Organisation Name	Society for Equitable Voluntary Actions (SEVA)
Type of Organisation	Non Government Organisation
Address/ Main contact person / Position / Contact details (email, Tel)	Society For Equitable Voluntary Actions (SEVA) 3C Milan Apartment, 52/3 Vidyayatan Sarani, Kolkata 700 035/ Mr. Asok Ghosh/ General Secretary/ sevakolkata@gmail.com, 91-033-2577-6365/ website: www.sevakolkata.org

Project Title	SEVA VABISWA- Knowledge Hub For Disadvantaged Rural Youth
Location	Birbhum District, West Bengal, India

One sentence description of the innovation	Technical Knowledge Enhancement and Skill Creation of Disadvantaged Youth (**1000 numbers**) of Rural West Bengal With ICT based Library Initiatives and Disaster Risk Reduction
Type of Innovation	Society for Equitable Voluntary Actions has supported **250** meritorious but economically weaker students studying from Class IX to Bachelors Degree. The project aiming at improving the mental and skill development of youth in Indian villages by encouraging and motivated to develop reading habits and Disaster Risk Reduction. The project is Supporting Education at the grassroots level by adopting schools in rural villages and provides guidance and educational resources. The impact has been very encouraging as that student receiving book aids have really become successful in their educational careers. They are accessing internet in the library and learning from Satellite. Currently only 250 families are getting benefits from the project. Still the demand from the students is increasing as there is no other source of text book support available. Hence we are requesting DONORS to provide financial support for technical advancement of further **1000** youths who can also be the Change Agents for DRR.
What type of humanitarian intervention are you targeting?	The project will address the issue of youth inclusion, by introducing innovative approaches such as: a) using Change Agents as a tool for DRR; b) bridging the gap between young women and men from rural and urban areas, c) introducing ICT as a tool for youth social activism and expanding its use in formal and informal education; and d) Capacity Enhancement and

	Technically Up gradation fostering inter-generational solidarity.
core challenge	Early Marriage of Girl Children Before Completion of Education due to poor economic condition is a problem of the area. They cannot purchase book and leave study for marriage. This is obstacle for women empowerment as well leads to burden of poor health condition of women. It causes human trafickking of vulnerable girls.
	Appalling affliction of huge unemployment of unskilled youth of rural areas.
	Drop out of rural youth from formal education due to poor economic condition
	Lack for knowledge sources for rural youth and accessibility of ICT based study
	With our innovation we will create a Bank of Youth Change Agents Who will study further, generate livelihood and become volunteer on DRR initiatives

ABOUT THE DISTRICT:

The Birbhum district is situated around 191 KM away from Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport, and the State Head Quarter Kolkata. This area lies at the north eastern end of the Chota Nagpur Plateau, as it slopes down and merges with the alluvial plains of the Ganges. While 159.3 km^2 (61.5 sq mi) of land is occupied by forests, 3,329.05 km^2 (1,285.35 sq mi) of land is used for agricultural purposes. 91.02% of the population lives in villages. About Birbhum District - According to the 2001 census, 29.5% of the populations belong to the scheduled castes and 6.7% to the scheduled tribes, 33% are religious minority. Around 75% of the people occupationally dependent on agriculture. 42.3% population of the district is Below Poverty line and cannot access basic amenities like education, nutrition, hygiene and shelter. The rural literacy rate of the district is 59.9% whereas the literacy rate of urban area is 77%. In terms of both overall literacy and female literacy Birbhum has lagged behind most other districts of West Bengal. We are targeting more 1000 (250 former+750 Present) youth user for the next level of the programme.

About Education Situation of the District:

The district has 2371 Primary Schools, 403 Secondary & H.S. Schools, Nine Colleges and One Universities. As per the declining educational institutes the educational level is also decreasing. According to 2001 census Total 6, 03,030 is the lower primary level students which comes down by 3, 71,539 by Primary Level. In upper primary level the number comes as 2, 64,683 and 10th level it was 2, 09,034. Interesting situation is that only 74,737 come out as Graduate with 16+ years of education and very few of them are villagers. The drop-out rate is increasing among the Scheduled Caste (SC) Scheduled Tribe (ST) Populations

and Minorities. Most of them don't have sufficient books of education. Most of them are unaware about Internet Based Learning ICT technologies for learning.

Current Intervention of SEVA:

In this situation the Rural Knowledge Library of SEVA is creating such an interesting learning atmosphere among the students of Poor and Vulnerable SC and ST of the Birbhum District. Students and Youths are easily accessing text books and reference books documents as well as searching different topics for internet. This library is pulling the resources from the drop out candidates. The students who left their study due to uncertain economic conditions and non availability of books they are coming back to the education system. The prototype of "Knowledge Library" not only halting the drop out candidates but also reversing them to the mainstream. Although very nominal, the project is currently targeting only 25 Villages to create a model Knowledge Hub. In future it will try to replicate the model in other parts of State or Country where it will be successful. SEVA is also try to get ICT facilities through e-learning with only one computer assisted by Direct Aid Programme, Australian High Commission, New Delhi, India

