

Minutes of Meeting- Conference call with Manasa

3rd October 2015

A conference call was conducted with Mrs. K. Venkamma from Manasa. Following members from Asha Purdue attended the call- Ganesh, Anusha, Suchismita, Neha Diwakar, Neha Gupta, Gaurav, Aarti, Vinod, Prasoon, and Rohil.

Proposals for funding for next year were discussed along with some important inputs from new volunteer Anusha for treatment of mentally challenged kids specially those with speech and hearing impairment.

The call started with introduction of the project to new volunteers Anusha and Ganesh by Mrs. Venkamma. Next topic that was discussed was proposal for setting up a sanitary napkin manufacturing unit. The budget that was proposed was Rs. 467,932 which included a one time cost of Rs. 312,109 for buying machinery and training and the remaining was a recurring cost of buying raw material and salaries which is only for an initial period of 3-4 months. Manasa seemed to have done a lot of groundwork since the last call about this project. Few important points on which a significant progress was made were: identification of the students in non-severe category for working on making these napkins, better involvement of volunteers at Manasa and community support, awareness sessions and meetings with potential customers for napkins were also conducted.

Recurring expenditure statement from the project was also discussed and possibilities for increasing expenditure on a 24 hour teacher/care taker for children were discussed. This year's expenditure was quoted by Manasa to be about Rs. 652,000 spent on teacher's salaries and new teaching material.

Participants of the call agreed to support the recurring expenses and also showed positive attitude towards supporting the napkins project owing to the strong background work done by the team at Manasa. Final polling needs to be done and decision on how much money to spend needs to be taken. Site visit needs to be done soon and Asha-Purdue volunteers expressed possibility of a site visit in December or January.

The call was concluded with thanking Mrs. Venkamma for joining us on the call and all the Asha volunteers who took time to join the call as well.