

Interim Progress Report – May 2017

1. Please provide following information.

- a) Organisation Name: Vacha Charitable Trust
- b) Programme Title: Leadership Training for Adolescent Girls in Marginalized Communities
- c) Grant Amount: USD 39,230.40
- d) Contact Person: Medhavninee Namjoshi
- e) Address: 5, Bhavana, S.V.Road, Vile Parle West

2. Recap briefly what outcomes the programme was designed to achieve?

The main goal of the project was to work with marginalized girls to expose them to knowledge, opportunities, and the world outside their *basti*. So that they complete their schooling up till class 12 (senior level of high school), gain skills, confidence, and experiences that are essential for modern life, live in a safe environment, understand and can access health and hygiene resources, have a voice in their family and community, have agency to participate in civic life, and delay marriage until they are over 18.

This project will serve marginalized girls living in two different communities: Sanjay Gandhi Nagar, Jogeshwari (east) in Mumbai and in the Shelar Chauk community in the Kalyan Dombivali area on the outskirts of Mumbai. In year one, we will directly serve 100 girls and indirectly 200 people. In year two, we expect 120 girls to be directly impacted and 250 people to be indirectly impacted. Approximately 80% of these will be women and girls. Those indirectly affected will be the girls' mothers and fathers and siblings, other children not directly participating in the programs, neighbors, community leaders, and other relatives.

Following outcomes were designed to achieve the above mentioned goal.

After school sessions: 80% of the girls participating in the after-school program will stay in school through Class 10. Each year, 80% of participants will graduate to next level in conversational English, Computers and Leadership Skills. 75% of these girls will learn advanced computer skills like photography, use of Internet and social media, and be able to make power points with animation. By the end of the grant period, 70% of girls will have gained knowledge of their rights and 50% will have gained public speaking and expression skills.

Workshops: 3 workshops per year will be held where girls will learn about nutrition, safety, gender and health education, and their basic rights. Over 100 girls will participate in these events. From these workshops girls will learn to take control of their nutrition, their safety, their mobility and their basic rights.

Community events/ Social Action: 50% of girls will participate in public events in year one, 70% in year two. Through public events like street plays, rallies, distribution of pamphlets, community meets etc., over 700 adults and children will become aware of girl's issues and rights. 40% of

Vacha girls will be empowered to take community problems to local councils. We expect to see a change in 60% of boys' attitudes and beliefs on gender equality.

Field Trips: Girls will participate in up to 3 field exposure trips a year.

Staff Development Training: 12-15 Vacha staff will participate in up to two staff development trainings to improve their skills and knowledge on gender, participatory methodologies, theater workshops, and/or video or photography documentation techniques. The staff's capacity will increase; improving their ability to provide programming to the girls we serve.

3. Has funding changed for this programme? For example – Have you received unexpected funding from another source?

No. Funding has not changed for this programme and we have not received any funding from another source.

4. Is your organization or programme situation is different than presented in the approved proposal? For example, new executive director, significant programme staffing changes or NGO affiliation, loss of large funding or other significant changes.

Organization and programme situation is same as presented in the approved proposal. The only change in staffing pattern is we have recruited one person specifically for communication and fund raising and another for administration.

5. What challenges are you facing as you move forward with this project? How are you approaching these challenges?

We are dealing with two major challenges while implementing this project. One is with regards to engaging with boys. As patriarchal system is very strong and ingrained in the society, boys many a times find it difficult to accept girls' leadership, to recognize girls' initiative and to understand them as equal. We are holding more workshops and sessions in gender equality and masculinity with boys to sensitize them on these issues. At the same time we are holding more leadership based activities with girls to cope with boys' hostility.

Another challenge was addressing issues of early marriage and toilet issue at Shelar Chowk. We have got two cases of early marriage in the *basti*. One girl was forced to get married at the age of 17 and that too with a man who is 10 years older than her. Vacha centre facilitator anonymously intervened in this issue. She got threatening calls from the girl's parents and relatives. We have got help from Child Welfare Committee and asked them to directly deal with the issue. She has been put up in a shelter home. We are constantly following this up.

