

**PROJECT PROPOSAL
ON**

“ASHA DEEPA SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND”

(A unit of Jeevan Prakash Education Society)

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Background: Main reasons for the proposed intervention.

Close your eyes for a few moments and in the darkness realize how important it is to be able to see. Now imagine they were to stay closed, condemning you to a dark prison forever. This is the reality faced by the blind throughout their lives. Children provide hope to live and in most families; they also provide old-age security. They contribute companionship in our lives, emotional and even financial assistance in our old age. But do we stop and ponder as to what happens when a special child is born into a family? While our educational system turns out a large number of highly qualified people, it is not geared to provide any awareness in the terms of the special population. The outcome of this is despair, agony, loneliness and hopelessness. The parents then begin the journey of exploring the various facets involved in the field of disabilities. They plan for their own old-age and for their children. Emotionally, the parents resign themselves to not receive any support from their children. The coping mechanism of these parents is put to severe test and people who are physically strong and mentally flexible try and adapt to the circumstances. The parents themselves may have adjustment problems and this can lead to serious disagreements within the family.

In a society with hardly any support in terms of respite-care or adequate facilities for these children, the parents have to continually wage a war to go through simple activities of day-to-day living, say teaching their child to even brush his/her teeth. Life becomes a continuous struggle, not only for the child, but also for the parents. As of today, few facilities are available in major cities for early intervention, schooling and vocational guidance. Even then, the onus of responsibility lies on the parents. One of the parents (most often the mother) is always expected to be in complete charge of the child or employ a care-taker. But how many parents can afford such services? .

A mother of a special child undergoes a lot of guilt herself, and the society sometimes puts the blame on her. Her physical and mental health is completely ignored. Her life takes a lot of twists and turns for which she is completely unprepared. Even a simple thing like good night's sleep eludes her for years as special children can be demanding even at nights even in their twenties. She has to handle her child's temper-tantrums, possible medical conditions, daily routine like bathing, feeding and sleeping, find sources of entertainment like sports, movies or walks. At the same time, her obligations and responsibilities towards to other members of the family continue.

India has the largest disabled people in the world. To put that into prospective, the number of disabled people in India is the same as the entire population of U.K. There is no systematic scientific & precise information available on the prevalence, degree and kind of disability. Around one-fifth of the world's blind live in India.

Facts	Karnataka	Bidar
Visually Impaired Population	Male : 5 37,730 Female: 4 02,913 Total: 940643	Male:16131 Female:12087 Total: 28218 <i>*Census-2001</i>
Visually Impaired Children Under 4-15(yrs)	N.A	Bidar taluka-300 Aurad taluka-450 Bhalki talika- 225 Humnabad- 300 Baswakalayan-300 <i>*Survey conducted by PRA method. (Approximate figure)</i>
Birth of VIC	N.A	At least three children

		in a village in a year.

Looking at these facts, one certainly feels the urgency to act. Act towards ensuring the Rights of the visually impaired children and promoting it. Act towards creating space for child participation in his/her own development process and create a system to monitor and ensure all our children are enjoying by their rights in proper manner. There is a crying need for affordable facilities offering permanent rehabilitation program for visually challenged in the area. The proposal designed to touch 50 visually challenged children within the age group of 5-15 years who are living in distress socio-economical condition will be identified for rehabilitation (Already there are 35 children in the residential school), 100 visually challenged, and parents of these people. They will be given education in formal way in the residential school; and vocational skill for self-sustenance. Mere literacy will not be viable to lead self-sustenance life when they become adult.

According to the UN Convention on Rights of the Child with Disability, Article 2 that States parties must respect the rights in the Convention "...without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, *disability*, birth or other status".

Right to participation:

Article 23 (1) which states that "States Parties recognize that a mentally or physically disabled child should enjoy a full and decent life, in conditions which ensure dignity, promote self-reliance and facilitate the child's active participation in the community.

Right to Education:

Article 23 (3) provides that "...assistance shall be provided free of charge, whenever possible, taking into account the financial resources of the parents or others caring for the child. Assistance shall be designed to ensure that the disabled child has effective access to and receives education, training, health, care services, rehabilitation services, preparation for employment and recreation opportunities in a manner conducive to the child's achievement the fullest possible social integration and individual development, including his or her cultural and spiritual development."

The need for intervention

In the current proposal JPES intervenes in four levels for overall development of the visually challenged.

1. Rehabilitation & Education of Visually Challenged
2. Self Help Group Formation
3. Access to Information Technology
4. Vocational Training & Employment including Self Employment

Target population: direct and indirect beneficiaries of the project.

Role that it is playing and going to play in the project in terms of planning, monitoring, evaluation.

Type of contribution it gives/will give to the project (in monetary terms/in kind).

The beneficiaries are 50 visually challenged children (excluding 35 in the school) and 100 visually challenged adults and the parents of these people. The children are identified from all the taluks of Bidar

district and neighboring district. The proposed program also involves community members to monitor and evaluate the program indirectly and parents committee directly. The larger society will observe the program closely, may also contribute in cash and kind, assistance, moral support in future after the program is initiated in concrete terms. The idea has been discussed with the JPES board members, staff, volunteers, well-wishers and guides- it has received full support from them. The strong outcome of the project is that what could have been a class of non-contributing and dangerous class of people in the society will become contributing people with vision for society's development.

