

Asha Samajik Vidyalaya Conference call - Saturday, September 10th, 2005

8:30 am - 10:15am

Attendees: Sonia Singh (ASV), Chunnilal (ASV), Sirish (AshaDC), Caroline (AshaAZ)

1. Project report - Sonia Singh - 60 minutes

General: Sonia - Kids are very happy to go to school. 35 children were able to go to school. 32 children registered (same kids or different-sirish)

Report sent to India accidentally. Sonia's e-mail: sonia_asha_1979@yahoo.com

ASV report: Total number of teachers in team: 14 (Sonia, Chunnilal, Naren, Gulitza, Mehnaz, Ritika, Sacchi, Poonam, Tanvir, Usha, Ranjana, Rajkumari, Anjali, Malti)

Charbagh station- sonia - not going on so well, police harassing, news paper (bomb blast) - 2-3 months, nobody is allowed to enter railway station.

Some of the kids have nobody. Want to adopt these kids. Some kids are afriad and have left. Manoj and shyamsundar used to run a tea stall (chai ki dukaan). Thekhedaars have closed down the stall. This has shaken the kids confidence. Shyamsundar is now in calcutta, manoj is still around. He used to run a paan stall (paan ki dukaan). 10 little kids are still around. Need to still adopt them. Look for a place to adopt them and educate them. Take complete responsibility of them. Govt. shelters are in a horrible condition.

Sirish has contacts with govt. shelters and will work on contacting them. More info. next month.

ASV Nadwa -

Teachers: chunnilal, rajkumari, naren, ritika

Time: 8-12/12:30

No. of Kids: boys 45, girls 25 (older kids 45, newer kids -25)

Venue: Class is held below pipal tree, 1500 rupees - donated by Vineet - help for a shelter-tent with canvas within basti, rain issues, local resident's have given 2 more jhopdi's to hold class (nursery, 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th), divided into 3 classes.

Chunnilal's update - sonia works really hard, started nadwa and springdale.

Chunnilal has been teaching since 2 years, 9th january Nadwa was started -kids of rickshaw puller, stone breakers, hindu-muslim conflicts (social issues)

Sirish - can we add more shelters to help kids. Actual costs Rs. 2500, Soniaji put in 1000 rupees, when adjoining schools saw this set-up the students from adjoining schools also started coming to ASV. Parents were approaching Soniaji, Chunnilal and team to get their kids to attend ASV.

Clothes drive, medicine - 80 out of 100 kids have stopped begging due to

education. Kids want to stay in school instead of going back to the village (as parents have been forcing due to the floods), they have said no to their parents. We care for these kids and are happy that they want to stay in school and stay in the basti. Parents were forced to stay back and take some help from govt. Soniaji and Chunnilalji are also helping. Really dirty basti. Now they are trying to be clean. In case of any problems, Kids/parents are encouraged to approach any of the teachers 24 hours. Chunnilal lives in Indiranagar. Talked about kids with mental issues. Sirish suggested calling them kids with Maansik rog issues instead of calling them "paagal". Such kids don't like to be called paagal and feel bad. Sirish potentially visiting India in November.

ASV Indiranagar, Springdale

Teachers: chunnilal, retika, poonam, sonia, malti, ranjana

Time: 3-5:30 pm, senior kids extra 1 hr

No. of Kids: 104, Girls -64, boys- 40, 75-80 kids attend regularly, rest don't make it regularly since they are working or fall ill. If they miss more than one class, teachers go and check on them.

Venue: Classroom at Springdale College

Kids show up before time and love to stay around and don't want to leave.

