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Conference Call with Diksha today 11:30 PM

Gaurav Nanda <gaurav.07@gmail.com>   Mon, Nov 12, 2012 at 12:29 PM
To: asha-purdue-core@googlegroups.com, asha-purdue@googlegroups.com

Dear All,

Please find below the minutes from our call with Diksha.
Attendees: Prasoon, Atish, Anuradha, Gaurav, Vinod, Aditya, Suman.
Nishant and Gautam (Diksha)

The main agenda for the call was to discuss their proposal for next year and general updates about the project.
The questions about the proposal from our previous meeting :
a. Compare the budget of 2012 and 2013. What are the project management and miscellaneous expenses?
Instructor salary has changed. (want to comply by minimum wages). Rent and internet expenses has gone up.

b. What has been the dropout rate of students?
- Diksha provides supplementry education. There has been some dropouts over last year.(~20) Overall strength increased- from 70 to 100.
Dropout Reasons - 1. Migrant Labors 2.Children working at home 3. Health issues(high amount of children falling sick and dropping out)
-Diksha can provide the details of the dropout students- some kind of spreadsheets.
Center is not run at school timings, due to RTE act children can go to govt school, they don't want to compete with Govt School.
-Any society or family pressures?
Not really. Families are very receptive.

c. What has been the progress of children coming to the center - improvement in school grades, test score of subjects in Diksha center, test on computer education ?
- Have an Impact Assesment document. Judge on several parameters- UNICEF parameters of judging a school. More subjective judgement as compared to exam.
Tremendous improvement in performance in last 1 yr, lot of processes implemented from DAV. Laurence's visit helped.
Done at 2 levels- individual tests and give feedback to child. At center level- discussion on how have we performed. class size limited to 25,school space.
Children have improved and doing well in Hindi and Maths. Struggle in English- problem of resources. Improvement in understanding of English.
Overall good in Hindi, not so well in English.
Right now focused in performance in Diksha. Children enrolled in diff classes in school and Diksha- not one-to-one mapping. Earlier focusing NCERT books, now following
state govt books. Student's grades are not reflective of their performance- judgement not by numbers, but overall observation.
- Evaluation of children: Placed in group based on their learning levels in each subject- level 1, 2, 3.
- Daily working: Children divided in 3 Groups - Comp, Primary Classes - further subdivided. 2 hr classes for each batch. 4 classes in a day conducted.
Group learning based on proficiency level. Proficiency level decided by teacher verbal assesment.
Giving space to child to express their opinions. In the learning process, child learn about environment, good and bad practices of society, overall impact on child is good.

Plan for next year:
Tablet: Rely on ASHA for volunteer time, have 10 computing devices already. Identify right apps and games on the device for learning.
Tablet introduced 10 months ago to children, they are comfortable using them.

Want to collect and map open source content through HUBZERO. It would be teacher assisted learning for initial years but later maybe independent learning.
Teacher training with Manzil. Collective learning initiatives.
2 success stories of students were shared by Gautam.
Ignite award from Dr Kalam given to 3 or 4 of the children. NIF awards - Diksha coordinated the participation from govt school for NIF.

-Aditya: Help from ASHA to find out the right content for the children. Help in finding out the right content and judging their usability.
Problem of language and accent in Khan Academy, "hamariboli" is a good initiative but not very good. Lectures prepared by Sourabh Maheshwari.
Couple of discussions around what ASHA volunteers can do will help. Set up a separate conference call with Nishant, Aditya, Suman to decide how to work on this.
Suman: Can the Diksha lectures be recorded? Nishant: Can be done possibly using a video camera. Will be helpful for children.
- Separate email chain and call with Nishant, Gautam, Aditya, Suman, Astitva,+(Prasoon, Vinod, Gaurav) for discussion on content generation.

--Miscellaneous and Project Management components:
Miscellaneous - Basically for repairs- problems with water and electricity. Repairs for old laptops, components.
Local Travel during the week.
Take students to trips- Science Center, Botanical Garden, Functions etc. Mobile Expenses.
Project Management- Centers to be independant- KHEL Patna. Gautam to travel between centers, to cover travel costs and travel costs for children.
To cover expenses organization as a whole. One staff members, and Gautam not assigned to any project- Salary for them. Compliance, Accounting, legal costs, communication costs.

d. Will they be use the Smile foundation money for next years expenses?
Cannot be used anything apart from Nutrition. Diksha working with Smile Foundation trying to get salary of one of the instructors being paid by Smile Foundation.
Individual donors source not very stable. Keep applying for various grants at other places.

e. How useful has the money been which we had sent ?
- They were able to start the computer education at KHEL Patna- have got lot of young students to join.
- Students who come to KHEL for primary education have got access to it.
- Private school children coming for computer center and there is synergy between students of different background.
Main advantage: Accesibility and familirity to computers and internet at early age and to teachers as well.

When do you expecting the funds?
Early financial year 2013 would be helpful. Nishant to help with fundraising for Diksha project through donations in US.

Action items(Gaurav):
1. To email Diksha with the list of documents required.
2. To start a new email chain with Gautam, Nishant, Suman, Aditya, Astitva, Vinod, Prasoon for identifying useful content.

Regards,
Gaurav

On Sat, Nov 10, 2012 at 12:00 PM, Gaurav Nanda <gaurav.07@gmail.com> wrote:
  Sorry about the typo in the conference call details. Please find below the correct details:
  Start Time: **11:30 PM Eastern Std Time, Today- Nov 10th 2012**
  Dial-in Number: **1-218-936-4700**
  Participant Access Code **10112012** (for remembering the access code- its the date of the call 10-11-2012)

On Sat, Nov 10, 2012 at 11:54 AM, Gaurav Nanda <gaurav.07@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear All,

A gentle reminder for conference call with Diksha today 11:30 PM EST- our time (and 10 AM, Nov 11 IST).

Here are the details of the call:
Start Time: **10:30 AM Eastern Std Time**
Dial-in Number: **1-218-936-4700**
Participant Access Code **10112012** (for remembering the access code- its the date of the call 10-11-2012)

You can call me (765-714-6976) or Prasoon(352-870-3473) if you have difficulties in connecting to the call.

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The questions about the proposal from our previous meeting :
a. Compare the budget of 2012 and 2013. What are the project
management and miscellaneous expenses?
b. What has been the dropout rate of students?
c. What has been the progress of children coming to the center -
improvement in school grades, test score of subjects in Diksha center,
test on computer education ?
d. Will they be use the Smile foundation money for next years expenses?
e. How useful has the money been which we had sent ?

The financial details from their proposal are:

21. Funds requested from Asha. Itemized description of proposed use of funds

Item Description	Monthly(in INR)
Centre Co-ordinator cum Instructor Salary	10000
Instructor Salary	5800
Part Time Cleaner	1000
Computer Instructor Salary	6000
Centre Rent	5000
Internet	1000
Electricity Charges	1500
Books & Stationary	2000
Miscellaneous	1500
Project Management	5000
Total	38800

Funds could be disbursed on quarterly basis
We have already received support from ASHA for salary of Computer Trainer till May 2013

22. Other sources of future funds for the project. Please specify any usage
restrictions on these funds.

Name of Agency	Amount
1 Smile Foundation - Restricted Funds towards Nutrition of children	108000
2 Individual Donors	Not fixed

Link to the Google drive containing proposal files:
https://docs.google.com/open?id=0B8O9RgnAYlNcRHJLNHVJeFRsWkE

Regards,
Gaurav