**Minutes of Meeting-June 27**

We concluded an informative call for supporting a new project with Aavishkaar and Nari Gunjan organizations based in Palampur, HP and Patna, Bihar respectively. We were joined by Mrs. Sandhya from Aavishkaar and volunteers from Asha Purdue- Akshay, Ganesh, Prasoon, Praveen, Srivathsan, Vidhi, and myself. Few points from the discussion are as follows:

Aavishkaar works to nurture students' creativity and critical thinking skills with the help of custom made hands-on modules made from easily accessible materials which deliver simple concepts in science and maths in local languages/easily understandable jargon. They conduct residential workshops at their Palampur based campus for students from many of the northern states of India including HP, J&K, Punjab, Rajasthan, Bihar, etc. The idea of these 30 days workshops is to not only make students from 6-10th classes understand and assimilate scientific concepts in a fun and engaging way but also to inspire them to develop critical skills of scientific inquiry into simple phenomenon around them. They are also then taught how to develop such hands on experiments themselves and then conduct science fairs when they go back to their local community/schools where they demonstrate and explain these experiments to the other students, thus infusing them with confidence and making the whole model of teaching more inclusive and sustainable.

Among a variety of under-priviledged demographics supported by this institute, one that attracts special attention is that of the musahar community based in Bihar which are considered to the poorest of the poor and socially disadvantaged communities of the region. Aavishkaar partners up with Nari Gunjan, a 15 year old organization which champions the causes of this community and conduct 4 workshops each year for around 20 girls in each workshop from Nari Gunjan. More about the brilliant work done by Nari Gunjan and it's founder [Sudha mam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudha_Varghese) can be found online.

The proposal is to support 1 or 2 month long workshop for 20-25 girls from Nari Gunjan at Aavishkaar. The cost is Rs. 700 per student per day plus travelling charges. (Totalling to roughly around Rs. 5,00,000 for 1 workshop). Aavishkaar was advised to submit a project proposal in the Asha template.

Overall feedback on the project by all the volunteers was largely positive although few things need to be clarified in the subsequent correspondence. Please post any questions or comments about the project on this thread. I will also be updating with any progress or news about the project on this thread.

Thanks!