

Minutes from Asha SV Meeting of 07/22/2009

Attended by: Rajesh, Pankaj, Anshu, Meenakshi, Manoj, Mayank, Sachin, Shabbir, Vinod

Dial in: Murali (Asha Austin)

Gramin Shiksha Kendra – Pankaj, Murali

<http://www.ashanet.org/projects/project-view.php?p=603>

Pictures from 2009

SiteVisit: <http://picasaweb.google.com/murali.narasimhan/20090312Gsk#>

2009 SiteVisit report: <http://www.ashanet.org/projects-new/documents/603/asha-gsk-zankhana-23feb2009.pdf>

- GSK was set up because community did not see much value in the existing education system
- 3 model schools running right now
- GSK kids who went onto high school did well there, and so the high school headmaster, and later the DEO visited and wanted to understand their methods
- Teacher training is an intensive, interactive camp during the summer break
- Jaganpura and Bodal schools have 200 and 150 kids each [these are the schools we support]
- The school in Sawai Madhopur city is self sustaining
- Faria school is new this year and is supported by Yatra Foundation
- A typical day in the school involves the teaching part the earlier part of the day
- The rest of the day is spent in figuring out what to teach the next day and discussing where the children are etc
- the kids work in small groups in very collaborative environments [the kids sit on the floor, so the windows are at 2ft height]
- The pedagogy is a vertical one -- with kids at different activity levels in different subjects, and several groups at different levels in a classroom
- Bodal school has a pukka building now including toilet and drinking water facilities
- increased kids this year 350 now (from 300) -- so 3 new teachers (18 in total)
- average teacher salary is increased from Rs 7300 to Rs 11000
- Funding this year:
 - Austin + WAH: Rs 10.8 lakhs [\$21.4K approved from Austin]
 - Vibha: Rs 5.9 lakhs [\$12K approved from Vibha]
 - Remaining \$48K needs to be supported
 - We have an increased office support individual's salaries
 - We are looking at program activities including teacher's salaries -- this is a big component
- Community liaison officer go talk to the community and talk to them and urge the kids to come and talk to them
- Q: What does the school support assistant do? -- is the campus caretaker who keeps the sports equipment, also doubles up as the security guard at night
- Q: What goes into research and documentation? -- is GSK's outreach to other organization. They are documenting their syllabus in the form of books, papers

etc. cost is for publication etc. This will be a potential revenue stream in the future -- they have started this work last year.

- Q: What is part of the admin costs? -- stationary, phone etc. -- hard to predict exactly how much etc. 5% is the target amount
- Q: Capacity Building -- every fortnight the teachers have an internal day-long workshops and try to get development professionals to come for this. This cost is for continue -- includes some travel costs for teachers to go to some other org (annual exposure visit)
- Q: Teacher trainer/researcher -- keeps with current methods and latest ideas, and this person is focussed on keeping abreast of latest developments and also train the teachers
- Q: consultant support -- folks come to train the teachers and the kids in music/environment/theatre/drama about 75-80 consultant days in a year
- Murali has spoken with Yatra Foundation to pick up some part of the budget -- they are open to the idea, and want us to give an exact amount.
- GSK has also applied to Tata Trust and that evaluation has started -- but that will take upwards of 8-10months
- Pankaj will send an amount for SV disbursal and we'll discuss and figure out what we can support. We will definitely consider supporting at the level of last year