Survey of kids, bring more kids to school,, classes - different grades, KG (playgroup - no writing, teaching thru stories -ranjana/ritika), 1st and 2nd - sacchi, 3rd & 4th -Poonam , 5th - Rajkumari, 6th thru 9th - sonia & chunnilal, english - manisha (sonia's sister), 9th & 10th - Math -Chunnilal, Science - Sonia, NSW group came to ASV to help with education in springdale, nadwa (Thursday, Friday, Saturday), uncle (Arora Saab - 3:30 - 5:30) teaches every Saturday - baalsabha & nutrition /other issues, story telling, improvement, make items like envelopes through waste materials. Diwali approaching - On Monday's - group taught to make diyas (2 teachers and 2 students are being trained) to be sold at stalls 2 weeks before Diwali, police don't allow more than 1 stall - corruption

ASV - Kailashkunj, Gandhigram

Teachers: Mainaz, Poonam - education, Gulitza (stitching classes)

Time: 8-12 noon

No. of Kids: 45 kids, boys -27, girls -18

Venue: Kids are taught in Mainaz and Gulitza's house.

15 kids of these go to formal (private) schools. They come to ASV on Saturday's and explain what they learnt throughout the school week.

Experience is that they learn a lot at those schools . At PTA meetings, Sonia will know what the progress has been and will then be evaluated. School has started in July. Seventh grade admissions (Motilal girls admission) met with their teachers and noted their good progress. Write about their progress.

Sonia to send report about their progress. Parents are also involved in meeting with teachers and noting the students progress. Constantly meeting with parents to ensure that students are studying at home and not just doing housework. Parents are being told that it is their responsibility first. 18 new students have been enrolled. Health classes, baalsabha, 1st&2, 3rd & 4th , 5th (only about 2 students) - 2nd class

ASV -Ringroad, Vikasnagar

Teachers: Sonia, Chunnilal

Time: 12-2,

No. of Kids: 80 kids

Venue: Below the tree (see below for latest venue development)

Parents of kids are rickshaw drivers, or do housework. Loretto college-they had held a health camp and said that they will give a place within a shop. But that shop is too small. We are thinking of putting up a shelter (LDA Lucknow Development Authority land). LDA resisted. Slowly Sonia will set-up shelter in Basti. Playgroup to 5th grade.

ASV - Lakhushnagar

Teachers: Ranjana, Sacchi, Sonia.

Time: 1:00 - 3:00 pm

No. of Kids: 60 kids

Venue: Below the tree

Language issues (assamese dialect), parents - kabaadi, kids sell polythene bags. Originally started for women. After survey realized that women wanted to be educated. Then we realized that kids need to be educated as well. Older girls learn stitching. Muslim families. Girls not allowed to go out. 5th standard - 5 girls. Rest - primary to 4th std. Govt. exams. 15 kids admitted to school. 18 women come to school. Started teaching below the tree. The women themselves set up an area for classes. One side women, the other side kids. Sonia is still evaluating what grade level these women are at.

Seventh center - In front of Basti Navbatsa.

This ASV was started one week ago. It already has about 100 kids- usha is the teacher. Kids are from ages 6-15, Time: 9 - 12

venue: At Basti. Trying to streamline and come up with a system for this center.

Syllabus- books purchased, 5th std. - govt. syllabus since exams are held per govt. stds. 2-5 students: 1set, teacher - 1set, lakhushnagar and springdale - lot of improvement, Science, math, english, writing books. Future every kid will have one set. Teachers have all the book sets.

Sirish: Rajeshwar wants to come to Lucknow.- could she help with ASV's?

2. Q & A - 30 minutes

Questions:

Caroline: Why only kids from Springdale and Kailashkunj send to private schools

Sonia: Its an experiment. Level of kids from the rest of the centers is not there yet. Eventually all kids will be sent to private schools.

Action Items:

1. Stitching classes: Sonia Singh sent samples of jute bags, mobile covers, files, prepared with a lot of hard work through bhawani singh (Asha volunteer). Volunteers requested to critique it and give more input. File covers are more in demand.
2. Sonia to send ASV photos with Sandeep.
3. Sonia to send report on kids progress (before and after entering ASV)
4. Sonia to send funding request budget for 2006 for review and discussion with ashaaz/ashadc volunteers
5. Caroline to e-mail sonia preliminary budget.
6. Sonia to e-mail ASV report and funding confirmation