

## New entry

NepalNepal

Bhim Prasad Sharma

**Organization type:**

nonprofit/ngo/citizen sector

Project Stage:

Growth

**Budget:**

\$100,000 - \$250,000

Website:

<http://www.sahajhealth.org.np> SHARE

- [Child care](#)
- [Health care](#)
- [Health education](#)
- [Maternal health](#)
- [Microfinance](#)

### Project Summary

#### Elevator Pitch

**Concise Summary: Help us pitch this solution! Provide an explanation within 3-4 short sentences.**

A community hospital that will serve the deprived people. It aims to upgrade a hospital for women and children and provide the technical health education.

#### About Project

**Problem: What problem is this project trying to address?**

Many marginalized communities in Nepal do not have access to health services. Due to low literacy, health awareness in marginalized communities is pathetic. They are practicing traditional healing and go to hospital at the last moment. These people do not allocate any fund for health insurance. Most of the families depend on the substitute agriculture system; their income level is low and they cannot afford the expensive health services provided by the private hospitals. The government welfare health schemes in rural areas are not much effective to include these communities. Around 80% of hospitals are in city areas, however, the same percentage of the population are in the countryside. Therefore, these communities do not have access to health services. Finally, they are accepting the death from basic diseases.

**Solution: What is the proposed solution? Please be specific!**

SAHAJ Community Hospital envisions the "Healthy Society". It wants to increase the access of marginalized, deprived and socially excluded communities to health services. SAHAJ has started various micro-finance (MF) health programs, preventive and curative health services. In the future, it is going to run the 51-bed hospital and health technical institute to provide health services and to develop adequate human resources primarily for marginalized communities. It has developed various MF health programs that can include socially excluded and deprived communities in health services. Finally, it wants to make them the owner of such community hospitals. In the future, SAHAJ hospital will develop as a Teaching Hospital. The doctors, nurses and others will receive value-based education besides their regular courses from this institute. These human resources will not only deliver health services as commercial persons but they also support to promote the harmonious and humane society.

### Impact: How does it work

**Example: Walk us through a specific example(s) of how this solution makes a difference; include its primary activities.**

SAHAJ has implemented the preventive and curative health program in its communities. It organizes regular health awareness under the preventive program and provides curative health services at a low cost to all patients. SAHAJ community hospital runs its four MF health programs as: A) family health service program, an ANM-level health personnel visit the member's house once a month and receive the basic health data of a total family member. These members will collect Rs 100 as savings and they can take the credit from the saving fund. SAHAJ provides health services to its members in free of charge. B) Those marginalized people who are not capable to pay Rs 1000 as the share amount at a time they will collect Rs 50 per month. When this collected amount will be Rs 1000, this fund will convert into share amount. Then these members will receive the share member certificate and be the owner of the hospital. C) The middle economic level members of SAHAJ hospital get the check-up card for their family members on Rs 500 for the whole year. In such a scheme they visit the hospital many times as they need. D) Those people who are very poor (recommended by the Village Development Committee and approved by SAHAJ) in SAHAJ focus area, can receive the free check-up card for their family members on Rs 25 for the whole year. They can receive the health check-up service many times as they need. Finally, SAHAJ creates the easy access to health services for deprived communities. Furthermore, SAHAJ is planning to focus its services on children and women who are the multiply discriminated from health services.

## Sustainability

### Marketplace: Who else is addressing the problem outlined here? How does the proposed project differ from these approaches?

The government and private hospitals are launching some welfare schemes to include the marginalized communities. Though the planning of such schemes are good however their implementation is poor in government hospital. The private hospitals have very limited numbers of such scheme. Therefore, SAHAJ has its unique program for deprived community. Still the government and private hospitals do not have the MF health program focusing to the deprived community. The ownership of community in government and private hospital is low therefore their social welfare schemes are not effective. However, the SAHAJ community hospital is fully initiated and accepted by deprived community people because they are the owner. Therefore its MF program is highly appreciated by the deprived community.

## Team

### Founding Story

The health problems such as child and maternal mortality in deprived communities were highly prevalent in rural Nepal. As social development workers, SAHAJ founder team, who were already involved in NGO namely SAHAMATI ([www.sahamati.org](http://www.sahamati.org)) felt that the community manage hospital is essential to address these issues. While celebrating the 100 days of SAHAMATI, founder team share the idea of community manages hospital as solution. Gaidakot VDC where many kinds of cooperatives are in function. SAHAJ team are involved in these cooperative promotions and again inspired to operate community hospital. As the result, in February 2002 a SAHAJ Health Cooperative was registered under the cooperative act of Nepal. This health cooperative established a community hospital and provides health services to marginalized communities since 17th May 2003. This is the first example, that the Government of Nepal provides the permission to operate the 51 beds hospital under the cooperative organization.

## About You

### Organization:

SAHAJ Health Cooperative Limited

#### About You

##### First Name

SAHAJ

##### Last Name

Hospital

##### Twitter URL

##### Facebook URL

#### About Your Organization

##### Organization Name

SAHAJ Health Cooperative Limited

##### Organization Country

Country where this project is creating social impact

How long has your organization been operating?

More than 5 years

The information you provide here will be used to fill in any parts of your profile that have been left blank, such as interests, organization information, and website. No contact information will be made public. Please uncheck here if you do not want this to happen..

