

## Asha Austin Chapter

<b>Project:</b>	Prasanna Jyothi
<b>Purpose:</b>	Monthly update call.
<b>Time/Date/Location:</b>	9.30pm (CST)/05/11/09/ Conference Call
<b>Attendees:</b>	Sundari Maami, Sharanya Rao & Shriya Ravikumar

### Meeting Minutes:

#### Contingency Expenses on 2010-2011 Budget:

- 1) In the 2010-2011 PJ budget, contingency expenses were included to account for the adoption of approximately 6 additional children over the next near year.
- 2) When inquired about this, Mami mentioned that PJ is in the process of expanding and plans to adopt that many more children over the course of the year. 1 orphan has already been adopted and they expect to take in a few more for the new academic year.
- 3) Mami will send the information on the new child once she gets more information. The child lost her father shortly after birth and her mother about 4 months back. She was adopted by PJ in April and the orphanage is continuing to make inquiries about her background and obtain details since there are no known living relatives so far. PJ has already admitted her to LKG class for this coming academic year. School re-opens on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

A new donor will need to be found to support this child. She is 4 years old. Although she cried her first day at PJ, she adapted well and plays with the other children with comfort now. She is healthy and Mami mentioned that she is smart as well.

- 4) Sharanya and Shriya will send other questions regarding the budget and financials to Sundar Rajan-ji. Additionally, Mami was also informed of Asha's decision to support all line items related to education except for the contingency fees. As and when new children are adopted, Asha will make the decision to disburse additional funds.

#### Follow-up Question from Asha Meeting:

- 5) Regarding whether all students get tuition, Mami mentioned that all the kids who need help do get tutored. Aside from Sundari Mami and Ratna Aunty who mainly tutor the younger children, Asha member Sanjeev's mother also volunteers at PJ to tutor the children for Hindi and 10<sup>th</sup> standard material for one of the older girls. PJ also hires a tutor. She mainly tutors for the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade children although she will also help whoever needs it. The LKG/UKG children are tutored in mid-morning after the return from school at noon. The older children are tutored later in the evening (4-6.30pm).

The tutors teach across most subjects. The warden only teaches Kannada though. The session happens in groups where one set of students are given questions to be answered while another set is being taught and in the second session the roles swap.

Mami mentioned that the tuition is absolutely necessary to help the children study and do their homework. Otherwise, they tend to go out and play. Typically, the children study from 4-6.00pm or so, play for a bit, and then go take their bath for the evening.

- 6) Regarding the education vacation tour on the budget, Mami mentioned that it was referred to the summer camp that the children attended for dancing, arts, etc as well a field trip (similar to the Mysore trip last year). They are planning on taking the children on an excursion once the weather gets cooler, but as of now the location has not been decided yet. Mami will send us an email once it is known.
- 7) Regarding the 2 girls who are not in school, Mami mentioned that the donations for them mainly go towards their living expense. The girls help out at the orphanage, take care of the younger children, and also help out in the kitchen.

When asked about why they dropped out of school, Mami mentioned that they were simply not able to grasp the material well and unable to cope.

When asked about the long-term plans for them, Mami mentioned that she will check with trustee and get back to us. We suggested potentially admitting the girls in vocational training of sorts to develop lucrative skills sets. Mami mentioned that it was a good idea and that if we send her a short email proposal about it, she will bring it up with the trust.

#### General update on children:

- 8) All the children are healthy and doing well.
- 9) The younger children especially enjoy playing games, running outside, and skipping and playing volleyball at school. No particular child is exceptional or has shown great interest in sports outside of that. The children compete in Sports Day at school every year. One of the girls won in the musical chairs contest this year at Sports Day.
- 10) Child 1 is very fond of sports and is typically the first out at 4pm to play. She is also very good at drawing and Mami is planning on sending her to formal drawing/arts coaching next summer. This can only be done during the holidays since the classes are located relatively far away from the orphanage. Child 1 mainly does free-hand portraits and the teachers at school praise her a lot. Mami mentioned that she is not as interested in regular studies though, although she still performs well at school.
- 11) Child 2 and 3 also enjoy drawing. All 3 will do their homework and draw under their work in their notebooks.

12) Child 4 who is a little older and the only teenager now dances very well. The dance teacher comes twice a week either, every Friday and Sunday or Saturday and Sunday to teach folk/film music dances. Several of the younger children enjoy singing and dancing as well. Child1 in particular sings very well.

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Others:

13) Asha will prepare for the next disbursement this week and PJ should receive it sometime over the next 2 weeks.

**Action Items:**

No.	Action Item	Assignee	Status
1.	Send background on new girl.	Sundar Mami	
2.	Send Mami proposal for 2 older children outside of school to get vocational training.	Shriya/Sharanya	
3.	Send Mami confirmation once next disbursement of funds in submitted.	Sharanya	