



PROPOSED SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AT HAPPY BY NATURE SCHOOL, DUNDA, UTTARKASHI



31 MARCH 2023

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The following projects are targeted for completion in 2023-24 at the school. All projects directly impact the education of children and abide by our philosophy of deriving maximum value from very optimal investments. Projects are listed in the order of priority.

You can directly impact the lives of children by sponsoring one or more of these projects partly or fully.

<u>Ser No</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Approx Budget</u>	<u>Details On</u>
1	Sponsor the Summer School	INR 1.0 Lakh	Page 3
2	Donate Books & Notebooks for Three Years	INR 1.0 Lakh X 3 yrs	Page 4
3	Donate Office Automation and Power Equipment	INR 3.0 Lakhs	Page 5
4	Donate a 10-Seater Mini-Van	INR 9.0 Lakhs	Page 6
5	Help Us Employ a Head Master (for 3 years)	INR 3.6 Lakhs X 3 yrs	Page 7
6	Donate (03) Smart Classrooms for Primary Section	INR 3.5 Lakhs	Page 8

Bank details and other important information about the Ganga Valley Educational Trust is appended at the end of this document.

Sponsor the Summer School

Sponsor the Summer School at Happy By Nature School	
Amount: INR 1.00 Lakh	Impacts: Min 25 children
A 2-week summer school to gainfully utilize the vacations – so children can develop skills and habits they otherwise miss, with the help of volunteers travelling to Uttarkashi from different parts of the country / world.	
Deadline to Execute: 30 Apr 23	

Background

The school has invited interested volunteers to come and work with the children during the upcoming summer vacation. Three volunteers in the age group 17-21 years, have so far enrolled for the program in May-Jun 23 and are travelling to Uttarakhand from different parts of the country / world.

The volunteers will conduct a summer school for the children. Spread over a period of 12 days, the Summer School will help the children in:

- Developing knowledge, habits, and skills that are otherwise missed out in the regular classroom
- Learning practical, hands-on science experiments, that can be applied in their daily lives
- Cultivating the idea of reading, internalizing, befriending books
- Arousing self-expression through music or possibly performing on a stage

What Exactly is Needed?

Expenses for the Summer School will broadly include:

- Equipment for the Science lab to conduct a set of selected experiments
- Musical instruments – keyboard and percussion
- Reading material, selected story books that will be part of the workshop
- Cost of 1-day picnic to a selected spot
- Tee-shirts for participants, volunteers, and teachers (35 Nos)
- Mid-day meal for 35 people for 12 days
- Travel cost from Dehradun to Uttarkashi and back

No stipend is being paid to the volunteers but the school needs to bear the basic costs mentioned above.

Help Us Make the Summer School a Success

The approx. cost of the Summer School is INR 1.00 Lakh. Your support will enable a minimum of 25 children to

- Gainfully utilize a vacation like never before by developing new skills and habits
- Overcome the shortcomings of typical rural education
- Bolster their self-confidence and curiosity, through interaction with the volunteers

You can remit the amount directly into the GVET account using the details at the end of this document.

Donate Books & Notebooks for Three Years

Donate Books & Notebooks for Three Years to Happy By Nature School	
Amount: INR 1.00 Lakh X 3 Years	Impacts: 70 children
We need books and notebooks to run the academic curriculum well and to ensure that no child is left behind. We need registers and school diaries to maintain the processes and feedback loops, so that the school runs efficiently. You can help.	
Deadline to Execute: Sooner the Better	

Background

Over the last 1 year, many improvements have been made in the academic curriculum of the school and our endeavor is to ensure no child is left behind. However, not all children are able to afford the prescribed books or buy sufficient notebooks. The children also do not have School Diaries (to keep track of the calendar or homework, assignments and teacher’s feedback). The staff cannot maintain the Yearly / Weekly plans as mandated by the Boards – because we cannot afford the cost of stationery and printed material.

