

Support for Livelihood Training for the Highly Disadvantaged Women in Pune and Jharkhand, India



Executive Summary:

Name of the Organization:	Maher
Nature of the Organization:	A Charitable Trust, duly registered
Project Holder:	Sr. Lucy Kurien (Founder & Director, Maher) / Ms. Hirabegum Mulla (President, Maher)
Contact Us:	Maher Vadhu Budruk, Koregaon Bhima, Tal. Shirur, Dist. Pune - 412 216, INDIA Phone: +91 020-27033421 / +919011086134 Email: maher@maherashram.org / maherpune@gmail.com Website: www.maherashram.org

About Maher:

Maher is an interfaith and a caste-free NGO that provides shelter and care to destitute women and children and undertakes community development programs in various villages near Vadhu Budruk on Pune-Ahmednagar Road in western India. Duly registered under Indian laws, Maher currently shelters more than 950 children, 85 men and over 350 destitute women housed in 59 different homes in and around Pune and elsewhere in the states of Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Kerala, Kolkata and Andhra Pradesh. As of now there are as many as 25 different projects being conducted by Maher. Over the years Maher's work has expanded to other parts of India as well. Maher has started homes recently in Satara & Mumbai in Maharashtra, Gomia in Jharkhand, Kolkata in West Bengal and Nellore in Andhra Pradesh and has projects underway in Karnataka.

Maher is certified by Guidestar as a transparent organization and has been awarded the Seal of Transparency after due diligence being conducted by Guidestar (#2172). In March 2016, Sr. Lucy had been awarded the "Nari Shakti Puraskar" at the hands of the then President of India - Shri Pranab Mukherjee, for her outstanding contribution to women's empowerment. For this achievement, she received a personal congratulatory note from the office of the former US President, Bill Clinton. She also got an opportunity to personally meet Prime Minister Modi. In May 2017, Maher was granted a "Special Consultative Status" with the United Nations - Economic and Social Council (UN-ECOSOC). Overview of Project: This project outlines the budget required for conducting livelihood training programs for the poor women and girls in the rural villages and tribes around Maher centers in Pune and Jharkhand.

Approx. Budget Estimate: ₹ 7,31,800/- (€ 8712)

Rationale and Context of Proposed Project

Maheer not only has several homes for poor destitute women, children and men but it also had taken-up many community development initiatives. One such initiative was to provide the underprivileged poor women and young girls from backward rural villages and tribes in Pune and Jharkhand with livelihood training programs so they could become financially independent and self-reliant. Close to 25% of these women have started their own businesses, while the remaining have gained skills to work as assistants in tailoring shops, beauty parlors, cafeterias etc. Almost all of them have reported an increase in confidence and self-reliance and they have become more aware regarding the importance of education in their families, especially for their children. This project is to support the tailoring, beautician and cooking/baking training programs in Pune and Jharkhand this year. These women and young girls are from very poor backgrounds and are living in the neighboring villages which are remote and backward and hence would like to take up the training programs to support their families with additional income and become self-sufficient. By the end of 2022, (193 in Pune & 80 in Jharkhand) 273 women would have completed training to become financially independent.

Photographs of the Maheer's Livelihood Training Centers



Conclusion:

We request that you support this project of Maheer so as to help these poor women and young girls earn an additional income, become self-sufficient and financially independent so they can support their families, come out of poverty and live a life of dignity.