CHILDREN ARISE MINISTRIES PROJECT PROPOSAL

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New Life Fellowship Association
Children Arise Ministries Sponsor: Bruce Friesen / Andrew Banman
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INTRODUCTION

This project is to be carried out in the slums of the city of Mumbai.

Mumbai is the commercial capital of India with a population of about 20 million in an area of 600 sq kms, making it one among the densest populated regions of the world. Mumbai has an extremely rich and poor divide.

Railways and roadways connect Mumbai to every region of India, making travel to and from the city accessible. People are drawn from poor rural India and they come with dreams and aspirations to make a living. Due to a lack of affordable accommodation however, they settle in slums and as a result approximately 65% of the city’s population live in slums.

This is our target group. Children in the slums between 3 and 6 years old who are deprived of the basic education, health care and sound moral values.

PROJECT DETAILS

PROJECT NAME: Mumbai Balwadi School

PURPOSE: The purpose of this project is to encourage parents and children to see the need for education, good ethics and hygiene. The project will provide love and a nutritious meal to slum children, some of whom may otherwise go hungry and without proper care.
PROJECT TYPE: Annual (possibly recurring)

SOCIETY ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED: (d)(i), 2(e)(i)

INITIATION DATE: The project will start January 2013 with a demographic survey and communication with parents while teachers will attend an established Balwadi training programme.

LOCATION: Malad Malwani - Rathodi Village which is a slum in the North West of Mumbai.

DESCRIPTION: A typical Balwadi runs for 2 hours a day, from 10 am to 12 noon. Children between the ages of 3 and 6 years are taught the basics of language which may be English, Marathi, Hindi or Tamil depending on the locality. Our emphasis is on practical training to help the child prepare for a formal education. Towards that aim, our teachers provide a well-rounded curriculum including basic personal hygiene & manners, basic addition and subtraction, rhymes, colors, songs and dance, crafts, animals, recognition of shapes and objects, recognition of numbers, and information about fruits & vegetables.

The role of the Balwadi is especially important for slum children as it provides a preschool atmosphere of joyful learning that enables these children to build social skills and gain self-confidence. These are children who might not otherwise have had the chance to experience playful learning prior to joining a formal school. Basically, Balwadis strengthen the foundation for the education system.

Hygiene, moral values and good ethics are imparted to the children and from time to time teachers may even interact with parents to strengthen families. The children are brought by the parents during the day and cared for, taught and fed in a rented room in the midst of the slum.

This project will be staffed by two members of the local community. Regular teachers’ training is provided as well as instruction regarding basic medical care. As nutrition is an important component of the Balwadi, quarterly monitoring of the children’s growth is performed by measuring the children’s height and weight.

OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT: There are schools run by government but few children attend. Children do not attend schools as their parents are not aware of the importance of education and when they are aware, they often neglect education in order to utilize the children as family earners (children are often used to work or beg)
The Balwadi program aims to bring awareness to communities about the importance of education in their lives and make them more aware of the learning system. Precisely, we provide pre-school exposure to enhance and strengthen the child's subsequent school performance, in terms of achievement and attendance.

**IMPACT OF THE PROJECT:** The major impact of this project is the development of awareness about the importance of formal basic education among the slum dwellers. The impact made by this project will gradually increase the overall literacy rate, decrease the rate of child labor, decrease the number of children who drop out of formal schools, and help to reduce crime.

**INTERMEDIARY/AGENT:** Children Arise President Bruce Frieisen has been associated with Balwadi schools for several years. During this time, Arise has witnessed and participated with the schools operations firsthand. Pastor Shelton Davidson (a Balwadi schools director) has visited Arise members in Canada and has demonstrated his desire to effect change for children and families in the slums of Mumbai. The Balwadi program is well established having many existing schools in operation today. Arise will utilize an agent agreement with Shelton Davidson and Samuel Peters to ensure that funds are applied to the work as agreed.

**GOALS:** The major goal of the project is to provide preschool exposure to the children residing in slums as children from these areas do not typically attend formal schools. This project aims to provide children/parents with the glimpses of formal education which in turn encourages them to attend formal schools.

1. 50% of the children to gain entry in the formal educational system.

2. Most of the children who are living in the slums fall in the -3 percentile for height/weight for age according to the World Health Organisation (WHO). Our goal is to get 60% of the children up into the -2 percentile through increased nutrition and basic health education.

3. Provide a holistic curriculum which will help prepare the children for the formal education.

**Control and Reporting Procedures:** Children Arise requires that the agent maintain control and direction over the Balwadi school based on the terms of the Arise agent agreement. This agreement outlines financial responsibilities and limitations as well as reporting requirements.

In addition to Arise agent agreement requirements, The Balwadi school program offers a standard reporting mechanism to keep supporters in touch with children's progress. Below is the sample of the reporting format used by Balwadi schools.
Balwadi Quarterly Report Template

Write the Date

Testimony

• Write a brief testimony from one of the children in the school, or from one of their families.

Children:

• How many children are currently attending the school (Not the number in the registration book, but the number attending each day)
• How many children have returned from last year, and how many have gained admission into school.
• Describe the health issues the children have been suffering from: boils, fevers, coughs, colds..........
• What are we doing to improve the children’s health:
  Are we having health check ups?

Have we been changing our menu to ensure that we feed them nutritious food?

Does the teacher attend the monthly 'teacher training' so she can learn how to manage basic health problems? If so what has she been learning there that is helpful.

• What is the vision for this quarter:
  Do we want all our children to know the alphabets? Do we want all our children to know the shapes and colors?

• Give feedback on your vision from last quarter. Was your vision fulfilled, if not what are you doing this quarter to fulfill it.

Balwadi Annual Report Template

The Area:

• What part of the city is the balwadi located (North, South, etc).

Put a photo of the area around the Balwadi.
· What is the environment like, is it green, dusty or crowded.
· What is the main industry in that area.
· What are the local houses made out of.
· What is the main religion in the area.
· Where are the people originally from.
· What is the community’s source of income?
· Is there any other balwadi in the area?
· How many schools in the area? (BMC/Private)
· The Balwadi:
  · How many children attend the school.
  · What is the age range of children at the school.
  · Are there any success stories of children from the balwadi
  · How many children gained admission into school from the balwadi last year
  · How does the balwadi impact the community, are families getting to know Jesus because their children go to the balwadi. If so, then tell the story, don't just give numbers.

Other issues:
· What is the water access like in the area
· Are there any specific health problems with the children: boil, coughs, colds, vomiting, diarrhea, tuberculosis, fever.............

OUTCOMES OF THIS PROGRAM: The outcomes of the project are as follows:

1. Improved knowledge about formal education:
   As the children get acquainted with the formal education system and learn different things, they realize the importance of having an education. This will result in an increased number of students attending the formal education system.

2. Improved parental support for their children’s education:
By raising awareness among the parents of the children residing in the slum areas, it has been demonstrated that they are more likely to send their children to school. This will result in decreased child labor and improved opportunities in life.

3. Improved health among the children:

Balwadi will increase the overall health of slum children by providing nutritious food to the children, periodic medical checkups, and health education to parents and children.

4. Instilling hope for the families:

By teaching moral values and supporting these community children, Balwadi can bring hope to children and families.