## Innovation

### How long have you been in operation?

Operating for more than 5 years

### Which of the following best describes the barrier(s) your innovation addresses? Choose up to two

Cost, Quality.

## Social Impact

### Please describe the goal of your initiative; outline what you are trying to achieve

SAHAJ assume that all its members are like a family members. Illiterate to technical people like doctors are included as the members. When a deprived member of family becomes ill, the other technical member will provide health service within family. Similarly, when a member will have a problem of small amount for health, the organization will provide the credit facility from the saving fund. Thirdly the health technical school will provide health education to community people. At the end, it will not only a support for delivery of effective health service, health education and credit for health, but it also contributes to develop the harmonious relationship within communities and uplift the life status of its members. This is the ideal situation of a society, SAHAJ is working to create.

### What has been the impact of your solution to date?

At present 988 (616 F, 356 M and 16 institutions) members are included as share member in SAHAJ community hospital. The 545 share members are involved in family health program and regularly saving Rs 100 for MF. While they need credit they receive it from this saving fund. They are also receiving door to door health services from ANM. The 48 members are saving Rs 50 per month to be the share members of this hospital. The 78 poor households' family members are receiving the health check up services from SAHAJ community hospital with Rs 25 per year. Therefore,

SAHAJ is successful to provide the health services to 671 deprived families. As result, the maternal and child mortality rate in its program area is significantly decreased. From the preventive measure, the numbers of patient of communicable diseases are decrease and these patients are receiving health service in time. However, in hilly areas many families are still excluded health services. SAHAJ want to include such families.

**What is your projected impact over the next five years?**

The other two thousands deprived families will be included in SAHAJ health cooperative as the members and received the preventive and curative health facilities from SAHAJ. These deprived communities will involve in various MF health programs. These deprived community people also will have the access on technical health education. In next 5 years, SAHAJ will run the 51 beds hospital very effectively for 24 hours and operate the technical health school for the lab technician, health assistants, Pharmacists, ANM and nurses. At the end of five years, this community hospital will upgrade its technical health courses for the advance technical courses and degrees such as Bachelor in Nursing and Bachelor of Medicine with start primarily for the deprived and socially excluded communities.

**What barriers might hinder the success of your project? How do you plan to overcome them?**

The SAHAJ founders are the social worker but are not the health technicians. To manage the right technical persons in right place at right time is one of the challenges while running the hospital at advance level. This hospital focus it service to the deprived people who could not pay the total cost of treatment. Therefore hospital might have some financial limitation to run its services to its focus group. The adequate human resource is lacking in market and their salary is very high. Therefore until the hospital produces the HRs, hospital might be lack the good HRs. To address these challenges, hospital plans to run its MF program, technical college and hospital service. These major three tires running strategies will support to overcome from the above mention challenges.

**Winning entries present a strong plan for how they will achieve and track growth. Identify your six-month milestone for growing your impact**

The SAHAJ community hospital will provide more quality health services and expand its membership.

Identify three major tasks you will have to complete to reach your six-month milestone

**Task 1**

The SAHAJ Community Hospital will expand to the 51 beds and provide 24 hours health services.

**Task 2**

SAHAJ community hospital will apply for the approval of Nursing, Pharmacy, Health Assistant, and Lab Assistant courses.

**Task 3**

The 500 more socially excluded community people will involve in micro-finance health service program as share member

**Now think bigger! Identify your 12-month impact milestone**

SAHAJ community hospital will upgrade into technical college and provide health services to marginalized people.

Identify three major tasks you will have to complete to reach your 12-month milestone

**Task 1**

The SAHAJ Community Hospital will provide its service from specialized HRs with modern technology.

**Task 2**

SAHAJ community hospital will start four medical courses for Nursing, Pharmacy, Health Assistant, and Lab Assistant.

**Task 3**

The 1000 more socially excluded community people will involve in micro-finance health service program as share member.

**Sustainability**

**Tell us about your partnerships**

Previously, SAHAJ has the partnership program with German Development Service, Human care France and presently with Dhulikhel Hospital for upgrading its service delivery system. Similarly, it also jointly implements the government programs. In future, SAHAJ will implement the partnership program which has the similar vision, strategies and objectives. Or it can be the partners of other likeminded organizations.

**Are you currently targeting other specific populations, locations, or markets for your innovation? If so, where and why?**

SAHAJ Community Hospital manages by SAHAJ health cooperative specific its primary target population as children, women and deprived communities. In future at least for five years its target population will be the same however it will provided its services to the all group population. At present, it has decided its working area with the poor and illiterate people of five VDCs namely Gaindakot, Ratanpur, Kotthar, Mukundapur and Amarapuri. But in future it can extend its program to other VDCs also.

**What type of operating environment and internal organizational factors make your innovation successful?**

Community managed hospital or health program are fully owner by the community people. It will ensure the meaningful participation of such communities in every step of the program. Therefore such program can be successful. SAHAJ has creates such operating environment in the community therefore its program will be the success. These deprived people are the actually owner of such community hospital and they have the equally opportunities to come on the policy development level of the hospital. Though they are not highly educated or skill health professional, they have understand the actual problem of deprived community. They can support to form the policy and implement the health program to the deprived people. Therefore, this community managed hospital will be success in rural area.

**Please elaborate on any needs or offers you have mentioned above and/or suggest categories of support that aren't specified within the list**

Short term operational cost support for the first phase and timely technical and management backstopping support are expected from the external supporters.

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