

QED proposal - Gramya – Asha Chicago

Chapter meeting minutes (approval)

Part B: Information to be filled by Asha chapter that is recommending this proposal to be funded.

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): Chandan Dasgupta, Neena Majumdar, Preeti Gupta, Unmesh Jadhav, Tara Pai

Gramya is trying to start a teacher training initiative under the QED grant and focus on building and procuring teaching aids to give hands-on learning experience to the kids. As a chapter, everyone agreed that this was a very good direction for the project which has been funded by Asha-Chicago since 2001. Gramya (and Bindu ji) is a very respected project/person in the area and has very good relation with the local community. With this QED initiative, we feel that Gramya can improve its impact in the context of children's education. Teacher training would help expose the teachers to alternative teaching methods and help them use teaching aids effectively.

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?

Work still needs to be done to develop/improve the evaluation metrics and tools but this will be an ongoing process and we will coordinate with Gramya on this. To us, success of this initiative would mean that the teachers who get trained are able to help their peers get up to speed on the new teaching methods and the general competency (academic,

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life-skills, etc.) of the children would improve after this initiative. Chapter is willing to support the initiative after 2 years of QED funding.

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. Site visit will be done as suggested.

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

The second proposal was received from Navjyoti project. It was concerning a similar teacher training and teaching aid procurement initiative. We decided to support this initiative by Gramya because of its remote location and lack of any other funding source. The other proposal has been referred to Asha-Athens for consideration, as they are not submitting a QED proposal of their own.



Chandan Dasgupta <chand0709@gmail.com>

QED approval for Navjyoti, Gramya and Vidya n Child

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



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> wrote: