



Barton Hill Asian Women's Group Annual Report 1990 - 1991



Thanks to Steven Woodward and Nazlin Nathoo for their help producing this report

Committee Members

Chairperson Parveen Akhtar

Vice Chairperson Gulshan Nazeer

Honorary Treasurer Nazlin Nathoo

Honorary Secretary
Yasmin Sagheer
Shanaaz Bukhari
Amina Bibi
Shakira Parveen
Najma Mond (resigned)

Staff

Staff Coordinator Zehra Haq

Creche Workers Shahina Hamid
Salma Aslam

Elderly Workers Zahida Parveen
Sajda Parveen
Razia Khokhar
Rashida Hussain

Young Women's Worker Farhana Yasmin

Driver Shamim Akhtar

INTRODUCTION

Barton Hill Asian Women's Group was established in the summer of 1986 and meets at Barton Hill Settlement. Since then we have set up three groups - the Young Mothers' Group, the Elderly Women's Group and the Young Women's Group. The women take part in many activities, while at the same time keeping within the guidelines of their beliefs and customs. Each group has a self-support aspect because the women can give each other confidence and social contact in an environment which is fairly well isolated from male intrusion.

The groups also provide a forum for discussion and greater opportunity and understanding between different generations of women.

Regular subsidised trips for the groups are arranged and enjoyed. Our group employs a part-time coordinator, two creche workers, four workers with the elderly, a youth worker, a driver and has several volunteers. Membership is constantly growing and at present we have over one hundred members. All three projects meet at Barton Hill Settlement where facilities are provided to meet the needs of the different groups, for example there is childcare provision, disabled access, etc. This environment also provides access to other independent projects which are based at the Settlement like the Advice Centre, Bristol Community Transport, Inner City Employment Training Centre, etc.

Since 1986 we have been funded by Bristol Women's Committee, Avon Community Leisure, Avon Social Services, Bristol Race Equality Committee, the Greater Bristol Trust, Eras GWR and various other Trusts without whose support we could not have achieved our objectives. We also do a lot of fundraising ourselves by exploiting our culinary talents, holding raffles, making and selling garments, etc.

Finally we would especially like to thank all the Barton Hill Settlement staff and volunteers for their support and cooperation.

Barton Hill Asian Elderly Group

This group was established in 1988 and since October 1990 it meets in the Day Centre with the other elderly women on Mondays, which is the Women Only day, in partnership with the Settlement. This offers the opportunity for all elderly women from different cultural backgrounds to come together and develop closer relationships by sharing, learning and understanding each other's cultures.

The group offers elderly Asian Women a chance to get out of the house, enjoy each others company, lending mutual support and most important of all, is giving their carers a break.

A meal is provided and transport from the Barton Hill/ Easton/ Fishponds/ St Pauls areas is available.

Activities include keep fit, entertainment, discussion on health care, outings etc.

All these groups welcome Asian women regardless of background and religious belief.

