

Project Title: Documenting Change in Lives of slum women and children

Project Number: IN01-10

Location: Yerawada, Maharashtra

Partner NGO: Surajya Sarwangin Vikas Prakalpa

Number of Volunteers: 1 (Female Volunteer Preferred)

Language: Marathi / Hindi (Assistance in English will be provided)

Background

30% of total population in India lives in urban areas, out of which around 20% live in slums. Urban poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon. The slum dwellers are faced by problems of poor health and education, deprivation of knowledge and communication effectively leading to lack of dignity and self-respect. Alcoholism, declining cultural / moral values, and ill effects of media channels also result in poor socio-cultural environment in the slums.

Surajya Sarwangin Vikas Prakalpa is an NGO working in the slums on outskirts of Pune city (Maharashtra). It runs study-rooms, free tuition classes and micro-credit groups for working women. The micro-credit groups and study centers also act as a platform for other edutainment programs Surajya organizes for the betterment of slum residents.

Surajya has an energetic team of young volunteers and it is led by learned social workers.

Phase 1: Participating in Surajya activities

Objective: To understand the lives of the slum children and women of different age groups. School children, high-school children, adolescent girls, and married women are the focus groups of various activities of Surajya

Description:

In this phase, the volunteers will participate in the study room teaching and get a first hand experience of how these function. Here, they will get to interact and know the children and identify the challenges they face and their struggle to overcome.

Surajya runs Self-Help Groups of women and they have regular meetings. The volunteer will participate in these meetings and shall also visit the homes of these women to understand their life-style.

Phase 2: Documenting the Change in Lives of youth and women

Objective:

1. Slum children, when given proper learning environment succeed in academics and in career. This change is to be documented using various media.
2. Slum women, when empowered with micro-credit and peer support succeed in improving their economic conditions and also earn social prestige. This change is to be documented using various media.

Description:

The volunteers will get to further interact with select individuals from the focus groups. Taking photographs, video clips, and interviews of those individuals and presenting the same in various forms shall be the task. Surajya has worked among children for last five years and has run study-rooms and study-mentoring activities. This has developed into success stories for many children. Similar is the case with women's Self-Help Groups (micro-credit groups).

Documenting the success stories and the basic change in lives will serve two purposes. First, people from slums will look at those persons as role models and more people will strive to follow their success. Second, people from outside the slums (here and abroad) will understand the struggle for life that goes on in slums and the terms of what is seen as success.

Skills expected of Volunteers:

The volunteers taking up this project should have the aptitude of playing and interacting with children and of empathetic listening to women. The volunteer should be acquainted with basic uses of media (photography, video shooting etc.).

Female volunteer is preferred for working with women.

Living Arrangements:

The volunteers will be staying at a hostel near Surajya Sarwangin Vikas Prakalpa. Food will also be available at the hostel. The volunteers will have access to paid Net Café services and pay-phones for overseas phone calls and Internet.

Miscellaneous:

The following details should be noted.

1. The volunteer shall be solely responsible for his/her physical, mental and emotional health.
2. Any legal issues will be dealt under Indian laws and local jurisdiction.

To apply for this project answer the following questions:

1. Have you worked/volunteered in a slum? Elaborate your previous experience.
2. Visualize this: You are living in a slum. Your bathroom does not get running water and you often see cockroaches in the toilet. How would you deal with this?
3. Write 10 lines about 'Status of urban poor in Asia (or India)'.

***Project Title:* Analyzing and documenting the social process in empowerment of slum children**

Project Number: IN02-10

Location: Yerawada, Maharashtra

Partner NGO: Surajya Sarwangan Vikas Prakalpa

Number of Volunteers: 1 (Female Volunteer Preferred)

Language: Marathi / Hindi (Assistance in English will be provided)

Background

30% of total population in India lives in urban areas, out of which around 20% live in slums. Urban poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon. The slum dwellers are faced by problems of poor health and education, deprivation of knowledge and communication effectively leading to lack of dignity and self-respect. Alcoholism, declining cultural / moral values, ill effects of media channels also result in to poor socio-cultural environment in the slums.

Surajya Sarwangan Vikas Prakalpa is an NGO working in the slums on outskirts of Pune city (Maharashtra). It runs study-rooms, free tuition classes and micro-credit groups for working women. The micro-credit groups and study centers also act as a platform for other edutainment programs Surajya organizes for betterment of slum residents.

Surajya has an energetic team of young volunteers and it is led by learned social workers.

Phase 1: Participating in Surajya activities

Objective: To understand various aspects of Surajya activities and participate with local volunteers to get a firsthand experience.

Description:

In this phase the volunteers will participate in the study room teaching and get a first hand experience of how these function. Here, they will get to interact and know the children and identify the challenges they face and their struggle to overcome.

Surajya runs Self-Help Groups of women and they have regular meetings. The volunteer will participate in these meetings and shall also visit the homes of these women to understand their life-style.

Phase 2: Documenting the process of interventions by Surajya

Objective:

1. Surajya has been working among the slum population for over five years. It has practiced and established various models of intervention. The process of such intervention is to be documented.

2. The documentation will help Surajya as well as other organizations replicate such processes and learn from past experience.

Description:

The volunteers will get to further interact with select individuals from the focus groups, and with lead volunteers of Surajya. Taking photographs, video clips, and interviews of those individuals and presenting the same in various forms shall be a part of the task. Understanding the challenges, solutions, difficulties, and successes in the interventions of Surajya is the key purpose of this phase. Surajya has worked among children for last five years and has run study-rooms and study-mentoring activities. This has developed into success stories for many children. Similar is the case with women's Self-Help Groups (micro-credit groups).

Documenting the processes will help Surajya evaluate its work and the inherent strengths and weaknesses in its work. Such documentation of social processes will also help Surajya and other organizations replicate and expand their work.

Skills expected of Volunteers:

The volunteer should have some background of social sciences and aptitude for understanding and analyzing social processes. Writing skills shall be a plus point. The volunteer should be prepared to partially live in slums and befriending local volunteers is going to be the key for this assignment.

Living Arrangements:

The volunteers will be staying at a hostel near Surajya Sarwagin Vikas Prakalpa. Food will also be available at the hostel. The volunteers will have access to paid Net Café services and pay-phones for overseas phone calls and Internet.

Miscellaneous:

The following details should be noted.

1. The volunteer shall be solely responsible for his/her physical, mental and emotional health.
2. Any legal issues will be dealt under Indian laws and local jurisdiction.

To apply for this project answer the following questions:

1. What do understand by empowerment of urban-poor children? Use examples from your previous experience.
2. Visualize this: You are living in a slum. You have a digital camera and it is a big attraction for the children in your slum. One of the children takes your camera and by accident – breaks it. How would you deal with this?
3. Write 10 lines about ‘Role of education for urban poor in Asia (or India)’.

Project Title: Developing exhibitions and posters on Health issues

Project Number: IN03-10

Location: Aurangabad, Maharashtra

Partner NGO: Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Vaidyakiya Pratishthan (Dr. BAVP)

Number of Volunteers: 1

Language: Basic Hindi / Marathi (Assistance in English shall be provided)

Background

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Vaidyakiya Pratishthan (Dr. BAVP) is a medical-social trust run by devoted Doctors. It runs a hospital in Aurangabad – one of the major cities of Maharashtra state – and runs healthcare centers in slums and villages around this city. Low awareness is a major reason for spreading of HIV-AIDS in slums. The organization has therefore taken up awareness campaigns about AIDS.

Another problem in slums is that of sanitation and of safe drinking water. The organization is working to motivate slum-dwellers follow hygienic practices and create awareness about purification of drinking water.

Phase 1:

1. Understanding the issues of sanitation, hygiene, and drinking water in slums
2. Understanding the conceptions about AIDS prevalent in slum-dwellers

Description:

The volunteer will be working with local volunteers and Doctors to understand the ground realities regarding general hygiene and health issues and regarding AIDS awareness.

The volunteer should learn about the misconceptions, notions, and local practices on these issues. The literacy levels as well as the comprehension of media by the masses should be studied in this phase.

Phase 2:

1. Developing posters and other media tools for awareness generation
2. Field-testing of such tools/posters
3. Modifying the tools/posters, involving local volunteers
4. Developing an exhibition on one issue with involvement of local volunteers

Description:

Certain symbols are understood by the masses, same is the case with humor, pictures, and even songs and text. Field-testing of tools is therefore essential. Local volunteers are to be involved in this process so as to enable them to carry on this activity in future.

Skills expected of Volunteers:

The volunteer must have some background in designing media tools. The volunteer should be prepared for walks through slums, and should be ready to work with local volunteers. It will be an advantage if the volunteer has previous experience of putting up exhibitions. The volunteer should be able to think of media expressions that are comprehensible to the local masses.

Living Arrangements:

The volunteers will be staying at a hostel provided by Dr.BAVP. Food will also be available at the hostel. Mobile phones and other communication facilities should be taken-care by volunteers in case needed for individual use. The volunteers will have access to paid Net Café services and to pay-phones for overseas phone calls.

