

Soroptimist International of Great Britain and Ireland
Application Form – SIGBI Assistant Programme Director - Prosperity

POSITION	SIGBI Assistant Programme Director Prosperity (2022-2024)
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NAME:	Shukla Chattopadhyay
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CLUB: JOINING DATE:	SI South Kolkata 30.3.2019
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Please explain why you would like to become an Assistant Programme Director of Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland (SIGBI) Limited. (Max 200 words)

I feel privileged to be part of SIGBI, an organisation with a definitive voice at the UN, to play a role in uplifting the lives of marginalised women and girls, and to bring a measure of prosperity into their lives.

As SIGBI APD, I can put into effect many desired changes to implement the UN SDGs and interact with clubs all over the Federation. I would like to organise interactive sessions between clubs with brilliant projects like SI Esperance DigiGirlsDay with Microsoft, which was even showcased at NGOCSW 65, and any other club across the Federation if they are interested in an interactive learning session.

By interacting with other APDs and working closely with the Programme Director, SIGBI, I will be able to get a holistic idea of the organisation in practical terms. Studying projects on the database and hearing the recipients of Best Awards speak, I have realised that collaboration is the key to sustainable action. In fact, even in the SISK Mangrove Plantation, soroptimists were able to help the impoverished women of the coastal areas and enhance their level of prosperity a tiny bit, only by dint of partnership with our grassroots partner, Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage.

Please outline your understanding of the role that you are applying for, including qualities you offer which are specific to the role. (Max 200 words)

As SIGBI APD Prosperity, I would have to attend meetings with the SIGBI Programme Director as and when required, liaise with other APDs and also encourage programme action work related to prosperity among the clubs, regions, national associations of the Federation.

I will work for and be a voting member of the SIGBI Programme Action Committee and the SIGBI Programme Action Team. I will have to liaise and provide a channel of communication with Clubs, Regions, National Associations, and the SIGBI Programme Director, collate information from the Programme Focus Report Forms and write reports, to provide articles for SIGBI News, SIGBI Website, SI Global Impact Report and SI Blog on Good Practice, current issues and highlight UN Days and suggest suitable action as requested by SIGBI Programme Director.

I enjoy writing and can be precise when reporting. I love interacting with people, both face-to-face as well as virtually. Having worked on projects and then been PAO of my club for almost two years now, having attended FPAC

meetings in 2020 and 2021, and NASI India PAC meetings regularly, I have a fairly good idea of programme work. I am a team player and hopefully, a strategic thinker too!

Please demonstrate your knowledge and interest in programme work, specifically the area of programme for which you are applying for. (Max 200 words)

I have been PAO for my club for 2020 - 2022. In this capacity I have taken forward the Mangrove Plantation in a bid to mitigate climate crises and provide livelihood options for the marginalised women of the coastal regions. This multi-pronged project brought prosperity into the lives of these local women. In addition to its primary objective of helping the coastline firm up with the roots of the mangroves as the plants grow older.

Currently, SISK is conducting a vocational training programme in the Beauty industry in partnership with Be Bonnie Hair & Skin Salon at the Be Bonnie Academy. This too will ensure prosperity for the young underprivileged city women in the future.

Programme work addressing SDGs 1,2,5,8, and 10 need to be focused on since the pandemic has wreaked havoc with people's livelihoods. As usual the women have been the worst affected. However, collaboration SDG 17 is vital since without it, we Soroptimists will not be able to reach the people who need our help.

The SI Whitefield Choose to Challenge with National Domestic Workers Welfare Trust in the way 100 domestic workers were empowered to deal with domestic violence and enabled to challenge social biases.

Please demonstrate evidence of your organisational skills. (Max 200 words)

I have been in the field of education, most of my life, in various roles of Teacher, Pastoral Counsellor, Coordinator for English, Head of the Department of English, Headmistress of Senior School, Head of Computer Training Centre, Placement and HR Manager and successfully taken the team forward in various assignments and projects. I have organised events, exams, competitions, delegating responsibilities among the team while leading from the front.

As part of a Cancer Support NGO for patients and care-givers, I had successfully organised a fundraiser, a cultural musical programme in Kolkata, many years ago.

At SI South Kolkata, I have taken on the responsibility of teaching children and women, the latter looking for prosperity. They wanted to learn English to enhance employability, to be able to talk to the children in their care in the lingua franca of today's world and comprehend the conversation around them in the elite households where they were working. Our team was a huge hit with our target audience till COVID broke it up.