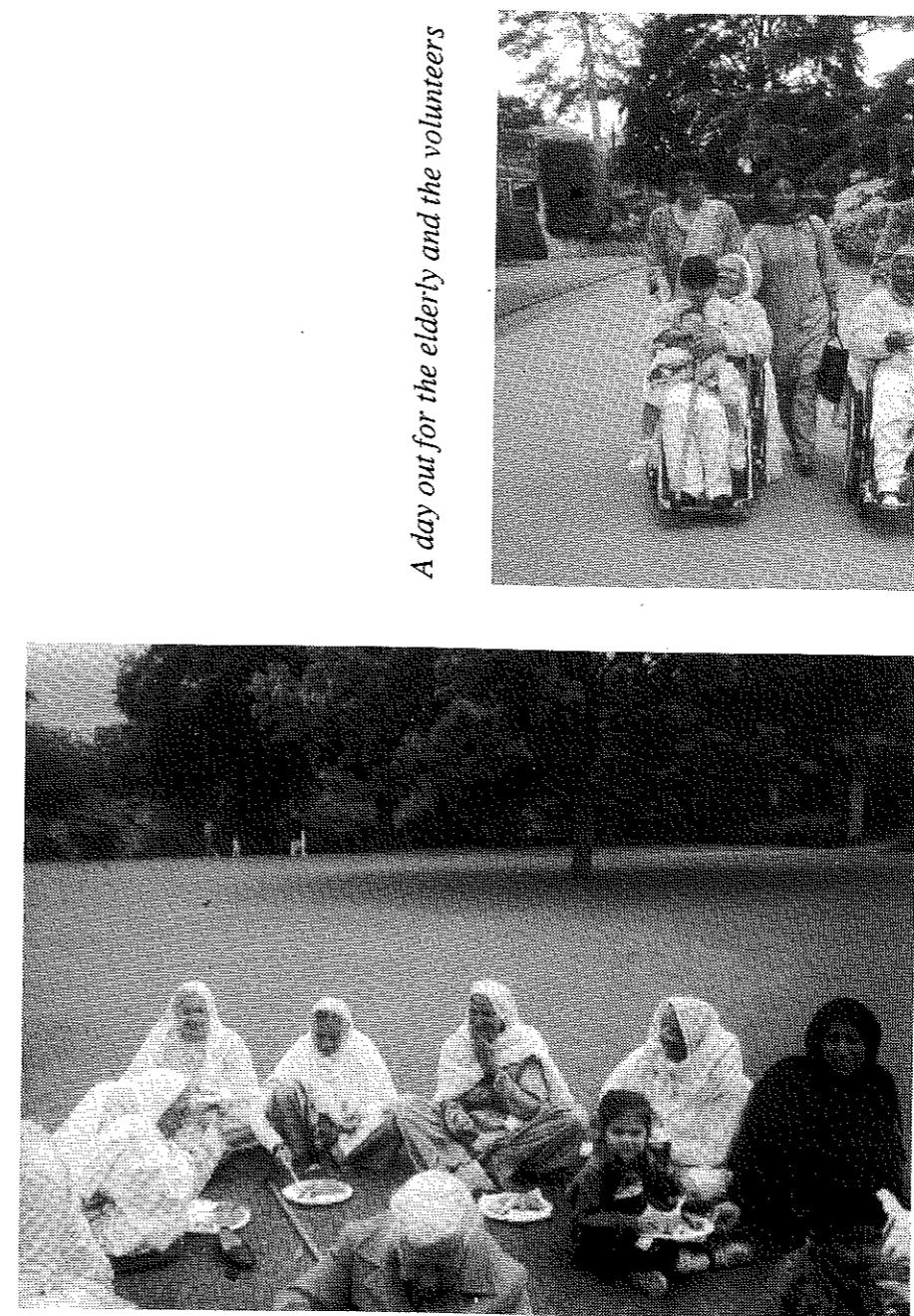
Monday 10.00 am - 3.30 pm



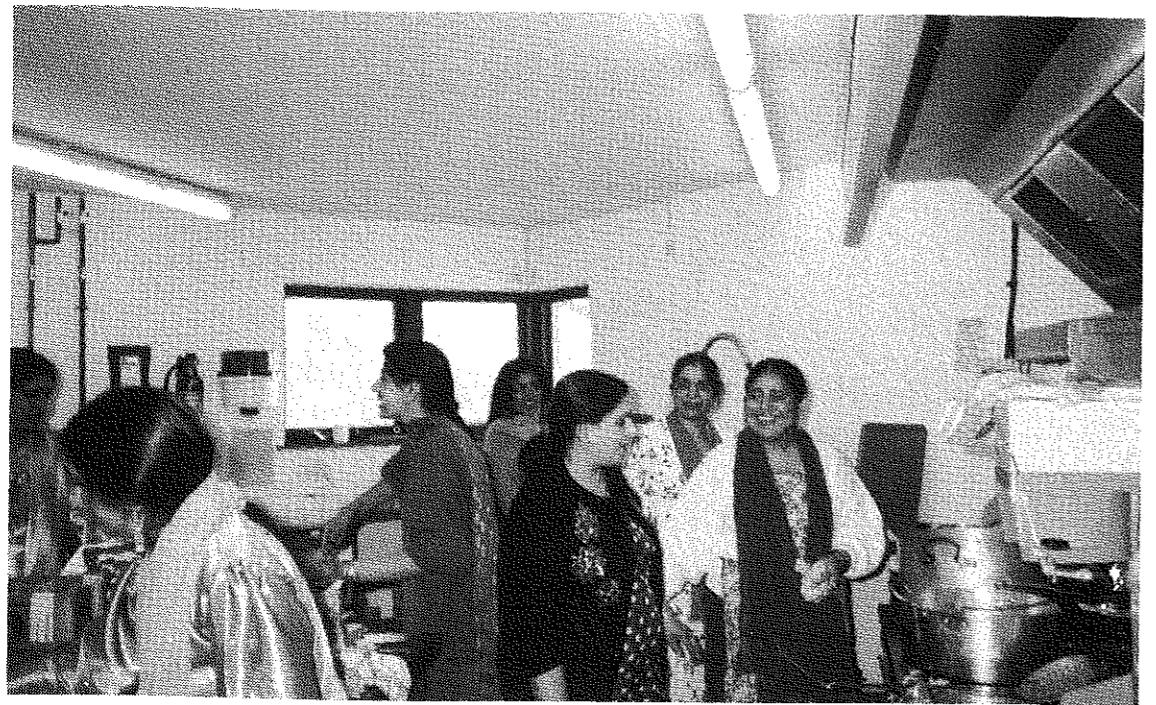
Meeting at the Settlement on Mondays



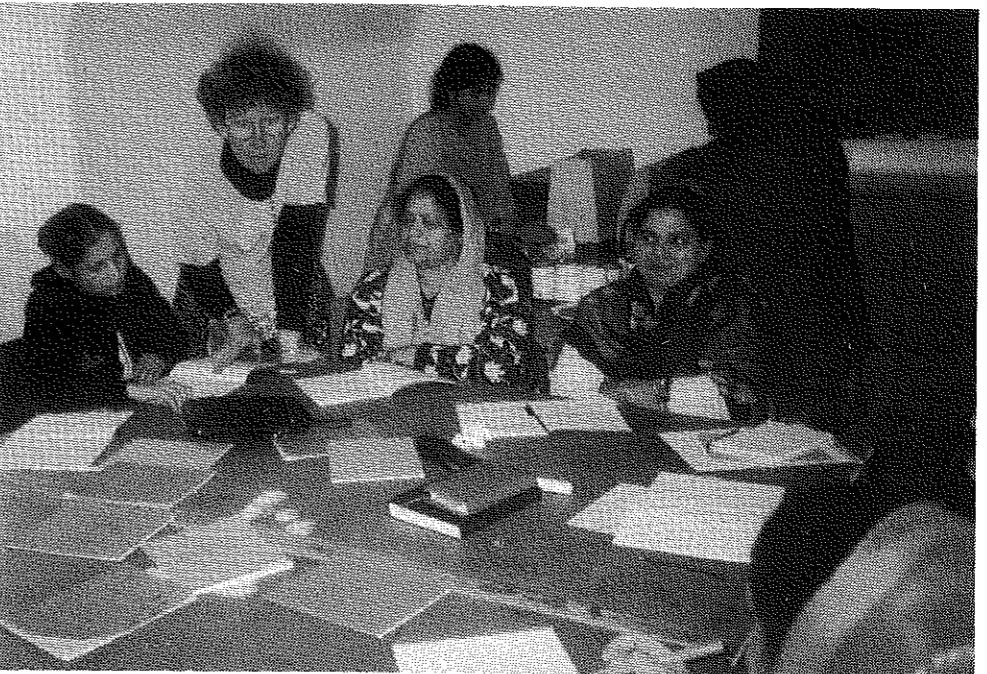
Elderly Women in a coach for a day trip



A day out for the Elderly Women



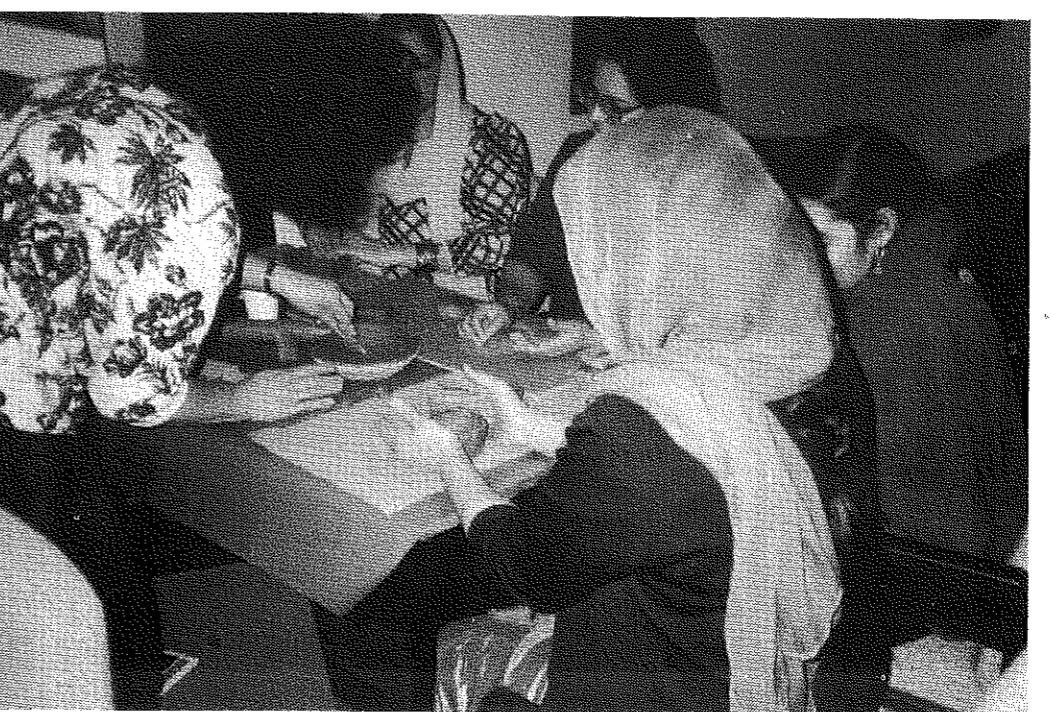
Cooking on Thursdays



English class for the Young Mother's Group



A Day Out for the Young Mum's



Crafts are practised in the Thursday group

Barton Hill Asian Young Mum's Group

Barton Hill Asian Young Mum's Group was established in the summer of 1986 and meets at the Settlement. Since then the group has grown to about 60 women. It meets twice weekly on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Creche and transport are provided. The group provides a social, cultural and education for the members - especially for carers.