What Exactly is Needed?

Books - For children, we generally prescribe NCERT books because they are economical. But in many cases, they are not the best suited. It is a compromise we do not wish to make. As a result, from Academic Year 23-24, we are introducing books by other publishers, that provide a better, holistic and more scientific approach to teaching of certain important subjects like English (Scholastic) and Mathematics (RS Aggarwal). However, these books cost more (up to 5-6 times of NCERT books) and not all children can afford them – so we want to provide these from the school’s side.

Notebooks – While it is a good habit to economize the use of paper, we do not want children to suffer because of lack of notebooks. Some children, have a common notebook for 2 or 3 subjects even in senior classes. It is not the best way to learn different subjects.

School Student’s Diary, Teacher’s Diary, Yearly / Weekly Plan & Other printed registers – We have not been able to get these printed for want of funds. The school currently runs without these necessary documents.

#	Item	Unit Cost	Nos Required	Total Cost per Year
Foundation & Preparatory (Up to CI 5)				
1	Text Book Sets	700	40	28,000
2	Notebook (Set of 5)	200	40	8,000
Middle School (CI 6 – 8)				
3	Text Book Sets	1000	30	30,000
4	Notebooks (Set of 10)	400	30	9,000
5	School Diaries	200	75	15,000
6	Registers (Complete Set for 1 year)	10,000	1 Set	10,000
	Total			100,000

Donate Books, Notebooks and Registers for One Year

Approximate cost of Test Books, Notebooks and Registers for one year works out to approx. Rs 1.0 Lakhs. You can remit the amount directly to the GVET account, yearly.

Office Automation & Power Backup Equipment for Happy By Nature School

Donate Office Automation and Power Equipment to Happy By Nature School	
Amount: INR 3.00 Lakh (One time)	Impacts: Min 70 children
Creating a robust Office automation and power infrastructure at the Happy By Nature School will ensure uninterrupted and efficient operations. Interruptions caused by regular power outages and harsh weather conditions are often responsible for learning losses at the school.	
Deadline to Execute: 30 Apr 2023	

Background

Happy By Nature School is located in one of the remotest corners of the India. The nearest town (Dehradun) is a grueling 6-hour drive by road. Nestled in the middle Himalayas, the school is about 25 kms from Uttarkashi on the road that leads to Gangotri and the country's border, which is about a 100 kms away.

At such a remote location, it is a wonder that life goes on as usual. The basic infrastructure exists, but is not adequate. The school has electricity supply, but it is erratic – with outages lasting as long as 24 hours. This disrupts classes as devices get discharged and the UPS backup does not sustain for so long.

Sometimes, taking photocopies for assignments / question papers can take hours. Teachers need to travel to the nearest market (about 4 kms away) to take printouts. In small towns, photocopiers are both expensive (Rs 4-5 per page) and inefficient. Even though the school has a printer, cartridges can take up to a week to be delivered.

These realities beg the need for a robust office and power infrastructure so that the school keeps running, uninterrupted.

What Exactly is Needed?

The school needs a 5 KVA generator set to take care of the critical loads. This will keep the classes well lit, the computers, tabs and printers running and the UPS charged, irrespective of the disruptions. The current 1KVA UPS at the school also needs an upgrade to 3KVA, due to the increased load.

Additionally, a heavy-duty photocopier machine will make the school self-sufficient to manage routine tasks. Regular assignments, study material and question papers will not have to be photocopied from the market. We also intend to have a dedicated desktop / laptop for all academic and administrative work.

#	Item	Nos	Rate	Total
1	5 KVA Generator Set	01	150,000	150,000
2	Wiring and Installation	01	20,000	20,000
3	Heavy Duty Photocopier	01	70,000	70,000
4	UPS 3 KVA Commercial	01	60,000	60,000
	Grand Total			300,000

Help Us Improve the Office and Power Infrastructure

The total cost of provisioning the above equipment is approx. INR 3.00 L. You can remit the amount directly into the GVET account using the details at the end of this document.

