

## **Conference Call Minutes**

Project: Manasa

Project details can be found at: <http://www.ashanet.org/projects/project-view.php?p=1130>

Date: Saturday, April 20th, 2013

Start Time: 11:30 AM Eastern Daylight Time

Dial-in Number: [1-626-677-3000](tel:1-626-677-3000)

Participant Access Code: 4202013 (for remembering- its date of the call 4/20/13)

**Attendees:** Aarti, Prason, Gaurav, Nikitha, Vinod

Aarti - What is the major amount you actually need right now?

Sarvalaxmi Ma'am: It would be better for you to sponsor the recurring expenditure, so it is easy to

Aarti - Staff salary breakup?

Sarvalaxmi Ma'am: Existing is Rs 55K per month, 10 members of the teachers & staff. Six months: ~3 lakhs. 6 teachers include: 3 trained teachers, 1 craft teachers, 2 therapists. Trained teachers: Rs 20K per month, Craft teacher: Rs 3K per month, Therapist: Rs 6K per month. She will be sending up-to-date salary breakup.

Vinod: Training teachers?

They are trained with special degrees for the special teaching.

Prason: Retention Time?

They have been teaching here for a long time. We currently need to increment their salary.

Aarti: Any plans for new teachers?

We are planning to recruit one more teacher. Now the teacher: student ratio is 1:10 or 1:12 we plan to bring it down to 1:8

Aarti: When Asha started funding, there were 55 students. What is the number now?

Sarvalaxmi Ma'am: Same strength.

Gaurav: Staff salary, is there any urgent need?

Sarvalaxmi Ma'am: We have funding for construction, but for recurring expenditure we are not able raise funds.

Aarti : What is the status of the construction?

Sarvalaxmi Ma'am: It will be over by the end of May. After summer vacation, we are planning to start at new building.

Vinod: Could you please fill in everyone about the special needs for the new location?

Sarvalaxmi Ma'am: We got 968 sq y from Govt of AP at nominal price. Parking area and 4 floors. 1.5 Crore project. 1st floor: Asha funds from 2011. 2nd , 3rd, 4th: Floor: Corporate funds. Till now, we have always been in rented premises: Environment is not suitable for special students. We are constructing the building catering to the special needs with ramps and special classrooms, and extra safety for the children.

Prasoon: The Indian government has special plans for supporting mentally challenged children, did you contact any govt program for support?

Sarvalaxmi Ma'am: We are applying for grants in the Govt of AP and India. 1995-2002: we got from Govt of India, but after that they ask the organizations to raise funds on their own. But still we are applying for those grants. Most of the funds are from individual contributions, but we are also trying corporate sector - they are asking for national accreditation in TISS. We have applied for national certification but that process takes 1 year.

Aarti - For certification, do you appoint anyone?

Sarvalaxmi Ma'am: We are taking care of this through our team. We will inform Asha as soon as we get the extra certifications.

### Action Items

- 1) Sarvalaxmi Ma'am to send us the breakup of staff salaries.
- 2) Prasoon to set up a poll for agreeing on the amount to send.