

FUNDACIÓN ASHA-KIRAN, Home for Children

PROJECT SUMMARY for Day Care Centers (2009-2010)

PROJECT TITLE	<i>Day Care Centers (DCCs)</i> <i>Providing care and protection to vulnerable children in the city of Pune, Maharashtra, India.</i>
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PERIOD	<p>The Project will be implemented in Pune, city of the state of Maharashtra, India, for a period of one year (from April 2009 to March 2010).</p> <p>After this period, a final evaluation will be conducted to assess its results, analyze its positive and negative aspects, and incorporate past experiences to the design of the following year's Project.</p>
COUNTRY OF EXECUTION	Country: India State: Maharashtra City: Pune
DESCRIPTION	<p>The Day Care Centers Project (DCCs) aims at providing facilities of care and protection to children living in "vulnerable" conditions (street children) in the city of Pune, Maharashtra, India.</p> <p>The Project arises from the initiative of FUNDACIÓN ASHA-KIRAN, as part of its program to promote and support the most disadvantaged people in India, placing particular emphasis on children's welfare.</p> <p>The Project aims to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Temporary shelter, to ensure care and protection to children. The proper infrastructure was created in the form of Day Care Centers in order to provide the children with suitable facilities and a secure environment. The DCC is designed to hold 20 to 40 children under 18. Presently, we have two Day Care Centers.✓ Nutrition and Health Care, to treat common illnesses and those derived from living on the streets (i.e. malnutrition, addictions, unhygienic habits, sexually transmitted diseases, etc.). We fight these problems with the aid of qualified medical help and perform the necessary nutritional studies to pinpoint specific needs.✓ Non formal education and vocational training, as ways to help mainstream the children into formal education or traditional jobs, raising the families' and the children's awareness about the importance of getting an education. We work with children from 0 to 18 years of age and offer the following: nursery and kindergarten care up to 5, a basic schooling program for the rest of the children, and support classes for those who already attend school.✓ Personalized psychological support, according to each child's different background, such as a stressful past, transitory lifestyle, substance abuse, unlearning of learned behaviors, etc. We seek to give counseling and support, and in more serious cases, secure help from other organizations or specialized institutions.
CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION	<p>India faces a wide variety of problems in different sectors, one of which is that a large proportion of its population is below the poverty line and does not have access to education. Therefore, the overall development of children is impaired. In addition, lack of knowledge about the needs of street children compounds their issues and promotes the oversight of their rights.</p>

	<p>In this context, we find that Pune is one of the fastest growing cities in India and attracts a lot of migrants from all over the nation. Along with the migrants, Pune is now experiencing a new phenomenon of children on the streets that was earlier seen only in large cities such as Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkatta.</p> <p>Children on the streets do not have adult supervision and can end up in many troublesome situations. Their families are frequently too busy to pay attention to them and the children stray from education, as they have to spend time on the streets in order to earn some money.</p> <p>Street-living children such as shoe-shine boys, rag pickers, newspaper vendors, beggars, etc., get hardly any attention from adults. Research shows that they lack the holistic care they are in dire need of.</p> <p>A survey¹ carried out in the city of Pune shows us that there are huge numbers of children living on the streets, and that they are increasing every day.</p> <p>Under these conditions, the present Project sets out from an orientation based on the defense of children's rights as stated in the United Nations Convention of Children's Rights (1989), which must act as a beacon for the aims, methodology and activities which we wish to undertake. This makes us focus on prevention, protection, and a widening of a range of choices and participation that will favor global and positive actions in order to attain our goals, and which will benefit the street children in Pune, their families and the community.</p> <p>The development of the Project must allow the improvement of Pune's street children's conditions and of their environment. This demands global and joint intervention, and paying special attention to those areas where their rights are overlooked. Hence, in order to favor said development, and always keeping the children's foremost interest in mind, our proposal consists in the attainment of a better position of the beneficiaries in relation to health, education and protection.</p>
AIM	<i>That vulnerable children in the city of Pune partake of their rights and live a true childhood, free from the burden of earning an income for their families, living or working in hazardous environments and/or begging for a living.</i>
OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer basic education. • Improve the children's health status. • Mainstream the children into formal education and conventional jobs. • Raise their parents' awareness about the importance of education and health care. • Raise awareness amongst the public. Sensitizing the society, police, government officials and parents about the special needs of the Project's beneficiaries.
OUTCOMES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Day care and attention to the children who attend the Centers. • Nursery and kindergarten service to children under five. • Non formal education. • Get the parents' consent for their children to attend the Centers instead of sending them to work or leaving them alone in the streets or in the slums. • Children will receive non-formal education and development inputs. • The children's health will improve by reducing illnesses and changing health habits. • Parents, local civil society institutions and individuals will be made aware of the plight of street children and play their respective roles in child's rights observance.
WHAT THE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The challenges and obstacles that families and children face in their lives

¹ Study conducted by CYDA (Centre for Youth Development), Pune based NGO, 2004.

