Reward Trust (Rural Education Welfare And Resource Development Trust)

Project review and Conference call discussion
by
Apoorva Mohan
Project location

Chennai

Kalpakkam

40 miles

Nuclear power plant
The backbone of the project!

Shridhar
Kalavathi
Anandhi
REWARD

- Upgrading the local primary and middle schools to higher levels
- Along with PTA and schools, recruit teachers to suit the needs of the school
  - Train the teachers by different means
- Enhance the children learning experience by SMART tests and activity based learning [ABL]
Outcome of their efforts

• 3 schools have been upgraded from middle to higher schools
• 1 to higher secondary
• 50-60 teachers have been added to 17 schools
• The teacher: student ratio has improved from 1:100 to 1:40 - 1:50. Their aim 1:10!!!
• Overall increase in pass percentage and the performance of the students [10 – 30% to 60-100%]
Outcome of their efforts- Increase in performance!!!!

Manamai Govt High School

Venkampakkam Govt High

Vayalur Govt High School

Natham High School
Teacher training

• Every 4th Saturday- a day long training held by trustees, experts from outside, guest lectures
• Simple science projects demo by fellow teachers
• A year end project
• The other govt teachers really appreciate the rigorous training!
Activity based learning [ABL]
Activity based learning [ABL]

- Established by TN govt in all schools
- Basically, using aids instead of textbooks to improve the learning experience for all subjects
- Ananthi is the in-charge for ABL
- Also, annual days are being held to promote the cultural activities of the children – drama, competitions etc. Prizes given.
- A huge hit among the children 😊
SMART tests

• Question papers designed on par with competitive exam levels to test the acumen

• 3 SMART tests every year, for teachers 1 every April

• Top 10 students from each subject take this. ~700-800 students

• Different prizes- intra/inter school/Prestige prize- ~Rs 18000 in prize money

• Done with the QED money from AshaPrinceton- $1200. But their expenditure for this 1.75 lacs!
Budget

• Each teacher costs ~Rs 1 lakh/annum So 50 teachers- 50 lakhs

• For 2013-14
  – Silicon Valley- 25 lacs
  – Stanford- 13 lacs
  – Princeton- 11.8 lacs
But...

- SV cutting the budget by 20% every year and Princeton also cutting
- This is their estimate
  - SV- 20 lacs
  - Stanford- 13 lacs
  - Princeton – $15,000
  - Their other funding initiative [Rs.5000 from 1000 people/year] - 12 lacs
Their request

Rural Education Welfare and Resource Development Trust
July 1 2014- June 31st 2015 Annual Budget for 5 primary / middle school teachers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Teacher*</th>
<th>Current School*</th>
<th>Salary range</th>
<th>Max Salary</th>
<th>Max Annual Salary</th>
<th>Max Incentive</th>
<th>Max Annual Pay</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full time Teacher</td>
<td>Government primary or middle school</td>
<td>6000 - 6500</td>
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**TOTAL SALARY (RS)**

Rs. 422500

**TOTAL SALARY (USD)**

USD ~7000
Conference call attendees

- Shiva Halan
- Apoorva Mohan
- Amey Barde
- Subashree Rajagopal (Asha NYC/NJ)

- Mr. Sridhar, Mrs. Kalavathi Sridhar and Ms. Ananthi from REWARD
Conference call- our questions

1. What happens to the students once the REWARD teachers are replaced by the govt appointed staff, in terms of their performance?

For the first time, they are monitoring this year 10th and 12th class results in specific subject, how the students fared when a REWARD teacher moved. SO we will know by May-June!
Conference call- our questions

2. What if AshaSV and other chapters completely cut their funding? Will the proj be still functional?

Since the commitment AshaUF will be making is teacher to teacher basis, for the funding they receive, that many teachers will still hold their jobs. And the local funding provides them ~12 lakhs. So a very minute chance that the entire proj will be scrapped!

But, pulling out the teachers coz of lack of funding might affect REWARD credentials, they didn’t have a solid answer to that.
Conference call discussion

• They have plans to expand to other villages, but it depends on the funding available –

   Amey and Shiva can give their inputs!