Another girl was to get married under the age of 14 years. She was in class seven. Our facilitator went to the girls' home and tried to convince the girl's family to postpone the marriage. This girl had finally buckled under pressure and agreed to get married. Our facilitator got threatening calls from girls' relatives for making interventions in that. We intervened through Child line, a helpline

for children in conflict situations. The police came with Child line and stopped the marriage. The family has promised that they will continue her education. We are following the case.

While conducting survey on toilets in the same centre, community leaders stopped girls to go forward and told us not to raise toilet issue in the basti. We have already collected data from 300 households and working on other strategies to deal with this challenge.

6. Have you revised your original objectives since the project began? If so, why? What are your new objectives?

We have not revised the original objectives of the project.

7. What progress you have made towards achieving your objectives? Please address each stated objectives.

The activity based objectives of the project with actual result are as follows:

- *To hold at least 100 after-school sessions in each center during each grant year (allowing for holidays, school breaks, monsoon, and other interruptions).*

We have conducted 104 sessions in English, 70 sessions in computer and 213 sessions in self and social awareness in both the project centres. Regular sessions in English, computer, and understanding self and social awareness were conducted four days in a week in both the *basti* centres. Separate batches were made for level 1 and level 2 girls. The topics discussed during sessions were gender discrimination, importance of having names in ration card, right to access safe clean community toilets, importance of girls' education and girls safety, child rights as girls rights, child sexual abuse, International Girls Day, safety in public places for women and girls, women's health awareness and health camp, understanding one's strengths and limitations, gender and sexuality, Right To Information , understanding body and menstruation myths, problem of child marriage etc.

We have begun to form support group of boys in community through conducting regular sessions and workshops with boys. During the project period, we reached out to 80 boys.

To hold 10-12 workshops across the two centers over the 2 year period

144 girls have participated in the various workshops conducted by us. Total 12 workshops were held in both the project centres during this project period. At Sanjay Gandhi Nagar, workshops were T-shirt painting, Theatre Training, Gender and Sexuality, poster making, paper ornament making and photography workshop.

At Shelar Chowk, the workshops were Umbrella painting, Right to Information, Group bonding, Leadership building, and designing interview schedule and data collection workshop.

- *To hold 3 community events and/or social actions in each center community over the course of the 2 year period*

The girls from both the centres held three community events in each centre during this project period (within one year). One was release of their *basti* newsletter 'Hamari Battein' on the Indian Republic Day and on Independence Day. They performed street plays, conducted rally on basti issues, hosted a sports event for women and girls, gave speeches, and held an exhibition of photographs, posters, art material and wallpapers. Girls sold 100 copies of the newsletter in each centre and received varied responses. Total 800 people were reached out through this activity. Girls and women from these communities also played outdoor sports for the first time in their area. Their confidence increased and now they accesses public places regularly for their events.

On 8th March, girls from project centers invited their mothers and local women's groups in their community to celebrate International Women's Day. In Shelar Chowk, we arranged VIA (Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid) test for women. Total 100 women attended this camp and out of which 56 women were diagnosed with vaginal infection. 2 women were diagnosed with tumors one has been operated and the other is undergoing treatment. Our two girls who had complained of chest pain, were advised to go for an ECG. One was normal and the other is undergoing treatment.

Girls and boys from both the centres did Wall Painting to create awareness on accessing safe public places. Girls and boys chose the walls of community toilets, community centres (from where Vacha operates), playgrounds and a garden in their neighbourhood. We reached out to approx. 500 people through this activity. This activated community people to think about the toilet issue.

- *To hold 3 field trips each year at each community center.*

Girls and boys from both the centres visited a permanent installation on Discovery of India at Nehru Centre, An aquarium, Kamla Nehru Park and an Indian Naval ship. Total 144 girls and 65 boys participated in these visits.

Apart from this, older girls from SGN visited their local elected representative to know more about the schemes available for the poor people, especially, girls. They also visited Solid Waste Management department to know about garbage disposal system. These girls will be using this learning to work on the garbage issue in their area.

