

**Project Proposal**  
**for**  
**“Learning Centre ”**  
**in Visakhapatnam Urban Slums**

**Project Proposed by:**



**Srujanavani Voluntary Association**  
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## 1. Organisation Profile

**Srujanavani Voluntary Association** is a charity based voluntary organization working towards development & upliftment of society. The main motto of our organization is Man Making. With immortal spirit at heart, man making as the instrument, SRUJANAVANI is determined to build that UTOPIAN INDIA where development is concomitant with the rich and diverse heritage of our nation, India.

### Registration Details:

- i. Established Date: 26 Sept, 1996
- ii. Regd.No : 1980/2005 (Societies Registration Act)
- iii. Regd under Sect 12A & 80G (Income Tax)

### Governing Body

- i. President : Shri. R Chandra Sekhar
- ii. Vice President : Shri. A V Chandra Sekhar
- iii. CFO : Shri. B Sreekanth
- iv. Org. Secretary : Shri Y.V.Tarak

## 2. Genesis

The rapid urban population growth and relative lack of attention to urban poverty, has possibly exacerbated multi-dimensional deprivation, including deprivation of education, in urban areas. The total number of poor and undernourished individuals living in urban areas has increased alarmingly in the past decades. Poverty or low incomes, adversely affect the quality and quantity of education at the macro, micro, region, school and household level. Education deprivation is caused not merely by poverty, but also by related factors. In the case of India, these factors might be closely related to gender, caste, labor market opportunities, the quality of learning and facilities in schools. Our interest is one that helps in improvement of child education in urban slums and enables them to sharpen their skills by providing post-class room teaching support (free tuition).

### Analysis

An extensive survey was conducted in the urban slums of Visakhapatnam to estimate the status of education amongst the slum children. The survey asked firstly if slum children were currently attending any school, and then those not currently attending were asked if they had ever attended schools. If they had, they were regarded as dropout children. If they had not, they are regarded as never-attended children. Even among the currently attending children, over-age and repetition of same class is common. Our analysis shows that the dropout rate can be attributed to the over age and repetitions. Those attending the private schools are dropping out due to their bad performance in school or due to their economic conditions.

According to a National Survey Sample Organisation report [NSS Fifty-second Round July 1995 - June 1996, GOI Oct-1998 edition] on slum children in particular, two items are of major concern for children education in the slums,

- a) Stationery, books and notebooks
- (b) Coaching and private tuition



The above two items account for a large proportion of the total cost. The reason why stationery, textbooks and book costs are high can be related to the increase in practice of memorizing what they learnt at school. As far as private tuition is concerned, about 1/6th of school-going-children aged 5 to 14, take private tuition. The higher grade students are more likely to be sent to private tuition. In other words, private tuition is essential to continue schooling among slum children and only those who take private tuition survive till upper standard. Due to this reason, children who cannot afford are unable to perform well in the academics and lose interest to continue education. At this juncture, **Srujanavani** acts as a bridge and helps young students to cross the tides of education hurdles through our learning centre.

**Goal of srujanavani Learning Centre:**

**a. Who are benefited?**

Children studying in the government primary schools (1st - 5th standard) will be benefited by the Learning Centre. These children will bring a sea change in the cultural aspects of slum area. They will disconnect next generations from anti social elements and act as change agents in slum areas. This centre will not only address issues with slum children but also help in curbing anti social acts.

**b. Where will be the facility located?**

Our Learning Centre will be located in the slums of Visakhapatnam city and in a phase wise manner will be reached to the other slum areas in the city.

**c. What we will do?**

Our free learning centre will enhance the skills of the child and develop interest in them to learn, which will help them to better understand the lessons taught in their schools.

**3. Objectives**

To keep the children of the colony distant from the indecent social behaviours and practices during their free time after school hours, while enhancing academic knowledge and instilling moral values.

To impart the value of education, imbibe healthy habits and make the learning joyous through skits, plays and games interlinking with their course contents at primary school level through courses which are specially designed by Srujanavani in accordance with their syllabus.

**Methodology**

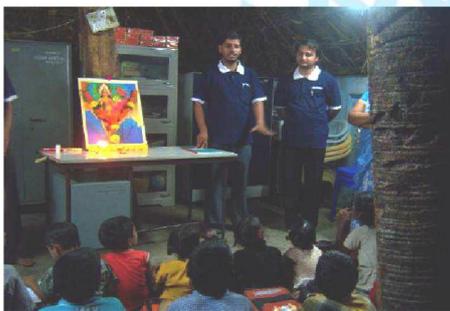
- The learning centre is operated with one part-time faculty to teach children at primary level on daily basis in the evening from 6.00 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. for six days. She/he will be given guidance by our activity member. The faculty will undergo teaching training programs as and when required/available to improve their teaching skills.
- Srujanavani volunteers will assist the teacher to interact with the parents and counsel them to ensure that the school dropouts children are brought back to schools again.
- Once the students are brought to the classes then we will ensure that they get themselves involved in the learning process by our unique hands-on activities and other programmes. At the learning centre students will be specially nurtured and helped with their subjects at school keeping them motivated.

