Meeting Minutes (Asha SV) – April 29, 2009

Attendees (17 + 2)
Dial-in: Partha, Murali
* new vols (need to be added to ashasv-vol)

Gramin Shiksha Kendra (Pankaj, Murali)
- ICPA project from Asha Austin
- Introduction to the project presented
- Non-formal education
- Schools in Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan self-sustained (urban location, middle-class children)
- Asha supports Jaganpura & Bodal schools
- School in faria is upcoming
- Setup because the existing education setup was not adequate
- Model schools & outreach activities
- Goals: setting quality of education, establishing community-owned school
- 4 schools in the area
- Initial founder: management professional
- Teacher training for nearby schools conducted by teachers of GSK in May-June every year (45 days): around 15-20 teachers come from outside school and pay around 2000 Rs. for the training
- Pictures from Jaganpura school shared
- Education philosophy
  * Should be rational, based on scientific values
  * Enhance skills and learning ability rather than information
  * Develop thought processes
- Individual attention provided to each child
- activity based learning
- Evaluation is continuous, no exams are conducted
- There is lot of community participation, and it is ensured everybody contributes to the running of the school (e.g. land, labor in construction of the school, parent-teacher meeting, curriculum decisions, etc.)
- Teacher : student ratio is about 1:18
- Oldest kid at the school is about 12 yrs old
- Four children have mainstreamed into 8th standard at the Rajasthan board

Q: How have these children fared at the 7th exams?
- Funded by Asha Austin, Vibha, Asha SV, teacher training program, Yatra foundation & Save the children fund
- Renewal coming up in July
- Second half of the funds due to be disbursed