

Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2016.

Asha notes July 27

Pranabananda Boy's Hostel Mid Year (2015-2016) Report : Manoj  
Project for the year 2015-2016 approved in Nov 2015. This amount was for room, board and educational expenses of 50 fulltime students for twelve months. This amount translated to about \$39 per student per month.

Half of the fund Rs. 7,67,000 disbursed in December 2015.

Detailed audited report given for the period

In our November 2015 presentation there were some concerns raised about low grade points of high school students. I communicated the concerns to the authorities.

Some improvements seen in some of the students. Primary students' results are pretty good; high school students' results are mixed.

The last site visit for 2015-2016 was done in March 2015. The site visit for 2016-2017 is scheduled in August 2016.

Second half of the 2015-2016 funding is due now.

Q: How many kids are attending school now.

Ans: 60 kids approx.

Q: we pledged 50 kids last year, how will they manage 60 kids ?

Ans: Manoj will follow up on this.

Q: Which community kids coming from ? Govt helps SC/ST kids for hostel and the project can take advantage of it.

Ans: Manoj will follow it.

We can help Manoj by leveraging information from other similar project like Prayas Pratirodh Sansthan.

Response by Project Steward (Manoj Bhattacharyya)

I am sorry for replying to this thread so late.

I have talked with our partner at Pranabananda Hostel at great length in several discussions. They are most receptive to any suggestions we propose.

I have answers to the two specific issues raised at our review:

(1) We support 50 boys but they have 60 right now and the question was how will they fill the gap?

They told me, the support of the 50 students is the anchor and with that much commitment they can do outreach to the community to get additional support. They have been raising substantial fund on their own to make the ends meet. The total cost of room and board of the students have gone up tremendously and without that extra fund

raising the hostel would close. In summary, they request us to provide support for 50 students and they will manage the rest.

(2) There was a question regarding the community most students come from and if there were possibility to tap into Government support.

Overwhelmingly large number of students are from Scheduled Tribe (ST) community and while there are programs for ST support by the Government, most are limited to free school and free mid-day meal. There are no comprehensive personalized training in any such Government facilities. The hostel authority lobbied the district magistrate for some free mid-day school supply for this school, and the magistrate, though very cordial, said that unless this is a Government school no such help can be given. Bottom line is, yes there are programs but availing of such help has not been successful.

(3) There was some discussion of joining other similar Asha-supported projects, e.g. Prayas Pratirodh Sansthan, and provide relief.

This is very worthwhile idea and I am all for it. But I need a volunteer to help me out on this. I know there are many **young volunteers looking for projects to work on. Please contact me and we can move on this topic.**