BSPES
Uttar Pradesh

Maulik Nagri
Project Steward
September 2021
Year 2021-2022 Update

Site Visit
- Virtual site visit conducted in August 2021 (report link)

FCRA
- BSPES has received the FCRA renewal registration and has received permission to operate the designated bank account.

Other Impact
- School open physically since March 2020 for teachers only
- Breakfast program was shut down, and staff was let go.
- Health program was shut down, and staff was let go.
- ~50% of teaching staff was let go.
- School bus initiative has been suspended since March 2020, because of pandemic and parents’ reluctance to pay transportation fees (leading to financial loss to BSPES)
Year 2021-2022 Update

- For academic year 2020-2021, students in 10th grade and 12th grade were promoted using score of prior grade exams
- Admissions open throughout the academic year
- In-person student count in school: 120
- Expected student count: 300
- Certain parents plan to enroll their children later in the academic year
- Students in grade 1st grade to 8th grade: online
- Students in grade 9th to 12th grade: in person in 1 shift
- BSPES plans emphasizing “social distancing” with limited capacity and separate rooms
- Concern that students may lose touch with the education system in their formative years
- BSPES staff cited the need of catch-up remedial classes because of lack of quality education
- Continued difficulty in imparting education because of lack of availability of mobile devices and connectivity
- BSPES is using the time to refine teaching technique for better content delivery in future:
  - Academics: Adapting and creating content for online teaching (example: creating PDFs)
  - Technology: Use phone to online classes, training to administer online test
Proposal

- The chapter proposes $7,000 or INR 515,000 as the first installment of the academic year 2021-2022 to cover teacher and staff salaries. This installment is calculated as ~50% of the annual support from chapter given in 2018-2019 academic year (around 14K USD).

- Project partner said that monthly salary is INR 245,000 for 28 staff members (including 18 teaching staff)

- This money will be used to retain and train teachers, and thus expand virtual classes.

- The amount 5.15 Lakh will be used primarily to support teacher and staff salaries for 2 months and to cover additional operating expenses
Format of Online Classes

- Digital platforms [WhatsApp] is crucial in students’ learning in rural areas during this COVID-19 situation.

- Process Narrative of WhatsApp Classes (Set-Up & Layout)
  - At the start of the class, the teacher, first, sends lecture notes (self-made or pdf from existing books), or audio lectures (5-6 min). The students read, listen to these notes carefully in the time allotted by the teacher.
  - Then the teacher ask questions what they have understood. Also, students ask their queries (all is done through voice messages).
  - The teacher answers their questions regarding concepts.
  - Teachers motivate kids to search meanings, definitions, explanations, etc. on Google, thus making them use technology and internet for self-study.
  - Then, a classwork assignment is given to students to be finished in the allotted time. As the time limit ends, the teacher sends the detailed answers of the assignment and students match their answers. If they have any questions, they can ask the teacher via voice messages.
  - Finally, a homework assignment is given to students. As the time is finished, the teacher again closes the channel for participants. Now, nobody can send messages except the Administrators.
  - Students not in the WhatsApp group submit their homework to teacher personally on WhatsApp.
  - Students who are not able to attend classes online take material Notes, Assignments etc.) OFFLINE. They use to come to school in the beginning of the week and take study material on a USB flash drive.

- Steward Note: Prior Report extract. Still relevant to the current year update.