Conference Call Minutes

Date : Friday, August 6th, 2010 (India) / Thursday August 5th, 2010 (Austin)

Attendees : Vijaybhai (Project coordinator, Asha Samajik Vidyalaya, Reoti)
Kumar Abhinav, Ganesh Krishnamoorthy (Project stewards, Asha Austin)

1. Budget for 2010-2011

- The overall budget amount has decreased from 2009-2010 by approximately INR 25,000 since two teachers left the school in the last year and only one replacement (Anupama) was hired (paid at a lower rate given her teaching experience). Another factor is the contribution from the local community (see below)
- Some of the amount approved for teachers' training (INR 8000) & health check up (INR 5000) from the 2009-2010 remains unused and will also be deducted from the budget for 2010-2011
- Vijaybhai will send the receipts for June disbursal (2nd disbursal for 2009-2010) amount in the next two weeks.
- For the forthcoming year, there is a component in the budget that includes community contribution of approximately Rs.10 per student from the parents of the children in the school. This was raised to provide sense of ownership to the guardians towards the school. This amount is reflected in the 2010-2011 budget (INR 10,000).
- The line item for travel expenses to the Asha conference in the budget is for two teachers from the school to attend the conference each year.
- Vijaybhai to discuss with Vallabh regarding a higher % increase in the teachers' salaries (the amount proposed in the new budget seems to be not proportionally commensurate to the rate of inflation and the workload for the teachers)
- The budget will be presented for approval to the Asha Austin chapter in mid-August.

2. Students' Updates

- Grades 4 and 5 are conducted jointly as the number of students in these classes is low.
- Vijabhai mentioned that even though the number of teachers in the school has reduced (by 1), given the experience of the remaining teachers and the number of students there is not an urgent need to hire a new teacher. But the school is still on the lookout for a suitable candidate.
- The school has helped some of the students who passed from grade 5 gain admission to the local government school
- Approximately 25 students in grade 4 have returned (presently in grade 5).
- 2-3 students did not return and the teachers are trying to determine the reasons.
- The school has about 25-30 new students in the lower grades (the overall number of students is expected to increase slightly to between 130-140 students)

- Vijaybhai will send the list of students for the forthcoming year soon.

3. Teacher Training

- Teacher training was conducted for two days in Varanasi on 31st July and 1st August.
- Teachers from both the ASV schools in Reoti and Bhaisahan went for the training.
- L.K Shukla from Ekalavya will come to Ballia for teacher training in September (other training sessions conducted by the organization are expected to begin in October and hence the ASV school is trying to get them to visit Reoti before that happens)
- Mr. Shukla is also involved in an organization called Jagrati which runs on-site schools for the children of brick kiln workers in Kanpur.
- Vijaybhai will talk to Maneesh Pandey (of Gramin Shiksha Kendra, another project supported by Asha Austin in Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan) about teacher training if the ASV school faces problems similar to last year in conducting the teachers' training. This will be done after October.

4. Health Checkup

- Despite Vijaybhai's efforts, the school could not get a doctor to visit to conduct a health check up camp last year.
- Inviting doctors from the government-run Primary Health Care center is an option but the doctors are extremely busy and hard to get an appointment
- A private doctor who helped the project last year will be contacted to see if he can help out again this year with the health checkup.

5. Miscellaneous Updates

- Stewards from Asha Austin will contact Asha Corvallis on Vijaybhai's behalf to enquire about support for the other ASV school in Bhaisahan, since he was facing some issues in getting in touch with them.