1. **Project presentation notice sent to AshaSV-Vol Yahoo Group**

   The AshaSV-Vol Yahoo Group ([http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/ashasy-vol](http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/ashasy-vol)) was created in 2001 to facilitate discussions and decision-making among volunteers at the Silicon Valley Chapter.

2. **Minutes of meeting**

   Minutes of meeting posted on AshaSV-Vol Yahoo Groups
   - Attendees: Jayant (on phone), Dr. Hari Bist (Founder of Savidhya Upasamiti, visiting from India), Manav, Saurabh Tewari, Tushar, Prakash Jalan, Nehal Bandi
   - One of the most successful projects supported by Asha
   - Located in Uttarakhand, in a place called Haldwani
   - Objective: To improve quality of school education in Champawat region of Uttarakhand
   - In some schools, Govt. was non-committal, so it was up to organizations like Savidya to run the schools.
   - In the absence of the support, a lot of these schools may not have teachers. Schools would deteriorate, students would lose interest.
   - Goal is to provide additional resources/support/motivation to public school, to increase awareness. And to improve quality of education in public schools
   - Initiatives: (a) Local teachers, (b) Knowledge club members, (c) LASRC (Learning and Science Resource Center), (d) Institutions of Higher Education
   - Secondary goal is to participate in local community project efforts
   - Project components: (a) Support a school program, (b) Teacher training, (c) Workshops, (d) Vocational training, (e) Science experiments
   - LASRC: Has Library (books are rotated to different locations) and science Lab.
   - Prof. Harish Verma (IIT Kanpur) made 120 experiments for the lab
   - Siddh Jagran Seva: Organizes National Science Day every year, ongoing science lectures, senior citizens, Rs. 400 twice a month to monitor the new youth (unemployed educated youth) are teaching.
   - Totally 7 schools. 4 of them primary, and 3 middle schools.
   - Their students have received awards
   - Champawat is in the middle the villages are scattered around it. Along a ring road around Champawat.
   - Achievements:
     - Scholarships given to students
     - 5 students succeeded in NTSC in 2013 and 14
— SPIC-MACAY function, Main initiative from Dr. Pandey
— National Science Day
— Smarika Magazine published. A copy of the magazine was circulated in the room by Dr. Hari Bist.

- Azeem Premji Foundation sponsored Science workshop (info from Smarika magazine)
- Site visit conducted by Prof. Atul Joshi
- Enrollment is going down:
  - RTE requirement of 25% quota for outside students. So students go to private schools.
  - Govt sends mid-day meals to their homes
  - Dungrasethi and Dhakna are impacted by RTE. (see slide 36 for graph, after 2010 (RTE) enrollment has gone down). So Savidhya stopped supporting these schools.
  - Children not getting attention due to bad student to teacher ratio.
  - Other options for children: (a) Rajeev Navodaya: State school scheme, (b) Jawahar Navodaya: Central school scheme
- Project impact (slide 17): This is a good candidate for a Newsletter item.
- Budget for 2014-15 is 18,87,700. This is a 3.5% increase from last year. Mainly due to inflation and nominal salary increases.

3. Project renewal poll
Poll conducted on AshaSV-Vol Yahoo Group between 8th and 24th October 2014

Poll question
- Do you support renewing funding for Savidhya Upasamiti for 2014-15 for INR 18,87,700? This is a 3.5% increase from last year?

Poll results
- Yes: 13 (100%)
- No: 0 (0%)

[Image of Yahoo Group conversation]