

Minutes of meeting which took place on 15th of November, 2014.

Agenda: Conference call with project Manasa regarding their progress, upcoming funding and introduction of project to new volunteers

There were 6 participants, Prasoon, Aarti, Vinod, Tushar and Rohil from Asha-Purdue and Mrs. Sarvalakshmi P., the president of Manasa.

1. The meeting started with an introduction of Manasa to the new stewards, Rohil and Tushar by everyone else.

2. It was followed by an introduction of a residential project for mentally disabled girls that is planned by Manasa in the coming few months. Details of the project are as under:

a. Lot of demand for residential care center for kids.

b. Current planned capacity: 15 girls

c. Selection criteria for girls: Manageable children, i.e. without major ailments such as cerebral palsy because they need a lot more care and resources.

d. Current status: Applied for occupancy certificate for a building and recruiting currently staff. The whole process should take about 3 months to complete.

e. A discussion on related issues such as safety, and no. of people needed was also done.

f. They plan to charge families a nominal fee of 4-5000 INR for housing from families who can afford. Others will be asked to give whatever they can and sponsors will be sought for rest of the amount. Even the 4-5000 amount is not sufficient for the complete project and funds will be sought from sponsors.

3. This was followed by a discussion on few other projects that Manasa is planning:

a. Blue Collar job training: For jobs such as salesboy/girl, delivery boys, etc. categorized as semi-skilled jobs. Estimated budget- 7.99 lacs INR

b. Manufacturing of low cost Sanitary Napkins: Buy equipment from Jayashree Industries. Estimated budget-2 lacs

(Note: Jayashree industries has received wide acclaim for its innovative, low cost sanitary napkins. The founder has been included in Times 100 most influential people in the world 2014. More details: <http://newinventions.in/index.aspx>,

New project financing details: <http://newinventions.in/project.aspx> )

c. Other ideas such as manufacturing paper plates, glasses

d. They are also planning to conduct a survey in March in Nalgonda district to count the number of mentally challenged kids. The report of this survey will be presented to the

Government and National Institute for Mentally Handicapped People who will take action in collaboration with a few NGOs.

4. Later, a more general discussion on the status of current facility was done, details of which are as under:

a. A total of 65 students and 10 teachers currently.

b. About 10 students left. 3 for lack of hostel facilities. 1 was admitted to a normal school. 5-6 others wanted vocational training such as book binding and paper printing. Transition for the one kid who went to normal school was smooth.

c. Progress of other children included improvement in eating skills, toilet skills, cultural skills to name a few. The improvements differed on a case to case basis.

Further action and duties:

1. Funds from WAH will be released partially within 2 weeks. Rest in January. Prasoan, Neha, Tushar and Rohil to do the needful.

2. Impending site visit will be done soon with the help of family or friends.

3. Rohil and Tushar to follow up Manasa from now on a regular basis. Probably a small chat with aunty a month and a conference call every 3 months.