



**Income Generation for Asha Deepa School for the Blind
through Integrated Dairy Farm**

Background:

Asha Deepa School for the Blind (ADSFB) is a residential school for the visually challenged children established in the year 2003. The school was started with 4 blind children in three room rented house. Today there are more than 40 children in the school with all basic amenities. The children in the school are provided with food, clothing & health care. Apart from education, they also learn vocational skills such as computer training, chalk & candle Making, Musical training and other life skills so as to enable the visually challenged to become self sustainable after school.

The Need

Since from inception, Asha Deepa has not received a single penny from either state govt or central govt for its activities. The concern people in the school are trying very hard to get govt funds from last two years but still it is in the vein. The main and major source of funds for Asha Deepa so far is from Asha for Education, few other institutions and individuals. There is a great need to have regular and non-stop cash flow to meet the school expenses through internal income generation activities. Therefore, we propose to establish a Dairy Farm unit with 30 cows initially with the seed funding from Asha for Education, Bank and NABARD. The name of the Dairy Farm shall be "Asha Dairy Farm"

The Project

Ever since mankind became agrarian, the cow has been a symbol of peace and abundance the world over. From time immemorial she has been worshiped in India as the great giver. Even today, rural India counts on the five products she provides: milk, curd (for yogurt), ghee and butter, urine and dung.

The rationale behind taking up this project is to create a permanent income source for Asha Deepa School for the Blind that benefits more than 50 children in the current year and helps further expansion of the school activities. Through dairy farm, Asha Deepa produces Milk as main product and Cow Dung & Cow Urine as by-products. The income generated through sale of milk and other by products of dairy farming is used to support Asha Deepa's operational expenses.

Milk-The main product of Dairy Farm

Although India's dairy sector has performed well in meeting the demand of milk in the country, the milk demand is now increasing at a much faster rate than production. National Dairy Development Board believes that India's milk production should increase to 5 million tonnes per annum.

1. Gunny bags are empty bags come along with cow feed.

The demand of milk is estimated to be around 180 million tonnes by 2021-22. "If India wants to meet its burgeoning demand of milk, the domestic production, which grows 2.5 million tonnes annually as of now, has to be increased by 5 million tonnes per annum. Therefore, there is a huge demand for milk and milk related products. Thus, marketing of milk would not be a problem.

The project 'Asha Dairy Farm' on an average will produce 300-350 liters of milk per day. The direct sale of this milk to local market would generate Rs. 8000 to 10000 a day which totals to Rs. 2.5 to 2.9 lakh per month. Along with Milk, sale of gunny¹ bag also generate some residual income. The detailed income & expenditure is given in budget.

Cow dung, by-product of Dairy Farm

Use of cow dung can be an interesting and beneficial side to dairy farming. Cow dung produces natural methane gas (Bio Gas) which can be used for cooking through an inexpensive unit those stores and captures the gas. We will install biogas generating & packing plant to produce methane gas & serve the rural households. 5-10kg gas cylinders are filled and distributed to rural households at affordable cost. After the dung passes out of the gas unit, it is turned into high quality organic fertilizer. It is mixed with food waste and composted further, using worms to make "vermicompost". This vermicompost / cow manure / dried grass compost mixture will be absolutely sufficient to fertilize various crops. This will be packed in 25 kg bags and sold to the farmers locally. Therefore, sale of packaged methane gas (Gobargas) and Vermicompost shall fetch at least 10-20% income to the main income.

Cow Urine, by-product of Dairy Farm

Cow urine is another beneficial by-product of the dairy farm. It is high in Nitrogen for fertilizer, and it is also a natural insecticide, which is being used with great success here in India. It is given in many Ancient manuscripts that cow's urine or a go-mutra should be taken for preventing diseases and hence to remain healthy. Various ancient medicinal treatment practices, cow urine are used as a therapeutic agent.

It was found that "cow urine distillate fraction" enhanced the potency of taxol (pactitaxel) against MCF-7 a human breast cancer cell line in in-vitro assays(US patent No. 6410059). (Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, 2002). Many research institutions are concerned with carrying out the examinations related to medicinal and chemical properties of panchgavya. The sale of processed cow urine adds between 5-10% towards total income of the project.

1. Average dung production per day per cow 10 kg.

2. Average urine production from one cow 5 liter per day

The proposed project is hereby formulated to generate sufficient income by utilizing natural resource from cow rearing.

Rearing Cow/Dairying	Resource	Outcome
	Milk	Direct income by selling raw milk/protection from malnutrition
		Making various milk products and further selling in near by market
	Dung	Biogas generation for green energy
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooking food
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighting and electricity
	Urine	cow urine distillate fraction for making various medicines and bio-pesticides
	Biogas Digested dung	Enriched manure- organic farming, Growing quality crops and medicinal plants

Project Objectives:

Main Objective

- ❖ To establish a permanent income sources through an Integrated Dairy Farm for Asha Deepa School for the Blind that supports/contributes it's day to day operating expenses.
- ❖ To become self sustainable within two years thereby creating an opportunity for the visually challenged.
- ❖ To reduce dependency on external source of funds for school activities.

Sub Objectives

- ❖ Generation of biogas for cooking, lighting and electricity generation to provide green energy to the rural households.
- ❖ Promoting organic farming using digested slurry and producing other organic manures and cow urine based pesticides.

Project implementation:

Construction of Cow Shed

The project will be implemented at a permanent site of Asha Deepa in a nearby village in Bidar district. Half acre land would be purchased to construct the cowshed to accommodate 100 cows (It helps in expansion of the project in the next three to four years). 4-5 Acre land will be leased out to produce green fodder to feed 30-50 cows along with other nutritional feed.



Management & Risk Involved:

To maximize the milk production, close supervision is necessary. Feeding, watering, cleaning and sanitation, observation of diseases and disorders, collection of products for market and arranging an efficient system of sales of milk, vermicompost and cow urine must be well coordinated. Mr. Sanju Kumar founding member of Asha Deepa is a graduate in agricultural sciences. He also underwent a short term Dairy Farm management course. He will coordinate the project. The risk factor here is cow diseases, though diseases in Indian breed of cows are very less. However, cows are to be insured by some agencies to reduce the incorporated risk.

Marketing & building Network

The milk sold in the local market/city. Efforts will be made to sell the milk under 'Asha' brand. As the unit grows to 50-100 cows, the milk processing unit will be installed so that other products such as curd, ghee, butter milk, ice cream will be manufactured under the same brand.

The by-products such as vermicompost manufactured out of cow slurry will be packed under 'Asha' brand and sold it to the farmers at affordable cost. The methane gas would be distributed among rural households and a proper consumer network will be build. The cow urine will be sold to pharmaceutical companies which are into ayurvedic medicine.