

ASHADEEPA School for the Blind, Bidar, Karnataka

Jeevan Prakash Education Society (R) (JPES) is a non-profit, secular NGO based in Bidar district, Karnataka State. Mr. Sanju Kumar Executive Director, did his graduation in Agricultural Sciences (B.Sc. Agri) from University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad. Mr. Dilip Kumar (President of the organization), his younger brother, and Ms. Shobha, his younger sister are blind by birth. Mr. Dilip Kumar's own disability also motivated him to serve other disabled in this region. This situation has motivated both brothers (Sanju and Dilip) to serve the community in general and children in particular. As a result, JPES got its registration under K.S.R Act, 1960 in the year 2003. The focus group of the organization includes persons with visually challenges. ASHADEEPA has 6 employees and 8 volunteers associated and involved in rehabilitation and education of visually challenged children within the age group of 4 -15 years. The major activities are rehabilitation & education for children with disabilities, income generation training, life skills, mobility training, computer training, self-help groups & healthcare programs. Through its rehabilitation activities, the organization has rehabilitated about 35 disabled blind children from the villages of Bidar district. Major funds came from ASHA (USA) in the year 2006-07 for its activities. The total annual budget for the last fiscal year was Rs. 3 Lakhs, **80%** of which has been funded by ASHA – USA and 20% from individual contributions. 70% of its funds are used for rehabilitation & education services with the remaining going towards salaries, administrative expenditure and rent.