The Tuesday afternoon session is an informal English class where women learn English that is relevant to their everyday life, boost their confidence and enhance their job prospects.

The Thursday sessions are spent learning and improving skills such as sewing, cookery, photography, crafts, childcare, keep fit, health care, with regular speakers and visitors.

Regular family outings are arranged and are very successful.

Tuesday 1pm - 3pm

Thursday 1pm - 3pm

Creche is available both days. Transport provided for Barton Hill/Easton areas.

Barton Hill Asian Young Women's Group

This was a pilot scheme established in April 1989, funded by the City Council Race Equality Unit. The group meets once a week on Sunday afternoons and provides recreational activities and social contact for Asian young women. This is very important and essential as these young women come from strict religious families and are also on the boundaries of two cultures. The activities include badminton, board games, arts and crafts and sewing.

This group is for women who are between school and marriage ages - 14 to 22 years.

All these groups welcome all Asian women regardless of background and religious belief.

Sunday 1 pm - 3 pm.



Asian Girls' Group cooking



A day out for the Asian Women's Group



A day out for the Asian Girls' Group

Chairperson's Report

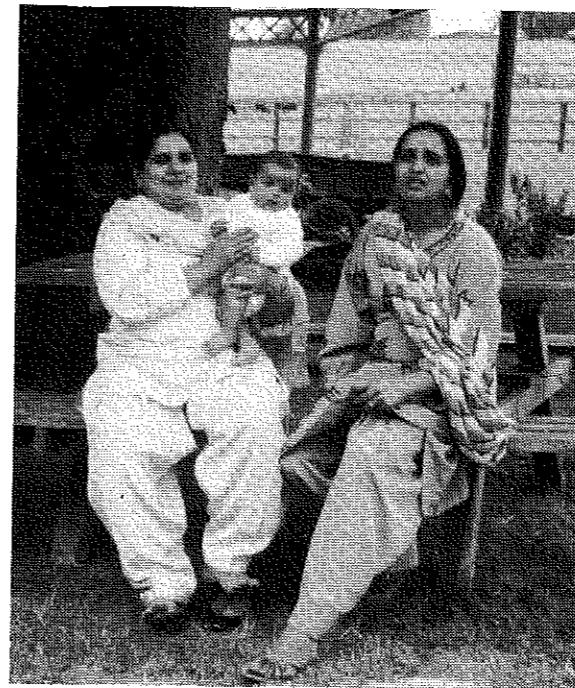
We have certainly come a long way since we started three years ago. We now have three separate Women's Groups running, each identifying their own interests and activities.