Girls from Shelar Chowk visited their area police station. It was their first visit to a police station. They were initially scared to ask any questions to the police. With support from their facilitator they attempted to ask questions regarding FIR procedure, cases of sexual harassment etc. These girls also visited their local railway station in their area. They learnt about difference between 1st

class and 2nd class, general compartment and compartment for women, reading of railway indicator and rules of railways.

Activity/Activities	Expected Results	Actual Result
After-school sessions: Overall	80% of girls will stay in school through Class 10	100% girls in the project have continued mainstream education.
After-school sessions: English	70% girls will have improved their linguistic skills	Total 135 girls and 65 boys were part of afterschool sessions in English at Sanjay Gandhi Nagar and Shelar Chowk. 89% girls are able to make basic conversation in English. Additionally, 65% boys begin to learn 3 -4 four letters words in English and begin to write small sentences.
After-school sessions: Computers	70% will have learned basic computer skills 75% will learn advanced computer skills, use of internet, social media, and PowerPoint with animation	Total 135 girls and 65 boys have attended sessions in computers. 79% girls have learnt advanced computer skills like editing photographs, use of internet and social media, and are able to make power point presentations with animation. Additionally, 63% boys are able to make use of computer which includes skill in Microsoft words, paint and excel sheet.
After-school sessions Leadership Skills	70% will have gained knowledge of rights 50% will develop skills in public speaking, debate and self-expression	100 girls and 65 boys have received training in public speaking through regular sessions and workshops. 80% girls have developed skills in public speaking, debate and expressing themselves through short articles in their bastis newsletters ' <i>Hamari Battein</i> '. 60% boys improved their debating skills and expressing through writing short stories and issues of their community.

Activity/Activities	Expected Results	Actual Result
Workshops	100 girls will participate in workshops annually 70% will have gained knowledge of workshop topic	143 girls and 65 boys have participated in various workshops conducted by Vacha. In case of gender workshop, 100% girls were not aware about meaning of gender. In post-test all of them said they have understood that gender is a social concept and girls are discriminated on basis of their body. Oral feedback of girls have always reflected that girls hardly get chance to attend these kind of workshops or training and that give them skills and knowledge and finally adds to their confidence. 91% girls got confidence to conduct awareness on basic rights and were able to advocate in their community about this. 61% boys got confidence to conduct awareness on basis right.
Community events	40% will be able to take community problems to local councils 50% will have participated in at least one public event each year	49 % girls were able to take community problems to local councils. 68% boys were able to take community problems to local councils. 100% girls and boys have participated in at least public event.
Fieldtrips	70% are exposed to the world beyond their slum	100% girls are exposed to a world beyond their slum through excursion visits to various places.
Staff development workshops	70% of Vacha staff have participated in staff workshops	95% of Vacha staff have participated in staff workshops.

To measure the success of the project, following objectives were formed:

- *80% of girls have stayed in school up to class 10 during the grant period*
100% girls in the project have continued mainstream education.

- *80% have delayed marriage before age 18.*

None of programme participants have got married before the age 18. Infact, we have made

interventions in preventing one girl from getting married under the age of 14.

- *70% of girls have participated in some civic activity.*
-51% girls have participated in wall painting activity to create awareness on toilet issue and to reclaim public space.
-100% girls have participated in releasing their *basti* newsletter twice in a year.
- *40% of girls have approached authorities in their community with their issues*
49 % girls were able to take community problems to local councils.
- *80% of girls have improved their skills in spoken English and computers.*
89% girls are able to make basic conversation in English. 88% girls are able to make use of computer which includes skills in Microsoft word, Excel and Power point.

8. Do you see any difficulties in completing the project in the time frame outlined in the project proposal?

The only difficulty we can predict at this time, is working on toilet issue at Shelar Chowk as community leader is not very supportive for that particular issue. We are in process of negotiating these things with her as well as higher authority in the *basti*.

Detailed list of all expenses incurred during the reporting period which have been paid for with the Dining For Women grant.

Attached with the report.