Local commuting shall be arranged by Dr.BAVP.

Miscellaneous:

The following details should be noted.

1. Any discoveries/inventions occurred during the time of project will be entitled to Dr.BAVP
2. Any documentation and discovery of traditional knowledge and discovery/invention of tools/bio materials will be subjected to Indian Patent Rules and Indian registration
3. The volunteer shall be solely responsible for his/her physical, mental and emotional health.
4. Any legal issues will be dealt under Indian laws and local jurisdiction

To apply for this project answer the following questions:

1. Have you worked/volunteered for any Health awareness campaign or on Communication for social issues? Elaborate your previous experience.
2. Visualize this: You are living in a slum. Your bathroom does not get running water and you often see cockroaches in the toilet. How would you deal with this?
3. Write 10 lines about 'Health awareness problems in Asia (or India)'.

***Project Title:* Developing tools and approaches to teach science in rural schools**

***Project Number:* IN04-10**

***Location:* Pune district, Maharashtra**

***Partner NGO:* Swa-roop Wardhini**

***Number of Volunteers:* 1**

***Language:* Basic Hindi / Marathi (Assistance in English shall be provided)**

Background

More than half of Indian population resides in villages. Village schools are often run by one or two teachers with inadequate (or absent) library and laboratory facilities. The education of children in villages lacks the vital exposure to books and to science equipments.

This organization Swa-roop Wardhini is well known for its work in slums of Pune city and in villages of Pune district. The activities of this organization are focused at creating an enabling environment for the children from weaker sections of society.

The organization runs after-school activities for children, Kishori Vikas activities for adolescent girls, SHGs or micro-credit activities for urban and rural women, and a mobile laboratory for science education for rural children. Many of the current office-bearers as well as volunteers of this organization have grown in the organization.

Lab-on-wheels is a jeep (or mini bus) that travels to villages and sets up a one-day laboratory for the school students in those villages. The laboratory is operated by Swa-roop Wardhini volunteers and teachers.

Phase 1: Participating in the activities of Lab-on-wheels

Objective: To understand the science curriculum in schools, the significance of the lab-on-wheels in education of rural children, and to identify the gaps still prevalent in science education

Description:

In this phase the volunteer will travel with the lab. The volunteer will assist the teachers on the lab, play with the rural children, and interact with teachers in villages. The volunteer shall also go through the government textbooks for 5th to 7th Grade.

Phase 2: Developing tools/toys/games for learning Science

Objective:

1. Identifying some key elements of the curriculum that need support of such tools or toys for learning
2. Developing such tools/toys/games and testing them with children
3. Re-modifying or refining the tools after field testing and consultation with teachers

Description:

The volunteer shall in consultation with the teachers from Swa-roop Wardhini identify key elements from the science curricula. He/she should collect information about tools already available and then develop new tools as per need. The organization would prefer tools that are low-cost (and therefore replicable) and those that are made with locally available material (leaves, stones, old cloth, broken vessels etc).

The volunteer must document his/her findings and the tools developed thereafter. The documentation shall be comprehensive including photographs and diagrams as and when necessary. This will help the organization sustain and replicate the efforts taken by the volunteer.

Skills expected of Volunteers:

The volunteer should have the aptitude of playing and interacting with children. Previous experience in teaching science will be an advantage. The volunteer must be able to think out of box and develop creative solutions to problems in learning science.

Living Arrangements:

The volunteer will be staying at a hostel near Swa-roop Wardhini in Pune. Food will also be available at the hostel. The volunteer will have access to paid Net Café services and pay-phones for overseas phone calls and Internet.

Miscellaneous:

The following details should be noted.

1. The volunteer shall be solely responsible for his/her physical, mental and emotional health.
2. Any legal issues will be dealt under Indian laws and local jurisdiction

To apply for this project answer the following questions:

1. Have you worked/volunteered with rural children or have you been part of any innovative education project? Elaborate your previous experience.
2. Visualize this: You will always be traveling on the jeep i.e. Lab-on-wheels. The food is different everyday and you do not like the taste. How would you deal with this?
3. Write 10 lines about 'Status of urban poor in Asia (or India)'.

Project Title: Empirical analysis of counseling needs of rural women

Project Number: IN05-10

Location: Sangola, District Solapur, Maharashtra

Partner NGO: Mata Balak Utkarsha Pratishthan (MBUP)

Number of Volunteers: 1

Language: Basic Hindi / Marathi (Assistance in English shall be provided)

Background

Sangola, is a small town in District Solapur in southern Maharashtra. It is an arid and dry region facing extreme water shortage and is deprived of basic agricultural resources such as fertile land resulting in low income levels of the villagers. Considering the severe problems of such Drought prone region Mata Balak Utkarsh Pratishthan (MBUP) was established in 1979 for overall development of Sangola area. The focus of activities for the center is “rural women” as the activities started of with several urban women emerging as volunteers to start a Mahila Saha Vichar Kendra (Women’s Study Center/ Women’s discussion forum) and Anyay Nivaran Samstha (Legal Counseling and self help Center). They realized there is a need for a counseling center where women’s problem would be heard and guidance, moral support and legal advice would be offered. Thus, a counseling center called “Maitrin” (meaning “Friend”) was started. With the support of the counseling center even the most harassed women, have now got the courage to take their complaints to the police station. The strength of organized effort has given many women the confidence and courage to stand for their rights.

To reach out to the rural women, the Mata Balak Utkarsh Pratishthan started Balak Mandir, a nursery school where the young women would come with their children. The Balak mandir has now grown to a Primary school and is a renowned institute in the neighborhood.

Objective:

1. To present a statistical analysis of Women’s issues handled by the counseling center to identify commonality and severity of domestic/social issues in rural women’s life.
2. To document success stories and best practices at the counseling center, so as to guide the handling of similar cases at other rural counseling centers.
3. Prepare easy-to-use templates for yearly progress reports of the counseling center.

Description:

First phase of the project includes understanding functioning of the counseling center and consolidating past data of success stories of women’s issues handled by the Center. This includes:

- a) Classifying the various issues of women handled by the counseling center into broad categories such as domestic violence, lack of health awareness, etc.
- b) Documenting past cases in each category, to serve as reference cases for handling similar such cases in future and at other rural counseling centers.

During the first phase, as the volunteer shall gather and study the information about past cases dealt with at the counseling center. This will help gain an insight into problems in a rural woman’s life.

In second phase, the volunteer with the help of local volunteers and counseling experts shall conduct a statistical analysis of various cases that the center comes across. The statistical study should help to

identify degree of severity and commonality of problems of rural women. This analysis shall help the organization evolve a plan for awareness campaigns as well as for policy advocacy on the problems identified as severe and common.

Towards the concluding phase of the project, the volunteer prepares various documentation templates for recording the work at the counseling center. These simple user friendly templates shall help the center in Continuity Documentation of their work for future.

Skills expected of Volunteers:

The volunteer should have knowledge of simple statistical techniques for data collection and analysis such as tally marks, graphs, pie charts, etc.

The volunteer should have the aptitude for living and interacting with the community and should be willing to share space with the local community.

Climate and surroundings:

Sangola is situated in the drought prone district of Solapur, where the summers are extreme hot. Although, the weather in June-August is pleasant (temperatures degree Celsius), few showers during the season followed by late monsoon in September and October.

Solapur, the nearest District place from Sangola is 90 kms. East of Sangola, traveling time of about two to two and half hours.

Living Arrangements:

The Mata Balak Utkarsh Pratishthan has an office building in the heart of Sangola town, and its centers are located mostly at a walking distance.

The volunteer will be staying at the Guest room in MBUP own building. Home cooked food; vegetarian, not very spicy shall be arranged for the volunteer. Drinking and smoking is strictly prohibited at the Institute. Washrooms of local as well as western style are available and may need to be shared with local volunteers at the project. Mobile phones and other communication facilities should be taken-care by participants in case needed for individual use. The volunteers will have access to paid Internet services and pay-phones for overseas phone calls. Local commuting shall be arranged by MBUP.

Miscellaneous:

1. The volunteer shall be solely responsible for his/her physical, mental and emotional health
2. Any legal issues will be dealt under Indian laws and local jurisdiction

To apply for this project answer the following questions:

1. Have you worked/volunteered with rural children or have you been part of any innovative education project? Elaborate your previous experience.
2. Visualize this: You will always be traveling on the jeep i.e. Lab-on-wheels. The food is different everyday and you do not like the taste. How would you deal with this?
3. Write 10 lines about 'Status of urban poor in Asia (or India)'.

