

[I] Humana School, Karkadmandal [Itisha]

Itisha gave a background of the school. Previous meeting's questions were answered. Key points were:

- (a) Only one govt. primary school in the area, 1 km away.
- (b) Regarding can they work with a govt. school, they don't have such a system of working with the govt yet. They have a clear program on how to mainstream the kids (details in the q&a document). They also include the local folks in assisting with this decision.
- (c) Clarification on social skills question -- the answer explained that health and hygiene, and proper clothing, and manner of social interaction is what they will inculcate in the kids. We had a discussion on whether this is a natural fall out of any organized education, or if this should be a motivation for Humana. Detailed question below.
- (d) Humana helps folks get voter cards and ration cards to establish address proof.
- (e) Kids with disabilities are supported.
- (f) Age of the kids do not matter in the teaching or the mainstreaming process. Based on each child, on an individual level, they finalize the curriculum and specifically train them to get the kids to be mainstreamed.
- (g) Teachers are involved in individual progress of each child, and also are community mobilizers.
- (h) Some clarifications on the budget itself (see q&a document).

Looked through the budget. They are looking to having two teachers, who will mobilize the community. Currently they have identified the families who will be part of this Karkamandal school too. Asha SV funds a girls school in Rajasthan (also run by Humana). Asha Cleveland, and Asha Canada are interested in other ASWs run by Humana too. Discussion on whether we continue to support an other school run by Humana (by different Asha project) or to start support of the school in Karkadmandal.

The plan is to have more site visits as well. Itisha's friend will visit them in the near future. But that isn't a gating factor for this proposal, since Itisha has already visited them.

Regarding the agreement with VMP, how stable is the arrangement? From the impressions of Maharajpur school (which also has an arrangement with an other high school), it seems like it's fairly stable. Also impressions from meeting with the owners of VMP, stability does not seem to be an issue.

Questions:

[1] Clarification on social skills: The current answer only elaborated our question in some sense. The question we really have is how important is this notion (of personal hygiene, behavior, and clothing) in the functioning (formation) of Humana? Does Humana think these notions are gating factors for the kids to currently join govt. schools? Aren't these notions a natural fall out of any form of organized education, and therefore, shouldn't these notions also be satisfied in the govt. school education itself? Also, Humana encourages kids who can afford to and are within reach of govt. schools to go and directly join the govt schools. In such cases, does Humana consider these notions when recommending kids to join govt schools? Are there scenarios where they ask kids to come to Humana and go through such training before joining the govt. schools?

[2] What is the capacity of the govt school nearby?

[3] Is there any (inadvertently, or otherwise) social discrimination of kids because of no access to private school class rooms? For eg., if the private school (VMP) class rooms have chairs, stools etc. and the Humana kids are not allowed access to that room, while their classes happen on the verandahs, then is there a discrimination of some sort, where the Humana kids will always feel they are secondary citizens? Question is, has Humana thought about this carefully, and do they think this can be an issue, and if yes (or no) what do they think they can or intend to do about this (either in the immediate or in a longer period)?

[4] Would it be possible to account for the 10% administrative overhead costs of Humana budget? For two reasons, one to ensure things aren't counted twice, and two, to understand how it was spent, and what types of capacity building workshops are organized, etc.?

[5] Is there any value in investing in a longer term, permanent structure, etc.? Any more details on their long term strategy wrt to this center?

[6] Do they have any permanent structure in other schools? Is there a chance of mainstreaming the kids to the private schools themselves?

Vote: Asha Austin supports Humana school in Karkadmandal for the sum of Rs 1,88,210 (about \$5k) for 2008-09 running costs.
YES: 15; NO: 0; ABSTAIN: 2

The money will be sent in two installments, the first installment will include stationary costs, and will be larger than the second installment.