**BUDS VOCATIONAL OPEN SCHOOL**

**Background**

Namakkal and Salem districts in Tamilnadu are HIV high burdened districts in India. These districts are categorized as “A” by National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) in India, which means that the HIV severity is high. Currently over 25000 people living with HIV are enrolled with the government hospital for HIV treatment, of which around 2000 are children living with HIV. Besides this there are thousands of people living with HIV who access for treatment and other services from private hospitals and health care providers. Among this affected population women constitute 40%, which means more than 10,000 most of them are widow mothers.

**What Buds of Christ does?**

Buds of Christ focuses its work among the children of widow mothers living with HIV, it is estimated that more than 20,000 children are either completely/semi orphaned in these districts. Issues faced by these orphan children range from child labourers, girl child neglect, girl child marriages, trafficking and abuse. As an integrated approach, Buds of Christ addresses these challenges using H.E.A.L Strategy; Providing **H**ealth, **E**ducation, **A**dvocacy and **L**eadership & **L**ivelihood opportunities to orphaned children in these districts.

**The challenge**

There are currently more than 20000 orphans estimated in Salem and Namakkal districts according to reports from District ART centers. Though most of them are in schools, many adolescents drop out of school after grade 10. Lack of parental guidance and support these young children are at risk of exploitation as child labour, girl child marriage and abuse. The project will provide vocational skills to rural poor orphans (aged 14-18) and empower them with employ-ability skills.

**How will this project solve this problem?**

The project "Buds Vocational Open School" will provide employable vocational skills. The project will empower 40 such children every year imparting Basic Computer skills, Photography, Communicative English and Small business management skills using practical hands on learning with free transportation.

Detailed syllabus will include MS-Office, email and Internet; Communicative English with reading and writing skills, Photography skills and Small business management skills that includes writing accounts, sales skills, using *Barefoot MBA training* module.

This will help young orphans to continue a stream of vocational education and find decent employment opportunities and protect themselves from risky vulnerable situations.

**Potential Long Term Impact**

Orphan children will rise out of poverty and vulnerabilities and live life with dignity enabling well-being. Every Orphan who goes through this program will have clear set goals for life, increased Self-confidence, and be able to compete in interviews having acquired practical hands-on skills.

**Operational Budget**

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| **Operational Cost for a Year - Buds Vocational School** |
|   | Description | Cost | *US$* | Units | INR | US$ |
| 1 | Tutors (2) | 15000 | *250* | 12 | 180000 | 3000 |
| 2 | Student Travel Costs | 600 | *10* | 12 | 288000 | 4800 |
| 3 | Uniforms | 1000 | *17* | 40 | 40000 | 667 |
| 4 | IT equipments | 26000 | *433* | 5 | 130000 | 2167 |
| 5 | Rent | 3500 | *58* | 12 | 42000 | 700 |
| 6 | Notebooks Materials | 2050 | *34* | 40 | 82000 | 1367 |
| 7 | Cameras | 9000 | *150* | 5 | 45000 | 750 |
| 8 | Printing & stationery | 2750 | *46* | 12 | 33000 | 550 |
|  | **TOTAL** |  |  |  |  | **14000** |

The budget is prepared based on the current space availability with Buds of Christ. This project will run as a pilot for year 1. Based on the experiences of running year 1, year 2 plan and proposal will be developed.

**Indicators of Success of this project**

1. No of orphan students enrolling into BUDS VOCATIONAL OPEN SCHOOL
2. No of orphan students joined work after the training within a period of 3months and 6 months
3. Registration with National Institute of Open School- Vocational, New Delhi

**For Further information**

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