Asha meeting minutes 05/19/2010

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Attendees: Venki, Dilip, Pankaj, Madhu, Meena, Vijay, Sachin, Prema, Bhanu, Murali (on phone from Austin)

GSK update: Pankaj & Murali

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- Asha has supported since 2005 (Austin), and SV from 2008

- 2 rural schools at Jaganpura and Bodal

- 4 schools, 450 children

- Children make a daily newspaper, bal panchayat etc.

- Experienced staff (most have masters)

- Teachers spend time interacting with villagers

Q: Age group of kids

A: 11 of less. Some children have graduated from 8th grade from Rajasthan state board. Few kids in middle school - about 15-20

Q: Do they have a target for kids appearing in exam this year?

A: Not sure how many but yes. Will find out. The plan was to have GSK till 10th, but not enough students to do 9th and 10th. After becoming 12 years or so, kids become self learners, not needing as much attention.

- Started publishing creative journal called Morange (uploaded to our website too). 5th and 6th editions have come out.

Oct Edition

<http://docs.google.com/fileview?id=0B4MLGEMl2wuVMWEyN2YwM2UtMjQyZS00YTdiLWE1NjEtZDEyMzViMmU2MzI2&hl=en&pli=1>

Sept Edition

<https://docs.google.com/fileview?id=0B4MLGEMl2wuVYjMxNzUxMTEtOGExYy00ZjNmLWI0ZDUtMWE5YmIwZjI5ZDdi&hl=en>

- Poetry, drawing etc. by the children.

- Edited by locally accomplished poet, Prabhat (who is also a part-time teacher at GSK)

- Room 2 Read has sanctioned 1000 books for 2 schools each.

- We were supporting some construction in Bodal school, and that is complete.

- Local org called Aravali signed an MOU with GSK to study livelihood generation etc. Idea is to set up very high quality education centers as a model for other school, or for govt. to adopt them

- GSK is already working on an outreach program with some govt. schools: the teachers come over for some training etc.

Q: What will this be for? Kids going to 8th?

A: This is for the villagers - livelihood generation

- The main occupations are agriculture and animal husbandry apart from daily wage labour. Local economies have stagnated, and there is a lack of economic opportunities. They have been asking GSK to help with this.

- The board of GSK has some experience in these sort of programs

- Another good feature of this project is very high community ownership. They have lot of trust in GSK, and donate land, labour etc.

- Land for the first school we support was donated by about 19 farmers.

- New school was opened at Faria (8 kms from Bodal). Supported by another group - Yatra. This land (8 acres) was also donated by the community.

- They have about 100 children and doing well

- There has been so much demand that they feel they might have to go and open more schools. They have some more donated land (4 acres), and need funding for another school. Local IT commissioner is trying to raise 4-5 lakhs

- Site visit done by Zankhana, a Vibha employee in India

- Used to have workshops every 2 weeks, and are now doing weekly.

- Children play sports: cricket and hockey, from donated equipment.

- In Bodal, many children have moved from govt. schools to this school

Q: Asha and Vibha together could not meet the financial need of GSK. How did they manage?

A: They had extra support from IT commissioner and Yatra foundation support. Another FR avenue is consulting - 2 of the experienced staff from GSK go out and train teachers at other schools - 45 day workshop. Teachers who come in there pay about Rs.25000, so they expect to make about 2 lakhs there.

Budget:

Overall budget was Rs. 39 lakhs

Support from Asha Austin + WAH 10 lakhs

Expense Report available

Support from Asha SV Rs.14.6 lakhs

Disbursals so far: Rs.10.2 lakhs (Sep 2009)

Remaining: Rs.4.4 lakhs

Q: Do you know next year's budget?

A: Not really but it is likely to be similar

C: We are reviewing all the budgets at the chapter, Pankaj is in the loop.

Q: What is the shortfall we are looking at?

A: 20-30% would be great if Asha Austin or Vibha can cover that.

Q: Didn't you submit a grant application last year?

A: No, we weren't able to complete the application. The other one was the TATA trust application but that didn't go through.