

Proposal for Impact Assessment Study of Shikha Project

1. Background

Development Action Society (DAS) was established in 1989 to support and strengthen the capacity of marginalized women and children in the sub-urban disadvantaged population of South and Southeast Kolkata. While DAS' mission has been to enable sustainable development in the community through programmatic intervention and act to educate and raise the masses, its vision has been to create an environment through life-skill education so that the learning potential that is present in every human being could be nurtured and tapped. To fulfill the mission, DAS emphasizes on need-based programs, serves as a resource for the field and enters into partnership for funding to support priority-based projects.

With this background in view, DAS with the support from SUAS, Irish Funding Agency, began work in these areas to protect the rights of child by providing them with educational opportunities and holistic development through health and nutrition inputs and ensuring self sufficiency through vocational training and life skill education inputs. Since 1995, DAS has been implementing a project called SHIKHA in Uchchepota in Southeastern Kolkata supported by SUAS. The goal of the project is to improve quality of life of children through education and health, and mobilize the community to sustain the positive effects through women empowerment for sustainable transformation.

2. Purpose

In the last thirteen years DAS has made deep inroads in the fields of education, health and vocational training for sustainable transformation in the target area of the project.

This impact assessment study intends to outline the effectiveness of the four major strategies being implemented in the organization over the years towards holistic development of women and children in the Uchchepota community. Over the years, several strategies such as the pre school centre, preparatory centre, coaching centre, health clinic, life skill education and vocational training inputs have gained momentum and have grown into large programmes, reaching out to several children and women.

The study will presented as a chronicle of case studies demonstrating each project intervention and highlight the overall impact that could be achieved through a comparative analysis of the timeline of project intervention.

3. Scope and objectives of the study

The study will be carried out in the Uchchepota target community of the SHIKHA project covering the project interventions since the beginning of the project. The specific objectives of the study are

as follows:

- Highlight the baseline/community situation as assessed in 1995.
- Outline each of DAS' interventions in chronological order.
- Collate quantitative data on the number of children/ adults who have directly benefited from each of the interventions; particularly the impact of education in changing the community.
- Gather qualitative information on the community benefits from DAS interventions
- Record impact of DAS interventions as evidenced through community change.
- Record impact of community mobilization techniques, stakeholders analysis, capacity building efforts, children's participation in Children's Parliament, Theatre for Development, community participation in KAP¹ on Child Rights and Protection.
- Case studies of individual children or families who have benefited.
- Present status of students who began at DAS pre-school and where they are now.
- One short case study to demonstrate each intervention.

4. Methodology

The study will be conducted by consultants (a team of experts in different disciplines) and they shall use the following methodologies:

1. Review of existing materials and study of record keeping / management information system (MIS)
2. Field visits and interaction with stakeholders
3. Focus group discussion with parents, teachers, students, local club members
4. Questionnaire survey to quantify qualitative change based on random sampling
5. Semi-structured interviews
6. Case studies

5. Time frame

The specific time frame for the study will be 38 working days spread over a period of 45 days taking into account the unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances.

6. Specific deliverable

A detailed documentary report will be delivered to DAS on the findings of the Study with correlation to the pre-determined objectives. At the end of the process, the consultants will deliver 2 copies of printed study report and a CD containing the soft version.

7. Study framework

Activities	Time frame
The preliminary phase consisting of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Analysis of the project profile	5 days

¹ Knowledge, Attitude and Practice.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Area analysis ▪ Study of existing reports and MIS ▪ Identification and interaction with key informants ▪ Preparation of survey questionnaire and FGD guide 	
Primary data collection phase: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pilot study ▪ Finalisation of interview schedule ▪ Main data collection phase through FGD, survey, interviews and case studies 	8 days
Data entry and analysis	15 days
Report writing and graphic design	10 days

8. Budget

Description	Amount in Rs.
Logistics*	
Travelling expenses incurred during the preliminary and primary data collection phases	Charged to suas project 1500
Food expenses	
Printing of interview schedule / stationeries	
Report finalisation and printing costs	3000
Fieldwork	
Fees for Consultants for preliminary and primary data collection phases	26,000.00
Reporting	
Consultancy charges for data entry, template design, analysis and report graphic design	15,000.00
Fees for Consultants for support during data analysis and report-writing	20,000.00
Total	65,500.00

***Note:** The **logistics expenses** (Rs. 10,000/- approx.) may be borne by DAS from its existing SUAS supported project.