

Youth4Jobs Proposal for Providing Assistive Technology Devices for Visually Impaired Girls

The Problem:

One out of every three blind people in the world – an estimated 15 million blind people, live in India. There are 2 million blind children in India. Only 5% of them receive any education.

Girls with visual impairment have multiple challenges, because of their gender, their disability, and poverty. Their status in the households and community is low, as they are looked at as a burden and a permanent mouth to feed. Those in school face vulnerability, studying in government schools away from their parents, who live in villages. They experience isolation due to lack of interaction with the outside world. And do not pick up survival skills needed to live independently and confidently. Dropout rates are high, resulting in poor education levels, which reduces their chances for employment. This results in a vicious cycle of poverty and deprivation.



Education is the key to the advancement of the girls with disabilities as it provides access to information, enables them to communicate their needs, interests and experiences, brings them into contact with other students, increases their confidence and encourages them to assert themselves. Hence, there is an urgent need to consider policies and programmes that will place greater emphasis on the participation of visually impaired girls in higher education, professional courses and finally employment.

Our Program:

To address this problem and assure the sustainable growth of the youth with visual impairment, the need for early as well as continuous intervention at various levels is emphasised. Youth4Jobs began its school intervention program as a backward integration to improve the quality of youth with disabilities who enrol into Y4J's skilling centres.

Youth4Jobs began its School program by choosing the most vulnerable: girls with visual impairment from poor rural families studying in a government school.

Program Objective: Holistic development of children with visual impairment, with a focus on girls

Y4J designed a two-level intervention for the holistic development of the girls with visual impairment and subsequently guided them through college to be financially independent and lead their lives with dignity.

The focus throughout, whether in school, is digital literacy, with other content integrated to make them feel empowered and face the world with an "I Can" attitude. A holistic, scalable **Model of Change** has been put in place, which will help the girls to:

- ◆ Develop proficiency in English Communication
- ◆ Operate computers independently using a screen reader and basic typing skills
- ◆ Develop independent living skills and life skills
- ◆ Get exposure and the opportunity to interact with people outside the school and college
- ◆ Build awareness about the importance of education, higher education and career choices
- ◆ Build the social and emotional integrity among the students with visual impairment
- ◆ Have opportunities to develop goals, dreams and aspirations

Proposal to Giving Circle Foundation, San Diego, USA

Assistive tech/devices offer several advantages to visually impaired children.

These include

- Increased access to information
- Enhances learning experience
- Supports Academic success
- Promotes independent living



The proposal is to provide Daisy players to students in classes 1–10 including 10 teachers. A daisy player is an MP3 player where they can upload any data and study by hearing. The additional memory card or pen drive helps them load the data and listen to it at their convenience. The daisy players can be distributed to the girls at a simple ceremony where the donors can participate and hear their responses directly.



Budget

No. of Girls in 1st to 6th class = 37 girls (7+6+2+8+6+8)

7th to 10th class:= 63 Girls (18+12+18+15) +Teachers: 10

Cost of Daisy player: Rs.600

Pen drive: Rs.300

Total budget: 37+63+10 x 900 =Rs.99,000

Youth4Jobs Foundation



www.youth4jobs.org



www.swarajability.org



www.notjustartglobal.org

