

**Asha Austin Meeting
March 18, 2012**

Attendees: Mohit, Gaurav, Sindhu, Ranga, Bhaskar, Savitha

1. Update on Vision/Strategy 2012 (Part 2, Mohit)

Brief recap and update from where left off during previous meeting

Project selection focus - fund projects where we have a volunteer committed to do a site visit every year

Duration of the project - no project can be run forever with small amounts

Our goal with any project we take up, should be to become irrelevant to the project in 3 years

Help them get other sources of funding, grant writer to support this, help them achieve credibility, have a clear understanding with the project

AI: Becomes very hard to enforce for projects - say no site visit in 1.5 years

AI: Grant writer for projects in rural areas?

AI: To ask our established projects to find alternate sources of funding is extremely hard - manage somehow by scaling down programs, grow in some other way

3 years of guaranteed support

How do you define a 3 year metric in enabling an organization?

What is the voting process?

2. Khushboo Welfare Society (Ranga)

Ranga went over the questions which were raised in the previous presentation

Who can vote in the GBM?

April 2011 - Oct 2011 --> \$4053 is chapter money -- of which \$3128 is project specific,

Nov 2011 - Oct 2012 --> \$11,000 is WAH money

Nov 2012 - Dec 2012 --> \$2000 is expected WAH money which should come in once accounts are closed

Vote: Asha Austin approves \$4053 for KWS - for the time period from April to October 2011 towards salaries of 6 special educators associated with the Blessings school

Yes: 3

No: 1

Abstain: 2

Vote: Asha Austin approves \$11,000 for KWS - for the time period from November 2011 to October 2012 for money raised from WAH

Yes: 3

No: 1

Abstain: 2

3. Fellowship Nandlal Master (Gaurav)

- Get it approved out here before Chicago sends out their portion of the funding
- We still haven't used Chicago's amount
- Funding disbursements is still late in their cycle (where it has gotten delayed)
- Slides out here:

https://docs.google.com/file/d/0Bz8G3s3eAOxoYTIiNDcyODMtNGQ5Ny00YWM0LTk2MTYtYmVI NTBmYTUwMzZm/edit?hl=en_US&pli=1

- Reach to 15k people
- Awareness of elections, working for women's rights, impact grew in their neighborhood
- Sort of issues dealing with grew with time
- Local elected officials responsible for the constituents there
- Lot more money coming into the villages
- Target to reach out to communities which are under-represented
- Based on the year, different tribes have a vote
- Impact of RTE: one school will be registered and the other school will be shut down as they don't have their own school

Last 1.5 years, Nandlal's group working with Chance India Foundation

- Started taking English and Computer classes for the children
- Supported 50 odd children

Have good rapport with the BDOs

Women's Empowerment through self-help groups:

Another area they have worked with - women empowerment - self help groups 40 women; return rate is high due to peer pressure; high interest (still less than outside) goes back to self-group; loans are in the order of 500-1000 INR.

Q: Why is the interest charged so high? (2-3% a month, 25% a year)

Community marriage program:

Started off with 20, grew to 35 and now at 45 couples (this year), locally supported

Last year, collected 5 lacs in cash/gifts

Same gifts for newly married couples

Each of them given marriage certificate

Food served to 6000 people this time

Press coverage every year

Max support 50 couple marriages

Q: How many members in Lok Samiti?

NREGA Gender at work.

Phase 1: 30 villages surveyed.

Phase 2: Awareness program for women, especially dalit women

Phase 3: Make sure the benefits reach the women and see how it impacts their lives

Phase 4: Dialog with the government

NREGA workers gathering

Future plan:

1. Major focus will be to work with GAW on NREGA
2. Work with Asha India to figure out the future of the schools, once RtE comes into effect
3. Community marriage program

Proposal:

Asha Chicago to support for remainder of the year (six months) and project specific funds raised covering the next year

Gaurav went through the answers raised to questions in the previous meeting (Sept 18, 2011)
http://www.ashanet.org/projects-new/documents/707/Q&A_Nandlal_Fellowship_Sep2011.pdf

Total Amount: 3600\$

Project Specific Funds: 2000\$

Funding cycle from June 2011- June 2012

1. Asha Austin to support first half of the June 2011-Dec 2011
2. Asha Chicago to support second half Jan 2012 - June 2012

Vote: Asha Austin approves \$1925 for Fellowship Nandlal from June 2011 to Dec 2011 towards supporting fellowship expenses?

(1000\$ is from project specific funds raised for Fellowship Nandlal till March 18, 2012, and \$925 is from the chapter pool)

Yes: 6

No: 0

Abstain: 0