

Q&A from Annual Project Update of NJSS – July 2020

The following questions came up during the meeting on July 6th, 2020

- **Have they interacted with Sangamam, Rajatalab project? Do they see a useful partnership with the project?**

A: Nandlal has requested learning materials (CDs) and teacher trainings with Suresh and Rajaram. No meaningful activity has happened between the two groups. We should talk to Rajaram about including ASV school, and its teachers for training opportunity.

- **Do the girls earn any income from selling products they make after learning at Kishori Kendra?**

A: The KSK are used for mainly training for the girls. The girls who do well set up their own centers or they help with coordination at the KSK. They decided not to focus on production so as to not compete with the girls who are training there.

- **Girls who finish 6th in ASV, do they all continue to attend high grades in Govt. school? Does anyone go to Kishori Kendra?**

A: Children attend government or private school after ASV. Earlier there were lots of dropouts but now there is a lot of awareness about education and maybe 70-80% go on to high school. There are more boys who go on to high school compared to girls.

Girls attending KSK are mostly those who dropped out or did not go to schools. Older girls from ASV do join KSK during the summer break and during the summer camp.

- **Is there any Govt. support teachers' salary? Nethra mentioned that AP govt is planning to support 3 months teacher's salary.**

A: Govt support is not available for private schools.

- **What is the stipulation under RTE for children to attend school? How does it affect children who drop out after middle school, especially girls?**

A: It is compulsory for children under 14. Guardians can be jailed if children do not go to school and are employed but this rule is not really enforced. Children of migrant laborers move from place to place and the rules are not implemented.

- **Is there continuity between ASV -> KSK -> SHG?**

A: These are three different programs. Asha ASV center at Nagepur covers 3 villages - Nagepur, Benipur and Mehdiganj.

The KSK covers 10 villages which are about 3 kms away from each other. SHGs - many children who study at ASV and KSK later do go on to join SHG if they are living in an area with a SHG running. KSK and SHG are running in same villages and there is definitely some continuity there.

Also talk to the guardians of the girls training at KSKs and try to maintain continuity to SHGs. KSK is not only about sewing - lots of health info, protests, educational events, campaigns etc. and that is only possible because of the close contact with the mothers in SHGs.

- **How many of the children who join ASV and KSK, have their mothers in SHGs**

A: 20-25% of ASV children have mothers in SHG, and 50-60% of KSK girls have mothers in SHG