

## Meeting Minutes for budget proposal for Diksha Khel Center (04/25/2021)

Attendees: Sameer, Aditi, Rachana, Adarsh, Surabhi, Trevor, Tanya Pandey, Gautum Gauri, Shibasis Sahu

### 1. Presentation

- a. Objectives – Provide holistic education to kids in low income communities
- b. Basic info – supplementary - 109 kids, peer educator - 19, computer education 18 (all girls), also have many volunteers (full time and part time)
- c. Major activities –

#### Regular Activities

- Classes through Khel ki door Apke Ghar ki Oor - Maths, English, Hindi
- Bal Sansad
- Open House Meeting
- Index for Inclusion –With teachers
- Club Activities (Arts, & Craft, Drawing & Painting)
- Monthly Parent Teacher Meeting at center- 2 times after the center opened
- Regular Community Visits and Telephonic Follow -up of Children and their Parents
- English Access Microscholarship Program

#### i. Regular activities -

##### Events

- Children's Day
- Constitution Day Celebration
- Kite Festival
- National Girl Child Day
- Republic Day Celebration
- Valentine's Day Celebration
- Art and Craft Exhibition
- Festivals & Cultural Celebrations
- Women's Day Celebration
- Annapurna Campaign
- Health Camp

#### ii. Events -

iii. COVID has impacted a lot of these activities and events, and some did not occur. The Annapurna campaign was due to COVID along with Khel ki door apke ghar ki door. Also tried digitizing the curriculum

iv. Best Practices – space to implement the learning, uses technologies in management like Slack and Zoho, Asana, CharlieHR

1. Used social distancing (collecting workbooks, telephone communication, meetings started in January)

#### v. Highlights

1. 1 boy has passed matriculation
2. 2 boys and 1 girl have gotten jobs at Diksha itself.
3. 70% participation from parents in parent teacher meetings
4. Collected 15,000 rupees through an arts and crafts exhibition.

#### vi. Success stories

1. 3 kids got jobs at Diksha and are working in their own communities.
2. Subodh presented at Celebration of Girl Child Day with UNICEF Bihar and Action Aid
3. 10 more volunteers added.
4. One girl got job at the Bihar Military Police

#### vii. New Activities

1. Many students do not (more than 80%) have access to smart phone, so have telephone communication.
  2. Kids are creating materials to spread awareness through social media
  3. Google Classroom for students with smartphone
  4. Trying to help vulnerable communities during the lockdown by creating awareness
  5. English access project with American Embassy
  6. Health camp was conducted with some nutritional tips
  7. Library at doorstep
- viii. Challenges
1. Lockdown closed all the schools.
  2. Lack of digital tools like smartphones
  3. Immigration back and forth from villages
  4. Violence in family and early marriage for kids
- ix. New Plans
1. Annapurna Campaign
  2. Tele-counselling
  3. English Access Project – Virtual classes
  4. Google classroom
  5. Library at door step
- x. Schedule



## 2. Questions

- a. US Consulate program for English teaching?
  - i. They fund teachers' salaries – 2 year program
  - ii. Goal is to use this program and get students to apply for exchange programs with American community colleges.
  - iii. 50 students in this program, 25 at their center and 25 at another school
  - iv. Diksha offered to connect with people at Kolkata consulate and regional English office in Delhi

- b. Do you have any videos that you can share for some of your activities?
  - i. Not too many videos but will share images
- c. What do you mean by the ethical, social,
  - i. Collaboration with Dalai Lama and the Emory University to try and give holistic education to kids and the idea is to build skills that add to the student's resilience.
  - ii. Also is related to the index inclusion project – it is about how to increase inclusion? Try to have a culture to have more inclusion practices in your teachers (which later translates to students)
  - iii. Example – When a new teacher joins in, how welcome are other teachers to the new teacher? Using a questionnaire and survey, can build up practices that increase inclusion.
- d. Arts and Craft exhibition – The money the kids raised will be putting an A/C on the top floor.
- e. What is the Pant session? – Find a person to confide in, private parts are good touch/bad touch areas
- f. Annapurna Campaign – planning to do it again. Give ration to families affected by COVID and give some prescription medicine. Also considering posting info about bed availability on social media. Some of the student's parents affected due to closing of shops and street vendors.
  - i. Basic medicines are available.
  - ii. We can look into helping financially for this if Diksha can send us details.
- g. Did they hear back from SFO grant?
  - i. The grant promises money for a year
  - ii. They had submitted it for some other project not KHEL
  - iii. They have not heard back yet. We can also look into it
- h. Do they have any other sources of funding?
  - i. It is mostly a combination of some individual donors and Asha
  - ii. They do have a separate project with UN
- i. FCRA situation
  - i. Their FCRA is up for renewal for 31<sup>st</sup> of May. They are not doing renewals at the time. Need to know someone very senior in the political sphere to get it done. The process has slowed down.
  - ii. SBI account has been approved by the government.
- j. Last time, you mentioned 90 or so from 150 students at Diksha. Is the situation same now?
  - i. At this time, they can contact more than 140 students since they were coming to center in March. They were able to survey last year the phone contact information of students (6 students do not have phones).
- k. Are students and their families safe from COVID?
  - i. 3 families of their students have been affected from COVID. All mild conditions and they are in home isolation. Coordinator is talking daily with parents and students.
- l. In the online classes, can you tell what classes are you teaching?

- i. From April – doing VT classes and the English micro access program. Now trying to figure out how else to get more students. Also developing some workbooks that will be delivered at doorsteps. The library project will be giving doors at doorsteps as well.
- m. Will the tablets be used for online education? Is it for combined groups of students?
  - i. Yes, they will use tablets for online education for students.
  - ii. 6-7 students in a community will share the tablet
  - iii. They will also provide internet access.
- n. Have there been any dropouts?
  - i. Mostly students have not gone to school. Govt is using TV/ doordarshan channels but generally the classes are not been there. All students are promoted to the next class. They have kept the 12<sup>th</sup> state board exams. Most of the students are in state board. Teachers are doing classes online, and very few students are joining and completing the courses, due to lack of facilities.
- o. Last time we spoke, a lot of parents were unemployed due to COVID. How is the situation now?
  - i. But now most of them have got some jobs back or they have changed their business.
- p. What exactly is the job of students who got job at Diksha?
  - i. They are outreach workers for their community for forming youth and women collectives, supporting vaccination support and slum development activities.
- q. Can Purdue students do anything for you? There is a lot of technical expertise here.
  - i. If students want to do some seminars for Diksha students. Bit of a struggle in the Maths and Science department – could be great if some videos/audios can be used to teach students (preferably in Hindi). Or maybe explain your research easily in 5-10 minutes so the youngsters can understand that.
  - ii. Online learning initiative by IIT and NSS— an extensive initiative -- <https://www.youtube.com/c/OLINSSIITB/featured>
- r. Will using tablet be a weekly or daily thing? Depends on the lockdown
- s. What about solar panels which they mentioned in the budget? They won't be installing this year.
- t. Is google classroom free? Yes.
- u. One of our project Manasa needs help with their budget, can Diskha help? Yes.

### 3. Budget

- a. Unfortunately, we couldn't raise enough funds, so the budget will be reduced this year.
- b. There is an Asha central budget for COVID. We can consider applying for grant to support for Annapurna or similar program.
- c. We are still discussing about Gautam/ Asha fellowship on Asha side. If funds are available, we can do that.