Project Title: Medicinal plants and traditional health practices

Project Number: IN06-10

Location: Nandurbar, Maharashtra

Partner NGO Dr. Hegdewar Seva Samiti

Number of Volunteers: 1

Language: Basic Hindi / Marathi (Assistance in English shall be provided)

Background

Nandurbar is a predominantly tribal district in the north western part of Maharashtra state, India. The district is divided into 13 taluks and the population comprises of 69% tribes (mountain-dwelling communities), 3% backward castes and rest urban population. About 40% of population does annual migration to neighboring state of Gujarat during drought season. There is a Krishi Vigyan Kendra (Farm Science Center), a nodal agency from government of India which is the premier government institute there training and educating the local population on scientific agriculture to health care. The NGO Dr. Hegdewar Seva Samiti (HSS) has been undertaking a large number of social projects with the help of government of India as well as with other voluntary organizations.

HSS is an NGO (Non-Government Organization) working in Nandurbar (Maharashtra). It runs single teacher schools, free residential schools, women self help groups (micro-credit groups), village self help groups and render many other training and facilitations to the marginalized and uneducated villagers in Nandurbar. HSS has an energetic team of young volunteers and it is led by learned social workers and help from various central and state government agencies in their pioneering efforts for the deprived villagers.

HSS works along with Seva Sahayog and Sewa International provide expert help to villagers equipping them to develop methodologies and instruments to handle their day to day issues.

Objective:

1. To document the local flora and fauna of medicinal value
2. To classify and assist the organization in filing IPRs (Intellectual Property Rights) for various locally available health practices and medicinal herbs

Description:

Nandurbar has a rich variety of flora and fauna as well as diverse anthropological base which is the right mixture for the development of various local medicinal practices using locally available flora and fauna. These need to be well documented before they become extinct or commercially exploited by various firms without benefiting the real inventors or knowledge-holders.

The volunteers shall be conducting extensive local survey and collecting, documenting and recording evidences for the healing practices, medicinal plants and animals under the guidance of KVK scientists. At the end well documented survey results will be handed over to KVK which will be presented to government of India.

Skills expected of Volunteers:

The volunteer must have sound background in biological sciences, preferably in botany. The volunteer should be prepared for long walks in mountains and forests, and ready to stay with villagers. It will be an advantage if the volunteer is aware of knowledge documentation practices. Basic knowledge of computers is expected.

Climate and Surroundings:

Nandurbar is located in India's Deccan plateau with temperature touching 45°C in summer days and drops around 10°C in night. June –August is the rainy season with 80-100cm of rainfall. Since there is vast agricultural fields and forest, there are various insects and mosquitoes all round year. There is no water problem and electricity is expected 14-15 hours a day. There is couple of hospitals in the town. The Krishi Vigyan Kendra is 6 KM from the railways station and 10 KM from the major bus stand. The district headquarters in an overnight travel from Pune (PNQ) which is the nearest well connected commercial airport.

The food available is vegetarian and spicy. The closest resemblance is '*Indian Thali*'. Drinking and smoking is not entertained by village community. Washrooms will be local types and may need to be shared in some cases.

Living Arrangements:

The volunteers will be staying at a hostel provided by HSS. Food will also be available at the hostel. (A nominal rent around \$12 a month need to be paid for this.) Mobile phones and other communication facilities should be taken-care by participants in case needed for individual use. The volunteers will have to use paid Net Café services and shall have access to pay-phones for overseas phone calls.

Local commuting shall be arranged by HSS.

Miscellaneous:

Since projects will be arranged in remote areas and various agencies and HSS involved the following details should be noted.

1. Certificates will be provided – if so requested – (on successful completion of project) by Dr. Hegdewar Seva Samiti in affiliation with Nandurbar District Rural Development Agency.
2. Any discoveries/inventions occurred during the time of project will be entitled to HSS and Village community.
3. Any documentation and discovery of traditional knowledge and discovery/invention of tools/bio materials will be subjected to Indian Patent Rules and Indian registration
4. None of the materials or documentation should be taken out of India without the prior approval of Government of India
5. The volunteer shall be solely responsible for his/her physical, mental and emotional health.
6. Any legal issues will be dealt under Indian laws and local jurisdiction

To apply for this project answer the following questions:

1. Have you worked/volunteered in a Tree-centric project? Elaborate your previous experience.
2. Visualize this: You come across a rare plant with highly critical medicinal properties. The world would want to know this. Once the word is out, the pharmacies of the world will take this plant and the original knowledge-holder will not get any benefit. Will you disclose his knowledge? How would you deal with this?
3. Write 10 lines about 'Traditional medicines in Asia (or India)'.

Project Title: Setting up Data Management system for Farm Science Center

Project Number: IN07-10

Location: Nandurbar, Maharashtra

Partner NGO Dr. Hegdewar Seva Samiti

Number of Volunteers: 1

Language: Basic Hindi / Marathi (Assistance in English shall be provided)

Background

Nandurbar is a predominantly tribal district in the north western part of Maharashtra state, India. The district is divided into 13 taluks and the population comprises of 69% tribes (mountain-dwelling communities), 3% backward castes and rest urban population. About 40% of population does annual migration to neighboring state of Gujarat during drought season. There is a Krishi Vigyan Kendra (Farm Science Center), a nodal agency from government of India which is the premier government institute there training and educating the local population on scientific agriculture to health care. The NGO Dr. Hegdewar Seva Samiti (HSS) has been undertaking a large number of social projects with the help of government of India as well as with other voluntary organizations.

HSS is an NGO (Non-Government Organization) working in Nandurbar (Maharashtra). It runs single teacher schools, free residential schools, women self help groups (micro-credit groups), village self help groups and render many other training and facilitations to the marginalized and uneducated villagers in Nandurbar. HSS has an energetic team of young volunteers and it is led by learned social workers and help from various central and state government agencies in their pioneering efforts for the deprived villagers.

HSS works along with Seva Sahayog and Seva International provide expert help to villagers equipping them to develop methodologies and instruments to handle their day to day issues.

Objective:

1. Develop a complete data management system for Nandurbar Krishi Vigyan Kendra which allows easing the administration and updating hassles of various projects undertaken by KVK
2. To train the KVK officials on updating and maintaining the same along with up to date documentation and hand over process.

Description:

The volunteer/s will develop a complete data management solution for Nandurbar KVK with the help of available software and hardware resources. This is essentially for office automation of records. Freewares are preferred and MS office and Windows are the available software in the existing environment.

In case of additional software for development of front end, middle ware and back end needed, it is the job of volunteer to identify the correct tools and packages (like jsp, tomcat and MySQL over licensed softwares) and implement the project.

It is mandatory that volunteers should provide a proper documentation, test cases as well as implementation procedure for the software developed. The volunteers shall be conducting hands on computer-training to the KVK officials making them confident in day to day activities.

Skills expected of Volunteers:

The volunteers taking up this project need to have sound knowledge of computer applications and preferably some experience in teaching the same. Liking for teaching, training with lots of creativity is required. The volunteers should be able to understand the ground reality and deliver the result in locally available resources and restrictions in the stipulated time.

Climate and Surroundings:

Nandurbar is located in India's Deccan plateau with temperature touching 45°C in summer days and drops around 10°C in night. June –August is the rainy season with 80-100cm of rainfall. Since there is vast agricultural fields and forest, there are various insects and mosquitoes all round year. There is no water problem and electricity is expected 14-15 hours a day. There is couple of hospitals in the town. The Krishi Vigyan Kendra is 6 KM from the railways station and 10 KM from the major bus stand. The district headquarters in an overnight travel from Pune (PNQ) which is the nearest well connected commercial airport.

The food available is vegetarian and spicy. The closest resemblance is '*Indian Thali*'. Drinking and smoking is not entertained by village community. Washrooms will be local types and may need to be shared in some cases.

Living Arrangements:

The volunteers will be staying at a hostel provided by HSS. Food will also be available at the hostel. (A nominal rent around \$12 a month need to be paid for this.) Mobile phones and other communication facilities should be taken-care by participants in case needed for individual use. The volunteers will have access to paid Net Café services and pay-phone for overseas phone calls and Internet.

Local commuting shall be arranged by HSS.

Miscellaneous:

Since projects will be arranged in remote areas and various government of India's nodal agencies and HSS involved the following details should be noted.

1. Certificates will be provided – if so requested – (on successful completion of project) by Hegdewar Seva Samithi in affiliation with Nandurbar District Rural Development Agency
2. Any discoveries/inventions occurred during the time of project will be entitled to HSS and Village Self Help group
3. Any documentation and discovery of traditional knowledge and discovery/invention of tools/bio materials will be subjected to Indian Patent Rules and Indian registration
4. None of the materials or documentation should be taken out of India without the prior approval of government of India
5. Selected candidates are supposed to undergo vaccination against tropical diseases prevalent in western part of India under their own cost.

6. The volunteer shall be solely responsible for his/her physical, mental and emotional health.
7. Any legal issues will be dealt under Indian laws and local jurisdiction

To apply for this project answer the following questions:

1. Are you a good organizer/ systemic manager? Have you helped anyone organize his data using simple MS-Windows tools? Elaborate your previous experience.
2. Visualize this: You try explaining the use of an existing machine to a village youth. He gives you ten different reasons why this machine is useless. How would you deal with this?
3. Write 10 lines about 'Bringing technology to the common people' (It would be good if you can give specific examples from Asia/India).

