

A. Name of NGO:

Child In Need Institute (CINI)

FCRA Status: Yes

B. Name of the Project: Creating child friendly communities to help disadvantaged children fulfill their potential through educational support

C. Coverage and target population to be reached:

Geographical Area:

The project will cover 20000 population in urban sums of Kolkata and/ or rural areas of West Bengal.

Target Population:

The target population would essentially be children (6-18 years) from the local communities who either need to be mainstreamed or need supportive inputs for continuing their education.

D. Need for the Project:

Negligible or limited knowledge regarding rights and entitlements is one of the key factors that contribute to the continued vulnerability of disadvantaged communities. Aspects such as poverty, gender, reduced access to appropriate resources form the deeper subtext in these narratives of deprivation. There is an urgent need in helping communities, local self-government and other stakeholders to come together in participatory planning and action processes. Only such processes can provide the opportunity for addressing local, contextual issues in a manner that provides space for the powerless. The Child and Woman Friendly Community (CWFC) concept holds out this promise. Facilitated by CINI, it seeks to bring all relevant stakeholders to act together and help ensure that the local community is child and woman friendly. The communities prioritise their issues and develop their own parameters for tracking progress.

Such a participatory planning and action process has been initiated by CINI in certain slum areas of Kolkata and some rural pockets of South 24 Parganas and Murshidabad districts. Interactions with the local community, local self-government and teachers have revealed the need for providing supportive inputs to children which will help them in continuing their education. Children coming from poor, disadvantaged families are at the greatest risk for dropping out, both at the primary and upper primary levels. First generation learners and girl children face their own unique set of problems which affects their educational performance. Thus, a clear need to work on these aspects has emerged.

E. Project Details:

The primary objectives of the CWFC approach are to (1) increase awareness of the importance of education, (2) boosting enrolment of children in local schools and (3) reducing the school dropout rate. The project will also strengthen the capacity of local community organisations to sustain future education initiatives.

The key agents in the project will be the community volunteers or Shishumitas. They will provide supportive inputs to the children through preparatory centers, transition centers (for children moving from primary to upper primary) and special guidance centres (for classes VI-X). Through these new facilities, weak and out-of-school children will receive intensive academic and extra-curricular teaching and counseling. An Education forum comprising of representatives of the key stakeholders – parents, children and teachers, will support the Shishumitas. This forum will

facilitate dialogue and action on education issues. The Education Forum and the Shishumitas will be linked with the slum level Steering Committee or village level Education Committees, which will track the progress. The facilitator and other project team members will guide the entire process.

Funding is requested for the first 12 months of this 3-year project.

Sl. No.	Activity	Desired Outcome	Indicators to measure outcome
1	Community level sensitization meetings involving different stakeholders	Community level dialogue on education issues	Number of community sensitization meetings Number of participants in sensitization meetings
2	Community volunteers (Shishumitas) trained for providing supportive inputs to identified children	Shishumitas trained to provide supportive inputs to children	Number of Shishumitas trained
3	Community meetings - Parent meetings -Children's meetings - Meetings with teachers and other stakeholders/community events -Meetings of Education forum (parents, children, teachers)	Parents aware and supportive about importance of education Children aware about their rights and entitlements Teachers providing supportive inputs to help reduce drop outs Dialogue on education issues involving all key stakeholders	Number of meetings with parents held Number of parents who participate in the project activities Number of children's meetings Number of participants at the children's meetings Number and nature of initiatives undertaken by children Number of teachers participating in project activities Number/category of other stakeholders participating in project activities Number of Education forum meetings Number/category of participants in Education forum meetings
4	Exposure visits Students–education/recreation Parents– to a school (higher education)	Enhance interest among parents in higher education	Number of children participating in exposure visit Number of parents participating in exposure visit
5	Activities at Preparatory center (upto class IV), Transition Centre (for transition from primary to upper primary) and Special Guidance Centre (Class VI-X)	Improved enrolment at primary levels Reduced drop outs at transition from primary to upper primary level	Number of out-of-school children enrolled in age-appropriate classes Number of vulnerable children making transition from primary to upper primary level

		Increased retention in classes VI-X	Number of vulnerable children retained in classes VI-X
6	Workshop on career counseling	Students aware about various career options	Number of participants at the workshop

F. Please describe the monitoring plans and reports to be shared in not more than 100 words.

In each area covered by the project, a community level working group made up of parents of child labourers, school teachers and community leaders will be set up. The groups will also be involved in running, monitoring & sustaining the project. Regular monitoring of activities at the transition and guidance centres will be done by the facilitator/supervisor. Attendance and performance tracking of students in schools and centres will be done by the community volunteers (Shishumitas) on a monthly basis. The project team would have the responsibility of preparing the reports.

G. Project Cost Break-up:

Sr. No.	Head of Expense (use the ones applicable)	Units	Rate	Quantity	Amount (Rs)
1	Personnel				1,20,000
2	Community mobilization and running cost of center-based activities				2,00,000
3	Training				30,000
4.	Monitoring and documentation				20,000
5	Travel				10,000
6	Office expenses				20,000
7	Corpus contribution				1,00,000
TOTAL Funding requested from donors through GivelIndia					5,00,000

Cost per capita: Rs. 25 per person per year

H. Sustainability plan

- After project completion, the community would be able to sustain these centres with their own resources and contribution. CINI will provide training for people from the local community to act as education volunteers helping to provide intensive educational support to disadvantaged children. School and village/ slum committee members will be trained to maintain village education registers, which will monitor the educational status of children in their villages even after the course of the project – so that any need for further interventions can be identified.
- The Corpus Contribution would be utilized for retaining project core staff. This team will continue to provide need-based support to the programme to be managed by the community after the project phases out and to replicate the programme elsewhere.

I. Time Frame:

Start Date of the proposed project: 1st May 2008
End Date of the proposed project: 30th April 2011

J. Past Experience

CINI has done similar work in urban slums of Kolkata for the last decade successfully and currently providing support to a number of community-based agencies in mainstreaming children in formal schools and also providing supportive inputs to aid retention.