PROJECT INTENDS TO OVERCOME	<p>both within the family and within society at large.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The stigma that street children have to live with.
GENERAL ACTIVITIES	<p>Children and youths at the DCCs will be provided with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health care • Nutrition • Counseling • Non-formal education • Recreation • Group activities • Other activities aimed at increasing their self-esteem and confidence to face life's challenges <p>Each activity is planned keeping their development in view. Our aim is to help the children develop globally – physically, emotionally, psychologically, socially, morally and financially – thus enabling them to successfully adapt to society and have better prospects for the future.</p> <p>Children will be given counseling according to their need and the situations that may arise. An ample dose of music, recreation, dance, excursions etc., will be part of the basic structure of intervention. Regular group meetings and discussions will enable them to be involved in the decision-making process, as a participatory methodology will be implemented. At times of crisis, they will be aided to handle their own individual and group problems. We will likewise work with the children's community.</p> <p>The need for initiating this program was the firm belief that a child benefits most when intervention takes place during his critical growth period, paying special attention to the rights subscribed in the UN Convention on the Rights of Children.</p>
BENEFICIARIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and youngsters under 18 who are vulnerable or ostracized on account of their living conditions. Each Center can hold between 20 to 40 children. • Families or reference background of the children who attend the DCCs. • The community where the DCCs operate.
COST PER CHILD	€ 15.450,94 (for a breakdown of expenses, please contact Asha-Kiran) ²
PLANNED ACTIVITIES (PUNE)	<p>1. ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES</p> <p>1.1 Set up the DCCs and purchase supplies for classes, courses and workshops.</p> <p>1.2 Make data files for all the children who attend the DCCs.</p> <p>1.3 Draw up a monthly timetable for classes and subjects, such as English, Marathi, Math, History, etc.</p> <p>1.4 Draw up a timetable for recreational activities such as theater, music, sports, dances, singing and excursions for the children.</p> <p>1.5 Offer kindergarten and nursery services to children up to five according to their specific needs.</p> <p>1.6 Monitor and follow-up of activities, courses and training for the children.</p> <p>1.7 Have at least two yearly training courses for CFC staff.</p> <p>2. HEALTH AND NUTRITION ACTIVITIES</p> <p>2.1 Purchase basic aid supplies and basic diagnostic tests for the</p>

² This amount is subject to modifications resulting from changes in currency exchange rates (Euros-Rupees).

physician who will do the periodic checkups of the children.

- 2.2 Perform checkups on all the children who start attending the DCCs and periodically thereafter, at the hospital that cooperates with Asha-Kiran.
- 2.3 Treat the children's illnesses at the collaborating hospital. Asha-Kiran will bear any cost for treatments.
- 2.4 Provide lunch and an evening snack (fruit) to the children in accordance with the physician's recommendations based on their periodic checkups.
- 2.5 Educate the children on hygiene and healthy habits.
- 2.6 Hold several informative sessions for the parents about hygiene and healthy habits at home.
- 2.7 Print brochures for parents who attend meetings as well as for those who don't.

3. AWARENESS-RAISING ACTIVITIES

- 3.1 Plan activities in which both children and parents take part.
- 3.2 Provide information and pertinent documentation to parents regarding their children's health and academic progress.
- 3.3 Hold meetings between parents and DCC staff in order to make them aware about good health and hygiene practices and the importance of education.
- 3.4 Hold workshops and talks concerning problematic issues for girls, such as marriage and motherhood at an early age.
- 3.5 Allow parents' and children's suggestions and ideas to be expressed at meetings and be integrated, on an ongoing basis, into the DCCs' activities and mode of functioning.
- 3.6 Monitor the parents and their homes, and record their involvement and participation.

4. DISSEMINATION AND COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

- 4.1 Draw up a monthly timetable about activities, seminars and workshops that are of interest to us and that we wish to attend.
- 4.2 Stay in contact and meet with other NGOs that work with street children in India, particularly those in Pune.
- 4.3 Contact public entities whose activities may be related to ours.
- 4.4 Disseminate information about the work we do and the importance of the rights of children in forums in and outside India to which Asha-Kiran has access – in India and Spain in a more direct way, and through the internet in other countries.

5. MONITORING AND EVALUATION ACTIVITIES

- 5.1 Draw up and manage documents such as reports, minutes and lists of all the activities aforementioned and those that Asha-Kiran may deem important for evaluating the Project.
- 5.2 Gather and analyze the documents for evaluation purposes.
 - 5.2.1 Monitor and manage the process during implementation.
 - 5.2.2 Perform a final evaluation.