

Brief executive summary of the project

**TRAINING OF YOUTH FROM DIFFICULT BACKGROUNDS AS PEER TRAINERS  
TO WORK ON CONFIDENCE AND SOCIAL CHANGE  
THROUGH INNOVATIVE FORMS OF DANCE AND THEATRE**

**1. Innovative method**

The youth involved all have a background of child labour, broken homes, abuse or streetlife. They have received education through our partner organisation APSA. The lack of employment opportunities, stigma and sense of shame often remain however, especially in a society like India where class and background are vital to the status of a person. Inspired by ISH Amsterdam after an exchange programme sponsored by PSO, they have formed a dance group. The youth has experienced what a project with ISH can do for your self-esteem and courage in life and want to share this approach with other youth from disadvantaged backgrounds. They will be trained as peer trainers.

The founders and the trainers from ISH are also young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. ISH is now one of the most successful and innovative performing groups in the Netherlands, using breakdance, crumping, streetdance, beatboxing, martial arts as well as in-line-skating or bike tricks in their performances. They have their own shows, but also visit schools for disadvantaged youth in the Netherlands and other countries. In these projects they encourage the youth to preserve their own cultural heritage, but to be progressive and combine it with whatever they feel inspired to.

**2. Innovative in the context**

The technical skills used: it is very rare to find modern western skills as those mentioned above in these countries, especially while combining it respectfully with traditional skills;

Engaging peer trainers at this level: usually peer trainers have strictly defined tasks. In this case they will run the projects in slum schools independently as well as create their own (demo)shows. The projects are not just guest lessons; the peer trainers will design, choreograph, train, produce and coach youth for an entire performance. They will be assisted by a team from the partnerorganisation ofcourse. But it will be new for many schools to work with such a young and professional team;

The training method of the ISH-trainers: coming from similar backgrounds, they know what kind of issues these youth face. They approach the students in a very positive, affirming way, which is in itself a rare and very enriching experience for the students;

Modern media: the youth will be instructed and accompanied as much as possible through modern media (e-mail, internet, instruction dvd's from ISH, MSN, Skype, a weblog or website);

The content: the school youth in the projects outline the story and the theme of the performance.

**3. Partner organisation**

APSA in Bangalore is a large Indian NGO, active in over 50 of Bangalore's 100 slums and working on issues like child rights and protection, child labour, land issues and slum development. APSA has a good cultural programme already and many contacts with local schools in the slums.

ISH Amsterdam has been introduced above.

**4. Expected results**

- o APSA will have an independently operating dance/theatre group working on social change;
- o APSA youth will have more technical and productional skills, more confidence and more knowledge of where and how to acquire even more skills and capacities;
- o The peer trainers involved will have more employment opportunities because of this experience, even when the project as funded by Kinderpostzegels (and possibly PSO) finishes at some point;
- o The youth in the schools involved will have an increased sense of self-esteem and more confidence about their future;
- o Kinderpostzegels has learned more about and broadened its orientation towards capacity building and youth participation.

**5. Sharing of results**

We will continue to share the results with the Dutch youth care facilities which have participated in the exchange, as the Dutch youth from the exchange is also active raise funds for the peer trainers in India. We will also publish messages on the process on the websites of Kinderpostzegels and ISH and keep our own staff informed. ISH is actively seeking public attention for the results in their programmes and for visitors to their institute. We will also provide PSO with a copy of the evaluation and final report at the end of 2008.