

## Chapter meeting minutes

QED proposal – Navjyoti – Asha Athens

1. Meeting minutes for discussion of the proposal. (please include chapter comments on project's response to QED questionnaire: such as aspects of quality that project is already addressing well, and those that can be improved)

Meeting minutes (1/29/2011) – *Asha Chicago*: Chandan Dasgupta, Neena Majumdar, Preeti Gupta, Unmesh Jadhav, Tara Pai

Navjyoti is trying to initiate a teacher training program under this QED proposal. It also plans to procure/construct teaching aids in collaboration with other NGO's to promote hands-on learning along with setting up a library with good reference books that compliment these teaching aids. Key points raised in this meeting –

- Who will train the teachers?
  - (update on 2/13/2011) This issue has been addressed now after talking to the project partner. Navjyoti plans to collaborate with Eklavya Foundation and Jodo Gyan for the teacher training.
- How do we evaluate the success empirically?
  - (update on 2/13/2011) This is still under works and we are collaborating with Navjyoti to define an evaluation metric. It was felt that the progress report cards would give an idea of the success but a lot would also depend on qualitative measures like teacher observation and interaction with the students.

Overall, there's merit in the proposal and we feel that the project would benefit from this initiative. It was decided that we would approach another Asha chapter with this proposal since we were considering submitting the proposal from Gramya.

Meeting minutes (2/13/2011) – *Asha Athens*: Puja, Saranya, Farzin, Neena, Chandan

Neena briefly described what Navjoti does and gave an overview of the proposal – under this proposal, Navjyoti wants to initiate a teacher training program along with procuring teaching aids for the children. The attendees raised no objection and felt that the project has merit.

2. What is your view on success of the proposed initiative? How will the chapter evaluate the effectiveness? If successful, is your chapter willing to fund this initiative after 2 years?

Success in this case would mean a growth in the student's confidence and better inter-personal communication skill. We would also evaluate success by observing the change in academic progress of the student. We are working with the project to develop an evaluation metric. The chapter is willing to fund the initiative beyond the stipulated 2 years

3. Do you intend to continue funding the project for next 2 years? Can a site visit be arranged between June 2011 and Dec 2011?

Yes. We'll organize the site visit.

4. How is this proposal different from other proposals? (in case your chapter received more than 1 proposal for this grant)

The other proposal was received from Gramya project. It was concerning a similar teacher training and teaching aid procurement initiative. Navjyoti was referred to Asha Athens who are now submitting the proposal after having a discussion amongst themselves.



Chandan Dasgupta <chand0709@gmail.com>

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## QED approval for Navjyoti, Gramya and Vidya n Child

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Praveen Gopalakrishnan <gopalakrishnan.praveen@gmail.com>

Mon, May 9, 2011 at 11:26 PM

To: Abhyuday Mandal <treasurer@ashanet.org>

Cc: Rajeev Annaluru <a\_r\_kumar@yahoo.com>, srikanth voorakaranam <sri\_voo@yahoo.com>, Chandan Dasgupta <dasguptachandan@gmail.com>

Please note that project proposals belonging to Chicago (Gramya), Atlanta (Vidya), Athens (Navjyoti) were approved in QED calls.

thanks

praveen

[Quoted text hidden]

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Education is not the filling of a vessel but the kindling of a flame

-Socrates

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Chandan Dasgupta <chand0709@gmail.com>

## Navjyoti and Gramya QED proposals

Chandan Dasgupta <dasguptachandan@gmail.com>

Tue, Mar 8, 2011 at 9:20 AM

To: Praveen Gopalakrishnan <gopalakrishnan.praveen@gmail.com>

Cc: Rajeev Annaluru <a\_r\_kumar@yahoo.com>, Neena Majumdar <majumdar3@gmail.com>, mahesh.vemula@gmail.com, pujachebrolu@gmail.com, Saranya Venkatachalam <vsaranya710@gmail.com>, Abhyuday Mandal <abhyuasha@gmail.com>, Farzin Avari <farzin.avari@gmail.com>

Hi Praveen,

There were some questions related to Navjyoti that Neena and I could not answer and since Mahesh had also left, we (Rajeev, Neena and I) decided to have another call when Mahesh is there (and also someone from Athens if they want to participate in the discussion).

*However, we agreed that the QED fund disbursement process for Navjyoti need not wait for this next call...*

Here are the questions which came up during the discussion of Gramya and Navjyoti proposals (I'm combining the questions because the nature of the two proposals make these questions valid for both) -

- 1) Can the teacher training institute have their trainers come to the project center to follow up on how the teachers are implementing various teaching techniques and suggest changes in practice?
- 2) Recommendation: If the project feels that it needs funds for the teaching aids then we should not discourage that. Instead any additional requirement of funds (in addition to the QED grant) should be met by the chapter.
- 3) Does the teacher training cover specific subjects?
- 4) What are the kids doing after they complete their education at Gramya (keep track of where they go and what jobs they take up)?
- 5) Recommendation: Suggest a model to the project where the alumni can return back to the project center and campaign to get more students enroll in the school. This can help counter the high attrition rate of students and also attract more students to the schools because these alumni are from the local area and serve as success stories for the local people (Pada-yatra / Cycle-yatra campaign.)
- 6) Recommendation: Shikshamitra will be organizing teacher training in Bengali. There is a high possibility of extending this training program in Hindi. Gramya and Navjyoti can take advantage of this initiative.
- 7) What kind of building is the Navjyoti schools housed in? Is Asha Samajik Vidyalaya going to be merged with the govt school (or run as a private center)? Since this project has been supported since the last 10 years (approx.), what sort of impact are these Samajik Vidyalayas having on the community? Are there changes in the student's attitude and academic performance?  
What kind of space does Navjyoti have to accommodate the Science lab and other setups (e.g. computer etc.)?

Please add if I have missed something.

Thanks,  
Chandan

On Tue, Feb 15, 2011 at 12:17 AM, Praveen Gopalakrishnan <[gopalakrishnan.praveen@gmail.com](mailto:gopalakrishnan.praveen@gmail.com)> wrote: