Minutes of meeting with Payir (01/09/2011)

Attendees: UFlorida : Lokendra, Sanketh, Shubhendu,
Payir : Senthil
AID Boston : Hari

1. *Can you please give us an update about Payir?*

Senthil: Recent communications with Padmaja and Jayshree for online classes. Plan to start two certificate courses aiming to train women teachers in primary teaching and health. Talks are on with Tamilnadu open university and IGNOU to make it a 6 month certificate course. Padmaja is in constant talks with them and things will be clearer in a month’s time.

Also, we have our own radio tower now in Payir campus providing 8 Mbps of bandwidth covering a radius of 7 km. We are still not linked up since we haven’t received modems yet. It will be boost for the BPO and our online classes. Still Need to have receiver antennas in villages. Work is in progress.

Four students from Tuft University are here to do a social study about the village focusing on water sanitation and skill building. They are also in touch with Padmaja.

On Dec 5th we had our annual general meeting of the trustees. The Video conference facility was tested as we did teleconference with our friends and beneficiaries. The powerpoint presentation will posted on the website. School children also did a performance for 15 mins which included dance, drama and their monthly report to the trustees.

2. *Who will be the audience for Padmaja’s initiative?*

Senthil: People Thenur, around 20 for primary and 20 for secondary.

3. *Will the ppl pay for the course?*

Senthil: Yes, they will. Online course will be subsidized in the sense that there is no teacher involved and hence no tuition fees. The admin and other fee will be decided by the Open University and may not be subsidized. We are creating a profile a group of possible candidates to be selected for the course.

4. *Can you give us some details about how the teachers “for building rapport” will be hired for the intervention program?*

Senthil: The staff has not been hired yet. We will hire two people from the local community to cater to children who are susceptible to drop out of school or whose parents are not supportive of their education.
5. What about your initiative to get merchants, drummers, goldsmiths etc. to come and talk to the kids and stimulate their interest?

Senthil: The initiative with merchant is still going on. The initiative to bring other people started and then stopped. Kanchana, who is in charge, will be coming by month end. She is also in charge of the Jagriti Yatra, an initiative by Tata where 40 candidates for a 20 day train journey across India. They get to see different NGOs.

6. Check out the Azim Premji foundation. They give out free CD and DVDs. Just need to write to them.

Senthil: We will check it out. We have heard good reviews about the material.

7. Status of the QED questionnaire? The deadline is Jan 30.

It is not complete yet. There are 150 questions. Only someone who has a good background about Payir’s activities can help fill it. We are working on it.