

**TILJALA SOCIETY FOR HUMAN AND EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
(TILJALA SHED)
PROJECT DOCUMENT**

Give Girls a Place to Learn, Dream & Thrive

A Permanent Learning, Technology & Skills Hub for Girls



Kolkata, India | Proposed Project Investment: US\$300,000

Turning Education, Protection and Opportunity into Pathways Out of Poverty



1. Executive Summary

Tiljala Society for Human and Educational Development (Tiljala SHED) proposes to transform its current makeshift Gyan Azhar Library for Girls into a permanent, safe and well-equipped community learning and skills hub in an underserved Kolkata community. The library opened on 28 July 2008 and has already benefited more than 1,000 girls.

Many girls in the communities served by Tiljala SHED live with five or more family members in homes of only about 80–100 sq. ft. They often have no quiet place to study and limited access to books, computers, internet, science learning, creative activities and practical skills. The new facility will provide modern learning infrastructure at zero cost to beneficiaries.

The proposed US\$300,000 investment will secure land, construct and equip a permanent facility, creating a long-term knowledge hub where girls can read, study, use technology, learn skills, play, create and broaden their aspirations.

2. About Tiljala SHED

Tiljala Society for Human and Educational Development (Tiljala SHED) is a non-political, non-religious, non-governmental organisation based in Kolkata, India. Established in 1987, SHED works across six locations in Kolkata with children, girls, youth and vulnerable families, including communities of waste pickers and other informal-sector workers.

For nearly four decades, Tiljala SHED has worked to expand access to education, child protection, girls' empowerment, life skills, digital learning, nutrition, higher education and pathways to skills and employment.

3. The Problem

In Kolkata's underserved communities, many girls live with 5+ family members in just 80–100 sq. ft., leaving little space to study. Their families often face poverty and insecure work, while girls have limited access to books, computers, internet and enrichment activities. These barriers can increase risks of dropout, child labour and early marriage.

Since 28 July 2008, Tiljala SHED's Gyan Azhar Library has helped girls learn and dream, but its temporary, makeshift infrastructure limits the number of girls who can benefit and the quality of facilities available to them.

4. The Proposed Solution

The project will transform the current makeshift library into a permanent learning and skills hub with better infrastructure, modern technology and child-friendly facilities. It will enable more girls to access learning opportunities outside school and use resources that are often accessible mainly to wealthier families.

5. What the New Facility Will Provide

Facility	Purpose
Girls' Library & Reading Space	Books, reading, study and book-lending facilities.
Computer & Digital Learning	Computers, internet and technology access for digital learning.
Science Learning	A small science laboratory and hands-on learning opportunities.
Skills & Vocational Learning	Space for practical, vocational and life-skills development.
Arts & Creative Learning	Drawing, guitar, performing arts and other creative activities.
Sports & Indoor Recreation	Table tennis, board games, indoor activities and martial arts.
Safe, Child-Friendly Environment	A dedicated, welcoming space where girls can learn and spend time safely.

6. Who Will Benefit

The primary beneficiaries are girls from low-income and vulnerable communities in Kolkata, particularly first-generation learners. More than 1,000 girls have already benefited from the Gyan Azhar Library, and the permanent facility will allow more

girls to access its services over time. Families and the wider community will also benefit as girls gain knowledge, confidence, digital skills and wider aspirations.

7. Long-Term Community Impact

The library will become a permanent knowledge hub for the community. Girls will be encouraged to move from passive mobile-phone use toward books, purposeful digital learning, technology, creativity and new skills. They will gain free access to modern learning facilities that are often unavailable to children from low-income families.

Better infrastructure will allow the library to accommodate more girls and provide sustained opportunities for education, confidence-building, skills development and future livelihoods. The long-term goal is to create a culture of learning that reaches beyond individual beneficiaries and strengthens the wider community.

8. Project Budget

The proposed total project investment is US\$300,000. Current identified major budget components are shown below. Final quantities and specifications will be confirmed through the project's final technical design, bills of quantities and procurement process.

Budget Component	US\$
Purchase of land	\$100,000
Building construction, plumbing, electrical, flooring and core works	\$110,000
Commercial / mass-meal kitchen layout	\$2,500
Computer lab setup (approximately 20–25 workstations)	\$16,000
Heavy electrical infrastructure for ACs and computer lab	\$4,000
Living, dormitory and bathroom fixtures	\$15,000
Science laboratory	\$4,000
Indoor games, table tennis and related activities	\$5,000
Books and library learning materials	\$2,500
Additional fit-out, furniture, networking, safety and related infrastructure — to be finalized in the detailed BOQ	\$41,000
TOTAL PROPOSED PROJECT INVESTMENT	\$300,000

Budget note: The US\$41,000 line is a provisional fit-out/infrastructure allocation pending the final technical design and detailed BOQ. It should be refined before final capital expenditure commitments.

9. Implementation Approach

1. Secure the project site/land and complete legal and technical due diligence.
2. Finalize architectural design, technical specifications, permits and detailed bill of quantities.
3. Construct the permanent facility with appropriate electrical, plumbing and safety infrastructure.
4. Install furniture, library resources, computers, internet, science and activity facilities.
5. Open the upgraded hub and progressively expand access for girls from surrounding communities.
6. Monitor participation, usage, learning activities and beneficiary feedback to improve services.

10. Monitoring, Learning & Accountability

Tiljala SHED will track the number of girls using the facility, library visits and book use, computer and digital learning access, participation in science, skills and creative activities, and beneficiary feedback.

Progress will be documented through photographs, activity records, beneficiary stories and periodic project updates.

11. Sustainability

The permanent facility will reduce dependence on temporary rented space and create a long-term community asset. Tiljala SHED will continue managing the centre through its established organisational systems, staff and community relationships. Recurring support will be sought for books, internet, utilities, maintenance, learning materials and activities so girls can continue accessing the facility at zero cost.

12. Safeguarding & Child Protection

Tiljala SHED's work with children is guided by child-protection and safeguarding principles, including compliance with relevant Indian child-protection legislation and safe-programming practices. The proposed facility will be designed and operated as a safe, child-friendly learning environment.

13. The Vision

**For years, children have learned in temporary spaces.
Now we want to build a permanent place for their dreams.**

For Tiljala SHED, this is more than a building project. It is an investment in a permanent place where girls can read, learn, use technology, develop skills, build confidence and imagine futures beyond the limitations of poverty.

**Tiljala Society for Human and Educational Development (Tiljala SHED)
Kolkata, India**

“Alone we strive. Together we thrive.”



