Discussion of Payir Proposal and Budget for 2009-2010

- Brief introduction about project – jointly supported by Asha Uflorida and Madison since 2008.

- Purpose: to create a safe, stable haven for learning for children who may not otherwise have had the opportunity to receive consecutive years of a solid (albeit in the refreshingly novel Gurukulam-style) education

- Funding cycle - October to September

- Location: Tamil Nadu

- Founded by Senthil Gopal; he manages it now….also supported by 4 or 5 social workers; District Collector supports the cause ; Non-profit; try to involve local community as much as possible in the activities of the trust for e.g Accountant is from the village

- Holistic development of community

- 1. *Nonformal education center* (experimental school; the ancient Gurukulam-style; hands-on approach to education)….to develop into community leaders based on their skills; Syllabus is the same but methodology is different: for more information on Activity based learning google “Arvind Gupta”
  
  § Until the age of 20 years (under open-schooling system); similar to a boarding school - entire-day schooling; taught according to aptitude.

  § Started with 8 children…3 more to join

  § Conducted Free summer camp for kids from other schools in the region. 45 kids between the 6th – 8th grade participated.

  § Parents were convinced of effectiveness of school, so this year three other kids from that community will be joining.

- 2. *Intervention Program* – to help teach ability-based teaching to the teachers and students….all 3 schools are showing tremendous progress.

  § Reduced absenteeism, attendance > 90%

  § Improved learning levels
Another school HM requested a similar program in their school so Payir will be sending a 4th staff to this school and the expenses will jointly be shared by the school and Asha.

- Conference call is coming up


and at the Asha UFlorida page: [http://www.ashanet.org/uflorida/projects.html](http://www.ashanet.org/uflorida/projects.html)

- Questions and Resolutions

Main concern: convincing parents….but indeed the benefit is for the children….plus, this helps develop all sorts of skills for the children of migratory parents

Scaleability is not currently being discussed; capped at 12 children

Asha’s role: Implementation taken care by project partner. But Asha plays an active role in monitoring, support and other aspects of the project. The project team here in the US maintain contact with Payir on a weekly basis and have helped in

Initial glitches with the Payir projects were and are continuing to be solved, as the need arises.

Subsequently after this meeting, the conference call and the discussion of the site visit report, the project was approved for funding at UFlorida for 2009-2010