



*Asha for Education*TM

UFlorida Chapter

Gators for Asha, 300-9 J W Reitz Union, P.O Box 118505, Gainesville, FL 32601

www.ashanet.org/uflorida

FORWORD Budget Approval Minutes **Biweekly Meeting of Asha UFlorida (September 2014)**

Date: 8-Feb, 2015

Time: 10.00 am – 11.30 am EST

Venue: Conference call

Attendees:

- - Anthony (Treasurer, Trinita)
- - Poojitha (Steward, Asha-UF)
- - Gayathri Sindhu (Asha-UF)
- - Ravi (Asha-UF)
- - Shampa Roy (Trinita)
- - Shiva (Asha-UF)

Minutes

Project introduction

- - Trinita provides education and health for children from the slum areas near Kolkata
- - The education training is mainly for girls, who are drop out from 4, 5, 6.
- - Asha (Atlanta) has supported Trinita since 2006, UF started support in 2009.
- - Keep in touch with school teachers, parents and community leaders.
- - Provide Uniform and text books. Uniforms are to boost the confidence of children.



*Asha for Education*TM

UFlorida Chapter

Gators for Asha, 300-9 J W Reitz Union, P.O Box 118505, Gainesville, FL 32601

www.ashanet.org/uflorida

- Provide vocational and skill development to dropouts who are too old to attend school. Computer training is provided to girls from 10-12 class.

Recent updates and notes

- Established a boutique training center for girls who are dropouts and too old to attend school. The training center operates for 5 days a week. They make sarees, Punjabi salwar etc. Girls who are not able to cope with the school cannot be forced. That's the reason behind vocational training. They have managed to get a 400 sq ft area, and have sewing machines, where embroidery is done. They put up stalls in Bhandal area during Durga pooja, fairs.

- Environment is not conducive for girls' education. Example: Even if a girl is preparing to go to primary school, parents discourage and ask them to take up domestic work domestic work, either in their own or others' houses. Parents do not understand the value of education.

- Plan to involve girls in an institute run by Don Bosco. They attended an orientation where experts came from Don Bosco technical school. They identified who can attend training for 10 weeks- 6 months.

- Costs for the training: The training is free. But they've asked to setup infrastructure. It is very difficult to get even a 20 x 15 space for the training. Right now, searching for place for this facility. Parents won't allow girls to go far off. Training is 9-5, so it should be close to the slum, where the Doc Bosco staff will come and provide training.

Questions

Qn: Vocational training is given only at Sitala Mandir center. Is there training at other centers?

Ans: That is the slum area. It is mainly only in that center.

Qn: How many get this vocational training over all centers?

Ans: 60-65 girls and few boys. Girls also get computer training and spoken English for students 8-11.

Qn: What are the types of vocational training?



*Asha for Education*TM

UFlorida Chapter

Gators for Asha, 300-9 J W Reitz Union, P.O Box 118505, Gainesville, FL 32601

www.ashanet.org/uflorida

Ans: Tailoring, designing on sarees, salwar (boutique), handicrafts.

Qn: What is Topsia area residential school?

Ans: It is a boys' cottage – they stay there. They go to govt. school/ municipal corporation school.

Budget-overview (from the document)

- - School back up program: 5 centers for girls with animators (teachers). They are also provided educational material – books. Sometimes girls dropout because of minimal fees like Rs 200. So, that is also covered. Tiffin is provided twice a week, which is 8 times a month.

- - Teacher honorarium consists of science and art group teacher. Opened coaching for boys and girls in Hoogli district. Trinita jointly works with the govt. and brings in children working in tea shops and other labor activities. The children are immediately unable to cope with the govt. school curriculum, and may just go back to their shops. So, they are provided with coaching support. After 3 years, they get admitted to govt. school.

- - Skill development: Vocation training is provided. Trinita is planning to have an external evaluator to document the impact of their work in the past decade. Right now, expecting a volunteer to do the study. He/She will interview children, parents and put their feedback in. The cost is for record keeping, printing, sharing etc.

Qn: What kind of food is provided in the tiffin?

Ans: Banana, bread or sometimes boiled milk only, samosa, orange or mango, because budget is only Rs 5. Tiffin is provided randomly on two days of the week.

Qn: Certain budget items are for 6 months and some for 12 months. Why is that the case?

Ans: Vocational training is for 6 months only– and then children are taught marketing skills, sell in shops, stalls, during poojas and festivals etc. The actual training is only for 6 months.

Qn: How much is Trinita expecting from UF?

Ans: From the total budget of INR 4.3L, Asha-ATL is providing INR 1.90L. 2.4 L more is needed. Qn: Why is Asha-ATL less than half?



*Asha for Education*TM

UFlorida Chapter

Gators for Asha, 300-9 J W Reitz Union, P.O Box 118505, Gainesville, FL 32601

www.ashanet.org/uflorida

Ans: Their budget is 2L.

Qn: What is the funding source for health checkups?

Ans: Doctors are coming in voluntarily and performing checkup. Two doctors are present in the management team.

Qn: What are the other sources of funding?

Ans:

- - National Child Labour Project, Govt. of India.
- - Funding from Govt. of India for residential school for rescued children from roadside, orphans.
- - Govt. funding for women's empowerment for handicraft work
- - Funding from Municipal Corporation to provide education to school girls on reproductive health and sex education.
- - Funding from VAN EDE Foundation, Netherlands - Child Labor shelter. 25 girls in Chuchura, and 25 boys in Kolkata

Other notes:

- - Trinita will try to provide project proposal separately for UF, because there is no separation between UF-ATL currently.
- - Asha-UF to discuss funding vocation training for 12 months.
- - Requested Trinita to keep us updated (few lines, paragraph) on a monthly basis.
- - Anthony request volunteers to come and meet the people and community, to see in person the state of the community and work being done by Trinita.
- - Anthony has been associated with Trinita from the beginning, since 2001. In 1997, after college, he was engaged in doing community work. He started working with Shampa in the slums then, and continued since.