is approved. Volunteers often have a non-monetary personal involvement with projects, so that they can work in close partnership with the project in the future. *Asha's* aim is not just to improve access, but also to make education a more meaningful experience for children and their communities.

Asha's project partners that are chosen for *Work An Hour (WAH)* are typically long term projects with established credentials. *Work An Hour* facilitates support for both infrastructure costs and recurring costs of projects.