Donate a School Mini-Van

Donate a 10-Seater Mini-Van to Happy By Nature School	
Amount: INR 9.00 Lakh (One Time)	Impacts: Min 20 children
Children from neighboring villages around Devidhar cannot come to school because the distances are large and their parents travel out into the fields (or nearby towns) for work. A mini-van will allow those children to come to us and not be confined to the village Government school.	
Deadline to Execute: Sooner the Better	

Background

Students from nearby villages walk to our school, on an average covering distance between 1-1.5 kms on foot. Small children are escorted by their guardians. There are several villages beyond the immediate vicinity, even roads do not exist (or are now being constructed).

Children from those villages are constrained to remain in the village as no mode of transport exists. Our intention to extend the benefit of good education to them, remains unfulfilled, as travelling even 3-5 kms in the hills is difficult in the absence of a dedicated transport.

Additionally, sending children out of the village is not always easy. Heavy rain, thunderstorms and even landslides are common all year round. The parents themselves, either work in the fields or travel to nearby towns (using public transport) for work. It is therefore essential that the commute for children is safe, personalized and if possible, up to the doorstep. We currently employ a hired transport, that is both expensive and not always reliable.

What Exactly is Needed?

We intend to purchase a 10-seater mini-van for the school for regular commute of the children from nearby villages (in the 3-5 kms radius). The van will directly impact about 20-25 children by enabling them to get an education that will most likely otherwise miss.

In addition, the van will also enable the school to conduct educational trips, local visits, hikes and picnics. Currently, children have little opportunity to move out of their immediate villages.

Donate a School Mini-Van

A school mini-van in the basic configuration costs approx. INR 9.0 Lakhs on road. Tata is the preferred brand because of its after-sales support / presence in the remote area.

You can remit the amount directly into the GVET account using the details at the end of this document.

Help Us Employ a Head Master (for 3 years)

Help Happy By Nature School Employ a Head Master (for 3 years)	
Amount: INR 3.60 Lakh X 3 years	Impacts: 100 children
Happy By Nature School is undergoing a transformation. As we embark on the project of building our future school, we need to an anchor to manage the existing school – to inspire the teachers and institute a rigorous academic plan and deliver upon it. You can help us employ a dynamic Head Master.	
Deadline to Execute: Sooner the Better	

Background

Happy By Nature School has existed for 15 years but we are now giving it a complete overhaul. This entails adopting a holistic development framework that we sincerely and truly believe in - and then reinforcing it. Our top priority now is to adopt and strengthen an integrated framework that addresses the physical, mental, intellectual and spiritual development needs of a child in totality. In addition, raising of cultural awareness, creating a sense of patriotism and development of a universal outlook are equally important to us.

Such a transformation in a rural, remote school with limited resources - is a difficult task. For it to manifest - long hours of involvement, feet and ears on the ground and a strong anchor are essential. Without those, even the noblest of intentions may only remain a hollow dream.

The school currently manages with local youth who have been trained as teachers. They are committed and sincere and many have been with us for long, but do not have the exposure or the experience to drive a full-scale change of this nature. Therefore, we need a Head Master – at least for the period of transition.

At this point, the school can barely meet the routine expenses and financially, we do not have room to employ a Head Master. We understand that he/she will most likely have to relocate to Dunda from some other place.

What Exactly is Needed?

