

**VEDRUNA BHAVAN, MODASA**  
**Sarvoday Nagar – Dungri, Aravelli District, Gujarat – 383 315, India**  
**Tel. 0091 2774 241325**

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**PROJECT PROPOSAL TO FUNDACION VIC : JULY 2014**

**1. TITLE OF THE PROJECT : AN EDUCATION INITIATIVE AT  
DUNGRI SLUM, MODASA**

Through this project we seek assistance for certain education initiatives for a group of children living in the urban slum of Dungri, who are children of migrant workers.

**1. APPLICANT :**

Sr. Biji Jacob CCV  
Vedruna Bhavan,  
Sarvoday Nagar - Dungri, Modasa,  
Aravelli District, Gujarat, India  
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**2. PROJECT HOLDER:**

Carmelite Sisters of Charity,  
Vedruna Bhavan, Modasa.

**PROVINCIAL:**

Sr.Carmen Borges CCV  
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### **3. LOCATION OF THE PROJECT:**

#### **Exact Location:**

Dungri Slum is situated 2 kilometres away from Modasa town, in the outskirts. Modasa is a developing town in the newly formed Aravelli district of Gujarat. The distance from Gandhinagar which is the capital of Gujarat is 120 kilometers, which takes about three hours by road to reach Modasa. The nearest airport is at Ahemedbad at about a distance of 99 kilometres, easily accessible by road.

#### **3.1 Physical Characteristics**

Modasa falls under the jurisdiction of the newly formed Aravelli district in Gujarat. Previously it was part of the Sabarkantha district that has approximately a population of 2,082,531 people and which covers an area of 7,390 square kilometres. The literacy rate of the district is 67.32%. In the Dungri Slum it is less than 50%.

People living in Dungri Slum are people who have migrated over the years in search of a job for their living. Mostly they are people from the neighbouring state of Rajasthan or the tribal population from the interior villages. People are a mixed group of high and low caste Hindus, Tribals and a few Christian families. According to locally available recent information, the Dungri Slum has about 900 families and a population is approximately of 7000 people.

**Main climatic seasons:** March to June is very hot even up to 40-42 degree Celsius. July to September is expected to be rainy season. From October to January, the temperature is pleasant and is the best time to travel.

#### **3.2 Economic Characteristics**

People who live in the slums are mainly daily wage earners. Some of them have their own small business like selling fruits, vegetables etc. They carry them on a hand cart and sell it walking from place to place, in the residential areas of the city. Men are mostly the sole bread winners of the family. The women are expected to look after the house and children. A few women who are tribals have found work in the rich houses in the city (like washing clothes, cleaning the house and vessels) for which they are paid a mean sum. The other women (who are Hindus) traditionally are not allowed to move out of their house and work else where. Many superstitious beliefs bind them to their immediate surroundings.

Their living conditions are poor. Most of them have just a thatched roof over their house. Families have an average of five to seven children. Since education is expensive, most of them are not send to school. Or if they go to the government school which gives free education, they do not have the necessary accessories such as the school uniform, school bag, books and stationary.

Addiction to drugs and alcohol further deteriorates the economic situation of the family. The acute poverty makes them borrow money especially in monsoon when the work is not available, in times of sickness, or in times festivals or occasions such as marriage. The upper caste money lenders exploit them thoroughly as paying back with heavy interest becomes a burden.

### **3.3 Health and Sanitation**

The poor living condition and lack of sufficient food often lead to ill health. Many suffer from Tuberculosis and/or HIV. Majority of the women suffer from Anaemia and subsequently various other ailments. The children are mostly malnourished.

The commonest of diseases are Malaria, Tuberculosis, Respiratory infections, skin diseases, gastro intestinal infections, worm infestation and diseases related to malnutrition. Night blindness and Anaemia are very common.

There is scarcity in water supply. Most of the families do not have a toilet. They defecate in the open. The sewage system is practically non existent in the Slums. This causes waste collection and stagnant water all around the place causing a lot of ill health.

## **4. SOME EVENTS FROM THE DAILY LIFE OF THE PEOPLE**

A few incidents from the day today life of the people living in the slums will give an idea of their situation.

**4.1** Her name is Tulsi. She is a student of 8<sup>th</sup> standard. She is the eldest of seven children. Her Father Rameshbhai died of tuberculosis two years back. Her mother, Geetaben (age: 34 years) is a daily labourer. Being a woman she does not get work every day. She earns Rs.120 whenever she gets work. On the morning of 20<sup>th</sup> of June, Geeta send Tulsi, the eldest daughter to wash clothes to a canal, a bit away from the house. Tulsi washed clothes, and played around with friends while the clothes got dried in the sun. She returned home hungry in the afternoon and

asked her mother for food. Geeta, the mother had kept aside Tulsi's share of bread, but was unaware that the younger siblings of the house had also eaten up Tulsi's share, as their hunger was not satisfied with what they were given. Tulsi got in to a verbal argument with Geeta asking for her share of food there and then. Geeta had nothing left in the house to cook and give. Frustrated she took the container of Kerosene and poured it on herself to blaze herself. Luckily some neighbours who were watching the fight saw it and rushed to save her.

