

Sahyog Updates! Check here for latest developments....

Posted May 17th, 2006

Sahyog has an Asha intern!

This summer Sahyog will have an intern as part of Asha for Education's internship program. Ami Vaghani will be working at Sahyog-Jari Mari for 6 weeks starting in July. The folks at Sahyog are very excited to have her. Ami will be keeping notes on her experience so check back here for updates!

Posted March 3rd, 2006

The Sahyog team of teachers and community organizers and volunteers has always been at the heart of all the good work that goes on at Sahyog. Drawn mostly from the community, the team is highly competent and committed. In a recent development, Neha Madhiwalla who was a co-founder, coordinator and project contact moved to CEHAT's Centre for Studies in Ethics and Rights and decided to withdraw from the day-to-day management of Sahyog. This is an important step in the evolution of Sahyog.

As Neha put it "Since the very beginning of Sahyog, we had consciously decided that it would be a democratically run and managed organization. Hence, we ensured that there was a formal process of electing team in-charges and collective management. Partly, it was because I was still in a full-time job and it was not possible for me to do everything hands-on. This is a very important task because it ensures the sustainability of the organization beyond the life and inclinations of the founder and at the same time, it does wonders for the sense of ownership that the staff feels about the organization."

However as Sahyog grows in its activities and alliances the core team is really overburdened. In addition there are certain tasks like fund-raising, documentation, networking, which require knowledge of English and professional training. In order to address these issues, Sahyog recently hired a professional social worker to join the team. Archana is a trained social worker (masters degree) and has worked as a counselor in a palliative care unit and then as a program officer in a small funding organization in Mumbai. She will join Farzana who leads the community health program and Bharti who is the program assistant.

Neha continues to be involved with Sahyog. She still spends one day a week in Sahyog. A formal collaboration between the centre and Sahyog is to begin in a couple of months. The Center will do a retrospective study of the girls' school program to do a full documentation of the intervention and its impact.

Sahyog is a member of both the 'right to education' and 'right to health' campaigns in Maharashtra. Next month, Sahyog is going to make an hour-long presentation on the life-skills training program that was developed at Sahyog at a state-level conference at Aurangabad.

Since WAH 2005 we have also had 2 site visits to Sahyog. Sathyan Subbiah of the Asha-Atlanta chapter visited in December and Hemang Kapasi of the Berkeley chapter visited in January 2006. There site visit reports and photographs can be found at

http://www.ashanet.org/projects-new/documents/363/SiteVisit_Hemang.pdf

<http://www.ashanet.org/projects-new/documents/363/SitevisitDecember2005.pdf>