Project Title: Strengthening Computer Education in Slum centers

Project Number: IN08-10

Location: Aurangabad, Maharashtra

Partner NGO: Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Vaidyakiya Pratishthan (Dr. BAVP)

Number of Volunteers: 1

Language: Basic Hindi / Marathi (Assistance in English shall be provided)

Background

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Vaidyakiya Pratishthan (Dr. BAVP) is a medical-social trust run by devoted Doctors. It runs a hospital in Aurangabad – one of the major cities of Maharashtra state – and runs healthcare centers in slums and villages around this city.

Dr. BAVP believes in social change through dedicated service. All doctors in the organisation are also involved in community development work in various spheres.

The Centers run by Dr. BAVP in slums are a hub of community activities. The Centers are managed by physicians and volunteers. These centers provide space to a subsidized medical clinic, play-group activities for slum children, meetings of women's groups, vocational guidance and training for slum youth. Some of these centers also provide basic computer education to children and youth.

Objectives:

1. Understand the present process and courses
2. Identify new useful courses as per current trends
3. Design courses
4. Impart class room / practical training to future trainers
5. Prepare program and process documentation

Description:

The volunteer shall be working at a couple of Centers. Computer education at these centers is very basic and in some cases it is difficult to upgrade it as per the market trends. Government schools (i.e. where slum children are educated) lacks adequate infrastructure for imparting computer education. Dr. BAVP Centers work to ensure that the slum children do not lag behind or remain computer-illiterate.

Computer education in these centers can be elevated to be more competent and pro-future. The volunteer will have to understand current status, trends, processes, and then design new courses. It is crucial that the volunteer builds capacities of local trainers in order to enable them to carry on the work.

Skills expected of Volunteers:

The volunteer must have aptitude/skills to teach and develop courses for computer education. It will be an advantage if the volunteer has previous experience of teaching basic computers to children and youth.

Living Arrangements:

The volunteers will be staying at a hostel provided by Dr.BAVP. Food will also be available at the hostel. Mobile phones and other communication facilities should be taken care of by volunteers in case needed for individual use. The volunteers will have access to paid Net Café services and to pay-phones for overseas phone calls.

Local commuting shall be arranged by Dr.BAVP.

Miscellaneous:

The following details should be noted.

1. The volunteer shall be solely responsible for his/her physical, mental and emotional health.
2. Any legal issues will be dealt under Indian laws and local jurisdiction

To apply for this project answer the following questions:

1. Have you tried teaching computer to a child or to a semi-literate grown-up? Elaborate your previous experience.
2. Visualize this: You identify that a young (13-year old) boy in a computer class likes 'Paint', but does not remember/ dislikes things you teach about MS Excel. How would you deal with this?
3. Write 10 lines about 'Computers for the masses' (It would be good if you can give specific examples from Asia/India).

Project Title: Developing a set of activities for rural children for preservation of folklore

Project Number: IN09-10

Location: Sangola, District Solapur, Maharashtra

Partner NGO: Mata Balak Utkarsha Pratishthan, (MBUP)

Number of Volunteers: 1 (Female only)

Language: Basic Hindi / Marathi (Assistance in English shall be provided)

Background

Sangola is a small town in District Solapur in southern Maharashtra. It is an arid and dry region facing extreme water shortage and is deprived of basic agricultural resources such as fertile land resulting in low income levels of the villagers. Considering the severe problems of such Drought prone region Mata Balak Utkarsh Pratishthan (MBUP) was established in 1979 for overall development of Sangola area. The focus of activities for the center is “rural women” as the activities started of with several urban women emerging as volunteers to start a Mahila Saha Vichar Kendra (Women’s Study Center/ Women’s discussion forum) and Anyay Nivaran Samstha (Legal Counseling and self help Center). They realized there is a need for a counseling center where women’s problem would be heard and guidance, moral support and legal advice would be offered. Thus, a counseling center called “Maitrin” (meaning “Friend”) was started. With the support of the counseling center even the most harassed women, have now got the courage to take their complaints to the police station. The strength of organized effort has given many women the confidence and courage to stand for their rights.

To reach out to the rural women, the Mata Balak Utkarsh Pratishthan started Balak Mandir, a nursery school where the young women would come with their children. The Balak mandir has now grown to a Primary school and is a renowned institute in the neighborhood.

To enhance learning, the Balak Mandir School has a trained faculty using newer teaching aids for subjects like science and mathematics, computer confidence curriculum along with regular academic curriculum. Although, the school has observed that while training children in the modern education system, the traditional art and folklore are slowly fading off. The institution feels it necessary to also preserve and pass on the traditional art and folklore to further generations by taking special efforts for the same. They have recently started an evening playground for the children where folklore will be taught and practiced and children’s creativity will be offered a stage.

Objective:

1. To prepare a photo profile of a typical day in the life of a rural child.
2. To devise creative games/workshops/programs for preserving folklore, traditional games and arts in rural children.

Description:

First phase of the project focuses on understanding the psyche: the likes and dislikes of rural children. The volunteer will follow select children in the villages to observe a typical day in a rural child's life and prepare a photo profile on the same. The photo profile shall also depict the impact of modern education on his/her life.

The volunteer will get to interact with the elders in the community, with teachers, and with experts of folklore. The folklore comprising of arts, crafts, dances, songs, games, and festivals is not going to live simply by campaigning or awareness, it needs meaningful and enjoyable activities that the young generation will adapt.

As the volunteer gains an understanding of typical way of living for a rural child, and makes friends with them he/she will also start participating at the activities of the evening playground. The volunteer will then develop creative workshops, games, competitions, and other activities for introducing and preserving the folklore within the rural children.

Skills expected of Volunteers:

The volunteer has to be a children-loving person. Lots of creativity and open mindedness would be a sure prerequisite for mixing up with the rural community. The volunteer should be prepared for long walks and living in villages with simple food and accommodation.

Climate and surroundings:

Sangola is situated in the drought prone district of Solapur, where the summers are extremely hot. Although, the weather in June-August is pleasant, few showers during the season followed by late monsoon in September and October.

Solapur, the nearest District place from Sangola is 90 kms. East of Sangola, traveling time of about two to two and half hours.

Living Arrangements:

The Mata Balak Utkarsh Pratishthan has an office building in the heart of Sangola town, and its centers are located mostly at a walking distance.

The volunteer will be staying at the Guest room in MBUP own building. Home cooked food; vegetarian, not very spicy shall be arranged for the volunteer. Drinking and smoking is strictly prohibited at the Institute. Washrooms of local as well as western style are available and may need to be shared with local volunteers at the project. Mobile phones and other communication facilities should be taken-care by participants in case needed for individual use. The volunteers will have access to paid Internet services and pay-phones for overseas phone calls. Local commuting shall be arranged by MBUP.

Miscellaneous:

1. The volunteer shall be solely responsible for his/her physical, mental and emotional health.
2. Any legal issues will be dealt under Indian laws and local jurisdiction

To apply for this project answer the following questions:

1. Have you volunteered/worked on a project on traditional folklore or have you worked/volunteered with children from a community different than yours? Elaborate your previous experience.
2. Visualize this: You are a man and you find that little girls (8 to 13-year olds) hesitate talking to you. You want them to open up and participate in the activities you are designing. How would you deal with this? (If you are a woman, assume the same about boys and answer this question.)
3. Write 10 lines about 'Transferring the traditions to children' (It would be good if you can give specific examples from Asia/India).

Project Title: Developing a Computer Confidence Curriculum and its Implementation System

Project Number: IN10-08

Location: Yerawada, Maharashtra

Partner NGO: Surajya Sarwangin Vikas Prakalpa

Number of Volunteers: 1

Language: Basic Hindi / Marathi (Assistance in English shall be provided)

Background

30% of total population in India lives in urban areas, out of which around 20% live in slums. Urban poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon. The slum dwellers are faced by problems of poor health and education, deprivation of knowledge and communication effectively leading to lack of dignity and self-respect. Alcoholism, declining cultural / moral values, ill effects of media channels also result in poor socio-cultural environment in the slums.

Surajya Sarwangin Vikas Prakalpa is an NGO working in the slums on outskirts of Pune city (Maharashtra). It runs study-rooms, free tuition classes and micro-credit groups for working women. The micro-credit groups and study centers also act as a platform for other edutainment programs Surajya organizes for betterment of slum residents.

Surajya has an energetic team of young volunteers and it is led by learned social workers.

Phase 1: Participating in Surajya activities

Objective: To understand the lives of the slum children and women of different age groups. School children, high-school children, adolescent girls, and married women are the focus groups of various activities of Surajya

Description:

In this phase the volunteers will participate in the study room teaching and get a first hand experience of how these function. Here, they will get to interact and know the children and identify the challenges they face and their struggle to overcome.

Surajya runs Self-Help Groups of women and they have regular meetings. The volunteer will participate in these meetings and shall also visit the homes of these women to understand their life-style.