We continue to grow and take pride with our group success and I am sure we all feel fulfilled and can walk with pride and confidence in our everyday life.

I would now like to take the opportunity to give my heartfelt thanks to the committee, volunteers and the staff, led by Zehra Haq, who have worked very hard to secure funds and keep the groups running successfully.

Thanks also to all those who have contributed greatly in their free time in running the organisation.

Parveen Akhtar



Parveen Akhtar - Chairperson
On the right



Zehra Haq - Co-ordinator
On the left

Treasurer's Report

I have been the treasurer of this group since it was set up in 1986. The group has grown and developed a lot in this time. It was a good year for all the three groups. Although we did not receive full funding, we managed to keep the overspending down to £818.44. This was covered by the saving of £1,540.00 that we had from the previous year. However, the current year looked bleak at the start of the year, due to charge capping, but we managed to secure full funding for all three groups, after hard lobbying.

We have managed to fundraise quite successfully getting funding from outside but also through our own activities. On the whole I am quite pleased with how things are going.

I would like to give my thanks to Ikram Haq, whose help has been indispensable. I would like to show my appreciation to Zehra Haq for making sure that the receipts are always where they should be - very useful as I am sure you can all imagine! My thanks too, to the Auditor, Mr Davies.

Nazlin Nathoo



Nazlin Nathoo - Treasurer



Shamin - Our driver

Coordinator's Report

This year has been busy and hectic but it has been a very rewarding experience for me.

Membership has increased and we continue to develop closer relationships with other Women's Groups. The Groups received good will and support from many people in the community. This encompassed the support of the Asian Community, the University Settlement, the Women's Committee, Race Equality Committee, Avon Social Services and Leisure Committee and many individuals.

Special mention must be made of the setting up of the Young Women's Group. This group aims to provide support to young Asian women who were born here and have a unique cultural identity crisis. Thanks to the Race Equality Committee, who provided funding.

Our aim within the group has been to strengthen their cultural identity. We would like to thank their parents for the trust they placed on us by allowing their daughters to join the group, and I am sure that we have not failed their expectations.

Now that we have three generations of groups - elderly, young mums and young women - we can see how family life has improved, with more mutual respect and greater understanding of each other's problems and needs.

Our women are becoming more confident in their daily lives. As a result of this, they have secured jobs and positions through the skills and support they received from the group.

I feel very proud that our women successfully organised the International Women's Fortnight. They are always encouraged to take more interest in running their groups, participate and make decisions as to how the group should run. We are continuing to provide better services and activities to our women and developing their existing skills to enable them to get better job prospects. We have organised outings, Eid parties, which have proved a great success.

I am very pleased that we have set up a Elderly Women's Only day, which offers women from different cultural backgrounds a chance to come together for closer relationships and mutual understanding. A lot of hard work went in to developing this day. As you will be aware, the elderly group has been meeting for the last two years in a most inappropriate accommodation at the Settlement, and this prevented the women who were most in need of support from coming.

I must not forget to mention the support that I received from our Chair, Parveen, and committee member Gulshan in seeing this through. I must admit that there were difficult times. I am glad all this has been overcome and that all the women will have a chance to meet each other in a more appropriate setting.

I must not forget to thank our elderly members for their support. I want to say a special thank you to all those members on the Settlement Committee who voted in favour of this day. Special thanks to all those at the Neighbourhood Project and individuals for their support.

One of the trustees of the Settlement, Ms Marion Jones, very kindly invited our elders to her home. The visit was a great success and a lot was learned from this visit. All those involved in working in the community should encourage such get-togethers.

I would like to thank all the staff - Zahida, Yasmin, Shaheena, Salma, Shaheen and especially Shamim, who drives for all the three groups, who supported me and worked very hard in running the groups.

