Attendees: Vaishnavi, Sneha, Sravani, Bhaskar, Akshay, Ajoy, Shubhendu, Shiva, Viru, Sushmit, Kunal, Mini, Vikas and Kriti

Shikshamitra discussions: Background of Shikshamitra was provided. Ajoy showed pictures of:
- Arts and crafts done by the students
- Meditating students
- Students taking audio-visual lessons
- Materials used by Shikshamitra to train other teachers (Problem sets, Math kits etc.)

Asha-UFlorida need to have a group of 4-5 volunteers as steward for this project. This project will be funded by the General Funds and the Asha-Shikshamitra collaboration will start from April 2011 for two years. In this two years Shikshamitra will train teachers of different Asha projects on better techniques for teaching languages, maths and science. They have experience on training teachers from NGO and Government run schools for the last 5 years. Initially projects located close to Shikshamitra will be chosen for training and preference will be given to schools using Bengali, English and Hindi as vernacular languages. In the second phase depending on the success of the initiative projects using Assamese and Oriya languages will be included followed by projects that use other Indian languages.

About 80 teachers will be trained per year and they will be chosen depending on their motivation to learn new teaching techniques. Need based assessment will be carried out by handing out questionnaires to the teachers before the training and they will be grouped depending on the feedback that they will provide. Shikshamitra will do a follow up of the training by visiting the teachers in their schools for 3 times every three months after the training.

Trinita discussions: Ajoy showed pictures of: Trinita schools, students, paintings done by the students, dance performance by the students etc. One striking aspect of the project is negligible drop out of Trinita students and teachers. Dropout of teachers/students is a persistent problem in many Asha run bridge schools. However most teachers in Trinita are there for more than 5 years and they are struggling to keep students away. There is pressure to accept more students all the time. The education quality in the schools is not very high and needs improvement.

About 10 Trinita students have passed the 10th standard exam and are now studying for +2 exams. They have an urgent need for private tuition for some subjects and are finding it difficult to continue without additional help. It will be important for Asha to support these students because the motivation level of the junior students will drop if their seniors are found suffering in their career. We will need to find some means of support for these people.
Team Asha: Team Asha t-shirt design need to be finalized. We received about 5-6 entries. One of the design got 10 votes from Asha volunteers and is the probable winner of the design competition. The design will be finalized depending on the recommendation of the t-shirt printer. Deadline for submitting profiles decided (Jan 31st). Runners need to be called on phone and asked to set up profiles (Callers: Vikas, Shiva, Shubs, Akshay and Ajoy). Donation amounts need to be updated regularly on the webpage (Gautam, Viru). Suggestion for setting up Team Asha Alumni page. List of possible sponsors need to be set up. Mini will be responsible for some aspects of sponsorships.

Payir funding: 2011 asking budget $9700 is too high (higher than last year). Decision to fund $4500 in the first installment. Next installment to be decided.