Phase 2: Developing a curriculum and a master plan for implementation

Objective:

1. Developing a model of weekly/weekend sessions for learning and practicing basic computer skills
2. The NGO is having IT professionals to volunteer on weekends. There is a need for a master plan of using these Human Resources towards effective implementation.

Description:

Slum children as well as youth often lag behind in computer related studies and professions because of lack of adequate exposure and hands-on practice. There is a need for creating practicing space and learning modules.

The young IT professionals volunteering with the NGO are at the other end of computer awareness. The YFS volunteer should be able to bridge the gap in assumptions and expectations of both sides. The voluntary resources are to be managed effectively; the master plan is expected to serve this purpose.

Skills expected of Volunteers:

The volunteers taking up this project need to have knowledge of common computer usage and preferably some experience in teaching the same. Liking for teaching, training and working with children with lots of creativity is required. The volunteers should be able to think beyond the study room boundaries and find innovative ways for imparting training.

Living Arrangements:

The volunteers will be staying at a hostel near Surajya Sarwagin Vikas Prkalpa. Food will also be available at the hostel. The volunteers will have access to paid Net Café services and pay-phones for overseas phone calls and Internet.

To apply for this project answer the following questions:

1. Have you tried teaching computer to a child or to a semi-literate grown-up? Elaborate your previous experience.
2. Visualize this: You identify that a young (13-year old) boy in a computer class likes playing Games, but does not pay attention to things you teach about MS Excel. How would you deal with this?
3. Write 10 lines about 'Computers for the masses' (It would be good if you can give specific examples from Asia/India).

Project Title: Coaching a sport (Athletics/Gymnastics/or any other) to rural children

Project Number: IN11-10

Location: Male Village, District Pune, Maharashtra

Partner NGO: Rashtriya Sarvagin Gramvikas Sanstha

Number of Volunteers: 1

Language: Basic Marathi / Hindi (Assistance in English shall be provided)

Background:

Pune is one of the rapidly growing urban conglomerates in India. While Pune is a hub of development and economic activity, the villages on outskirts of Pune continue to be deprived of opportunities. Availing better opportunities to rural people in general, and students in particular – was taken as a challenge by a group of socially concerned industrialists, field workers & experts from various sectors and Rashtriya Sarvagin Gramvikas Sanstha (RSGVS) was established in 1995.

RSGVS runs schools as well as hostels and takes up various projects for community development in rural areas. As a part of all-round development of children in its rural schools, RSGVS believes in sports as a good medium of building confidence and self-expression. This project expects that a volunteer can coach the children in a sport hitherto not known to them. The sport may be anything except cricket and local Indian games. RSGVS would prefer athletics or gymnastics coaching, however it is open to all sports.

Objective:

1. To develop children's sport spirit.
2. To give coaching in sports like Soccer and Volleyball
3. Try to take children to a district (county) level competition in the sport

Description:

To provide necessary infrastructure for improving Education for the children living in villages is the one of key objective of organization. The volunteers will get to interact with children with age group of (10-15), coaching will be giving to these children and exposed to the professional field of sports.

Skills expected of Volunteers:

The volunteer must have sound background in the selected sport and having the aptitude of playing and interacting with children.

Living Arrangements:

Village Male is 30km from the district headquarters Pune. The State Road Transportation bus facility is available and takes 1 hour to reach village. There is no water problem and electricity is usually available 14-15 hours a day. The volunteer will be staying at a hostel near the school. Food will also be available at

the hostel. The food available is vegetarian and spicy. The closest resemblance is 'Indian Thali'. Washrooms will be local types and may need to be shared in some cases. The volunteers will have access to paid Net Café services and pay-phones for overseas phone calls and Internet connectivity is at 5 km from hostel.

Miscellaneous:

1. The volunteer shall be solely responsible for his/her physical, mental and emotional health.
2. Any legal issues will be dealt under Indian laws and local jurisdiction.

To apply for this project answer the following questions:

1. Have you worked/volunteered as a sports coach? Have you helped a younger friend enter your sport? Elaborate your previous experience.
2. Visualize this: You think you are a master in coaching. You coach the children and two of the boys play constantly truant. How would you deal with this?
3. Write 10 lines about 'Sport emerging as a career option' (It would be good if you can give specific examples from Asia/India).

Project Title: Setting up 'Green Clubs' in Schools to Raise Awareness about the Environment

Project Number: IN12-10

Location: Bangalore, Karnataka

Partner NGO: "Youth for Seva" (www.youthforseva.org)

Number of Volunteers: 2

Language: English, Knowledge of spoken Kannada or Tamil or Telugu is an advantage

Background:

YFS has partnered with <http://www.greencommandos.com/> to create a bottom-up movement to change the lifestyles to make it more eco-friendly. As part of this, we plan to setup Green Clubs at various schools.

Description:

The volunteer will be working with YFS environmental awareness team in coming up with ideas on eco-friendly lifestyles, doing presentations in schools, creating green report cards and documenting the impact.

Skills expected of Volunteers:

- Good communication skills.
- Writing skills in English.
Passion for the environment eco-friendly lifestyle.
- Bonus: Kannada or Telugu or Tamil speaking.

Living Arrangements:

Volunteers will be staying with a host family for the first week and later at a hostel or in one of the orphanages.

Miscellaneous:

1. The volunteer shall be solely responsible for his/her physical, mental and emotional health.

To apply for this project answer the following questions:

1. What do you think are the major causes of environmental pollution in the cities?
2. What is your involvement in the Green Movement?

Project Title: “Teens for Seva” - Engaging High School Students in Community Service

Project Number: IN13-10

Location: Bangalore, Karnataka

Partner NGO: “Youth for Seva” (www.youthforseva.org)

Number of Volunteers: 2

Language: English

Background:

Youth for Seva (YFS) established in April 2007 has been involved in connecting youth interested in community service to various grass root NGO's . Volunteers registered with YFS have been involved in providing support for children in slums and Government schools for spoken English, computer education and coaching in math and science. Volunteers also provide support to hospitals, orphanages and old age homes. The YFS team of volunteers now supports close to 90+ projects in and around Bangalore.

Right now, YFS volunteers are mostly college students and young professionals. High schools in India do not have a system to engage students in community service. This project aims to develop ideas and systems to facilitate high school students to engage in community service through the school. YFS has piloted this project in one school in 2009. We need to expand the program to more schools and also create a pool of activities to engage them.

Description:

1. Contact prominent high schools and present the idea of “Teens for Seva”.
2. Come up with ideas on projects where teenagers can get involved through the schools.
3. Create an annual calendar of Seva in the participating schools.
4. Conduct orientation program for students.
5. Create web content: teensforseva.org

Skills expected of Volunteers:

Good communication skills to meet the school management and present the idea. Volunteer should also be able to interact with NGOs to come up with ideas on engaging high school students.

Living Arrangements:

Volunteers will be staying with host family for the first week and later at a hostel or in one of the orphanages.

Miscellaneous:

1. The volunteer shall be solely responsible for his/her physical, mental and emotional health.

To apply for this project answer the following questions:

1. List down some of the ways in which high school students can volunteer their time for community development.
2. In what ways have you contributed while in high school and in college?

Project title: Frame an English curriculum for rag-pickers children.

Project Number: IN14-10

Location: Latur, Maharashtra

Partner NGO: “Jan Adhar Sevabhawi Sanstha”

Number of Volunteers: 1

Language: Marathi / Hindi (Assistance in English will be provided)

Background:

As women and children (5-18) earn their livelihood by rag picking (recycling garbage), their average earnings vary between 15 Rupees to 20 per day, while the more experienced ones earn 25 to 40 Rupees. The waste collected by these children is recycled to produce writing paper, packing materials, economical plastic and household metal items. For their basic needs like food, clothes and shelter these women and children search of waste and scrap. These laborers are deeply engaged in evil circles of addiction, blind faith, and unhealthy. The conditions of children engaged in rag picking are suffering from back pain, they carry the heavy gunny bags and on a foot they travel each day for the best pickings. As per a survey, a total of only 23 children out of 160 children are going regularly to school.

Description:

The volunteer shall be working at a pair of centers. English education at these centers is very basic and in some cases it is difficult to upgrade it as per the trends. Jan Adhar Sevabhawi Sanstha centers work to ensure that rag pickers children do not lag behind or remain poor in English. The volunteer will have to understand current status, trends, processes, and then frame English curriculum.

Skills expected of Volunteers:

The volunteer must have aptitude/skills to teach and develop curriculum in English. It will be an advantage if the volunteer has previous experience of teaching English to children and youth.

Living Arrangements:

The Latur District is in the south-eastern part of the Maharashtra and the State Road Transportation bus facility is available and needs 7 hours to reach district. There is no water problem and electricity is usually available 12-15 hours a day. The volunteers will be staying at a hostel provided by Jan Adhar Sevabhawi Sanstha. Food will also be available at the hostel. The food available is vegetarian and spicy. The closest resemblance is ‘Indian Thali’. Washrooms will be local types and may need to be shared. The volunteers will have access to pay Net Café services and pay-phones for overseas phone calls and Internet connectivity is at nearby hostel.

