

Meeting Minutes
Tihar Jail Project Meeting
March 8, 2018

Project Stewards: Mihir Joshi, Varsha Sundar

Samarpan Foundation: humanitarian welfare, well established

Eight schools in Delhi, also working to bring justice to inmates and their families

43% of prisoners illiterate, only 7% graduated from high school

Pay for house rent, education, rations for inmates' families, job training for wives

Biggest jail complex in South Asia

Jails 2, 3, 4, and 7 (2/3 of prisoners in Tihar have not yet stepped into a courtroom)

Funding history:

1. Usually about \$10K
2. Last year sent \$20K
3. Still going through funds from last year
4. Sent \$5K last fall for SF Schools project

Every year, get permits in January to work in the complex, but this year, did not get it

Got some permits to support literacy, dance classes, and "life classes"

This year, hope to support families linked to the jail, such as single mother households

Support them for two years so they can support themselves

Also want to help elderly folks who have no younger breadwinners to support them

In Tihar, work is supported solely by Asha for Education

Outside the jail complex (i.e. families, Delhi schools, etc.), work is supported by individual donors, mostly located within India

They want other Asha chapters to fund other parts of the project, but currently we are the other Asha chapter funding Tihar Jail

Life skills class teaches basic literacy

2017: SF supported 15 inmate families and 11 destitute women (i.e. widows, women abandoned by their husbands, etc.) for a total of 150 people

Only two families getting educational support

Food items provided: wheat flour, rice, sugar, porridge, salt, tea, oil, etc.

Soft skills training: move them away from the mindset of violence, almost a personality/behavioral rehabilitation program

People being taken to jail for minor crimes, their families don't know what to do, so they follow their family member to Tihar knowing there is a "pop up complex"

Funding Options:

1. \$10K
2. \$5K <- amount endorsed by project stewards
3. \$0

As of Jan 31 we had \$24,800
In Feb report said we had \$75?

Question: should we support only families linked to the jail? Or should we support all destitute families in the area? (chapter seems to agree we should broaden our support to all families that SF is supporting)

VOTE

Abstaining:

Bhaavya Sinha (project coord)
Mihir Joshi (project steward)
Varsha Sundar (project steward)
Madhumita Krishnan (left early)

\$10K:

No one

\$7.5K:

Anvita Kulshresta

\$5K:

Kaavya Venkat
Aman Dosanjh
Puru Pahuja
Avinash Nandakumar
Maya Patel
Diya Chaudhuri
Meenu Pamula
Vedasri Ketha
Mounica Putrevu
Aastha Jha
Vidhi Patel
Sharina Sheth
Mansi Zalavadia
Sudeshna Barman
Aditya Mistry
Kamu Potharaju
Pooja Manyam
Navya Peddireddy

Amogh Pathi
Pooja Prazid
Tara Madhav
Bharathi Chinnakotla

All now or half and half?

All now: 14
Half now, half later: 9

Which families should we support?

Families linked to jail specifically: 0
All: 23