Background

AshaSV’s NGO partner, the Savidya Upasamiti, has requested the chapter to set aside some funds from the 2006-07 grants for administrative purposes. From the beginning of the project, the NGO’s members were working on a voluntary basis and a zero-overhead policy was maintained. However, as the project has grown in scope since 2005-06, the NGO has requested AshaSV to allot some money for administrative purposes.

The NGO’s claim is that the project would be better served if project stewards were appointed on the ground on a part-time basis. This need has arisen since the schools supported by the project are very far from each other. For example, the Kulethi village is ~175km from Haldwani. The NGO would like the part-time staff to ensure that requirements set forth by AshaSV in the project proposal are satisfied. For example, the staff can help keep track of the purchase of uniform and study aids, help organize the medical camps, track teacher & student attendance, get regular feedback from parents, teachers & students, etc. Also, as the project expands, more staff would be required to collect data such as student information, family information, school requirements etc. from schools in the region. This information will be used by the NGO to decide which schools can be supported by AshaSV.

Allocation of funds

The NGO does not wish to present a new budget proposal or an addendum to the 2006-07 proposal. The NGO has requested that AshaSV sync up its grant cycles with the school calendar in Uttarakhand. If AshaSV can do so, then there will be an amount of ~ INR 84,000 remaining in the grant. This excess amount is the result of delayed funding in the first year of the project. In 2005-06, the first installment of the grant amount reached the NGO in Oct’05. At the end of the Indian financial year, in Mar’06, INR 84,000 was remaining from the 2005-06 grant amount. The first installment of the 2006-07 grant amount reached the NGO in Sep’06. By this time, the remaining grant amount had been spent on teachers’ salaries, medical clinics etc. If AshaSV can sync up with the financial year in 2007-08, then the NGO will again have ~ INR 84,000 left in the project.

Request by Savidya Upasamiti

The NGO had requested that AshaSV for one of two options: (a) set aside a percentage of the grant amount, say 10%, for the maximum usable funds for administrative uses, or (b) set aside a lumpsum amount, say INR 50,000, for administrative purposes. The NGO has assured AshaSV that they will not use any funds for administrative purposes unless AshaSV gives written permission for the same.

Decision by Asha Silicon Valley

If the NGO feels that adding part-time staff to the project will help to better run the project, then AshaSV shall support the NGO’s request for allotting a certain amount to meet administrative costs. The chapter has decided to approve a lumpsum for the same. The NGO has requested INR 50,000 towards administrative purposes. However, since only a part of the academic year 2006-07 is remaining, AshaSV feels that the NGO can use a lesser amount. AshaSV has, therefore, decided to allow the NGO to set aside INR 40,000 for administrative purposes for the year 2006-07.

If AshaSV decides to continue supporting the project in the future, funds for administrative uses should be included as part of the project proposal.