Miscellaneous:

The following details should be noted.

1. The volunteer shall be solely responsible for his/her physical, mental and emotional health.
2. Any legal issues will be dealt under Indian laws and local jurisdiction

To apply for this project answer the following questions:

1. Have you tried teaching English to a child or to an adult whose first language is not English? Elaborate your previous experience.
2. Visualize this: You identify that a boy in your class likes poems or rhymes, but does not remember/ dislikes things you teach about English. How would you deal with this?
3. Write 10 lines about 'Innovative education for children at risk' (It would be good if you can give specific examples from Asia/India).

Project title: “Doctors for Seva” - Engaging Medical Doctors for Seva

Project Number: IN15-10

Location: Bangalore, Karnataka

Partner NGO: Youth for Seva (www.youthforseva.org)

Number of Volunteers: 2

Language: Basic English, knowledge of spoken Kannada will be helpful

Background

Youth for Seva (YFS) established in April 2007 has been involved in connecting youth interested in community service to various grass root NGO's . Volunteers registered with YFS have been involved in providing support for children in slums and Government schools for spoken English, computer education and coaching in math and science. Volunteers also provide support to hospitals, orphanages and old age homes. The YFS team of volunteers now supports close to 90+ projects in and around Bangalore.

‘Doctors for Seva’ is a new initiative from the YFS team. The attempt is to create a data base of doctors interested in community service and utilize their services for creating a general awareness of health and hygiene, free medical checkups, awareness and preventive campaigns for major illness such as TB, AIDS etc.

Phase 1:

1. Creating a data base of Doctors interested in volunteering for “Doctors for seva” – through communication of the YFS objectives
2. Understanding the requirements of various recipients of support.
3. Documenting and creating a calendar of activities for effective utilization of Doctors registered with YFS.

Description:

The volunteer will be involved in working with the local YFS team in drawing up a communication plan to doctors seeking their support in registering for this program.

The volunteer will be working with local volunteers and Doctors to understand the ground realities regarding general hygiene and health issues. In the slums and orphanages and create a list of support needs.

The volunteer will be involved in prioritization of the key set of activities that needs to be done. The volunteer will also form a core team of Doctors to steer this program.

Based on the resource availability the volunteer will have to work out a list of activities for each of the registered doctors based on their areas of expertise time availability and geographic preference.

A one year calendar needs to be drawn up.

Skills expected of Volunteers:

Good communication skills to meet the Doctors and present the idea. The volunteer must be willing to work in slums and with the orphanages in collection of data and understanding the ground realities concerning health and hygiene in these locations.

Living Arrangements:

Volunteers will be staying with host family for the first one week and later at a hostel or in one of the orphanages.

To apply for this project answer the following questions:

1. Have you worked/volunteered for any Health awareness campaign or on Communication for social issues? Elaborate your previous experience.
2. Write 10 lines about 'Health awareness problems in Asia (or India)'.

Project title: Documenting the impact of Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in empowering the women in slums and rural areas of Karnataka. Documenting the best practices for SHGs

Project Number: IN16-10

Location: Bangalore and few villages in Karnataka

Partner NGO: Youth for Seva (www.youthforseva.org)

Number of Volunteers: 2 (Female volunteers)

Language: Basic English, knowledge of spoken Kannada or Tamil or Telugu will be helpful

Background

Self Help Groups have emerged as a major force in empowering the women in villages and slums of cities. Various NGOs are running SHGs with varying degrees of success. There is lack of systematic documentation of its impact and also the best practices for successful NGOs.

Description:

The volunteer will be involved in visiting and talking with the women who are part of SHGs, Government officials in the women and children welfare department and also with the coordinators of NGOs running the SHGs. The volunteer will document the transformation in the mindset of women in the last two decades in terms of financial empowerment and its benefits to the family as a whole. Furthermore, the volunteer will document the best practices from NGOs who have been able to scale up the operation and manage it successfully. This can also help smaller NGOs to improve their management practices.

Skills expected of Volunteers:

- Adaptability to work in slums and villages with minimal facilities
- Compassionate and friendly nature to interact with the people
- Writing skills in English
- Ability to converse in Kannada or Tamil or Telugu will be an advantage

Living Arrangements:

Volunteers will be staying with a host family for the first week and later at a hostel or in one of the orphanages.

To apply for this project answer the following questions:

1. Why do you think SHGs and Micro-Financing are critical to community development?
2. Have you done any course on economics or have you studied about SHGs?

Project title: Developing easy techniques for learning Science/Math for informal Education Center

Project Number: IN17-10

Location: Pune, Maharashtra

Partner NGO: Swa-roopwardhinee

Number of Volunteers: 1

Language: Basic Hindi/Marathi (Assistance in English shall be provided)

Background

Pune is a rapidly expanding city with one of the largest urban agglomerate in the state of Maharashtra. The city has become a major centre for industry and is now also emerging as a key location for information technologies. Despite its prosperity, Forty percent of Pune lives in 500 odd slums spread across the city. The people in these slums mostly include migrants from villages, now settled in city. But lack of education and skills has ensured that the city affluence does not negate the drudgery of these people. The problem is acute in case of children who have grown in an unhygienic ambience with emotional and physical insecurity and lack of quality education.

Swa-roopwardhinee works with slum children. It searches identifies and nourishes talent through various activities and initiatives in the 500 odd slums in Pune. It started with a focus on education for underprivileged in early 1980s. It currently runs Integrated Development Course for 600 students in its 12 branches, Vocational training courses benefiting 100 women each year, Pakoli – a kindergarten for 270 kids, Self-study centers for 600 students, Mobile laboratory reaching 1500 students from rural schools, Literacy classes for working women, and so on.

Objective:

1. To identify a specific topic (e.g. Solar System, Gravity, Kinetic energy, Photosynthesis etc.) from the school curriculum covered in grades 6th -10th.
2. Come up with innovative techniques of learning these topics that are considered difficult.
3. Create supporting toys, charts, other tools
4. Create a replicable model /set for this and write a Manual for teachers. (Manual shall be translated to local language by local volunteers, but it should have adequate diagrams/graphics to explain the processes and tools.)

Description:

The idea behind this project is, we have a group of children who are coming from homes where education itself is a novelty. Moreover, these children don't have access to other media sources which gives them additional information. How can we make sure that they understand and grasp scientific and mathematical concepts? If they understand it and enjoy it, that will evoke the feeling to learn and know more, which in turn will mean, they get more and more educated. Also, this has to be done in a fun'n learn manner, so that they pick it up easily.

Skills expected of Volunteers:

The volunteer should have very good knowledge of basic science and mathematical concepts. He/she should be creative, be able to think out of box. Previous experience of teaching school children will be an advantage.

Climate and Surroundings:

The food available is vegetarian and closest resemblance is '*Indian Thali*'. Drinking and smoking is not entertained organization. Washrooms will be local types and may need to be shared in some cases.

Living Arrangements:

The volunteers will be staying at a room provided by Swaroopvardhini. Food will also be available at the hostel. Mobile phones and other communication facilities should be taken care of by participants in case needed for individual use. The volunteers will have access to paid Net Café services and pay-phones for overseas phone calls and Internet.

Local commuting shall be arranged by (Swaroopvardhini).

Miscellaneous:

1. The volunteer shall be solely responsible for his/her physical, mental and emotional health.
2. Any legal issues will be dealt under Indian laws and local jurisdiction

To apply for this project answer the following questions:

1. Have you worked/volunteered with slum children? Elaborate your previous experience.
2. Visualize this: You think you have made excellent Teaching Technique. You make Teaching Technique, and the organization does not like the way you present them. How would you deal with this?
3. Write 10 lines about 'Education in Slums' (If possible, cite specific examples from Asia/India)'.

Project title: Developing easy techniques for learning English curriculum for informal Education Center

Project Number: IN18-10

Location: Pune, Maharashtra

Partner NGO: Swa-roopwardhinee

Number of Volunteers: 1

Language: Basic Hindi/Marathi (Assistance in English shall be provided)

Background:

Pune is a rapidly expanding city with one of the largest urban agglomerate in the state of Maharashtra. The city has become a major centre for industry and is now also emerging as a key location for information technologies. Despite its prosperity, Forty percent of Pune lives in 500 odd slums spread across the city. The people in these slums mostly include migrants from villages, now settled in city. But lack of education and skills has ensured that the city affluence does not negate the drudgery of these people. The problem is acute in case of children who have grown in an unhygienic ambience with emotional and physical insecurity and lack of quality education.

Swa-roopwardhinee works with slum children. It searches identifies and nourishes talent through various activities and initiatives in the 500 odd slums in Pune. It started with a focus on education for underprivileged in early 1980s. It currently runs Integrated Development Course for 600 students in its 12 branches, Vocational training courses benefiting 100 women each year, Pakoli – a kindergarten for 270 kids, Self-study centers for 600 students, Mobile laboratory reaching 1500 students from rural schools, Literacy classes for working women, and so on.

