

Conference call minutes: 03/08/2014, 9:30 pm EST (03/09/2014, 8:00 am IST)

Attendees: From Basundhara :- Dr. Snigdha Biswal;

From Asha-Purdue :- Praseon, Aditi Iyer, Aditi Kesari, Aditya, Sashwat, Gaurav, Suchi

Location: 10-12 Km from Cuttack

Admits children not accepted at mainstream schools due to special circumstances

- ~ 12-13 adoptions per year
- Unwed mothers/parents give up the children
- Police bring in underage, working kids
- Childline refers kids to Basundhara for aid
- RTE assists govt. schools only. Govt. grants (via Childline): Rs. 750 per month for 34 children.
- FCRA registered
- Not currently supported by any other NGO
- Civilians refer child beggars -- some turned down due to financial restrictions (Space available but lacks financial resources for sustained provision)
- Relatives cannot be prevented from taking kids back, but rarely occurs

Hostel accommodates 50-52 kids

- ages: 4-16/17 ; 7 boys, rest girls)
- 10 abandoned, 7 with both parents living, 33 with single living parent/relatives

Currently holding classes nursery - class VIII

Evaluation of students' progress:

- Hostel staff teach and make initial assessment as to appropriate standard of admission
- Monthly, biannual, annual exams.
- Half- yearly exams for class VIII using Matrubhaban question paper, evaluated by Matrubhaban faculty (4 of 5 students performed well)
- Academic performance not uniformly excellent, but no dropouts.
- Extra-curricular activities on par with mainstream school students
- Arts/yoga encouraged (videos requested)

- Annual sports contests conducted & prizes awarded
- Annual picnic
- Several festivals observed in the hostel
- Motivation provided via small gifts/chocolates to reward good performance
- Pathachakra classes for moral education

Facilities:

- 4 classrooms (used for all classes)
- 2-3 classes held together
- Playground (~ 50 acres)

Vocational training: Tailoring classes for 5-6 students not interested in regular schooling

Staff:

- 4 Sr. teachers, 1 Jr. teacher, 2 voluntary teachers (curricular)
- 1 yoga teacher, 1 music teacher, 1 peon, 1 residential
- Qualifications: Graduates (Masters) ,
- Not trained to teach
- 6-7 yrs experience in private schools
- Intend to have Matrubhaban faculty teach periodically (paid, not voluntary)

Goals:

- Intend to register with Matrubhaban for class X Board Exams
- Intend to support interested/capable students through college post-schooling, but insufficient funds at present
- Intend to provide Computer education to class VIII students (currently 5)
- Require one computer + Comp. teacher

Suggestions made (ASHA) : Alternate sources of funding & voluntary teaching:

- College students volunteer to work with NGOs
- Internshaala
- Action Aid
- UNICEF
- CRY (associated with Basundhara main center, but doe not support school, currently)
- BBSR
- Used laptops donated by companies
- 1/2 weeks to 1 month training prog for teachers

ASHA volunteer feedback

- Positive
- Good project, clear goals
- Help sustain current students until other sources available
- Seek assistance of Action Aid etc
- Organize Support a Child Prog (collaboration with IWA?) for the 5 kids in class 8 (individual donors)
- Query: Are requested funds for existing staff or new recruits?
A: Funds required for both