



Project Plan Centre for the Homeless

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I. Introduction

All over India there are many people who are homeless and living on the streets. Homelessness brings with it many burdens that affect the environment around us. Specifically in Pondicherry, the number of homeless has increased in the past few years, leading to an increase in begging and stealing as a means of survival.

Objective

Our goal in 2017 to help the homeless in Pondicherry is to assist 10 homeless women. We will provide them medical, counselling and work opportunities. They, in turn, will be expected to comply with our principles and processes. In the long run, we hope to extend this to homeless men and also provide them detox opportunities to overcome their addiction to alcohol.

Details & Scope

The Pondicherry government today is significantly investing in environmental and social issues. They offer shelter to those who have been rendered homeless due to addiction problems and family issues. One particular group of the homeless people, however, seems to have been ignored.

They are the group of homeless people who do not possess a community card or the 'Adhaar card'. In Europe, for example, this card is equal to the Identity card (ID).

For some months now, we have done our research on people without a community card or ration card, and the role of the government in such cases. We approached different governmental organizations, and kept probing, especially on the questions for which we were not satisfied with the answers we received. While government organizations insisted that it was easy to obtain the community card, the homeless had quite an opposite viewpoint. The homeless people we spoke to asserted that they could not receive any support from the government without such a card.

These organizations shy away from helping them, they say, once they find that they do not own a community card. According to them, the politicians are involved with this matter only during election times. They shake hands with the homeless people, take some photographs and make false promises. Nothing changes, and of this they are sure.

Is this a fact or an opinion?

Who are the homeless people without community cards? And why do they not have access to this card?

According to social welfare organizations and the Pondicherry police, all individuals have access to get an Adhaar card. It is because of the criminal background that some have (but are not forthcoming about it) that they face challenges.

If this is true, how could we verify this?

We thus decided to conduct our own research. It was not easy – we had our moments of highs and lows. We spoke with families who were living with their children on the streets. Mixed emotions filled us on seeing the appalling conditions the homeless children and women were living in.

“In our place men use to drink during the day. The days when they drink from morning to evening are the days we do not sleep. Drunken men whom we considered family sexually harassed our 3-year old daughter. My daughter and I could not rest and would keep our eyes open the whole night to protect ourselves”.

- Homeless girl and her Mother

We could discuss and research this for weeks, months, years or even generations about what is right or wrong, and who are these people without the community card. But you cannot deny the fact that both women and children are affected. Being passive does not improve the situation either.

“Do you know the children who sell flowers on the street at the French quarter? Two of my children do that. The government gives our 15-year old children free education till Grade 10.. Since we do not have the community card, my children cannot go to college or university. They don't have developed skills to find a proper job, so they become streetsellers.”

- Father of two children

Both the examples cited show a problem added to another - human rights and child labour.

We asked ourselves many times what we could do about it. If we could help one family now, we would help families to break the vicious circle of homelessness for the next and upcoming generations.

II. Purpose of the project

Mission & Goals

The mission of Prime Trust is ***“to bring about social transformation through empowering the rural and the urban poor, which will enable them to become self-reliant.”***

This is the principle that governs our current programs of ‘Empowering Women’, ‘Educating Children’ and ‘Engaging Citizens’.

We also want to have the same mission in providing social justice for the homeless, whether or not they have a community card. We want to enhance the well being of this group, help them develop their talents and participate in society without being discriminated.

Even with the minimal financial resources that we currently have, we have found different possibilities to help them. Motivation is something you cannot buy, but it is one of the most important traits to try to make changes. As an organization that works with volunteers, interns, social workers and project managers from different backgrounds, we are totally involved in this project.

Key Project Requirements

As this project has started from scratch, we need to ensure that we have all essential things required to start the Homeless Centre.

We need to establish guidelines to set up terms and conditions, safety precautions and reasonable mutual expectations.

Fig 1: Overview of equipment required

Estimated equipments
Utensils
Cutlery and crockery
Water purifier
Computers
Wifi
Chairs
Tables

