

Meeting Minutes – 7 March 2012

Attendees: Protima, Venki, Amit, Madhu, Ruksana, Sarath, Yoga, Bhanu

On phone: Neehar, Reshu

SES Hyderabad Updates – Mr. Kanakaraju Adavikolanu and Seshu Adavikolanu

- School reopened on 13th June 2011 for this academic year
- Total of 261 students from LKG to Class 10
- Total of 15-16 teachers. Some of them volunteer full-time.
- Regular Parents-Teachers meeting. Depending on grades the teachers are graded for renewal
- 2011 approved budget had a 20% cut vs. the 2010
- Awaiting 2nd installment release from Asha SV. Cincinnati chapter required confirmation from SV regarding release of 2nd installment release in order to release their funds [gap funding as a special case]. Confirmation sent by Madhu.
- Two batches of 10th class students [6+6=12] have graduated. 83.3% passed on first attempt. All students have passed on 2nd attempt. The graduation average is higher than for Hyderabad district. All 12 students have gone onto further studies.
- AP govt has accorded recognition to SES. Helps SES get direct credit for student's performance vs. when going through an intermediary recognized organization. Recognition from government helps SES get IT exemption for funds collected in India. SES will figure out if they are already eligible for tax exemption on donations since they are a Non-profit organization w/ FCRA approval.
- Telengana agitation in early part of academic year caused school closures. But they have caught up on topics to be covered in class, etc.
- Attrition in students seems to primarily because the parents are migrants laborers
- Photographs of republic day, independence day, etc will be shared
- Parent-teacher meeting on last working day of every month.
- Question from Neehar: A few years back SES seemed to have some surplus funds [around 26,000\$ or so]. This was because they did not have FCRA approval and delay caused Asha to release two years worth of funds at the same time.
- Requests to chapter
 - o Recognition from govt means requirement of trained teachers i.e. higher salary
 - o SES has plans to setup computer lab, science lab and library
 - o Cost of living increase in Hyderabad -> teacher salaries are rising
 - o Can Asha SV align budgets and presentations inline w/ academic year in India?
- Question from Amit: State of RTE in Andhra Pradesh – act not followed in principle. SES caters to marginalized sections of society. Therefore, they can get funding grants from the government. SES will further pursue this venue of funding.
- Local residents pitch in. Eg: Homeopathic Doctor and Eye doctor volunteers his time. Group of people teach arts and crafts.
- Madhu shared pictures from Site Visit in 2010.
- Project needs steward on an urgent basis.

SEVA Mandir – Update and Renewal – Amit

- Founded in 1968. Education related NGO
- Work spans 626 villages and five blocks within Udaipur district
- Asha SV working w/ them in Badgaon block since 2007. We support almost all their work within that block.
- **Seva Mandir** has its roots in Lok Jumbish – movement supporting education for all
- **Seva Mandir** is a large organization working on tribal rights, women rights, farmer rights, etc in addition to educational centres
- Non-formal education (NFE) centers. Uses alternate methodology, etc
- Runs approx 180~190 NFE centers in Udaipur district
- Also run seasonal residential learning schools for tribal children. Works w/ children having very basic educational skills. School goes on for 50~60 days. Tribal region is semi-arid and can grow only 1 crop in a year. People migrate because of such seasonal agricultural phenomena. Children are fed at school – gives them a reason to go to school. Some cannot even count money. Imparting such basic skills, sufficient literacy equips them w/ basic skills for living and they can further go to an NFE.
- Seasonal school curriculum, etc have evolved at **Seva Mandir** and Vidya Bhavan Society [another NGO]
- **Seva Mandir** also runs activity centers – Sahayog Kendras. These are placed within government schools in areas which have large number of NFE children. Helps rebuild trust in government school in the community because they are linked to an NGO. They teach Math, Science and

language skills.

- Seva Mandir got quoted in two research papers at MIT.
- Camera is placed in class to take photos of number of students and teachers in an NFE/Activity Center. These pictures are used by Seva Mandir to reduce absenteeism amongst teachers.
- They also run village libraries and youth resource centers.
- Asha SV supports 20 Shiksha Kendras, 5 activity centers and 25 tribal children for the seasonal learning camp. Predominantly in primary school age group.
- We reach about 1352 children / year at approx \$28/child [2010-2011 budget]
- Students graduating from NFE and joining government school increase 19% in 2010-2011
- 5th activity center was opened in June 2011 since Block Education Officer's approval is required and the 5th center was in a different district compared to the other 4. Since these centers are located primarily in areas where NFE school kids go.
- majority of students at upper primary are from Seva Mandir NFE centers
- indirect measure of impact of NFE centers
- all NFEs now have English as one of the languages taught
- not as a full-fledged language
- just basic English, important to help familiarize kids with basic colloquial English words
- reaches 794 children in 5 upper primary and middle schools
- how easy is it to find teachers with English teaching skills
- not too hard for the required teaching levels at the schools
- teachers go through teacher training workshops held by VBS
- Budget reduced 20% over last year
- 2011-12 budget: Rs. 1753550
- several line items cut from last year's budget for NFE centers
- study material ...
- [refer to presentation]
- NFE centers have reasons to justify their existence
- seasonal reasons, govt. school accessibility issues ..
- RTE makes NFE centers illegal, only govt. can run activity centers
- need to explore and wait and see how the implementation actually plays out
- conversion of NFE centers to govt schools a possibility

Question

Renewal Poll - Seva Mandir Do you approve INR. 1,753,550/- towards Sept 2011-Sept 2012 budget of Seva Mandir? The proposal was presented at Asha SV chapter meeting on Mar 7,2012 . Chapter Meeting Mins: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ashasv-vol/message/9133> Presentation: http://www.ashanet.org/projects-new/documents/876/2011_proposal_and_updates.pptx Regards., Sarath

Responses

Choices	Votes	%	1 reply	Respondents
YES	10	90		manoj.bhattacharyya@... devilsport@... ruksanaav@... aaruhi.amit@gmail.com sarathcvk@... teestabharti@... jigish.patel@... vinod.2v@... tomadhu@... iyengar73@...

NO

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ashavolunteer@...