

The Morgan Stanley logo is displayed in white text on a dark blue background. The background features a complex, glowing pattern of dots and lines that resemble a digital or network structure, with some lines forming a circular shape on the right side.

CODE TO GIVE

[hackathon_for_social_good]

Organization: Bal Asha Trust

Website: <https://balashatrust.org/>

Nonprofit Mission

Bal Asha Trust gives life-changing quality care to orphaned, abandoned and destitute children in a systematic way, so they are safe, healthy, educated, and happy. They want every child to grow in a family, so they work hard to reunite children with their families or place them in loving and caring adoptive families through a very-lengthy legal process.

Context

According to UNICEF's State of the World's Children Report, India's orphaned children totals around 30 million – this means, roughly 4% of India's youth population exist as orphans. However, only around 4,000 children are formally adopted per year, whereas the prospective parent pool is consistently over 20,000, and the orphan population itself is much greater.

The unfortunate reality is that many "orphaned children" in India will never get a chance to have a family and become "adult orphans" in the nonprofit's care. Bal Asha wants to spearhead the process of reuniting orphaned children with their biological families or preparing eligible orphans for adoption.

A big problem with the orphan crisis in India is that very few orphans are registered into the adoption network, and little effort is put into helping find biological parents or potential families. Bal Asha already works to register orphans into the adoption system and help with this issue. Now, they are trying to bring their best practices to other orphanages. They will work with children at other orphanages in Maharashtra to put more children into the adoption system and find potential parents.

Technical Challenge

Bal Asha wants to close the gap between the number of orphans exists in India and those actually available for adoption. By doing so, they hope to reduce the occurrence of "adult orphans" and create a system where every child receives the care they deserve. Bal Asha will spearhead the process of reuniting orphans with their biological families and preparing eligible orphans for adoption.

To achieve this, Bal Asha wants to digitize the entire process from the time an orphaned child enters their purview until they are officially registered/accepted in the government's [CARINGS](#) (Cild Adoption Resource Information & Guidance System) adoption network.

Process: To begin, a Bal Asha representative will receive an assignment to a selected orphanage located in their specific zone. To establish a line of communication moving forward, employees or volunteers will send an email or speak by phone with a representative of the selected orphanage. This ensures that the arrival of a Bal Asha representative will be expected by the orphanage and the purpose of their visit will be understood. Upon arrival at the orphanage, Bal Asha representatives will collect data on all the children lodged in the orphanage. The unique information of each orphan will be entered into the software database of Bal Asha's nonprofit partner, "[Where Are India's Children](#)" (WAIC).

Children who need the most attention from Bal Asha will be flagged by the WAIC software. On average, about 5% to 10% of children in each orphanage, Bal Asha works with, will be flagged. Abandoned and surrendered children immediately receive red flags because they are most likely to be eligible for adoption. The system also correlates each child with the date their family last visited the orphanage, shedding light on their eligibility for adoption.