III. Organization

Organization Chart

Fig 2
Prime Trust - General Organization Chart

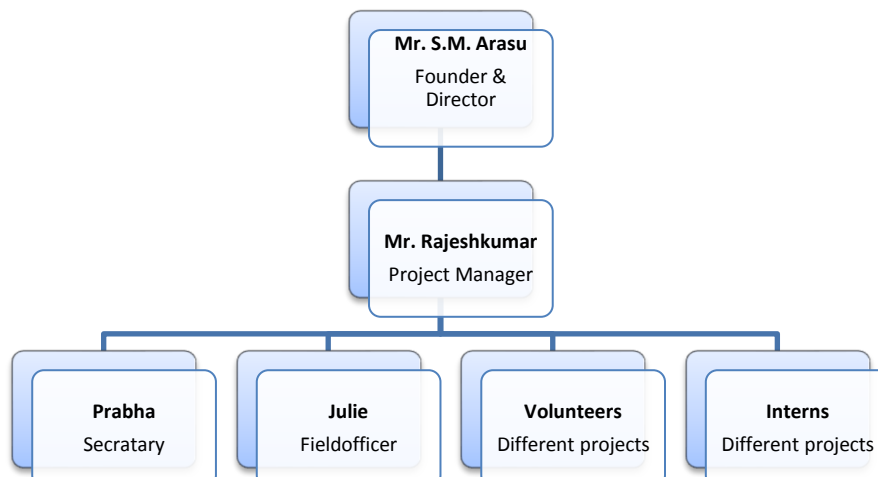
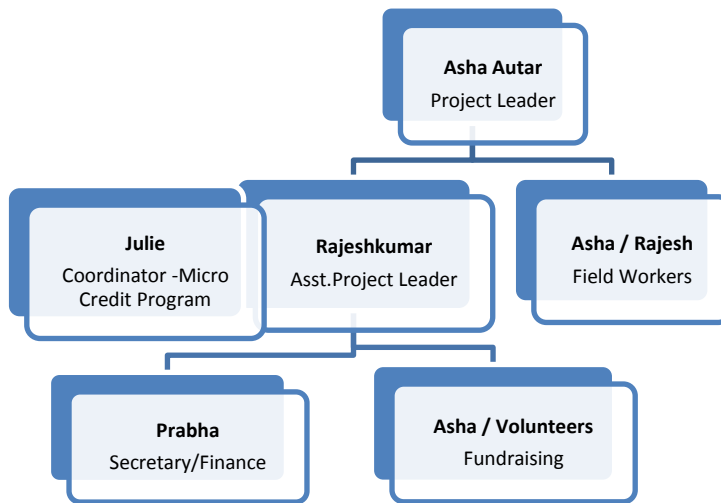


Fig 3
Prime Trust - Homeless Project Organization Chart



Roles & Responsibilities

Asha Autar

Project Leader, who will be the primary contact. Asha has started different programs such as teaching English to the underprivileged and education of social awareness to educate the homeless women.

Rajesh Kumar

Assistant Project Manager, who knows Pondicherry well and is fluent in Tamil. He has a Masters degree in Psychology and will help in connecting with the homeless.

Julie

Coordinator - Micro Credit Loans, whose expertise we leverage to search for possibilities to support the homeless with training or work.

Volunteers

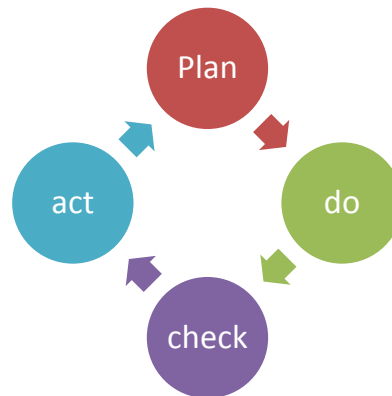
Our volunteers provide their time to help the homeless project.

IV. Planning

Key Project Milestones

To lend efficiency to this project, we designed a work schedule that uses some aspects of the Deming Circle. We have a four-step cycle (see figure below) that leverages the stages of the Deming Circle.

Fig 4
Stages of the Deming Circle



Step#1 - Plan

We formulated our goal.

Step#2 – Do

We drew up an action plan to reach our goals.

Step#3 – Check

We monitored outcomes to evaluate the plan validity. This can range from 'good' to 'needs improvement'.

Step#4 – Act

We closed the cycle with this step. We also used this stage to adjust or change our goals and methods. We used this stage to criticize our project plan.

The Deming circle does not have a beginning or an end. The four steps are looped for repetition to achieve continuous improvement. We use the Deming circle during the entire project. As a critical project, we aspire for continual improvement and make adjustments whenever required.

Target Dates

We give below an overview of our planning schedule till March 2017. We have provided additional time to accommodate any financial or operation setbacks.

Fig 5: Overview of target dates

Specific Local Requirements

With tap water in India is not clean, we need to install a water purifier to provide our clients clean water. Electricity charges are the other major cost we anticipate initially.

Local and National Regulations To Be Followed

We need an official license from the government to run a Homeless Centre. This license has many advantages. One of the important benefits is the safeguard provided in case a client dies in the Homeless Centre. Before we admit users of the Centre, they receive a full medical and blood check up. For the safety of both clients and employees, we need to be aware if the homeless are infected with HIV/AIDS, TB or any other diseases. An infected client will be treated and provided medication. They will also be educated to enable them understand the physiological and mental impact.

Identifying the Homeless

Who are the homeless people living in the shadows of Pondicherry?

We are concerned about the homeless people telling us the truth about their circumstances. We follow the following process to verify this.

- Search for homeless people
- Talk with the homeless people
- Work on building a trusting relationship
- Interview the homeless people
- Use easily accessible tools to intervene in their lives (for example, English lessons / social awareness programs)
- Talk about their talents and skills
- Meet with Julie for possibilities of helping them (employment, micro credit loan etc)
- Invite in small groups to have breakfast
- Start counselling
- Support homeless children