Current User of Library Sex Wise		IX-X	XI-XII	Graduation	TOTAL	%
SEX	Boy	30	58	22	110	44.00
	Girl	43	72	25	140	56.00
	Total	**73**	**130**	**47**	**250**	100.00

Current User of Library Caste Wise		IX-X	XI-XII	Graduation	TOTAL	%
CASTE	Schedule Caste	40	54	24	118	47.2
	Schedule Tribe	6	9	6	21	8.4
	General (Economically weaker family)	27	67	17	111	44.4
	Total	73	130	47	250	100

SEVA is focussing on the following issues
(a) capacity development of Youth Centre, youth Change Agents, and local Change Agent-involving organizations;
(b) cooperation between the Youth Centre founded with different Government Schemes, rural Youth Centre, Youth Based CSOs including joint implementation of projects and outreach activities for enhancement of Youth Department in rural areas;
(c) development of competencies of young women and men for active involvement in society and local level decision-making;
(d) development of social competencies of young women and men through e-learning, on-line learning, and knowledge cum business hub resources;
(e) fostering inter-generational equity and social solidarity via creation of a living heritage treasury;
(f) popularization of Change Agents among both young women and men, and its further development;

(g) Introduction of Change Agents to community stakeholders as a support mechanism for achieving local government, public and private sector goals.

Evidence and rationale for the innovation

1. Developing the organizational and management capacity of youth Centre and Change Agent-involving organizations as well as young women and men in target communities
2. Developing young women and men's social competencies and skills through the introduction of new technologies for peer-to-peer communication and networking. This component will apply to those Centre, schools and School, Colleges and Universities that have the necessary ICT capacity for implementing e-communities.
3. Strengthening equity and social solidarity among young people of the community by fostering inter-exchange dialogue. A representative group of communities will be selected for participation in this component.

Potential impact:

The project aiming at improving the mental development of children in Indian villages by encouraging and motivating these children to develop reading habits. The project is Supporting Education at the grassroots level by adopting schools in rural villages and provides guidance and educational resources. The current monitoring system of the project reflects some important outlook arises from the project are as follows:

i) The students are now motivated to come across the library to collect the books and continue their studies with the reference materials and as also use of computer.
ii) Few students are progressed in adopting information handling skills, study skills and reading skills
iii) The library creating independence within the students. They are enriched with knowledge and confident that their study will continue.
iv) Sharing books and joint reading will ensure brainstorming and knowledge sharing among the students and increase togetherness. Most importantly their attitude towards interaction and discussion is increasing with a positive effect.
v) The optimum minimum resource is used for more inculcating the readership and nurturing the creative attitude and skill towards maintenance of book.
vi) The last but not the least part of the intervention is participation of Girls in the library. This library creating an enabling environment for the Girls Students. With a snowball effect the number of reach is increasing rapidly. We are coming to our target with a good speed.

The scale of ICT based e-learning is very small now. We like to up scale the avenue by Small Grant from DONORS.

Methodology
- Conduct organizational, management and gender assessment of beneficiaries
- Design a comprehensive capacity building programme
- Conduct induction training for CSOs, Resource Agencies and Partner Agencies
- Conduct seminars, forums and information campaign for young people, local government authorities, local businesses and community organizations on the volunteerism for development approach

- Create "How To" guide for Youth Canters on organization, management, fundraising, legal registration, Business, etc. (print and on-line versions)
- Conduct periodic meetings with project participants for networking, knowledge and experience sharing, and recognition of good practices
- Provide direct support for further enhancement of youth policy through:
  o establishing direct links between the Vocational Training Institutes, Youth Centres, Distance Learning Centres and the CSOs
  o Organise creative training on Rural Commerce, Value Chain Analysis, Market analysis, Branding, Packaging, Finance, Accounting, Data Entry Operation, Soft Skill Training, and Competitive Examination Education etc. Skill based and job linked training.
  o For the farm activities SEVA will conduct training on Organic Farming for quality product cultivation and storing and then marketing with Big Merchants etc. All training will be facilitate after Extensive CBNA and Demand Analysis of the beneficiary
  o SEVA also motivate the Change Agents to become financial consultants for Loan, Market Development and E-Commerce Intervention.

Planned activities
- capacity development of young women and men in communities, including Change Agents and other target groups, though face-to-face and on-line trainings and other learning opportunities on issues important for fostering youth social inclusion and civic activism – Change Agents, communication, entrepreneurship, web-design, etc.;
- Networking and peer-to-peer networking between project target groups and other players;
- support to creating e-communities and developing web-community social services and projects involving project target groups;
- support to youth to develop skills for solving community problems, including proactive approaches and citizenship skills;
- organizing ToT on DRR and Environment issues
- introduce Change Agent in the local development agenda;
- encourage public-private partnerships on the local level for sustainable social and economic community development;
- strengthen inter-generational dialogue and solidarity between youth and elderly through the establishment of the Living Heritage Library;
- Utilize information, learning and training materials on the Project Portal – Learning and Knowledge Transfer cum Business Hub – for further development of youth social communities.