Finally I want to thank each and everyone of our committee members, who gave their free time for the regular meetings and also their complete support, backing, encouragement and guidance, especially in difficult times. Last, but not least, I would like to thank my husband for his continued support and encouragement.

Zehra Haq

Synopsis from Secretary of the Barton Hill Asian Women's Group

I reluctantly became a member of the Barton Hill Asian Women's Group in 1989. At the time I didn't realise that this group would open up a whole new perspective on my life, instead I only felt resentment at having to spend my precious time learning how to sew, which I felt was irrelevant. This resentment rapidly faded away as I found myself in a warm, friendly and caring atmosphere.

I soon became involved in learning the art of needlework and found it just as intensive as studying for A levels. Nevertheless, I used to and still do look forward to Sunday afternoons, whether that means I am playing badminton or trying to understand how to cut a suit. The reason for this is simply because this Group has allowed me to relax and escape for a few hours from other demands, especially study.

The transformation or new perspective on my life I spoke of earlier, came about in October 1991 when I was nominated and elected as secretary for Barton Hill Asian Women's Group. This was an honour I had only dreamt of and for this dream to become a reality was unbelievable. The joy I felt at the time is difficult to explain, other than the gratitude I felt to those who nominated and elected me.

It has been a great privilege for me to have been involved with the committee this year and I have gained immense satisfaction in seeing the Group grow and attain the status it deserves, whilst still retaining its warm and friendly atmosphere, which is so easily lost in larger organisations, whether voluntary or otherwise.

In the three years I have been with the Group I have learned a great deal about myself, especially the fact that I enjoy working with others and listening and wherever possible, helping people. It is because of this Group, I have decided that a course in social work is the right career for me; primarily I would like to work with Asian women. I believe they have so much to offer, but are very often held back by language and social barriers. I am one of the many Asian girls born and brought up in a country alien to our parents, but home to us. I can understand the problems this causes. Many Asian girls find it difficult to balance both their heritage and the society in which they live.

Before concluding this synopsis I wish to thank those of you who elected me last year, as well as my friends and family, especially my parents for supporting and encouraging me, all the committee members: Parveen Akhtar, Gulshan Nazeer, Amina Bibi, Nazlin Nathoo, Shakira Parveen and Shanaz Bukham, without whom I wouldn't be writing this. My thanks to Yasmin (worker for Girls' Group), the girls in the group for their laughter and common sense, especially Rozina who has nicknamed me "Secretary", both Shamim (driver) and Shamim (tutor) for being who they are. Finally and perhaps most importantly, to Zehra Haq, for giving me the strength, confidence and inspiration to apply to Polytechnic/University next year to study for a Diploma in Social Studies and Social Work, not forgetting the fact that she'd provided me with a listening ear when I needed it.

Yasmin Sagheer

BARTON HILL ASIAN WOMENS GROUPBALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 1991

	1990/91 £	1989/90 £
Cash in hand	121.14	8.43
Current Account	(1,564.83)	(1,041.03)
Deposit Account	6,098.94	1,603.79
Debtors	4,655.25	571.19
	-	842.61
Less Creditors	4,655.25	1,413.80
	700.13	692.10
	<u>3,955.12</u>	<u>721.70</u>
Represented by surplus brought forward	721.70	1,540.14
This years surplus (deficit)	3,233.42	(818.44)
	<u>3,955.12</u>	<u>721.70</u>

AUDITED ACCOUNTS1990/91

I have examined the above Balance Sheet and attached Income and Expenditure Account in conjunction with the Books and Records provided, together with information and explanations requested, and find it to be in accordance herewith.

F Davies F.C.A.
14 Ralph Road
Ashley Road
Bristol
BS7 9QP


BARTON HILL ASIAN WOMENS GROUPINCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1991SUMMARY

	1990/91 £	1989/90 £
<u>INCOME</u>		
Grants	20,140.37	8,320.13
Other Income	934.07	1,313.76
Bank Interest	88.40	150.70
TOTAL INCOME	<u>21,162.84</u>	<u>9,784.59</u>
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Young Mums & Elderly Groups	12,189.79	8,319.90
Young Womens Group	5,739.63	2,283.13
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>17,929.42</u>	<u>10,603.03</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>3,233.42</u>	<u>(818.44)</u>