



Context and background



Mianwali colony is a poor community of more than 15,000 people (a quarter of whom are Christian) on the outskirts of Karachi, a metropolis of over 16 million people. Typically, men have jobs as road-sweepers or day-labourers, and average household incomes are around 8,000 rupees for a family of 5-6 people (less than \$1 per person per day). Most people are in debt to moneylenders (charging >100% interest) or shopkeepers, and

have accrued debts equal to many months worth of salary which they cannot possibly repay on their subsistence incomes. Literacy levels are low (primary school attendance is around 50%), and health and sanitation are generally poor.

Proposal

As a response to the issues of literacy and education, Starfish Karachi has been running a school (Holy Shepherd Grammar School) in the community since 2001, teaching 535 students up to Matric level (basic education), and sponsoring several students into higher education. However, beyond basic education, job prospects and access to higher education are very difficult. Therefore, Starfish Karachi proposes to set-up and operate a Vocational Training Centre (VTC) both for graduating students of the school, and for the wider community.



The VTC will provide short and one-year full-time courses in recognized Government diplomas and certificates in the subjects of Electrician, Auto mechanic, Computer Hardware, Computer Software, Beautician, Sewing, and Teacher Training. The courses will be run in 2 shifts in 7 dedicated rooms, allowing more than 200 students per year to receive training. The centre will be open to people regardless of their faith background, and will train both men and women.

Plan

The first phase of the site will be developed over 4 months from March to July 2010 to be ready for some rooms to open in August 2010.





A second phase will complete the construction by December 2010.

The courses will be taught by several graduates from the Holy Shepherd School who are currently being sponsored through Government colleges, and this will be supplemented by locally trained teachers (for Beautician and Sewing courses).



The development of the VTC will require Rs 80 Lakh (\$100,000), including all construction, training machines, and materials. The VTC will need a small subsidy over the first few years (approximately Rs 40,000 / \$500 per month), but is planning for self-sustainability. Details of the financials can be found as an appendix.

Impact

The VTC will create 210 trained and motivated young people every year, able to find employment (additionally through the provision of employment advice) or start their own small business (through a tie-up with a local micro-finance provider for small-scale loans). The impact on the community where good jobs are scarce will be incalculable. Families will be able to send their children to school, pay off debt to moneylenders, get access to healthcare, improve their housing, and provide a general uplift to the community.



Conclusion

Starfish Karachi is working to generate hope and improve the lives of the poor and broken in Mianwali, Karachi. Will you partner with us to see lives and communities transformed? We are looking for partners who will invest in the development of this centre to impact this poor community, and hundreds and thousands of lives. We will keep you regularly updated of construction progress, and you will receive our regular Starfish Asia update newsletters to help you keep up-to-date with our journey on impacting the poor in Mianwali. In addition, we can connect you with individual students to understand first-hand the impact that the centre will have in the lives of students and their families.

Starfish Karachi Vocational Training Centre
Project Proposal 2010



Thank you. We are excited about the journey ahead, and we hope that you will join with us on this work to improve the lives of the poor and broken.



Financial Overview

Set-up costs

Construction costs		
Building costs		4,916,889
Tools, plant and construction management fees		1,475,067
Design fees		383,517
Contingency		677,547
Machinery and equipment		1,000,000
Government registration		5,000
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TOTAL	PKR	8,458,020
	<i>USD</i>	<i>105,725</i>
	<i>GBP</i>	<i>60,414</i>

Running costs

<u>Fixed costs:</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Subtotals</u>	
Teacher salaries	matching existing school salary scheme (intend to increase as fees increase)	49,000	
Teacher training subsidy	50% subsidy for teachers accessing further training (3900 annual, 100 monthly)	1,488	
Administrator		7,000	
Water costs	expected at 50% of current school bill	1,083	
Electricity	based on current school bill	3,000	
Diesel (for generator)	on 50% of time, using 1 can of diesel per 2 days	9,100	
Share of school overheads	waved because school benefits from use of rooms/equipment in the evenings	0	
Govt fees		2,083	
Replacement equipment	15% of equip set-up = 1 lakh/year	12,500	
Student costs:			
Materials		10,500	
Exam fees		35,000	
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TOTAL		130,754	623 cost per student
	<i>USD</i>	<i>1,634</i>	
	<i>GBP</i>	<i>934</i>	

Income

<u>Proposal</u>				
Admission fee	210	1,000	annual	17,500
Monthly fees	210	350	monthly	73,500
Supporters	10	2,000	monthly	40,000
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Total				131,000
	<i>USD</i>			<i>1,638</i>
	<i>GBP</i>			<i>936</i>

433 income per student

Fees have been set deliberately low initially to attract a full set of students in the first year of operation. As the reputation of the VTC grows, fees can be increased further. As a comparison, Government college costs around Rs1500 per month (including travel costs), and a private college more than Rs5000 per month, so raising fees over 2-3 years to reach sustainability should pose little problem.