

Diksha Disbursement Call Minutes

Attendees from Purdue:

- Sameer Kulkarni
- Jothi Saravanan

Attendees from Diksha

- Gautam
- Tanya
- Shibasis

Asha-Diksha Partnership – Supported since 2012, more than 130,000 USD, supported multiple initiatives – Fellowship programs, flood rehabilitation program, COVID drives.

Bihar Education – 80% of the students go to gov school with <60% attendance. Other metrics are not as high. The goal of KHEL is to supplement the education of students to improve these metrics.

Diksha – started as a after-school but has transitioned into a supplemental school that supports government schools, as over time, gov school around have gotten better. Admit students and reach out to different communities to join the school. Many of the kids live near the railway station and come from the OBC community of Milnd.

Regular Activities – Bal Sansad, English classes, computer classes,

Major Activities – Door to door community visits, SEE (social emotional and ethical development – developed by a Lai Lama Trust) curriculum and Jagrik program, club activities (arts and entertainment), mainstreaming children where they can learn sustainably, learning through Khan Academy.

Major Events – Kabbaddi tournament (new this year?). National day celebrations (Holi, Diwali, etc...), Bihar Diwas, Cancer Awareness march

Key Data for this year – 157 students (93 G, 64 B), 10 member team (7 paid, 3 volunteers), 14 communities (slums – Lalu Nagar, Deshnar Nagar), and students from 10 different schools.

Parent Survey Testimonial – 100% parents are happy, 95% parents mentioned child is more sensitive to genger issues and environment

Case Study/Example – Maya – came from difficult circumstances but graduated from the program and is now a teacher at Diksha. Shows the potential impact of Disksha. Couple students graduated from the CCIP (Community College Initiative) program, may be able to visit the US.

Challenges – New space, current building is about to get sold. Lack of space for outdoor sports, and recruitment of English teacher.

- Have found a space, but not everyone is happy. Idea is to move to a new space by June nearby (1km) and on the same side of the road.
- Might do it inside a library, but the library is 30 yrs old and the staff is traditionally minded, while Diksha is a progressive model.

Way Forward – Dance and theater, teacher trainings (partnered with Delhi org – doing a fellowship program throughout India), Kabaddi and other sports coaching. Shibasis is part of TFI (Teach for India) and have launched a program for cities – Shibasis has been getting training from them since last year and learning about how to start their own fellowship program to teach youngsters in becoming teachers.

Support Request from Asha Purdue:

- Short Term - Link with other chapters for support to our Nalanda center and school project.
- Long Term – Help us in creating small eco learning space for KHEL Patna Center

Questions:

- What is SEE? – Social Emotional and Ethical Development from the Lai Lama Trust – lines up with Diksha's philosophy.
- What is CCIP? – Community College Initiative – allows students to come to US for a year into community colleges.
- Increased budget requirements, how will you fundraise more?
 - o Have local sources of fundings. They are looking for other sources of funding. Patna center – combination of Purdue Asha + Donations. Are looking to add another institutional funder. Every year looking for more consistent donors.