I have also organised trips to visit our mangrove programme work in the remote areas of the Sunderbans besides organising the initial donation of funds by friends and family.

Please demonstrate evidence of your communication skills. (Max 200 words)

In school and college, I have been part of the Literary Club, Debating Team and Magazine Student Editor, often winning elocution and essay competitions. I have also, at times, been adjudged the best speaker at debates.

In my professional career, I have used my interests to further the profile of the institution where I was working and help my students achieve better. In fact, once single-handedly, I had helped the school debating team win the best team and best speaker award at City, Region and National levels.

At SISK, I use my passion for communication to teach underprivileged women and children, expand their horizons by taking Communication Skills & Personality development Sessions, explain programme action work at club meetings, host webinars, and be the face of the club as and when required by the president of my club.

Please demonstrate evidence of public speaking and presentation skills. (Max 200 words)

In 2020 when the International Webinar on Ill Effects of Climate Change in My City was announced, my club decided to field me as the participant and speaker for this event. Their reason for the decision, my club president said, was the way I conducted sessions with children and mothers, engaging and immersing them totally in the topic of the day, and also how I presented reports at our club meetings.

The Webinar is fresh in my mind to this day. My PowerPoint presentation went smoothly with the points I placed and I spoke within the allotted 4 minutes' time. The moderator was happy to note that I had mentioned the gradual sinking of the soil and the positive role the regeneration of mangroves could play in saving our part of the planet. The audience appreciated the need for arresting global warming. The feedback to my presentation was very good, though it does sound like blowing my own trumpet.

Further I have made presentations at NASI India PAC meetings. I have also made a presentation: A first timer's Perspective of CSW65 at the NASI India AGM in June 2021.

Please demonstrate how you meet the follow (Maxi 250 words)

1. Working as part of a team

Soon after I joined SI Kolkata I was made the convenor for a programme to teach slum children and mothers. I made a proposal detailing what we would teach each week, members responsible for various units etc. If, perchance, a member could not attend on the designated day, one of us would fill in for her without letting it affect the learners. At the monthly meetings I had to read out the report. At the end, I submitted my report to then then, PAO.

Now that I am PAO for my Club, we hold regular brainstorming sessions to see how we can take our projects forward. Convenors read out reports and brief others about the progress being made or a problem that needs addressing. We plan our programme action work, trips to inspect projects undertaken in report areas, organise small, interesting fundraisers like online bingo/biriyani, cooked by a member, delivered through Swiggy. Now with the situation normalizing, an undergoing long-term women's awareness session has been planned on a fortnightly basis.

2. Being a Strategic Thinker

SISK was trying to organise vocational training but there seemed practically no takers for sewing, tailoring, dress making or soft toy making lessons. Talking to the young women, one on one, revealed they are keenly interested in working for beauty salons. This bit of strategic thinking helped the club to zero in on a vocational course that would be valued and would add to their lives.

Additional Information

Please use this space to include any other information in support of your application that you have not included already: (Max 200 words)

In my professional capacity as Computer Training Centre Head, I used to take regular Communication Skills & Personality Development sessions followed by mock interviews to make the computer programming students interview and job ready.

Currently I occasionally hold online job readiness sessions for a friend's NGO in north India where she has many college students from villages.

Office Held at Club/Region/NA/Network/Federation Level (MOST RECENT FIRST)

Club Level:

Programme Action Officer 2020 - 2022

Declaration

All the information I have provided is true and correct. I understand that any misrepresentation or non-disclosure of any kind may jeopardise my application or position as an Assistant Programme Director. I also authorise SIGBI Limited to place my non-confidential information on the members' only section of the SIGBI website, as part of the election process, on the understanding that it will be removed as soon as the election is over.

I declare:

- I am willing to act as an Assistant Programme Director of Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland (SIGBI) Limited, a charitable company limited by guarantees and registered with Companies House in England and Wales and the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Signed *Shukla Chaturvedi*
Date *25th March 2022*

This is a self-nominating application form. However, you are required to seek the support of an Officer of a Region/National Association/Country for this post.

TO BE SIGNED BY: Naina Shah.
Officer: (Name) NAINA SHAH Position: ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER -
Region/NA/Country (Name) NASI OF INDIA Date: NASI OF INDIA 25 MARCH 2022