

Meeting minutes of VARUN – August 10th 2011

(action item in 'red' addressed at the bottom)

VARUN [Neehar]

<http://www.ashanet.org/projects/project-view.php?p=458>

- VARUN focuses on an overall social development goal in remote Chandauli (literacy, schools, health, agriculture, etc.)
- They've had the govt take over many schools started by them
- We started funding Jharia last year, and this year, the govt. has taken over the school
- Danavgadh is a new school included in our budget instead of Jharia
- Shahpur junior school was funded last year, and will receive govt funding this year, so we wont be funding them
- We continue to support Shahpur middle school
- We are also going to be funding 240 children this year instead of 384 last year
- Jharia had 111 students, and Danavgadh is expected to have about 40 only
- 25 children are going on to 9th grade
- **Neehar to find out why some 50 odd children are dropping out**
- Q: Why do some schools get taken over by the govt, and other dont? Can we replicate the successes in other schools?
- Govt take over is motivated by the extent of community involvement, social groups lobbying etc.
- Some schools are extremely remote (Dhobahi, Hathini, etc) and its unlikely that the govt can take over
- Even after a govt takes over, community support and VARUN's activity continues, and they appoint teachers to the school
- They continue to monitor mid day meals etc beyond govt take over of schools (by product of a social audit culture)
- S P Singh continues to coordinate all aspects of VARUN including the education component (we were trying to hire a separate education coordinator -- and that has not happened)
- They have been filing RTIs and conducting RTI awareness campaigns (18 gatherins in 12 villages -- talked to over 500 folks) (4-block level, 1-district level, 3-state level applications)
- VARUN promoted Women's Federation has grown to 2000 members. This year few contested and won in Panchayat elections
- VARUN helps these women get jobs etc.
- VARUN has helped women create a Seed and Grain bank. VARUN provided initial seeds -- now there are 37 farming clubs as a part of this federation.
- They have been pushing the MNREGA, organizing meetings, getting job cards, jobs etc for folks, and following up with social audits

- Asha Parivar has been participating in the MNREGA activities -- check out YouTube video of Santosh from Asha Parivar explaining work done in Naugad village in Chandauli (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dgKUVVdjSzA>)
- Budget was 4.3 lakhs, and have removed stitching instructor salaries etc. -- current budget finally is about 3.7 lakhs (19+% reduction from last year)

Response to action item – mail on yahoogroups September 11th 2011

Sub: Re: [ashasv-vol] Asha meeting minutes from 8/10/2011

Hi All,

This is a follow up mail related to the action item mentioned in thread below in Red, about children dropping out.

These are number of children enrolled in each of the schools:

Shahpur 63
Sukhdeopur 31
Hathini 22
Pathraur 42
Dobhai 23
Danavgarh ~40

It is expected to be 225 children in total, compared to last year's ~383.

Reasons for reduced number of children:

1. In Shahpur, the number of children have reduced because the children who were supposed to appear in the 8th std exam were put back into. So, there has not been significant enrolment in these classes.00
2. Number of children in Sukhdeopur has gone down from 87 to 31. This school was having children from nearby villages and now since schools in nearby villages have been running as expected, these children are not counted this year.
3. School in Jharia that had 111 children has been handed over to Govt.
4. Currently Shahpur has only classes 1,2 and 3. Children in class 5 previously were put back into class 3. They are currently trying to find a solution for this.

Conversation with Dr. SP Singh:

- A few volunteers are teaching girls and boys who have enrolled in classes 9 and beyond on request from villagers.
- Dr. Singh was busy in visiting children in Sukhdevpur and Hathini because new borns and infants were getting sick and were on the verge of dying.
- They are trying to build a bathroom and install a hand pump using local funds they could raise.
- Hand pump was not installed on time during summer because they were short of Rs.10000.
- People are motivated enough to work during mid-summer for this.
- They want to stress more also on health apart from education. (Need to talk on priorities).
- Have again emphasized on finding someone who can help Dr.Singh as he is driving most of the projects.

On the same note, **could you please vote on VARUN's poll** if you have not done yet?

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ashasv-vol/surveys?id=3062405>

Thanks,
Neehar

Question

Do you approve funding to support the activities of VARUN for the year 2011-2012 for an amount of Rs.3,87,500? Related presentation and site visit documents are at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ashasv-vol/files/Temp/VARUN> and project website is <http://www.ashanet.org/projects/project-view.php?p=458>

Responses

Choices	Votes	%	1 reply	Respondents
YES	11	100	<input type="text" value="100%"/>	neeharj@... tomadhu@... vinod.2@gmail.com viv.bhandari@... radhika.sinha@... ppendse.asha@... menondilip@... kiran_akunuri@... manoj.bhattacharyya@... sachrai@... aaroHi.amit@...
NO	0	0	<input type="text" value="0%"/>	