**4.2** Mohan Gangaram (age: 30 years) and his wife lives in the second street of the Slum. His son Anil refused to go to school because his class teacher was pressurising him for several days then, to come to class with sufficient note books and a pen. Mohan was frustrated. He himself is a sickly person and the sole bread winner of the family. He took a blade and made several deep cuts on his hand – an attempt to bleed himself to death... He was saved too as the neighbours rushed him to the hospital.

**4.3** Gopal Vaghari is a fruit seller. His is a happy family with his wife and an only son Sumit, who is 7 years old. Unfortunately Sumit developed fever in the first week of July with some swelling on the Chest. Gopal took him to a doctor who after the necessary investigation told him that Sumit has developed a Pleurisy which requires hospitalisation and treatment. Gopal and wife refused medical treatment and went to the 'temple priest' seeking exorcism for their son whom they believe is possessed by an evil spirit.

We made several visits to the family offering help to take to the doctor, assist financially if required...etc., but they believe that to take medication is to displease the "Goddess" and therefore their only son Sumit is lying there dying inch by inch. One can only watch helplessly, a young life ebbing away.

**4.4** Roshni Lala is 14 years old, a grade IX student. Till late she was regular to school. But she is on the point of dropping school because she hasn't got all that her friends have, including a pocket money for snacks during the recess. Her mother explains herself her inability to provide food for the whole family of seven members with just one man (her husband) working, earning Rs.200 per day.

**4.5** Komal, Sejal and Kajal are sisters. They are 13, 11 and 8 years of age. One day in the afternoon, as the family hasn't got a toilet, the three girls went out for defecation, behind some bushes in a field. They were unexpectedly surrounded by two men... Luckily some women who saw them screamed and the men left immediately. The girls are still under a mental trauma.

Poverty, hunger, frustration due to the inability to cope up, non safety especially of the adolescent and growing girls, violence by the youth, superstitious beliefs etc. are all part and parcel of the life in the Slum.

## 5. HISTORY

Vedruna Bhavan, our Centre for Education and Career developmental activities is situated adjacent to this slum and is functioning in this area since 1994. Our constant effort and intervention with the various developmental, awareness generating and educational projects are making some progress in conscientising the people for education.

At present this institute within its means run several educational, medical and developmental activities to help the local people, that are highly appreciated by the government and the local population. They are as follows:

### **Educational activities:**

1. **Kindergarten** for the children of the Slum: 32 children of 3 to 5 years of age attend classes regularly from 10 am to 1 pm.
2. **Spoken English, Computer and General Knowledge:** There are 74 students of 17 to 18 years of age, attending this one year course. At the end of the course, having acquired proficiency in English and computer, most of them go for higher studies in the cities. The others get in to small scale jobs in the companies, offices etc. These students are all tribals/adivasis who hail from different districts of Gujarat.
3. **Coaching classes for students of standard I to VIII:** These students are totally from the Dungri Slum. The classes are conducted for ten months. At present there are 78 students attending these classes from 5.30 to 7.30 pm every evening. There is a lot of rush for these classes, but we do not have sufficient means to attend to all the students.

4. **Nurse Assistant's Course:** This is a one year course, attended by girl students after the higher secondary education. Right now there are 9 students attending this course. They get jobs in private hospitals as 'Nurse Aids' on completing the course.
5. **Hostel for Girl students:** Since many of the students of the one year courses of English & Nurse assistant's Course are from the remote tribal villages that lack transport facilities, they are provided with hostel accommodations. We have 32 girls staying with us in the hostel this year.

**Medical activities:**

1. **Vedruna Sanjeevani Health Centre:** A full time doctor and two nurses take care of the medical needs of the people not only providing them treatment when they are sick, but also conducting several educational and awareness programmes for better health.
2. **Palliative Care of HIV/AIDS Patients:** The Health Centre is recognised and approved as a Palliative care centre for HIV/AIDS patients. While the Government provides the drugs, they are taken care of in multiple ways by the centre, with supplementary nutrition, personal and family counselling, home visits, rehabilitation etc. At present there are 8 infected patients from the slums under our special care.
3. **Tuberculosis care :** Tuberculosis was under control, but with the rise of HIV/AIDS cases, the Tuberculosis cases are on the increase. There are 12 patients from the slums under our care right now.  
We conduct several anti tuberculosis campaigns and awareness programmes for the prevention and early detection of Tuberculosis. They are also assisted with supplementary diet during the period of treatment. We visit their families, also offer counselling to patients and families to ensure that they do not default the treatment.
4. **Preventive measures:** The centre carries out free medical check up of students all throughout the year. Periodically de worming is done and Vitamin A drops are given to the children. The centre ensures through family visits that every infant is totally immunised.  
Also Health Education and awareness programmes are held regularly in the various parts of the slum.

5. **Health Camps:** Several health camps are organised in the course of the year with the help of the government for free medical check up for the people of the Slum. This enables the people to get free services of doctors of various specialities. This also enables the detection of new cases of Tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and any chronic illness that require special attention.

