**Youth and Women Resource Centre in Devashtich District**

**Project summary**

This project is aimed at establishing youth and women resource centre in Devashtich District of Tajikistan to secure there are possibilities for youth and women from rural areas to develop and build their capacities and to build competence. Since there is a general appetite towards entrepreneurship development and investment attraction and retention, similarly, since SME development is a locomotive for rural economic development the project’s core goal is to enable youth and women to improve their critical thinking, gain skills most demanded in their local communities and beyond, enhance their knowledge about writing project proposals, business plans and doing business, serving as a reliable platform for the development of pre-requisite business development skills and tools. The center will facilitate knowledge transfer and management amongst youth related to necessary academic and business writing skills, developing the clear line of arguments in support of their ideas and hypothesis, structuring essays, in parallel supporting them in preparations for admission to top universities abroad, conduct courses on preparation for TOELF/IELTS/GMAT and other internationally required examinations, and various life skills. The resource center will also serve as a platform providing information about various job, grant, and scholarship opportunities.

**Challenge:**

Youth and women are the most vulnerable group in any society, and Tajikistan is not exception. Due to the unequal development in urban and rural areas, the rural youth and women are underprivileged in terms of access to educational resources, training activities and skills development opportunities. To address the afore and to create opportunity for empowerment of youth and women in Devashtich District of Soughd Province, Tajikistan, NGO Sadoqat is intended to establish a youth and women resource centre in Ghazantarak Village of Devashtich District, where people can get access to resources needed for their professional development. Currently the NGO Sadoqat and the NGO Trips Beyond the Classroom run Open House for Peace and Understanding online discussion club, where different speakers are invited to share their experiences and due to lack of access to quality internet students from rural areas of Tajikistan have not been able to benefit from this opportunity properly.

**Solution:**

To achieve the project’s goal, the NGO Sadoqat intends to establish a youth and women resource centre in Secondary School No 10 of Ghazantarak Village in Devashtich District of Tajikistan. The school agreed to allocated two classrooms for the premises of the resource centre. The centre with its permanent coordinator will cooperate with various international organizations and educational centres in implementation of projects and invite experts to deliver lectures. The centre will provide access to high-speed internet to make sure its beneficiaries can benefit from online courses and lectures organized by partners.

**Actions:**

Since there is a serious interest from the local community and municipality, School No 10 in Ghazantarak Village had suggested to allocate two classrooms on a rent- free basis to be used as the centre. To facilitate the necessary conditions for successful training and capacity development, the project is aimed also at refurbishing and equipping these classrooms. This arrangement allows to secure sustainability of the center on one hand, as well as equal and unhindered access of the most vulnerable and general community members to knowledge and services. The financial plan is attached to this project proposal.

**About NGO Sadoqat:**

NGO Sadoqat is a non-commercial civil society organization established in 2000 and officially registered by the Ministry of Justice of Tajikistan. It has been working on youth and women empowerment in rural areas since 2000 in Soughd Province (particularly in Devashtich, Istaravshan, Shahriston, Spitamen districts). During this period, it has implemented more than 25 projects, which provided opportunity to create jobs for 20 underprivileged girls in Istaravshan, improve English skills of more than 500 school students from Istaravshan and Shahriston districts, improvement the knowledge of teenagers from Istaravshan and Shahriston districts on reproductive health, STDs, HIV/AIDS, enhancement of women’s knowledge on safe maternity and childhood, and building capacity of healthcare providers on pediatric diseases.