

## **PASUMAI TRUST**

### **Project Proposal**

#### **Educating and Eliminating child labour from Brick Industries**

In recent times there is a growing awareness about the child labour issue. Both Government and Non-Governmental Organisations are involved in the process of eliminating child labour. But only certain sector of Child labour is given importance and focus. In Tamilnadu children working in Match and fire crackers industries of Sivakasi and children working in Beedi industries of Vellore are given more focus. Even the government programme like National Child Labour Project is implemented in those districts.

One of the important sectors of child labour neglected is the child labour in brick industries. More than 30,000 children are working in brick industries near by districts of Chennai city. Being migrant laborers their problems are worse than many other child laborers. The children who work in brick industries are the children of migrant labourers; they accompany their parents to the brick chambers and help their parents in their work. Since it is piece rate work these children do not get their wages in their hands; usually their parents get it. Since it is seasonal work during rainy season their parents would have received some advance money from the brick kiln owners; a major portion is deducted for that advance. Brick industries are a hazardous industry because it produces lot of dust and we can see it in the work place. Because of this most of the workers including children suffer from respiratory infections. They have to work from early morning 5 a.m. to 12

noon; again they will start working from 3.p.m and continue till 7.p.m. If they cut 1000 raw bricks they will get Rs.200 to Rs.250. A family of 4 members, parents with children work hard a day to cut 1000 to 1500 bricks. They work 5 days in a week. During rainy season for 5 months they will not get any work so they go back to their native villages and involve in agricultural work. Nowadays the agricultural work is also reducing.

They usually work in the small line huts provided by the owners. Usually during August month that is during rainy season they go back to their villages. They will come back to the brick chambers during January after the Pongal festival. When they are in the villages they take some advance money from the owners, to celebrate the festivals and for other family occasions. The agents will go to the villages during festivals like Deepavali and Pongal and give advance money to the workers. So it becomes compulsory for them to come back to the brick chambers to work and repay the advance loans. Because of this migration from village to brick chambers and from chambers to villages the children could not continue their education. They drop out of schools, accompany their parents and become workers. Since most of the brick chambers are situated out of villages children feel that the schools are far away to attend. In the survival struggle parents do not bother about children's education. Because, their living area will not come under the Village control. No government development programme like drinking water, street lights reaches there. The worst affected are the children and women.

Pasumai trust is a voluntary social development organization. It was initiated in 1993. From 2000 onwards we are working with migrant brick kiln community.

Pasumai Trust was involved in educating the child labour in brick industries from 2000 onwards. Asha for Education have been supported us from September 2008 to September 2011. Now we have not funds for continue our work. We have been running 3 motivation centres nearly 150 children are attending these centres. The objective of these centres is to help and motivate these children to continue their formal education. The dropout children and children who do not attend any formal schools and work in brick industries benefit from these centres. They learn literacy and numeric and later join the formal schools and also motivated to appear for the Government examinations as private candidates. One of our biggest achievements is to get admission in two formal schools that is in an academic year children will join two schools. First they join in their village school and when they come to the brick chambers they will get the transfer certificate and join in a school near to the brick chamber. We have been motivating and helping the parents to enroll children in schools and also in getting transfer certificates and admissions. We also got the support of District Education Officer in our attempt. We believe that only when their parents that are the workers of brick chambers get fair wages and a relevant education system for migrant workers children they can educate their children. So we are also educating and organizing the brick chamber workers. We have organized a trade union for them.

Last year the brick chamber owners have given us place to run our schools there, during the first year there was lot of resistance from the owners. Because of our continuous efforts they could able to understand the importance of child rights and Our work and finally they allowed us to run the learning centres in the brick chamber area itself.

As planned earlier we wish to implement this project for another 5 years in this area, 2 years have already gone and we are planning to continue our work for another 3 years. In the coming year we wish to continue the same activities with few changes. In the coming year we are planning to work with the Panchayath Raj Institutions, by educating and motivating the Panchayath representatives to play an active role in eliminating child labour from their panchayaths. In 2009 the Indian government enacted Children's Free and Compulsory Education Act. In this act certain positive things are mentioned for migrant and drop out children. So that we will use this act for educating and eradicating child labour from brick industries.

**Objectives:**

- To create educational opportunities for the children working in brick industries
- To motivate children to enroll and continue their formal education
- To organise the parents (Workers in brick industries) of the children working in brick kilns.
- To eliminate child labour from brick industries
- To carry on advocacy and campaigning activities to change the education policies of the government to make it relevant for migrant labour children.

- To create an awareness about the child labour in brick industries among the general public.
- To educate and motivate Panchayath representatives to eliminate child labour from their Panchayath.(local government).