Description:

The volunteer shall be working at a pair of centers. English education at these centers is very basic and in some cases it is difficult to upgrade it as per the trends. Swaroopwardhinee study centers work to ensure that slum children do not lag behind or remain poor in English. The volunteer will have to understand current status, trends, processes, and then frame English curriculum.

Skills expected of Volunteers:

The volunteer must have aptitude/skills to teach and develop curriculum in English. It will be an advantage if the volunteer has previous experience of teaching English to children and youth.

Living Arrangements:

The volunteers will be staying at a room provided by Swaroopvardhini. Food will also be available at the hostel. Mobile phones and other communication facilities should be taken care of by participants in case needed for individual use. The volunteers will have access to paid Net Café services and pay-phones for overseas phone calls and Internet.

Washrooms will be local types and may need to be shared. The food available is vegetarian and closest resemblance is 'Indian Thali'. Drinking and smoking is not entertained organization. Local commuting shall be arranged by (Swaroopvardhini).

Miscellaneous:

The following details should be noted.

1. The volunteer shall be solely responsible for his/her physical, mental and emotional health.
2. Any legal issues will be dealt under Indian laws and local jurisdiction

To apply for this project answer the following questions:

1. Have you tried teaching English to a child or to an adult whose first language is not English? Elaborate your previous experience.
2. Visualize this: You identify that a boy in your class likes poems or rhymes, but does not remember/ dislikes things you teach about English. How would you deal with this?
3. Write 10 lines about 'Innovative education for children at risk' (It would be good if you can give specific examples from Asia/India).

Project title: Documenting Change in the Lives of Rag picker women and young children

Project Number: IN19-10

Location: Pune, Maharashtra

Partner NGO: Jan Adhar Sevabhawi Sanstha

Number of Volunteers: 1

Language: Marathi/Hindi (Knowledge of Hindi/Marathi is essential for this project, No interpreter is available)

Background

As women and children (5-18) earn their livelihood by rag picking (recycling garbage), their average earnings vary between 15 Rupees to 20 per day, while the more experienced ones earn 25 to 40 Rupees. The waste collected by these children is recycled to produce writing paper, packing materials, economical plastic and household metal items. For their basic needs like food, clothes and shelter these women and children search of waste and scrap. These laborers are deeply engaged in evil circles of addiction, blind faith, and unhealthy. The conditions of children engaged in rag picking are suffering from back pain, they carry the heavy gunny bags and on a foot they travel each day for the best pickings. In order to find out a positive solution “Jan Adhar Sevabhawi Sanstha” has come up with a program based on this principle are Self Employment, Co-operation Education, Protection and Dignity.

With the motivation of “Jan Adhar Sevabhawi Sanstha” in order to generating the Self employment opportunity “Janseva Solid Waste Management Co-operative Society is started with 165 women members in 2003. About 15 self help groups of women are engaged in collecting this waste. These women are collecting waste from 300 houses per day. From this, waste they prepare Vermicompost, Coal Sticks and other useful items for homely use. Success of these activities has given a new confidence and self esteem amongst rag pickers community.

JASS has an energetic team of young volunteers and it is led by learned social workers.

Phase 1: Participating in Jan Adhar Sevabhawi Sanstha

Objective: To understand the lives of the Rag picker children and women of different age groups.

Description:

In this phase the volunteers will participate in the study room teaching and get a firsthand experience of how these function. Here, they will get to interact and know the ragpicker community and identify the challenges they face and their struggle to overcome. JASS runs Self Help Groups of women and they have regular meetings. The volunteer will participate in these meetings and shall also visit the homes of these women to understand their life-style.

Phase 2: Documenting the Change in Lives of young children and women

Objective:

1. Rag Picker children, when given proper learning environment succeed in academics and in career. This change is to be documented using various media.
2. When women, when empowered with micro-credit and peer support succeed in improving their economic conditions and also earn social prestige. This change is to be documented using media like Photography.

Description:

The volunteers will get to further interact with select individuals from the focus groups. Taking photographs, video clips, and interviews of those individuals and presenting the same in various forms shall be the task. Documenting the success stories and the basic change in lives will serve two purposes. First, people from rag picker community will look at those persons as role models and more people will strive to follow their success.

Second, people from outside (here and abroad) will understand the struggle for life that goes on in rag picker community and the terms of what is seen as success.

Skills expected of Volunteers:

The volunteers taking up this project should have the aptitude of playing and interacting with children and of empathetic listening to women. The volunteer should be acquainted with basic uses of media like photography.

Female volunteer is preferred for working with women.

Living Arrangements:

The Latur District is in the south-eastern part of the Maharashtra and the State Road Transportation bus facility is available and needs 7 hours to reach district from Pune. There is no water problem and electricity is usually available 12-15 hours a day. The volunteers will be staying at a room provided by Jan Adhar Sevabhawi Sanstha. Food will also be available at the room. The food available is vegetarian and spicy. The closest resemblance is an 'Indian Thali'. Washrooms will be local types and may need to be shared.

The volunteers will have access to pay Net Café services and pay-phones for overseas phone calls and Internet connectivity is at nearby hostel.

Miscellaneous:

The following details should be noted.

1. The volunteer shall be solely responsible for his/her physical, mental and emotional health.
2. Any legal issues will be dealt under Indian laws and local jurisdiction

To apply for this project answer the following questions:

1. Have a developed a blog for a friend? Elaborate your previous experience. What are your strengths in this?
2. Visualize this: You think you are a master in documenting. You make document and the organization does not like the way you present them. How would you deal with this?
3. Write 10 lines about 'Important of documenting in non-profits' (It would be good if you can give specific examples from Asia/India).

Project title: Empowering Children with Special Needs

Project Number: IN20-10

Location: Latur, Maharashtra

Partner NGO: Sanevdana, Latur

Number of Volunteers: 1

Language: Marathi/Hindi (Knowledge of Hindi/Marathi is essential for this project, No interpreter is available)

Background:

Cerebral Palsy (CP) is the most common cause of disability in India. In only major cities of India have facilities for providing a medical help and special educators. Cerebral palsy patients and children with other disabilities in the Latur and surrounding Marathwara region have little access to and often must travel for treatment and special educational services. Cerebral Palsy is a born defect related to the functions of brain. The prenatal brain injury at the time of delivery of the child is the main cause and due to loss of various brain cells, defect is experienced in many ways such as in natural movements, ability to think and speak, etc. It is a difficult task for the parents to bring up such children. Janakalyan Samiti, Maharashtra has started "SANVEDANA-Cerebral Palsy Development Centre"- a school to bring up children with special need. At present 25 children affected by Cerebral Palsy are studying in the school.

The school provides a range of services such as medical examinations (in association with Vivekananda Medical Foundation, Latur) and treatment of associated conditions, special education, speech therapy, toy library and psychological services / counseling, for CP-affected children. In addition, Sanvedana organises an awareness program in the villages to identify children possibly affected by cerebral palsy.

Currently, a very small team of three specialists, including two parents, direct the school. The School faces an acute shortage of trained special educators who are well-versed in newer rehabilitation techniques.

Description:

The volunteer should thoroughly understand the existing programs and modules for children. This involves spending days with children in the centre and spending time with teachers. Once you have an ashore perceptive of the situation, you should assist in upgrading the current training modules for the children (3-6 years of age), their basic reading, writing and arithmetic skills etc. Local volunteers and teachers of Sanvedana shall guide and support the volunteer in this activity. The challenge is to develop the education system (empowering and training) needed for the target groups which is not going to improve/change within a fortnight.

Objective:

- To develop program module for children
- To develop easy technique in reading, writing and arithmetic
- To prepare program and process documentation

Skills expected of Volunteers:

The volunteer should have Graduation (Four year Degree) in psychology and good understanding of issues of Special Education. Knowledge of Hindi (or preferably Marathi) will be a significant advantage.

Living Arrangements:

The Latur District is in the south-eastern part of the Maharashtra and is well connected by both road and rail with other parts of the state. State Road Transportation bus facility is available and needs 7 hours to reach district headquarter from Pune. There is no water problem and electricity is usually available 12-15 hours a day. The volunteers will be staying at a hostel provided by Sanvedana. Food will also be available at the hostel. The food available is vegetarian and little spicy. The closest resemblance is 'Indian Thali'. Washrooms will be of local types and may need to be shared. The volunteers will have access to pay Net Café services and pay-phones for overseas phone calls and Internet connectivity is at nearby hostel.

Miscellaneous:

1. Any discoveries/inventions occurred during the time of project will be entitled to Sanvedana.
2. The volunteer shall be solely responsible for his/her physical, mental and emotional health.
3. Any legal issues will be dealt under Indian laws and local jurisdiction.

