

Proposal

**SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE *FOR*
COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION *TO*
ADDITIONAL VULNERABLE CHILDREN *IN*
SIVAKASI AREA, TAMIL NADU**

Submitted to
ASSEFA, Italia

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ASSEFA
279, Avvai Shanmugam Road, Royapettah, Chennai – 600 014, India
E-mail: assefa@md2.vsnl.net.in

Table of Contents

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET.....	i
1.INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1STATUS OF CHILD LABOURS IN INDIA	1
1.2ASSEFA, A DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION	1
1.3ASSEFA’S INITIATIVES IN CHILD LABOUR ISSUES	1
1.4PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT	3
2.PROPOSED PLAN OF ACTIONS	3
2.1SCHOOL BUILDING	3
2.2SCHOOL STRENGTH	4
2.3CURRICULUM FOR HIGHER EDUCATION	4
3.PROJECT PERIOD	4
4.HUMAN RESOURCES.....	4
5.FINANCIAL COMMITTEMENT	4
6.REPORTING	5
Annexure I SCHOOL LOCATION MAP	6
Annexure II BUILDING PLAN.....	7
Annexure III ENGINEER’S ESTIMATE.....	8

Project Summary Sheet

Project Title	- School Infrastructure for Holistic Education to Additional Vulnerable Children	
Location	- Sivakasi area in Virudhunagar district, Tamil Nadu, South India	
Project Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child labour is a major problem in Virudhunagar district. Due to poverty and lack of awareness of the parents, children have been engaged in hazardous and harmful factories such as match box, fire crackers, instead of sending them to schools - ASSEFA addresses this issue, here, since 1987. Initial focus was on rehabilitation of child labours by supporting the concerned families with economic programs and offering special course and linking child labours with mainstream education. - Today, the focus was on preventing vulnerable children from becoming child labours. A model nursery and primary school is established at Erichanatham village, Sivakasi taluk, where vulnerable children are admitted and provided with holistic education with existing land and building partially donated by the local community. At present, it supports 354 children only. - However to support more vulnerable children, this school needs additional child friendly building, for which the proposal is for external support. 	
Target Group	- Vulnerable children in Sivakasi area	
Action Plan	- The major action envisaged is constructing a <i>pucca school building</i> to an extent of 6,315 Sq fts, with 8 class rooms and 10 toilet facilities. This building will enable the school to admit and provide holistic education to 250 additional vulnerable children.	
Project Duration	- Date of submission	October 2009
Project Duration	- Project Duration	One year
Agency Details	- Donor Agency	ASSEFA Italia
Agency Details	- Implementing Agency Contact Person	Mr. S. Loganathan, Executive Director, ASSEFA 279 Avvai Shanmugam Salai Royapettah, Chennai, 600 014, Tamil Nadu, India. E-Mail: assefa@md2.vsnl.net.in

Budget	- Total Budget	- INR 6,703,000
		- in Euros 103,123.07
		- <i>1 euro = 65 INR</i>

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Status of Child Labours in India

Over the past few years much attention throughout the world by media, public, governments and NGOs, has been focused on the issue of child labour in India, particularly on situation which are considerable exploitative and hazardous.

Most visible among these has been child work in factories including matchstick making, fireworks, glass and carpet industries. Conditions in many cases are deplorable and there is no disputing that these most damaging forms of child work should be eliminated.

Estimates of child workers in India range from 13.6 million (*Census, 1981*) to 44 million (*Operations Research Group, Baroda, 1993*). Based on the number of families living in poverty and non-school going children, more recent estimates by both the Commission on Labour Standards and International Trade (Gol) and the Campaign Against Child Labour (*NGO Coalition*) puts estimates of child workers as high as 77 million.

1.2 ASSEFA, a Development Organization

ASSEFA, a pioneering Organization, has been working for the development of the rural communities for the **last forty one years**. Multi-facet welfare programs such as livelihoods, social credit, child education, health care services, etc., have been implemented for holistic development of the communities.

In addition, special programs such as rehabilitation of child labourers, empowering rural women, community marriages, social security for the vulnerable, etc., are also implemented to address the area specific social issues. At present, ASSEFA has brought in **849,039 families** inhabited across 10,577 villages in eight states of India under it's fold and assisted with needs based support services.

1.3 ASSEFA's Initiatives in Child Labour Issues

ASSEFA has been addressing the issues of child labours for the **last two decades** particularly in Virudhunagar district, Tamil Nadu. The child labour in Virudhunagar is a major problem at national level, wherein young children have been engaged in hazardous factories particularly match box and fire crackers units. The district produces 75 percent of the country's carbonized matches and 90 percent of the crackers in India.

These factories have been criticized for employing innumerable children in the hazardous nature of works illegally. Children aged between 5 yrs to 14 yrs have been engaged. They work for long hours as twelve hours in a day in degrading and

hazardous working conditions. The employers also preferred child workers, as it is very cheap. They are docile and can easily be bullied into easy submission. Hence to meet the requirement of cheap labours, the factories transport labour from distant places at its own cost. They are brought in early in the morning and are taken back at the conveniences of the management.