**Measurable Indicators**

Both over all and individual statistics are recorded for monitoring the effectiveness of this program. Individual progress report file of every child will be maintained and every child skills will be evaluated through statistical methods designed by Srujanavani. Based on these results available, teaching methods will be upgraded as required.

**4. Learning Centre at Pydimamba Colony, Kancharpalem**

In line of addressing this major area, we identified “Pydimamba Colony” at Kancharpalem after surveying 3 slum areas in the city of Visakhapatnam and started a learning centre. The community consists of families engaged in daily labour and single parent headed ones. We observed extra care is not taken by uneducated parents and poor standards in school add to the loss of interest among children to pursue education. Due to this background of the society, the children were highly exposed to weird company and the children get addicted to anti social elements.



Srujanavani members interacting with the children at Pydimamba Colony Learning Centre.

The learning centre was started in **2010** with a prime motive to bring change in the attitude towards life and education among the parents and children. Initially the children in this community were not able to attend the centre due to the limitations in the family like carrying out household work, looking after the younger ones in the absence of the parents etc. Interactive sessions were conducted with the children to build relationship and create interest to come to the centre. With our persistent efforts of approach to each and every family we could bring the children to the learning centre. Subsequently, impressed with our firm commitment

towards the children, the community head has also extended his support by permitting us to utilize their community hall for this purpose.

In the process of our journey we could bring in change in the parents’ as well as children’s attitude towards learning and improve the regularity of the children coming to the centre. The children are guided to read and write the lessons learnt in the school apart from inculcating regular good habits like greeting, prayer and discipline in the class. They are working hard to improve their academic basics and also maintaining the discipline of the class as per the advice of the teacher.



Apart from the academics we also conduct extra-curricular activities like poem recitation, telling moral stories, etc., on every Saturday to keep the motivation of children. The centre also celebrates national festivals like Republic Day, Independence Day, Children’s Day and Gandhi Jayanthi during which competitions are conducted among the children and winners are rewarded. The children are showing interest to continue to spend time in the learning centre to listen to the

moral stories and participate in extra-curricular activities. Presently the centre has strength of 22 children on rolls out of which 70% of the children are regular. The learning centre is focused to guide the children of age group 6 to 13 years studying in government schools of that area only. Nov 14, 2012 children's day celebration photos are attached.



#### **Future Plan for improvements:**

- To provide nutritional food in the form of snacks after the free tuition is completed.
- To train the children during the school vacation period to do some project works resembling their surroundings like types of houses, railway tracks, bridge, market etc. to develop creativity, teamwork and thought process in the children.
- Conduct some indoor games among the children occasionally like word-bridge, memory, etc. and give small rewards.
- Develop mechanism to improve overall performance of children.
- Impart values and general knowledge through motivational videos that can be shown to the children once in three months during vacation.

#### **Infrastructure Requirements:**

- Proper Classroom: The community hall that is being used as the classroom presently has a thatched roof and during rains, water enters into the learning centre and leads to discontinuity of the class. Presently we are in the lookout for a rental premises.
- Computer with CD player and TV tuner card for showing motivational videos, educational CDs and discovery channel etc.
- Some of the items like blackboard, tables and chairs are to be provided in the classroom.

#### **A case study of a child is given hereunder:**

*“Pushpalatha is a single parent child migrated from Anakapalle. She does the household work at home when her mother goes for work. She started coming to the centre in Class III with very poor academic record. After coming to the centre her marks in the V standard final exams are 196 out of 200. Also this girl is the most active in the class and is quick at learning. She also learned to sing, recite poems etc.”*



## 5. Support Required:

Presently the learning centre is operated solely by us meeting all the basic requirements. We seek your valuable financial support for running the existing learning centre at Pydimamaba colony. The learning centre will be run with a sign board containing your company name and logo during the period of sponsorship. A feedback on the progress and development activities will be communicated to you from time to time vide our quarterly and annual newsletters.

The cost involved in the project for the academic year is as under:

Component	Item	Qty	Per Month Rs	Per Annum Rs
<b>Faculty Salary</b>	Faculty	1	1800	21600
<b>Nutritious snacks</b>	Fruits/Biscuits to 30 Children	-	5000	60000
<b>Maintenance Cost</b>	Rent	1	1500	18000
	Electricity bill	1	200	2400
<b>Miscellaneous Costs</b>	Educational tours/picnic per year	2		6000
	Training Programs for faculty	2		5000
	Chalk Box	24		1200
	Miscellaneous expenses (project items, celebrations, gifts etc.)	-		6000
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>1,20,200</b>

\* The costs are based on the assumption of about 30 students/centre.

## 6. Way Ahead

Going forward SRUJANAVANI will primarily focus on improving the number of school going children, developing specific skill sets for the children and start tracking the learning curve of the children against the standard skill set.

SRUJANAVANI would also like to introduce alternative teaching methodologies to enhance children's comfort levels in developing new learning skills.

### Contact Information

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