To apply for this project answer the following questions:

1. Have you worked/volunteered with physically challenged children (Cerebral Palsy, Mentally Retarded etc)? Elaborate your previous experience.
2. Visualize this: You think you have made excellent Training Module. You make Module, and the organization does not like the way you present them. How would you deal with this?
3. Write 10 lines about 'Best ways for working with Cerebral Palsy Children' (If possible, cite specific examples from Asia/India)'.

Project title: Developing Marketing Strategy for Natural Products

Project Number: IN21-10

Location: Karjat District Raigad

Partner NGO: “OakVanaushadhi Sanshodhan va Samvardhan Pratishthan (OVSSP)”

Number of Volunteers: 1

Language: Marathi/Hindi (Assistance in English shall be provided)

Background:

The forest-dwelling communities or Tribes have seen a decay of their conventional livelihoods over last few generations. Modern education has not been of enough help in getting new livelihoods and the tribes have become an extremely deprived section of our population.

Oak Vanaushadhi Sanshodhan va Samvardhan Pratishthan (OVSSP), an NGO with its head office at the tribal Taluka of Karjat (District Raigad) has propagated an eco-friendly technique of honey collection as an alternative source of livelihoods for tribal people.

This honey collection technique is based on collecting honey from the Jungle without damaging the honeybee-combs. The conventional technique included burning of honeybee-combs (or bee-hives). The new technique does not destroy the natural habitation of honeybees. The honey extracted is pure and without any chemicals. The OVSSP has further trained the tribal youth in packing and marketing of the honey and has made a brand called ‘Rajmachi’.

OVSSP is documenting traditional knowledge of medicines and is supporting that with references from Ayurveda. The organization has a network of voluntary health workers in 63 villages and Women’s Self-Help Groups in 29 villages.

If a brand is developed for such products, marketing can be effective and streamlined. This – though apparently a small task – is going to make a big difference.

Objective:

1. To understand all aspects of OVSSP and its working
2. To interact with founder members, trustees, volunteers, and beneficiaries, of OVSSP.
3. To prepare a Marketing strategy for OVSSP.

Description:

The forest-dwelling communities or Tribes have seen a decay of their conventional livelihoods over last few generations. Modern education has not been of enough help in getting new livelihoods and the tribes have become an extremely deprived section of our population.

The current and future scenarios tell that there has tremendous potential for generating livelihoods for the tribal. The volunteers will get to further interact with select individuals from the focus groups. The creation of marketing strategy brings change in marketing of their products in near future. It will be helpful in getting them better standard of living, social status, as well as dignity of work.

Skills expected of Volunteers:

The volunteer must have sound background in Marketing and preferably some experience in social branding.

Living Arrangements:

The Karjat is in the north-western part of the Maharashtra and the State Road Transportation bus and train facility is available from Mumbai and Pune. There is no water problem and electricity is usually available 8-12 hours a day. The volunteers will be staying at a room provided by Oak Vanaushadhi Sanshodhan va Samvardhan Pratishthan (OVSSP). Food will also be available at the room. The food available is vegetarian and spicy. The closest resemblance is '*Indian Thali*'. Washrooms will be local types and may need to be shared. The volunteers will have access to pay Net Café services and pay-phones for overseas phone calls and Internet connectivity is at nearby hostel.

Miscellaneous:

The following details should be noted.

1. The volunteer shall be solely responsible for his/her physical, mental and emotional health.
2. Any legal issues will be dealt under Indian laws and local jurisdiction.

To apply for this project answer the following questions:

1. Have you worked/volunteered with slum or socially weaker section people? Elaborate your previous experience.
2. Visualize this: You think you are a master in Marketing Strategy. You make the strategy but the organization does not like the way you present it. How would you deal with this?
3. Write 10 lines about 'Importance of Marketing for socially beneficial goods' (If possible, cite specific examples from Asia/India)'.

Project title: Survey of Medicinal Plants and traditional health practices

Project Number: IN22-10

Location: Karjat, Maharashtra

Partner NGO: “OakVanaushadhi Sanshodhan va Samvardhan Pratishthan (OVSSP)”

Number of Volunteers: 1

Language: Marathi/Hindi (Assistance in English will be provided)

Background:

The forest-dwelling communities or Tribes have seen a decay of their conventional livelihoods over last few generations. Modern education has not been of enough help in getting new livelihoods and the tribes have become an extremely deprived section of our population. Oak Vanaushadhi Sanshodhan va Samvardhan Pratishthan (OVSSP), a NGO with its head office at the tribal Taluka of Karjat (District Raigad) has propagated an eco-friendly technique of honey collection as an alternative source of livelihoods for tribal people.

OVSSP is documenting traditional knowledge of medicines and is supporting that with references from Ayurved. The organisation has a network of voluntary health workers in 63 villages and Women’s Self-Help Groups in 29 villages.

Objective:

1. To document the local flora and fauna of medicinal value
2. To classify and assist the organization in filing IPRs (Intellectual Property Rights) for various locally available health practices and medicinal herbs

Description:

Karjat has a rich variety of flora and fauna as well as diverse anthropological base which is the right mixture for the development of various local medicinal practices using locally available flora and fauna. These need to be well documented before they become extinct or commercially exploited by various firms without benefiting the real inventors or knowledge-holders.

The volunteers shall be conducting extensive local survey and collecting, documenting and recording evidences for the healing practices, medicinal plants and animals under the guidance of Doctors of OVSSP. At the end well documented survey results will be handed over to OVSSP which will be presented to government of India.

Skills expected of Volunteers:

The volunteer must have sound background in biological sciences, preferably in botany. The volunteer should be prepared for long walks in mountains and forests, and ready to stay with villagers. It will be an advantage if the volunteer is aware of knowledge documentation practices. Basic knowledge of computers is expected.

Living Arrangements:

The Karjat is in the north-western part of the Maharashtra and the State Road Transportation bus and train facility is available from Mumbai and Pune. There is no water problem and electricity is usually available 8-12 hours a day. The volunteers will be staying at a room provided by Oak

Vanaushadhi Sanshodhan va Samvardhan Pratishthan (OVSSP). Food will also be available at the room. The food available is vegetarian and spicy. The closest resemblance is '*Indian Thali*'. Washrooms will be local types and may need to be shared. The volunteers will have access to pay Net Café services and pay-phones for overseas phone calls and Internet connectivity is at nearby hostel.

Miscellaneous:

Since projects will be arranged in remote areas and various agencies and HSS is involved, the following details should be noted.

1. Any discoveries/inventions occurred during the time of project will be entitled to OVSSP and Village community.
2. Any documentation and discovery of traditional knowledge and discovery/invention of tools/bio materials will be subjected to Indian Patent Rules and Indian registration
3. None of the materials or documentation should be taken out of India without the prior approval of Government of India
4. The volunteer shall be solely responsible for his/her physical, mental and emotional health.
5. Any legal issues will be dealt under Indian laws and local jurisdiction

Project Title: Implementation of National Green Corps activities in Government Schools

Project Number: IN23-10

Location: Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh

Partner NGO: Vandemataram Foundation (www.vandemataramfoundation.in)

Number of Volunteers: 1 to 3

Language: Telugu (Assistance in English will be provided)

Background

Andhra Pradesh National Green Corps (APNGC) is an organization under Andhra Pradesh state government whose primary objective is to spread environmental action orientation among students in the state. APNGC is a part of a larger family called the National Green Corps, formed by the Government of India. NGC aims to involve students of all levels throughout the country in the environmental movement for conservation. Vandemataram Foundation (VMF) works for the betterment of the government schools of Andhra Pradesh. VMF has been selected as an NGO for organizing training and monitoring the implementation of NGC activities in the government schools. VMF is in need of volunteers for visiting the schools and preparing a report on the effective implementation of the NGC programs. A volunteer can visit about 5 schools in a day and can cover 25 schools in a week.

Phase 1: School visit

Objective: To understand the implementation of the NGC programs in the schools.

Description:

In this phase, the volunteer will discuss with the Headmaster, school teachers designed as the NGC officers for the school, NGC students about the implementation of the NGC programs in their school and note the findings as per the standard format.

Phase 2: Monitoring report preparation

Objective: To report the status of implementation of the NGC programs in the school to A.P. NGC (state government directorate)

Description: The volunteer shall prepare a report (1) rating the school's performance in implementation of the NGC programs on various parameters and (2) Give suggestions for effective implementation of the programs.

Skills expected of Volunteers:

The volunteers taking up this project should have passion for environment issues.

The volunteer should be acquainted with basic uses of media (photography, video shooting etc.).

Living Arrangements:

The volunteers will be staying at one of the Vandemataram Foundation office bearer's homes. Food will also be available while at home. The volunteers will have access to paid overseas phone calls and Internet.

Miscellaneous:

The following details should be noted.

1. The volunteer shall be solely responsible for his/her physical, mental and emotional health.
2. Any legal issues will be dealt under Indian laws and local jurisdiction.

To apply for this project answer the following questions:

1. Have you worked/volunteered in the education line? Elaborate your previous experience.
2. Write 10 lines about 'Environmental programs in the schools of your country'.