4.1 Goals: the goals/objectives of the project: (what the project wants to achieve: The objectives of the project are listed here:

- To address the issue of disabled children (young and adolescents) through education & rehabilitation
- To educate children of both sexes of visually challenged.
- To train them in skills to be self-reliant and independent in future.
- To protect and restore the rights of disables and to orient the community about rights.
- To create an opportunity to be self sustenance in their life.

The children at Residential school are provided with food, clothing & health care. They are not only provided education but also other life skills such as washing, grooming, cleaning etc. Apart from this, the children trained in Music, Drama, Singing & other recreational activities. They also trained in Mobility Training.

Implementation Strategy: intervention, Stages, objectives, outcomes, problems of the project: measures planned to resolve them:

1. Rehabilitation & Education of Visually Challenged

Objective:

- To continue rehabilitation & education program
- To identify the blind & partial blind children under the age group of 5-15 years.
- To rehabilitate identified children for further medical treatment if found curable blindness otherwise retain them into the school.
- To refer curable blind children for further treatment to Govt. Hospital, NGOs and charity hospitals.

Expected Outcomes:

- Project will know the target population in better way.
- As a result of timely rehabilitation, further determination of the eye problems avoided.
- On time enrollment into the education stream.

JPES has rehabilitated 35 children so far and the major problem encountered during past three years is with the parents of children. Most of the parents are illiterate and more affectionate towards their disable child. It was the toughest job for rehabilitator to convince parents. To over come this constraint showing of short movie, meeting village head along with parents will be done.

2. Self Help Group Formation:-

Formation, development and strengthening of the groups to evolve into self-managed people's organization at grassroots level. JPES has already engaged in this activity and formed 5 groups so far. The current proposal focuses on the continuation of the activity.

Objectives:

- To form 20 self help groups
- To strengthen Self Help Groups of disables.
- To provide livelihood opportunities for disables
- To create revolving fund of Rs.50000/-
- To link these SHGs to bank for further loan.

Activities Planned:

- A self-help group consisting of 10 to 20 persons with disability will be formed.
- Training and expose training to the HG leaders
- Training and capacity development program for SHG organizer on revolving fund.
- Monthly meeting of SHG organizer and leaders
- Interactive session with banks, lead agencies and support agencies

The main constraint would be finding people with same disability in a village. However this will be overcome by clustering the villages and enrolling all type of disables into group.

Expected Outcomes:

- Creation of revolving fund of Rs.50000/- and credit support to member.
- Linkage with credit banks, self help promotion institution so as to enable these group to start entrepreneurship
- SHG federal activities which includes interaction between SHG and leading institution.

3. Access to Information Technology:

As technology goes about making gigantic leaps and bounds, there are a few technocrats who watch this progress from a different perspective. Some feel it necessary to harness this progress to address the needs of the forgotten sections of society. Through their efforts, they work towards bridging the digital divide between various segments of the people, and in the end, ensure that technological advancement benefits a larger populace. A technology must reach the people to really effect the change. JPES planned to bring this change by establishing Computer training Centre for the Blind.

Objectives:

- To establish full-fledged Computer Training Centre for the Visually Impaired Children and Adults.
- To link the trained personals to various IT companies to secure placement.

Activities Planned:

- It is estimated that there are around 500 adult blind that completed their matriculation and remained in the house for different reasons. They will be reorganized and enrolled in the training program. First year, 50 persons will be given training.

Expected Outcomes:

- Access to Information technology

- #### **4. Vocational Training & Employment including Self Employment:-**

Objectives:

- ### Activities Planned:

- ### Expected Outcomes:

- ## Action Plan:

The project is envisaged to bring overall development in the target group of children through rehabilitation, education, skill development including learning, training and production for self-sustenance. The project is ongoing. The financial support is sought for the first three years. The major activities that will be taken up are as follows

S.No	Months	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
	Activities	Year I												Year II												Year III													
1	Identification of Visually Challenged																																						
2	Rehabilitation																																						

Monitoring indicators are daily attendance register, daily time table, teachers' observations of each child's progress, child case study and personal file, curriculum; stock and expenditure maintenance records; stock register for consumable goods and permanent products like the furniture, infrastructure etc.; visitors books detailing the observations and suggestions written by visitors on quality of various activities of the programme and the process; daily monitoring by the coordinator; monthly reports, half-yearly and annual reports submitted to the funding agency; documented events, programmes, activities, progress, achievements, special and unique happenings etc; visits by the funding partner team and following observations; monthly staff meeting and monthly programme consolidation reports; personal experiences of the staff and children's expressions etc; media comments and observations etc. On the other hand interaction with the community, Parents, SHG accounts and books, workshop reports etc. will also act as indicators.

Evaluation will be done every six months once by the project staff internally to analyze the course of action being taken; new learning and experiences; hindrances and set backs to the project etc. This exercise will be done including two media people, one government official (Women and Child Development dept.), chief functionary, project staff, two academics, one development consultant.

External evaluation will be done every year. However, this will be finalized after consultation with the funding agency. Again the evaluation team will involve media persons, govt. official etc. Besides all this, the entire project will be documented for the purpose of recording the process, content, replication possibilities etc.