

Diksha Budget Call (2022-23)

Participants:

Diksha – Gautam Gauri, Shibasis Sahu, Tanya Pandey, Mohita Katriar

Purdue – Sameer Kulkarni, Rachana, Surabhi, Pritesh, Avanee Garima, Adarsh, Rahul (?)

Presentation (Tanya & Shibasis):

- Project Objectives:
 - Khel Center started in 2010, have been related with Asha Purdue since almost the beginning of the Khel Center. Help marginalized communities and provide a space for students to express thoughts/skills.
 - Enable holistic education and learning. Encourage life skills that are holistic. Follow ICT based pedagogies.
- 2021 Highlights
 - Partnered with UNFA and trained 5809 sanitation workers of Patna Municipal Corp on health, safety, leadership, constitutional rights
 - Organized vaccination camps in 50 slums of Patna
 - Installed an Oxygen plant in UP with support of ValueFirst and Asha – 12 Oxygen Concentrators
 - Annapurna COVID Campaign supported by individual donors – provided food rations to 1987 community members
 - Partnered with American Embassy for English Access Micro Scholarship programme for 50 students in Patna (majority from Khel Center)
 - Colt Technology has supported Diksha Khel Center with 100 refurbished laptops.
 - Started mechanized cleaning for sanitation workers and started a sanitary pads camp
- 10 years of Diksha – Asha Purdue Partnership
 - 119,575 dollars provided so far.
 - Supported with COVID-19 pandemic help. Supported with Bihar Flood Rehabilitation in 2019 and also the Fellowship programme.
- Basic Information about Diksha Khel Center (Students)
 - Supplementary Education – 45 B, 71 G
 - Question – What is in the supplementary Peer Educator? (Surabhi)
 - Gautam – Cover 4 subjects – Math, Science, ... Encourage students to follow through in the government schools (or low-cost private schools). Cover them in terms of topic (not covering the entire syllabus which happens in schools)
 - Peer Educator – 10 B, 9 G
 - Question – What is Peer educator training (Surabhi)?
 - Gautam – Students who gain proficiency in particular topics (typically the elder students), they do volunteer work within the

center and help with teaching other junior students (they receive small payment for that).

- Computer Education – 13 G, 2 B
 - Total - 150 – 64 B, 82 G
- Major Activities
 - Regular Activities (Year around)
 - Regular classes – Math, English, Hindi, and Computers
 - Bal Sansad
 - Open House Meeting
 - Monthly parent teacher meeting at center
 - Regular community visits and telephonic follow-up with children and parents
 - Sessions on life skill and civic education
 - Co-Curricular Activities
 - Club Activities, English Access Micro Scholarship Program, KHEL ki Door Apke Ghar ki Oor, Arts exhibit once a year.
 - English Access Micro Scholarship Program
 - Course to promote the English language skills for underprivileged communities.
 - Teaches English by teaching 21st century tasks (like making presentations, etc..). Helps students who are good at the various tasks in the modern world but might not be good at English. This program helps the students hone their 21st century skills (media literacy, media analysis, etc...) and help them become a global citizen.
 - Started in 2020, October (Looks like they will be graduating in October 22)
 - Celebrations
 - Celebrate the global/country-wide days at the Center.
- Major Highlights from Last Year
 - 4 students have participated in UNICEF and CSEI in the Patna Youth Forum
 - A student has gotten accepted in Banaras Hindu University
 - Melinda Pavek (Consul General of US Consulate) has visited the KHEL center for Access Students
 - Student has gotten accepted in NavGurukul
- Best Practices followed by teachers/students
 - Volunteering
 - Use of tech for better communication/management – Slack, Zoho, etc...
 - Mock Interviews and exposure to public sharing
 - Feedback seeking/working on suggestions
 - Peer Learning community
 - Children Parliament, Open House meeting with parents
 - Telephonic and physical follow up of children

- Community visits to meet parents
- Success Stories (last year)
 - 2 students can do diploma courses (Polytechnic)
 - A student was able to secure a job in Bihar Police
 - A student was selected as a top 75 creative minds in 52nd international film festival in Goa.
- Additional Activities
 - Telephonic conversations started during pandemic lockdowns. Tried to use Google Classroom
 - Awareness campaigns, doorstep library, yoga classes, English access program
- Volunteer Involvement
 - 15 students from St. Xaviers Patna volunteered at KHEL center (as part of their social program). Encouraged KHEL students to volunteer for the communities.
- Challenges
 - COVID 19, Migration, Drop-outs due to financial crisis, lack of digital devices and issue with conducting VT classes.
 - Lost some students to financial crisis. Many kids moved back to their villages and might not come back. Some dropouts have led to early childhood marriage.
 - Digital device dearth issue has been resolved due to donation of 100 refurbished laptops by Colt Technologies.
- Way forward
 - English Access Project – offline session and enhancement activities
 - Health Camp for students and parents
 - With help of Colt Tech, setup a digital library to provide more resources of learning and experience new set of learning techniques for the children
 - Jagrik – constitutional literacy program, in order to enhance civics and constitutional literacy skills
 - Add a new subject- Everyday Science (in order to build up their knowledge and understanding following a exciting approach)
 - Invites Purdue students to do a zoom session to help the kids.
- Next Year's Timeline
 - April – June (2022)
 - New Admissions focus, community visits, follow-up with parents, Bal Sansaad meeting for yearly plan, regular yoga classes, lesson plans
 - July-Sept (2022)
 - Bal Sansaad elections, open house meetings
 - Oct-Dec (22)
 - Bal Sansad in session
 - Jan-March (23)
 - Arts and Craft Exhibit

Questions

- Is KHEL center like a regular school or after school (Avanee)?
 - Afterschool or on Sundays
- How many centers do you have in India and where are they (Rahul)?
 - 2 Centers – Located in Bihar
 - Had one more center but due to funding cuts they could not maintain it. Are trying to revive it.
- Will you renew the US Embassy English Scholarship program (Sameer)?
 - Yes – plan to renew it, hopefully with 2 batches of 50 students.
 - Aim to help students who pass through the program can go to community colleges in USA. Even that is fully funded by the US Embassy.
- Challenges faced during COVID-19 and what is the status/situation now? Do they need to worry about food/basic needs (Rachana)?
 - Tanya – Situation has been better compared to mid-year of 2021. Community visits has helped with the healing. Some students have lost their parents from the pandemic and are slowly getting back to normalcy.
 - Shibasis – Around 20% of the old students have been replaced by new students.
 - Gautam – Deaths due to COVID in the community that cannot be improved. One case of suicide due to financial crisis has also happened. There is a lot of unprocessed mental trauma (applicable across the country).
 - Any professional mental health counselling available in the community?
 - Gautam – Diksha tries doing it but is highly under addressed.
- Global Giving funds?
 - Will receive the funds by October.
- Fundraising post COVID?
 - It has improved – Trying to raise funds to revive the Nalanda Center
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