

Constitution

Association for India's Development

Preamble: We, the members of AID India, in order to develop a charitable, non-political, non-profit, secular organization exclusively for charitable and educational purposes do establish this constitution.

Article I: Name

The name of the organization will be Association for India's Development, Inc, henceforth referred to as AID India.

Article II: Affiliation with other groups

AID India is the Ann Arbor Chapter and hence is affiliated with the Association for India's Development, Inc, Place?

Article III: Purpose, vision, mission, aims, functions of the organization.

Section 1. Purpose:

The purpose of AID India is to raise awareness about poverty and related issues, raise funds, and to make charitable contributions for the development and welfare of the poor people and poor communities of India.

Section 2. Mission:

Our mission is to achieve development and welfare of poor people and poor communities of India through assisting, implementing, and supporting charitable projects focusing mainly on literacy, education, rural development, family planning, health care, social welfare, empowerment of people, and environmental responsibility. These projects are focused in villages, rural areas, slum areas or in other economically underprivileged regions. These charitable projects will be selected for funding based on the following criteria:

- The project under consideration should conform to the objectives of this organization outlined above.
- The project under consideration should have a detailed budget specifying how the stipulated amount would be used.
- The project under consideration has a long term perspective.
- The project under consideration concerns, involves and benefits people in the economically under-privileged sections of the Indian society.
- To the extent possible, projects under consideration would concentrate on different regions within India.

- Effort would be made to replicate successful ideas in previous projects, and to create channels of communication between people working in different projects.

The awareness, especially of the problems of the poor, is created through means such as informative newsletters, hand-outs, posters, videos, presentations, films, skits and seminars.

Section 3. Functions:

The functions of AID India are chosen to realize our mission specified in section 2. The role of AID India is subdivided into the following tasks:

- Collecting information on different developmental projects in India.
- Collecting monetary contributions from the members and the general public in the U.S.A.
- Seeking grants from organizations and foundations.
- Increasing awareness in the public of AID India activities through publicity, participation in social events, and news-letters.
- Encouraging volunteerism in people.
- Selecting projects consistent with the objectives of AID India for funding.
- Sending financial contributions to the chosen projects at regular intervals.
- Proposing and implementing projects consistent with the objectives of AID India.
- Periodically evaluating projects being supported by AID India.
- Visiting project sites and maintaining communication with them.
- Keeping members informed about the status of the projects being funded
- Administering the multiple tasks of AID India mentioned above.

Section 4. AID India understands and is committed to fulfilling its responsibilities of abiding by the University of Michigan policies and procedures.

Article IV: Membership

Section 1. Membership to AID India is open to all individuals, irrespective of their race, sex, religion, or nationality. Any member who not only contributes money, but also contributes time and energy is an AID India volunteer and can participate in decision-making and execution. Charitable contributions will be sought from the community at large. People making an initial contribution will be added to the list of members if they express interest in making further contributions to AID India in the future. AID India reserves the right to deny/revoke membership at any time. The list of members shall be updated periodically. A member who does not make any financial or other contribution in a one-year period may lose membership. Membership shall be reinstated when the person re-involves himself/herself with activities of AID India. There are no membership dues and the list of members is kept for the purposes of informing the members of projects, activities and needs of AID India.

Section 2. Joining the organization: Interested individuals may join the organization by attending a meeting, requesting to be added to the mailing list, contacting a member, or emailing the group.

Section 3. A member may voluntarily withdraw from the organization by notifying the executive board of their desire to discontinue membership. Financial obligations previously paid to the organization will not be refunded.

Article V: Officers

Officers serving on the executive committee of AID India shall be elected by its active members.

The executive committee shall consist of at least three officers including the Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Additional officers like a Projects Coordinator and Event Coordinator can also be elected to the executive committee if the chapter's voting volunteers decided and held elections at the AID India's Community Service Hour (see Article VII, Section 3) to create additional posts.

Executive Committee members should realize that they have the important responsibility of working hard, with conviction, cooperation and a will to meet deadlines and improve the quality of their own working. The Executive Committee is responsible for implementing the tasks mentioned in Article III, Section 3 and has freedom to choose appropriate methods for the same.

Article VI: Advisor

AID India at the time of its founding does not acknowledge an advisor.

Article VII: Operations

Section 1. Voting Eligibility: Those members meeting all requirements of active membership as set forth in Article IV, Section 1 will be granted voting privileges.

Section 2. Election process:

a) All officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the eligible voting members of AID India. All elections will be held on an annual basis during the month of August. Incoming officers will assume their positions one month after elections are held.

b) The outgoing Chair will take nominations from the floor, the nomination process must be closer and the movement seconded. The nominated parties will be allowed to vote.

c) All voting shall be done by secret ballot to be collected and tabulated by the outgoing Secretary and Treasurer, appointed by the outgoing Chair. If the outgoing Secretary or Treasurer is a nominee for another position, he/she should recuse themselves of tallying ballots and appoint another officer to take his/her place.