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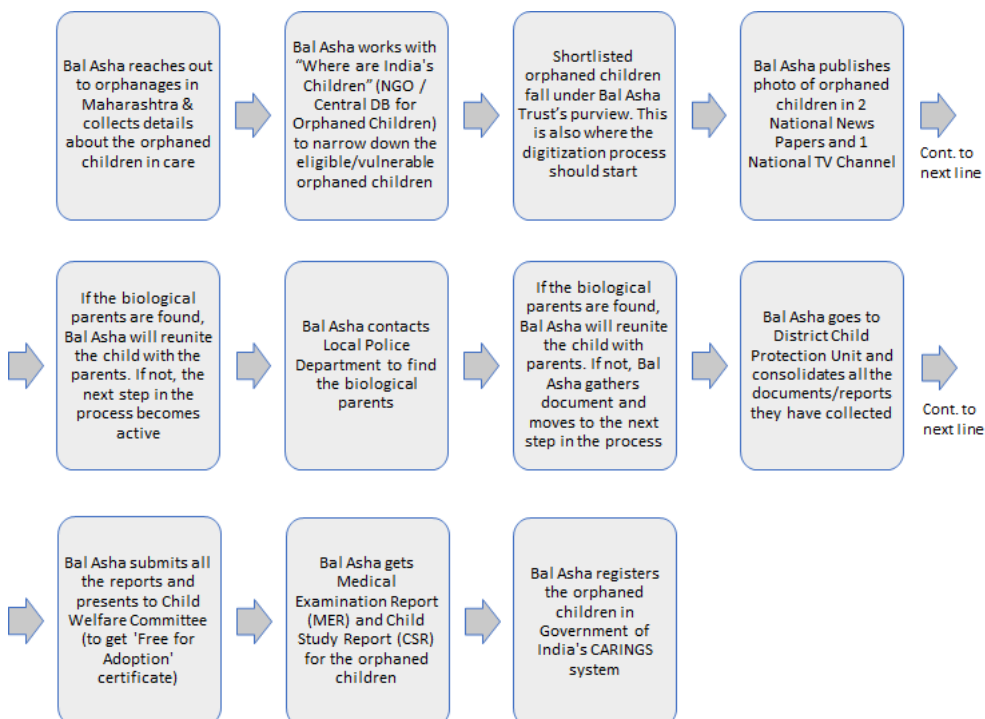
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Bal Asha representatives should use this initial data collection and WAIC system feedback to narrow their focus to a select group of children. Returning to the orphanage, they will obtain deeper clarity on the backstory of each flagged child, focusing on “why” and “how” each child was abandoned and ended up in the orphanage. After learning more about each child, Bal Asha representatives will determine which ones will continue with the adoption process.

Process Flow:

Bal Asha reaches out to orphanages in Maharashtra >> Enters details of orphans in Where are India's Children (NGO / Central DB for Orphaned Children) to receive feedback and narrow down the eligible orphans >> The eligible orphans fall under Bal Asha Trust's purview. This is also where the digitization process should start >> Bal Asha publishes photo of orphaned child in 2 National News Papers and 1 National TV Channel (DD) >> If the biological parents are found, Bal Asha will reunite the child with the parents. If not, the next step in the process becomes active >> Bal Asha contacts Local Police Department to find the biological parents >> If the biological parents are found, Bal Asha will reunite the child with parents. If not, Bal Asha gathers document and moves to the next step in the process >> Bal Asha goes to District Child Protection Unit and consolidates all the documents/reports they have collected >> Bal Asha submits all the reports and presents to Child Welfare Committee (to get 'Free for Adoption' certificate) >> Bal Asha gets Medical Examination Report (MER) and Child Study Report (CSR) for the orphan >> Bal Asha registers the orphan in Government of India's CARINGS system

Here's the Visualized Process Flow:





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Suggestions for Students:

When you brainstorm with your team, think about how best to digitize this process, and make the nonprofit's life easier. Think about functionalities and features that would be of great help to the nonprofit. Some of the additional functionalities could be (but not limited to):

1. Document upload/download functionality
2. Lite application or Offline mode – what if Bal Asha volunteers/coordinators visit a particular village and there's only sporadic network connection
3. Multilingual functionality
4. What if there's a process flow change by the Government of India in 2 years? You may focus on designing an extensible application.
5. What if not all Bal Asha volunteers/coordinators have the same set of devices to access the application? You may focus on creating progressive UI design.

The features and functionalities, you can add, to differentiate your prototype from that of others is endless. Implement those functionalities that you think would be beneficial to the nonprofit and make sure to pitch them well during the demo session.

Judging Criteria

Projects will be judged on the following criteria:

- 1. Relevance**
 - a. *How fully has the team addressed the nonprofit's need / challenge?*
 - b. *To what extent does the technical prototype as well as the pitch address this need?*
- 2. Effectiveness & Feasibility**
 - a. *Does the solution address the challenge presented by the nonprofit?*
 - b. *How feasible will it be for the nonprofit to use and maintain the technical prototype?*
- 3. Technical Design & Code Completeness**
 - a. *How good is the design, user experience, and ease of use of the solution?*
- 4. Creativity & Innovation**
 - a. *How unique & innovative was the approach to solving the technical challenge?*
- 5. Social / Environmental Impact**
 - a. *Will the solution have a positive impact on the nonprofit and their stakeholders?*

Preferred Development Language(s):

No Restrictions