

Minutes of Conference Call: BGUS

Date: 26th Feb, 2010.

On call from BGUS: Coaching center teachers + pre primary teacherS + librarian + President + Secretary + Coordinator

On call from Asha: Monalisa, Debapriya, Shankar, Aravind, Karl, Ankur

I. General updates:

- All Pre primary schools going on – 278 students – 18 teachers paid
- Coaching – 281 student (instead of 300 students) – 21 teacher continuing – paid.
- There is no clear cut demarcation of the rank of the teachers. One of the teachers in BGUS has 20 years of teaching experience. According to Mr Chakraborty, generally every teacher gets 5% hike every year.
- Book bank – 385 student members (age: > class 10). Contributing Rs 15 ~20/mo?
- Reading room – WAH Construction for reading room is almost complete (only 7-8 days of work are remaining). Will open the reading room + book bank soon (1015 sq feet constructed area) (Rs 4,40,000 + locally collected money : 4,88,751)
- Work still left: Coloring is due. Table and computer have been ordered. Will arrive after coloring is complete
- Pre primary construction will be done by March 31.
- Reading room: Foundation for 3 floors was made. First floor is kitchen and second floor is reading room. Will send breakdown of costs with the report.

II. Self Sustenance/ Local contribution:

- Rs. 32,000 collected locally this year(They can at max get 20 % of their expenses covered from local contribution)
- Some money can be contributed by book bank members. Some pupils can pay Rs 2~Rs 5 per month, but there are many students who cannot afford that. This money can used to pay for electricity and some of the maintenance cost.
- Contribution by coaching students is Rs. 15-20 contribution. But most students are very poor and cannot afford this amount.
- No panchayati contribution as panchayats support their own program. BGUS does not receive this. They receive Govt. contribution (100%) in the nursing training program per Rural Health program.
- They didn't get a Govt. grant, some other school nearby got it
- BGUS focuses on Pre primary education for children between 3yrs-6yrs.(ECDCE- early childhood development care and education)
- They will try to look around for Govt. grants and let us know

- They prioritize their programs based on funding: Book bank most important program – for all students. Computer facility + internet is very important. The book bank is used by students in and above class10. There are some BSc and MSc students from neighboring village who are also benefitted by this Book Bank.

Shankar: What is the role of board members ? Are they only for BGUS ?

- 52 general members in organization. They elect a governing executive committee consisting of 7-15 members. (duration 3 years.) At present they have 11 members- President, VP, secretary, JS etc.
- Role of board members? Fund raising + executive. Success: Nursing & Midwife training center was solicited by board members. Govt. funded - Residential training for nurses and the program is also job guaranteed program.
- RCH: Mother – child program. Healthcare related. Also solicited by board members. Both are 100% Govt. funded program.

III. Communication with teachers:

➤ Coaching center Instructors:

A) Swapna Samantha

- Teaching since 2006. Teaches 2 levels – primary (class 1-4) & secondary(Class 5 and above): Total 11 students
- First she does the school work with them and later additional work. Parents of these students are not educated. So the students get no guidance at home. The coaching center teachers visit the schools of the students to keep track of student's progress.
- They also organize many cultural activities for students from time to time, like drawing competition, cultural programs etc. Today(Feb27th 2010 (IST) they have their HOLI celebration program where all the students from different villages are participating in different activities.

B) Pradip Pal: coaching teacher: works with 20 students – morning and evening classes. One of his student is a handicapped student.

- Along with teaching, he also visits homes of these students to council parents (mainly to create the awareness of the importance of the school education for their kids)+ students. Borrow books from library for extra education + Health counseling.

➤ Pre primary school teachers:

C) Kalpana Samantha

- 20 years of experience.
- Uses charts, nursery songs, books for students. Asha's funding has helped them to acquire books for the pre primary schools. Previously they used to teach only with charts and the impact was not that extensive. But with Asha's funding BGUS can afford

more books and that has helped to improve the program extensively. This has significantly reduced the early dropouts of the students in the primary school.

Aravind: How to know whether the reduction in dropouts is due to pre-primary school or due to coaching centre efforts?

According to Kalpana Samantha, the pre-primary education imbibes the school going habits in the kids at an early age and also makes the basic foundations so that these kids do not get scared when they first go to primary school. The coaching center helps them to keep up with the studies at school as the parents of these students are field workers and they have never been to school in their lifetime. So coaching center guides them while they are at school, which helps them to complete their school level education.

D) Rita Bagh – Kashipur Gram (Pre-Primary Teacher)

- Working since 1997. Teaches 30 students at present.
- She reported some problems → 3 classes (KG, KG-I and Nursery) held in one room and buildings are run down There is also no running water .The water tap is broken. She mentioned that many other villages have similar issues. Requested funds for construction.

IV) Fund position: Recd: Rs 8,53,633 including Rs 2 lakh opening balance.

V) General Concern about Fund: Till date they have not received money from Asha Knoxville.