ASHADEEPA School for the Blind, Bidar, Karnataka: Computer Education Center ($2,455 Total Funding) – Phase I

a. **Project Context:** India has the largest population of disabled people in the world. To put that into prospective, the number of disabled people in India is the same as the entire population of U.K. There is no systematic scientific & precise information available on the prevalence, degree and kind of disability. Around one-fifth of the world's blind live in India. Unemployment remains the key issue for the majority of the disabled people. Research study shows that less than 1% of disabled people are employed. Lack of employment opportunity for the disabled has been recognized, but the government mechanism has failed at many stages. Most of the graduates who studied up to degree level are still unemployed due to inaccessibility to vocational & other training institutions. Most of the training institutes, be it computer training or vocational training centers for the visually impaired are available in the metros such as Bangalore and Hyderabad and most of them cannot afford to stay in these places as the cost of living is very high and the parents do not want their disabled children to be far from their family. As technology goes about making gigantic leaps and bounds, there are few individuals who watch this progress from a different perspective. Some feel it necessary to harness this progress to address the needs of the forgotten sections of the society. Through their efforts, they work towards bridging the digital divide between various segments of the people, and in the end, ensure that technological advancement benefits a larger populace. The main vision of this project is to remove the digital divide between the visually impaired and the sighted world. Considering the scope of technology, it is proposed to establish a computer training centre to train visually impaired in computers and its basics so as to increase their opportunity to access employment in information technology sector within the local region (Bidar district and Hyderabad city which is 150 km away). The organization will train them in basics of computers, Word, excel and other application which will help them to get employment in the IT sector. Meanwhile, ASHADEEPA will have a tie up with the government, NGOs and IT companies to provide employment to the trained visually challenged.

b. **Project Objectives**

    i. To set up a computer training centre for the visually challenged (we will start with only two computers in Phase I in 2007, and then expand to 6 computers in 2008 only upon demonstration of success of the income generation program by June 2008)

    ii. To train 10 visually challenged youths in computer skills so as to increase employment opportunities in the private, public and other NGOs

    iii. To create an opportunity for self sustenance in by getting equal opportunities in the society

    iv. To remove the digital divide between the visually impaired and the sighted

    v. To facilitate employment for trained visually challenged in the government, NGOs and private companies where their computer skills can be used to generate income

c. **Project Expenditure (Capital Only) – Phase I**

Sl. No	Description of Item	Cost Per (Rupees)	#	Amount (Rupees)
1	Computer (P-4)	23,000	2	46,000
2	Braille Scanner	3,000	1	3,000

4	Computer Instructor	2,000	6	12,000
5	Food for trainees	4,500	6	27,000
6	Resource Person Fee	2,000	1	2,000
6	Postage, Internet, Traveling & Communication	500	6	3,000
7	Stationary (Braille Papers etc)	500	6	3,000
Totals				**Rs. 96,000**
				$ 2,341