We want to employ a Head Master who can take on the above challenge. He / She will be expected to have the following attributes:

- a) Complete commitment to transforming the lives of children in a remote school
- b) Adept at improvising and innovating – without seeing limited resources as a perpetual hinderance
- c) Willing to sacrifice some personal comforts, for the sake of improving the educational standards
- d) Proficient in creating detailed academic plans and enforcing them for Class Play to 8th
- e) Instituting systems and processes to deliver upon and monitor the academic plans regularly
- f) Capable of by setting a personal example – to inspire the teachers
- g) Rooted in the Indian culture and ready to lead a simple, minimalistic, spiritual way of life in the Himalayas

Help Us Employ a Head Master to Drive the Mission Forward

We estimate that our investment in a Head Master will be approx. Rs 3.60 Lakhs per annum. The Trust will attempt to make for shortfall, if any. We anticipate the school be become self-sustaining in three years so as to absorb all costs.

You can remit the amount directly into the GVET account, yearly using the details at the end of this document.

Help Us Build Smart Classes for Pre-Primary & Primary School

Donate to Create (03) Smart Classes Happy By Nature School	
Amount: INR 3.50 Lakh (One Time)	Impacts: Min 40 children
The benefits of using online resources and virtual teaching are well known. We want to enable every classroom to have easy access to online resources seamlessly. The hybrid model of teaching is already working well at HbN School and we want to reinforce it further.	
Deadline to Execute: Sooner the Better	

Background

In Aug 2022, Happy By Nature School brought the first broadband connection into the Bhakra village, near Dunda, Uttarkashi. Ever since, we have extensively used virtual teaching and online resources for our children.

Teachers from across the country (Delhi, Mumbai, Jaipur) now regularly take classes for the children. Between Aug 22 and Mar 23 (end of the academic year), over 2500 manhours of online teaching has been delivered. This has been integrated into the school timetable in the form of over 360 periods (over 6 months) and delivered by 06 different teachers. Our effort to bring the expertise of teachers from different parts of the country into the remote classroom has been very fruitful.

In addition, the use of online resources for teaching is gaining popularity. Teachers now regularly use YouTube videos and other material to supplement the text books. The hybrid teaching model (online + offline) and the use of online resources is working well and helping us bring academic rigor, that is otherwise difficult - to the school,

What Exactly is Needed?

The school currently has 3 virtual classrooms created using large screen displays and laptops / desktops. The above infrastructure takes care the Middle School students and is used for the teaching of Mathematics, English and Science.

The Pre-primary and the Primary classes still do not have the audio-visual infrastructure. We intend to enable the remaining classes also with the necessary infrastructure soon.

#	Item	Nos	Rate	Total
1	40" Smart LED TVs	03	35,000	105,000
2	Laptops	03	50,000	150,000
3	UPS (1 KVA)	03	10,000	30,000
4	Network and Cabling	01	15,000	15,000

Help Us Improve the Office and Power Infrastructure

The total cost of provisioning the above equipment is approx. INR 3.0 L. You can remit the amount directly into the GVET account using the details at the end of this document.

GVET Bank Account Details and Essential Information

1. Points to Note:

- GVET is a completely Non-Profit Trust.
- We are registered as a Public charitable trust with the Government of Uttarakhand
- All contributions qualify for exemption under Sec 80G of the Income Tax Act.
- Registered under CSR 1 (with Ministry of Corporate Affairs)
- FCRA approval for foreign remittances (from Ministry of Home Affairs) is in process.

2. **Logistics:** The school is located at a very remote location. The logistics network is weak and many items cannot be delivered by courier services. However, if you already have access to resources consider donating them directly. (Since the location is remote, piecemeal transportation is often unviable and works better if equipment is sent in one lot). You can contact us for more details.

3. Bank Account Details

Ac Holder: Ganga Valley Educational Trust
Account No: 1533000100077418
Bank & Branch: Punjab National Bank, Uttarkashi
IFSC Code: PUNB0153300

4. School Address & Contact Details:

Happy By Nature School, Village - Devidhar (Bhakra),
Dunda, District – Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand – 249151
Mobile No - +91 84750 96155 (Bipin)

Google Location OF Happy By Nature School: <https://goo.gl/maps/xfbfJqsoGmt53HVx6>

In case of any clarifications, we are happy to connect.

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