The factory exploitation of these children is influenced by the **prevalence of poverty**, as many families' livelihoods are dependent upon agriculture, which is ill supported by unfavorable agro-climatic conditions. During the failure of monsoon, large migration occurs to nearby towns, cities for menial works. **Illiteracy and ignorance of parents** added further flexibility to the employers to exploit these children at a maximum.

There is a child labour (prohibition and regulation) Act, 1986, but it is limited to only formal sector. In addition, this act is not implemented effectively due to weak state enforcement capacity.

ASSEFA has been addressing the issues of child labour, in this area, since 1987 with the twin strategies of **rehabilitating the victims of the child labours** and **prevention of child labours**.

Under rehabilitation of the child labours, the families of the child labours were supported with economic programs. This is to enable the families to earn the additional income to compensate the loss of wages for not sending their children for works. Further, these children were given special courses with trained teachers. On completion, the children were linked up with the mainstream education.

The women Self Help Groups formed in these areas are also used in addressing the issues of the child labours through the following actions

- Identification of the child labour families
- Assessment of their support needs.
- Awareness creation on the importance of child education
- Assist the team to deliver the services without any duplication
- Ensures their members to send the young children to schools.

Of course, the continuous interventions of the above actions in the target villages, enabled to prevent the children from going to the hazardous factories for work. However, in the absence of good schools at affordable fee structure in the accessible distance, the parents were not able to send their children, particularly girls. These children remains at home and attend domestic works.

In order to address this issue, ASSEFA established a model nursery and primary school across 10 acres of land at Erichanatham village, the central part of Sivakasi area in 1996. The young vulnerable children, who remained at home, were admitted. They were provided with comprehensive education for holistic development. Trained teachers were engaged to teach in a joyful and interesting manner. At present, 354 children from 32 villages are getting benefited with quality education.

The recurring expenses of the school, which include

- Teachers related expenses
- Child related expenses
- School admin related expenses and
- School Infrastructure maintenance related expenses

are met from the local resources like collecting nominal fee from the students and donation from the local communities. In case of any deficit, Sarva Seva Education Trust, promoted by ASSEFA, manages to support this school with local sources. The recurring expenses work out to Rs 4,000 per child per year.

1.4 Purpose of the Project

The services of the model school have been useful to the local communities. The parents happily send their children to school, as their children get quality education at a affordable fee. In fact, there are demand to admit more children, but due to lack of building spaces, the admission is restricted.

Moreover, this school, at present, provides nursery and primary education i.e., upto 5th standard only. On completion, the students were encouraged to join other schools for higher education. However, some students, particularly girls cannot continue higher education after completion due to absence of good school in the accessible distance at affordable fees. Hence these girls after completion attend to the domestic works.

In order to address these twin issues, ASSEFA proposes to upgrade the existing nursery and primary schools to a regular school upto 10th standard with the construction of additional pucca (permanent) school building. ASSEFA Italy is requested to support this initiative.

2. PROPOSED PLAN OF ACTIONS

2.1 School Building

It is proposed to construct a Child friendly school building with the support of civil engineer. The total construction area will be 16,815 sq ft. The construction includes

- Building with eight class rooms with construction area of 5,685 Sq ft
- Toilet Block with 630 sq ft, consisting of
 - *Two urinals, one each for boys and girls and*
 - *Ten toilets, five each for boys and girls*
- Compound wall stretching to 1500 ft length (total area 10,500 Sq ft).

The building has been designed as per the norms of Tamil Nadu Education Department. Accordingly for safe and comfortable learning, the following is offered for each classroom. Vide annexure for Engineer's building plan.

- Size of the classroom 400 sq ft (can accommodate max 40 students)
- Two entrance and
- Three windows for free flow of air.

2.2 School Strength

As on date, 354 students from 32 villages are being benefited. With the proposed additional building and higher education plan, the students' strength is expected to increase gradually. In addition, vulnerable children from other villages will also be admitted and vehicle will be arranged for pickup service for such students. It is planned to increase the student's strength by nearly 250.

2.3 Curriculum for higher Education

Comprehensive curriculum will be taught under higher education too. This will includes yoga and meditation, learning non-violence, handi-crafts, sports and games, cultural programs as well as syllabi as taught by other regular schools. In addition, life skill education such as tailoring, computer application, etc., will be taught under comprehensive education.

3. PROJECT PERIOD

One year from the date of sanction.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES

The school team consists of 13 teachers and 9 support staffs working under the leadership of the head mistress. However, for construction purpose, ASSEFA proposed to engage an Engineer to carry out the task of constructing the building with local labourers.

5. FINANCIAL COMMITTEMENT

S. No	Particulars	Units	Total budget	
			INR	Euros
1	School Building	5685 Sq ft	5,250,000	80,769.23
2	Toilet Block	630 Sq ft	400,000	6,153.84
3	Compound Wall	10,500 Sq ft	1,053,000	16,200.00
			6,703,000	103,123.07

Conversion Rate 1 euro = 65 INR

The detailed Engineering estimate for each the above is enclosed in the annexure.

6. REPORTING

Upon completion, a brief narrative report along with audited financial statement of accounts and photos of the building will be sent to ASSEFA Italy.

Annexure

LOCATION OF NURSERY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL

ASSEFA'S OPERATIONAL AREAS



SCHOOL LOCATION