Section 3. Meetings

AID-India shall have three types of meetings:

- (1) Community Service Hour
- (2) Executive Committee Meeting and
- (3) General Body Meeting.

The functional details of these meetings are described below:

- **Community Service Hours (CSH):** AID India shall have a CSH at least once a month, preferably every week. The CSH is the place where AID India members meet and set the agenda for the weekly/monthly activities of the chapter. Every member should be given a chance to speak and the CSH should also have certain work items on the agenda, like making posters, writing to projects or donors, exchanging/viewing informative videos. Important decisions like project review and support, fund-raising activities of the chapter etc. will be discussed and made/initiated at the CSH. Projects can be passed at the CSH by a majority vote after the members get a chance to ask questions and seek modifications and clarifications. The CSH can also empower smaller project committees and coordinators to make decisions on projects. It can also serve as a forum to introduce and train new members and to keep the vision of making a difference in the world alive.
- **Executive Committee Meeting:** The primary function of these meetings shall be to implement resolutions passed in the CSH and GBM and to set direction for future and ongoing projects. The detailed structure of the executive committee is given in Article V. Any member who is not a member of the executive committee can attend this meeting only with invitation or prior approval from any of the members of the executive committee. The executive committee has the authority to allot contingency funds up to 10% of the annual budget of AID India, for emergency project support.
- **General Body Meeting (GBM):** This meeting is open to all members of AID India. The secretary is responsible to set agenda and inform all members in advance and keep the minutes of the meeting. Any issues not directly related to the set agenda can be raised for discussion by any member with approval from the Secretary. The GBM would be presided over by the Chair. The quorum for GBM shall be the same as the quorum of the previous CSH meeting. Further at least one-third of the executive committee members should be present in the GBM, for quorum requirements to be met. The meeting shall fail to be a GBM if the quorum requirements are not met. A GBM shall be held at least once a year. Some of

the important functions of the GBM are as follows: (i) to make a special effort to reach out to more people of diverse qualities and aptitudes by inviting those who have shown interest but never attended, or who have attended occasionally in the past and offered interesting ideas, (ii) to give update to the members on the on-going projects, (iii) to discuss the budget, progress and targets for the next period, (iv) to discuss new ideas for awareness of AID India, (v) to hear and respond to a periodic report by every executive committee member, (vi) to hold elections every two years and select members of the executive committee by majority vote, and (vii) to resolve special issues such as, amending the constitution, or approving no-confidence motion against any member of the executive committee. These special motions shall require absolute majority vote (consists of approval by at least two-thirds of all active-volunteers of AID present and voting) to be approved.

Article VIII: Finances

AID India will finance the activities it engages in by the following means:

- a) Applying to funding grants from Central Student Government.
- b) Membership dues

Article IX: Quorum

Two-Thirds (2/3) of the active members must be present to constitute quorum for elections and official business that requires a vote.

Article X: Removal of Membership or Officers

Section 1. Removal of Officers

Any officer of AID India in violation of AID India's purpose, constitution, or who fails to fulfill their responsibilities as outlined in Article V, may be removed from office by the following process:

- a) A written request by at least three members of the organization.
- b) Written notification to the officer of the request, asking the officer to be present at the next meeting and prepared to speak.
- c) A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of eligible voting members is necessary to remove the officer.

Section 2. Removal of Membership

Any member of AID India in violation of AID India's purpose, constitution, or who fails to meet the membership requirements as outlined in Article IV, may have their privileges as a member revoked through the following process:

- a) A written request by at least three members of the organization must be sent to the executive committee.
- b) Written notification to the member in question, asking the member to be present the next executive committee meeting and prepared to speak.
- c) A unanimous decision by the executive committee members, in consultation with the advisor (if appointed in the future), to remove the member from the organization.

Article XI: Amendments

Section 1. This constitution is binding to all members of AID India but it is not binding unto itself. Amendments to the constitution may be proposed in writing by any voting member of AID India at any meeting at which quorum is met. The amendments will be placed on the agenda for the next regular meeting and voted on at that time.

Section 2. Proposed amendments will become immediately effective following approval of two-thirds (2/3) vote of all active members.

Article XII: Ratification

This constitution must be ratified by two-thirds of all active members to take effect and shall be reviewed every 3 years.

Article XIII: Statement of Compliance

AID India has read and agrees to fully comply with the University of Michigan's policies. We understand that the organization's registration is contingent on acceptance of these policies.