### **ACTIVITIES**

- Bridge school centres for brick kiln children
- Enrollment campaign for migrant children in to regular government schools.
- Follow up visits to source villages where migration start
- Enrolling brick kiln workers in the government welfare board.
- Advocacy and lobbying work with government departments and brick kiln owners.
- Conduct collective meetings and programs with net work NGO'S like CACL- Campaign against Child Labour and Right to Education- RTE Forum.

### **Plan of Action:**

#### **Bridge school Centre for working children:**

Now we are planning to run 3 bridge school centres. 150 working children in the age group of 6 to 14 will benefit from these centres. These centres will be conducted in Kannadappalayam and Paduchathram village in Thiruvallur district. (Situated in Poonamalli-Thiruvallur highway.) And we will cover ten brick kiln children by these centres. From our experience we have learned that by the time

children return from work they become tired, so the best time to run the centers is early morning time. This we have to try in this project. We will run the recreational learning centers from 9.30 am to 3.p.m. . Multigrade, Multilevel learning materials will be prepared, so that children can learn on their own. They will be motivated to continue their formal education. We would help them to continue their formal education by getting school admission. A local Animator will manage each centre. During rainy season children will be given learning assignments and the animators will follow it up. They will also visit the children's native villages to do follow up activities. Once the children learn literacy according to their age we will get school admission and help them to continue their formal education. The animators would also organize regular meeting to motivate the parents to send their children to schools. We would also motivate the children under the age of six years of age in formal schools. We would help them get the transfer certificates when they migrate, and also get admission in the village school or the schools near the chamber. Teacher student ratio will be 1: 35.

### **Mid-day Meals:**

Since their parents leave home early in the morning to work in brick chambers they do not cook in the morning because of that children do not bring their lunches. We have been giving mid-day meals and supplementary nutrition drink

and nutrition snacks to these children and that motivated more parents to send their children to school, so we wish to continue that.

### **Organizing Parents:**

One of the major problems of working children is their parents who are not educated and they do not value the present education. So it is very essential to educate and motivate them about the importance of their children's education. In addition to that they are unorganized sector laborers so they do not get their rights like fair wages, proper working time, medical benefits etc. Because of the continuous lobbying with the Government recently they have formed a "Manual Workers Welfare Board". In which brickwork is also included. By becoming member of the board they can get benefits like insurance, maternity benefits, children's scholarship etc. So we also have to educate and help them to become a member of the board. From our experiences we have learned that once the women become economically independent their children would get proper education and health care. We would form local level women's organisations and also run a credit and savings programme for them. So that they can avoid taking advance amount from the owners during rainy season.

### **Advocacy and Campaigning activities:**

We are also a state convening organization of Right to Education Forum through this forum We have been campaigning to achieve quality education for all children by full implementation of Right to Education Act- 2009. Since migrant workers

children's problems are different we would be campaigning to make relevant changes in the formal education system so that they can continue their education in their villages and also near the brick chambers. To strengthen RTE Forum at the district level we are planning to organize regular district level meetings of NGOs, Schoolteachers and Panchayath presidents. An orientation programme on the rights of the brick kiln workers will be organized in different intervals of time.

**Staff:**

We need 5 Animators (Teachers), a Coordinator and an accountant for this programme. We have 5 experienced animators and also experienced Accountant. We would also organize regular monthly meetings to review our activities.

**Monitoring and evaluation:**

Towards the end of the year a yearly review will be organized with the help of an outside resource person to plan our future activities. The main indicators for the monitoring will be the number of children attending the Motivation centers, number of children enrolled in schools, drop out rate, number of children working in brick chambers, parents awareness.

***Child's Right to Education is a Human Right  
Let's together make it a Reality.***

## **BUDGET**

**For One year**

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Budget head</b>	<b>INR</b>
1	Animators salaries Rs.6000 X 12 months X 5	<b>3,60,000</b>
2	Supplementary Nutrition for 150 children Rs.10 x 150 children x 150 days (6months)	<b>2,70,000</b>
3	Learning materials for 150 children Rs.100 x 150	<b>15,000</b>
4	Salary for Project Coordinator Rs.8,000 X 12	<b>96,000</b>
5	Travelling expenses for 6 teachers + 1 Project Coordination Rs.500 x 6 P x 6 Months	<b>18,000</b>
6	Follow up visits to other source districts 6 persons for 6 visits Rs.15,000/ X 6	<b>90,000</b>
7	Accountant salary (Part time) 5000 X 12	<b>60,000</b>
8	School rents for 3 schools Rs.3000 x 3 x 6 months	<b>54,000</b>
9	Administration, Auditing	<b>40,000</b>
	Total Amount in INR	<b>10,03,000</b>

**15,672 US \$ @ the rate of Rs.64/- per dollar.**