**Other developmental activities:**

1. We help the slum dwellers to get their documents in order (Ration card, Election card, disability card, widow's certificate etc). This enables them to get help from the government.
2. Our consistent efforts with the Municipality bring in occasional disinfection of the area that helps healthy living.
3. Our efforts to control alcoholism have given some results.
4. Family visits are our main means of reaching out to the people. It helps us motivate people for education and better living with better life habits.

6. **OUR NEED**

**Through this Project we request the following:**

1. **Partial assistance to 32 students who attend school regularly in the government run schools.**
2. **Salary of one teacher for the Coaching classes.**
3. **Two computers for the students to practice their lessons.**
4. **Four solar street lamps for the Vedruna Bhavan Campus.**
5. **Medical and nutritional assistance for a few needy students.**

7. **JUSTIFICATION OF THE PROJECT**

Provision of a partial assistance in studies will encourage the parents to keep the students in school, as many drop out of schools when the parents find it difficult to meet the expenses of education. This will enable at least some to complete the primary education.

The government provides free education, but the quality of education is very poor. The coaching classes help the children to assimilate the lessons better. Also school drop outs are helped through these classes to give exam and join the school again. We

have two teachers right now who are coaching 78 students. An additional teacher will help to give more personal attention to the students, as well as a few more students can be added to the class keeping an average of 30 students per class.

Most of the schools where these children receive free education are less staffed and scarcely equipped. On an average, there are five to six students sharing a computer where there are computer classes. Provision of two computers will give an opportunity for interested students to practice their lessons.

With the installation of the Solar lamp, Vedruna Bhavan Campus where the various activities are held will be better lit. This will ensure better the safety of the students coming for coaching classes in the evening, the girls staying in the hostel, as well as patients who come in to the dispensary which is in the campus. They come late evenings as they return from work.

This is also an eco friendly as well as educational activity as the students will learn about the possibility of tapping solar energy. Saving solar energy will reduce the consumption of electricity.

There are some students who are severely malnourished. Others drop school after a serious infection/illness. If they can be treated on time and assisted nutritionally, the recovery will be faster and the students will resume school.

## 8. DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

### **Objective of the Project:**

- To educate for a better living.
- To self sufficiency through education.

### **Goals expected to realise:**

- Better motivated and assisted materially, the students will be encouraged to pursue school. The rate of school 'drop outs' will be less.
- The students will qualitatively complete their studies assisted in the coaching class.
- The girl students who complete 12<sup>th</sup> grade successfully has many professional trainings offered free by the government which make them self sufficient.

- The boys who complete 12<sup>th</sup> grade successfully can look for opportunities of further professional training in government institutes at a subsidized rate.
- The education will bring a change in the living habits of the family and there will be healthier families in the future.
- Use of solar energy will educate and prompt students to look for its possibilities in their homes. Government provides solar lamps at a subsidized cost for people belonging to the scheduled castes and tribes.

#### 9. **DURATION OF THE PROJECT**

The project is requested for a period of one year.

#### 10. **BENEFICIARIES**

Majority of the beneficiaries are students from the Slums, approximately some 150 in number. The other beneficiaries are the 32 students who stay in Vedruna Bhavan hostel and on an average 12 to 15 patients per day, that come to the campus in the evening hours.

#### 11. **VIABILITY OF THE PROJECT**

Sr. Biji Jacob CCV, the applicant of the Project is the Superior of the Vedruna Community in Modasa. She will see to the implementation of the Project with Sr. Celine paul who is taking care of all the education activities of the slum.

There is already an existing infra structure and office to take care of the various needs of the students. The Vedruna Bhavan institute has already class rooms that are running the coaching classes for students. There are responsible and committed staff who ensures the running of the different activities of the Vedruna Bhavan Institute, who will also see, to the implementation of this project.

#### 12. **BUDGET**

Total cost of the Project = Rs.546,524

Total own/people's contribution = Rs.220,500

**Amount requested from Funding agency = Rs.326,024**

### 13. BUDGET DETAILS

Category	Own/people's contribution in Rupees	Requested Amount in Rupees	Total amount in Rupees
Expenses of education materials for 32 students @ Rs.8000 per student per year	128000	128000	256000
Cost of 2 computers @ Rs.22500 per computer	22500	22500	45000
Cost of four solar lamps @ Rs. 25131 per lamp	0	100524	100524
Cost of installation and maintenance of Solar lamps @ 20000 per year	20000	0	20000
Salary of three coaching class teachers @ Rs.2500 for 10 months	50000	25000	75000
Cost of nutrition and medical assistance to needy students	0	50000	50000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>220500</b>	<b>326024</b>	<b>546524</b>

### 14. DOCUMENTS ATTACHED:

1. List of 32 students that require assistance
2. Invoice of the price of Computer
3. Invoice for the price of the solar lamp
4. Photographs of the students in coaching class and kindergarten.

### CONCLUSION:

We are grateful to "Fundacion Vic" and all its collaborators for all its efforts to assist the Education of the less privileged. Thank you for joining hands with us, together let us make another world possible.

Vedruna Bhavan, Modasa  
25<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

